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2010

Exponent (1969-2012)

2010

Exponent, Vol. 41, Iss. 16, 2010-03-03

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Recommended Citation

University of Alabama in Huntsville, "Exponent, Vol. 41, Iss. 16, 2010-03-03" (2010). *2010*. 10.
<https://louis.uah.edu/exponent-2010/10>

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The Exponent

The Student Newspaper of UAH

Volume 41, Issue 16

March 3, 2010

NEWS BRIEFS

When students start their school year in the early fall as freshman, they bring all kinds of new ideas to the university. As the semester goes on, they may wonder how to get those ideas implemented. Soon they realize the SGA is the way to do it. Therefore, they start looking for UAH's SGA.

See SGA on Pg. 2

ARTS & LEISURE BRIEFS

Commuters traveling home from UAH down South Parkway may have noticed that the former Copeland's restaurant has been turned into a new venue. The venue is called Club 222 and it's bringing the party atmosphere of Hollywood to Huntsville. The club is located at the corner of Airport Road in south Huntsville and caters to women older than 23 years' old and men 25 and up.

See CLUB on Pg. 3

SCIENCE & TECH BRIEFS

One of the greatest forces driving technological advancement is the ability to express ideas cheaper and faster, and the demand for people capable of doing so is rising. UAH's Dr. Mikel Petty, director of the Center for Modeling and Simulation, is helping the university answer the demand by pioneering a new graduate program called Modeling and Simulation.

See MAJOR on Pg. 6

SPORTS BRIEFS

The UAH Chargers have been playing their best basketball as of late, and their hard work has paid off. The men's basketball team clinched the Gulf South Conference Eastern Division Championship and a No. 1 seed in the GSC tournament after an 86-66 win over West Alabama.

See GSC on Pg. 7

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Editorial: Does Living on Campus Really Affect GPA?

RAYMOND GILSTRAP
Editor-in-Chief

Recently, the housing policy requiring all freshmen and sophomores to live on campus here at UAH has sparked a lot of debate. The faculty senate challenged the administration about the policy, concerned parents were worried about increased economic burdens, Rep. Howard Sanderford proposed a bill to revoke the housing policy and even studies of the correlation between living on campus and higher GPA found their way into the debate.

So, the big question is, does living on campus really affect a student's GPA?

In September 2008, the Collegian, the student newspaper of Fresno State, published an article about the topic after reviewing studies conducted by the University of Georgia. The title of the article was "Living on campus could raise GPA" and the article discussed two main points—other students help form study habits and academics becoming a part of dorm life.

The keyword in the title of the article is "could," meaning that it is a possibility that if a student resides on-campus he or she will have a better GPA than if he or she lived off-campus. One student commented that peer influence helped him study more, because whenever he saw his friends studying, he would study too. Fresno State has

also implemented living-learning communities where students take two of the same general education classes as other students. The goal of the living-learning communities is for students to support each other academically while living together.

Despite having interesting discussions, the Collegian article was full of uncertainties. The opening line of the article was a repeat of the title with the word "change" transforming into the word "might." The author of the article also claims that according to research, there are many reasons why living on campus raises GPA, yet only two reasons are addressed in the article. There is even a claim that students living closer to classrooms and the school's library do not have to worry about grocery shopping and cooking meals, a statement that is irrelevant to the purpose of the entire piece.

In 1993, Michael Delucchi published an article called "Academic Performance in College Town." In his article, Delucchi discusses the factors that are considered when making comparisons between commuters and dormitory students and particular studies he has researched. Based on studies, Delucchi states that living on campus fosters academic performance, because there are more opportunities for integration into academic and social systems. He gives examples, such as interaction with facul-

ty, frequency of peer conversations and informal social activities, before proceeding to discuss the data collected from a two-year study at an unnamed US university.

The study consisted of 500 students selected randomly in 1985 and 1986. The participating students completed questionnaires anonymously and 220 students responded to the 1985 survey, while 251 students responded to the 1986 survey. The results from both studies were compiled and analyzed. Analyzing data from studies conducted about the relationship between on-campus living and student's grades is essential to backing up bold claims that a student residing in dorms will make better grades, yet those making those claims do not seem to analyze data from studies beforehand. Superfluous tirades about housing factors affecting grade point averages are invalid without support and evidence. This is similar to a prosecutor trying to convict a criminal without making a case in court. Delucchi and other scholars like him are the few exceptions to this. Delucchi states his argument and then provides evidence to support his argument.

Delucchi concluded that living on campus did have a significant effect on academic performance; however, there were other variables such as age, race and educational objectives that also affect academic performance as well. The study

also included a wide range of other factors that contribute to academic performance, such as alcohol and drug use or a student's membership in a fraternity or sorority.

In 2006, the Campus Connection, a news and information source for the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, published an article stating that on-campus living equals higher GPA for students. Like the Fresno State article, the information contained in the Campus Connection article was interesting, but unlike the Delucchi article, the Campus Connection piece lacked solid evidence to support claims. The students in dorms at UW-La Crosse are encouraged to study by peers, and several residence halls offer rewards for students with the best grades; however, encouragement and rewards does not support the belief that on-campus living equals higher GPA.

The article discusses statistics compiled by Residence Life studies during a fall semester based on various categories. The studies concluded that students living on-campus had a higher GPA than those students living off-campus.

There are several problems with the Campus Connection story. For starters, the author failed to provide all of the statistics gathered from the studies and does not even mention the categories the studies comprised.

See GPA on Pg. 2

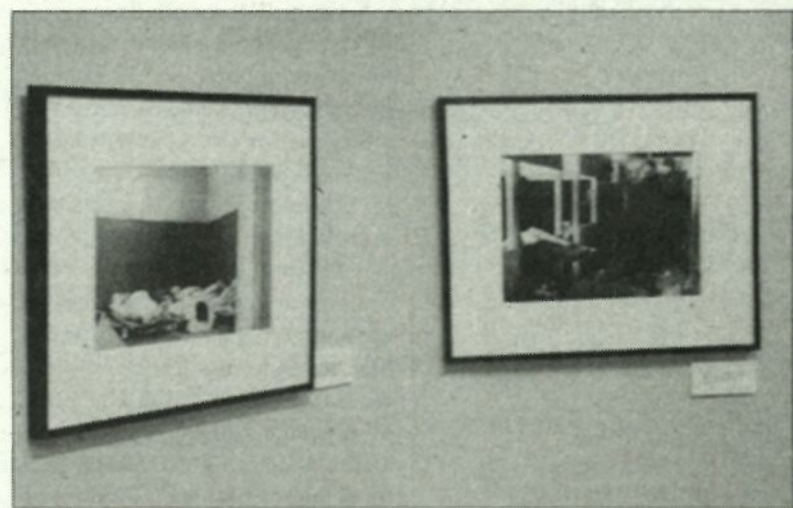
Library Showcases Slave Labor in WW II

JULIE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

From Feb. 21 through March 12, the Salmon Library gallery features an exhibit showcasing the use of slave labor during World War II. The show focuses on the Dora concentration camp near Nordhausen, Germany.

According to the Web site (<http://dora.uah.edu>), the exhibit tells the stories of the victims of Dora who were forced to assemble the V-2 rocket. Renowned rocket physicist Werner von Braun led the team of scientists developing the V-2. On Sept. 7, 1944, a test rocket was launched, hitting London, prompting von Braun to say "[it] worked perfectly except for landing on the wrong planet."

Engineers are always mentioned in the history of the V-2, and their work is always commented on, whether it be praise for its development or disdain for its use. However, historians rarely mention the prisoners who suffered or died while held captive in the



Photographs on loan from La Coupole are on display at the Salmon Library. Photo by Raymond Gilstrap

camps and were forced to work on the "weapons of revenge." The exhibit pays tribute to those prisoners and educates people about the forced labor they endured so that the world around them could wage war.

The exhibit is unique as it is the first time in the United States, that work from two European museums has been shown. There are two noted pieces from La Coupole,

History and Remembrance Center in Saint-Omer, France. These are color photos that were actually taken by Hitler's "favorite photographer;" they depict the forced labor on the V-2. The other piece is artwork created by victims and survivors of the Dora camp.

The other European pieces come from Mittelbau-Dora Mu-

See LIBRARY on Pg. 3

Updates on Shooting Victims

JESSICA ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Last month's tragic shooting left two UAH staff members, Dr. Joseph Leahy, associate professor of biological sciences, and Stephanie Monticciolo, staff assistant to the department of biological sciences, in critical condition.

The families of Leahy and Monticciolo are blogging about the current conditions and progress of the victims.

According to the blog posted by Leahy's family, Leahy is making great progress. He is receiving breathing treatments and has been able to stand and is able to talk through a tracheostomy collar. Leahy will be transitioning from Huntsville Hospital to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Ga., for further rehabilitation. The Shepherd Center specializes in brain

See UPDATES on Pg. 4

Editorial: The Real Power of UAH's Student Government Association

ZACH POPE
Staff Writer

When students start their school year in the early fall as freshman, they bring all kinds of new ideas to the university. As the semester goes on, they may wonder how to get those ideas implemented. Soon they realize the SGA is the way to do it. Therefore, they start looking for UAH's SGA. One may start by going to <http://sga.uah.edu>, and then the next best option is to look for the SGA presence on campus. Soon they notice there is a somewhat outdated SGA Web site. While this may seem like a hindrance, for those who really want to implement their ideas, it is not.

Next, they look for the SGA presence on campus, and they do not see much. They may wonder where the SGA is. Why are they in the UC--Room 131 to be exact? How would one know that, since it is next to impossible to find their location on the Web site? Now they really wonder: why are they so in-

visible?

Well, because there is no student involvement.

"One of the SGA's major problems is student involvement," SGA President Andrew Hazen said. "We have around 40 slots to be filled and only about 20 are filled." He added, "We would like to do things sometimes, big scale activities, but we just do not have the man power, or the student backing."

The majority of SGA's power comes from student backing and involvement. If all of UAH's approximately 7,000 students back the SGA, the administration will listen. That means they will have to listen to the students, which is what most students want. Support your SGA and let them know you mean business, -with this backing the SGA can then show the administration we mean business.

The SGA has not been hiding all this time; students just have not been looking. While SGA has some work to do to get its name and location across, we students have more work to do. We must stand firmly

behind our SGA; we are the biggest powerhouse on campus and must help our representatives get our ideas and problems across to the administration.

There are two major ways we can do this. First, attend the SGA meetings every Monday night school is in session. They are held at 8:45 p.m. in the University Center's Room 131.

Lastly, join the SGA; there are around 20 spots that need to be filled. Some positions are even paid a salary.

Remember, if you want things done, you must go through the correct route. Support your SGA!

From GPA on Pg. 1

However, the author does provide data comparing the GPAs of sophomore students, and comments that the statistics of freshmen students are skewed because almost all freshmen live on-campus; nonetheless, is this enough data to say that living on campus really does affect GPA?

The bottom line is that those who are willing to claim that living on campus means a higher GPA should make sure that he or she has the proof to support the claim. Even with support, however, studies and research on the correlation between campus living and better grades may look enticing on paper, but may or may not work when ap-

plied in the real world.

A student living on campus may have a high GPA, but may also have a low GPA. The same could be said about a student living off campus. There are many factors that contribute to how often a student elects to attend classes and all of these factors vary from person to person.

Because there are many variables to take into account when determining academic excellence, living on-campus does not guarantee a higher GPA by itself. It is only a small factor to consider.

Letter to the Editor: "The Blame Game"

Exactly what are the rules of "the Blame Game"?

We certainly know how to play it. And it seems that the silly little games we adults often play at times like this - in the midst of tragedy - rather than accept responsibility, we adults behave as if we were once again carefree sixth graders on a playground somewhere, dodging and deflecting a kickball thrown at us.

Games, however, are as much for adults as they are for children, and perhaps more so, because in learning to abide by rules and cooperating, we come to understand strategies, tactics and how best to utilize opportunities - things and events - that come our way. Essentially, it is "the hand that is dealt us." Hopefully, we learn how to be gracious losers, and equally humble winners, understanding also that no one always wins, and that our time is coming.

Yet, it is game-playing at inappropriate times that characterizes and differentiates children from adults.

Granted, jesting and conviviality can be, and is a part of any emotional healing process. "Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven," so says "The Preacher," in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (God's Word Translation).

Reeling from two horrible campus tragedies that struck our community in exactly two weeks, first at Madison's Discovery Middle School, then at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, we are again attempting to return to a modicum of normalcy. And for all the words of various soothing voices - the sotto voces - we strongly sense something has gone terribly awry.

And it has. It's analogous to setting out on a trip of a thousand miles; only after traveling a significant distance are we aware that the course we charted was slightly off.

Failure is rarely isolated. Rather, it is systemic, frequently affecting all other parts. For example, when a tire blows out the driver stops the entire vehicle. Unfortunately, progress is temporarily

impeded to effect a necessary repair, to allow continued progress. Similarly, when any other part of an automobile malfunctions, the essential, or overall functions may not be ceased, but eventually, if not tended to, operations will cease until such time as proper repairs or overhauls have been performed. And so it is with the university.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, we'll hear phrases like "if only...., was not...., did not...., could not...., if there were...., wasn't my/our responsibility...., should have...., because of...., due to...., beyond control...." and inventive catchphrases galore - all which mean, "it's not my fault, and I refuse to accept responsibility." Such phrases are attempts to deflect, dodge and shirk responsibility - the proverbial "games people play" - all in the aftermath of tragedy.

No one, ABSOLUTELY NO ONE will accept even the slightest responsibility for what happened at either of the two schools.

However, none of those excuses will work, because there are no excuses! That is a fundamental lesson that, hopefully, our parents

taught us. To deny responsibility is to revert to the level of a sixth grade child on a playground. Yet we know that even among the youngest children, they instinctively know the difference between right and wrong, because we hear them cry, "That's not fair!" Really? Who told them? What ethics courses or books did they read to so inform them?

Only now, it's not time for game playing. It's time to "man up," to be an adult, to act your age, to accept responsibility for, and in the aftermath of tragedy.

It's been said that the seven most important words in the English language are, "I made a mistake, and I'm sorry." The corollary to that is that respect is earned when humility is donned.

So I ask rhetorically... "Will the REAL leader please stand up?"

Kevin L. Bardon, RN
BSN, BS, AS, NREMT-B, ACLS
Certified Volunteer Firefighter - I
First Responder
KG4RCP
Huntsville, Alabama
United States of America

Have you done your taxes yet?

Dr. Charles Hickman and UAH staff as well as students, in conjunction with the ImpactAlabama: SaveFirst's VITA program, provide a free tax prep service for UAH students. If you need help with your taxes this season, come by the Business Administration building in the first floor computer lab (across from Jazzman's) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on any of these dates.

March 6	March 27
March 13	April 3
March 20	April 10

The Exponent

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Next Issue: Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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Editorial: Doing Something Epic

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

A significant challenge for a human being is finding his or her place in the world. Where do I fit in? What am I truly best at? What is going to be my claim to fame? Finding your niche is often the main theme in books and movies.

I am currently reading a book by A. J. Jacobs called *The Year of Living Biblically*. It's about a man who explores religion and its hidden meanings by following the Bible as literally as possible for a year. He kept a daily record of his journey down the religious pathway and it became a book that hundreds have read. I also recently re-watched *Julie & Julia*, an absolutely amazing movie about the lives of Julia Child and a woman named Julie who cooks her way through Julia Child's cookbook in a year.

This of course made me realize that I have no real accomplishments. Yes, I graduated from high school. Yes, I have some sports trophies. And yes, I'm a senior in college attempting to get two degrees in five years but, I have at least another year left before I can consider myself a college graduate.

So what have I truly accomplished in life so far?

I began to think about what could I challenge myself with that would take a year, that I could write about, that others would want to read about, and that at the end of it I would feel like I had truly accomplished something. I searched the internet for challenges that people could take for a year and found none. One blogger challenged his readers to create a list of 365 things to do in 365 days. This was it. So, I decided to make a list.

After a week of relentlessly trying to come up with things that I wanted to do, things that I wanted to learn, and things that I wanted to do for others, I realized that I simply could not come up with 365 things. It took me a week to get to one hundred and fifty.

What is my epic and unique challenge? To complete all one hundred and fifty items on my list. Some of my goals have to do with hobbies I already have. For example, I like to do crafts so I plan to learn how to make jewelry, decoupage a jewelry box, and make a scrapbook. There are also things aimed at self-improvement.

See EPIC on Pg. 4

RAYMOND GILTSRAP
Editor-in-Chief

Commuters traveling home from UAH down South Parkway may have noticed that the former Copeland's restaurant has been turned into a new venue. The venue is called Club 222 and it's bringing the party atmosphere of Hollywood to Huntsville.

The club is located at the corner of Airport Road in south Huntsville and caters to women older than 23 years old and men 25 and up. Because of these age limits,

most students at UAH will not be allowed entrance; however, those fortunate few grad students, teachers and staff members old enough to get in should know that a strict dress code is enforced at Club 222. The Web site states that the dress code is in place in order to create a "professional atmosphere." The club's MySpace page states that patrons are encouraged to "come with a clean and sexy look."

The club has a wide selection of alcoholic beverages and promises to treat guests like celebrities. The club offers 14 VIP sections

available via reservations; two dance floors; valet parking; DJs; and live entertainment weekly. The cover charge is \$22. The club is open 7 days a week from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Club 222 has an invitation-only premiere party March 5. VIP sections are still available for reservations. Individuals or parties interested in attending the event should call (256) 652-5047.

For more information about the new Club 222, visit www.huntsville222club.com or www.myspace.com/twotwentytwoclub.



Photo by: Michael Barnes

From LIBRARY on Pg. 1

seum. This includes a traveling poster collection entitled "Forced Labour for the 'Final Victory': Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp, 1943-1945," in addition to artifacts from the camp. The exhibit also features photos from a Huntsville resident, John Rison Jones. Jones helped liberate the Dora camp and captured the scene there with his own camera.

The exhibit is free to both students and the general public. Those visiting from off campus, should obtain a temporary parking pass from the University Police Office.

INFORMATION MEETING: Study Abroad in PANAMA!

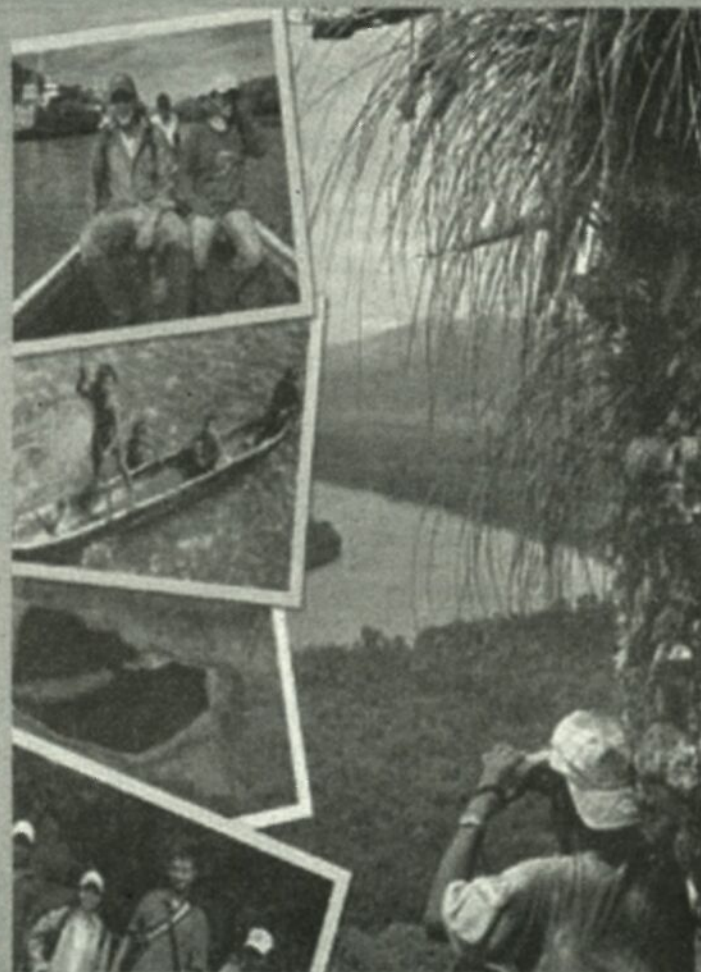
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Open Information Meeting
Wednesday, March 10
11:30AM-1:00PM (Pizza Provided)
329 Madison Hall



CONTACT:
Dave Cook, (256) 824-6055 david.cook@uah.edu

Event Calendar

March 3

- The UAH baseball team plays Martin Methodist at Joe Davis Stadium. 2 pm. Free.
- ACE will show "Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day" at 9 p.m. in the UC Exhibit Hall.

March 4

- North Mississippi All-Stars will perform at Crossroads with special guests City Champs. 9 p.m. \$20

March 5

- The Flying Monkey holds its first Friday open house. Local artists sell their jewelry, vintage clothing and art. 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Free
- The Flying Monkey holds its monthly open mic night. 8:30 p.m. \$5
- Eyes Around, Stars Below and Local Orbit play at Whiskey's. 9 p.m. 19+.

March 6

- "Any One of Us: Words from Prison" will be performed in Morton Hall in the black box theater (room 106). 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. \$5
- Carridale, A Better Hope Foundation, The End of April, Some Mistakes, Fighting Off Heroes and Insurgency will play at The Venue, located at 411 Hughes Road. 6:30 p.m. \$7
- Michelle Malone and Zapatos Perdidos will play at the Flying Monkey. 8 p.m. \$10
- Lucero will play at Crossroads, alongside special guests Glossary. 9 p.m. \$15

March 7

- Freddy Earl and the Blues Mercenaries will play at Kaffeeklatsch. 7:30 p.m.
- Neeve and Friends will play at Bandito Southside. 8 p.m. Free.

From UPDATES on Pg. 1

and spinal injuries and is able to accommodate ICU patients. Leahy will undergo therapy daily at this center.

According to the blog posted by Stephanie Monticciolo's family, Monticciolo is in critical but stable condition in the SICU at Huntsville Hospital. Monticciolo has had her feeding tube removed and

is expected to move from ICU into a regular room in the near future. She is still unable to talk but family members say she is making amazing progress.

For further information on the progress of Joseph Leahy and Stephanie Monticciolo visit their blogs at: <http://josephleahy.blogspot.com/> and <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniem>.

Charger Talk: Students Answer Questions about the UAH Library

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

Recently a lot of complaints have been made against the UAH library. The library has been closing earlier and earlier, and some students feel that the library is no longer a useful resource. There are no locations on campus that offer a constant study environment for students. Many believe that the library should be open 24 hours a day to cater to every student's schedule.

The library will soon initiate a swipe card access system that will only be available to those who have Charger IDs. This means that only students would be allowed in, and the library staff would know who was in the library through electronic means, keeping track of all traffic coming in and out of the building.

What do you think about the swipe card system the library is soon to initiate?

"I think it would be inconvenient for students who actually go there, but it would keep people who are not students or alumni out of the library. It should have extended hours but 24/7 that would mean that someone would have to stay in the library 24/7, just in case." -Kirby Viall, aerospace engineering, junior

"I am not really sure how I feel

about it, but I do like the fact that it will keep non-students and non-alumni out." -Amy Tillery, math education, senior

"I thought the purpose of libraries was to be PUBLIC. But if they want to do that, I guess it benefits me by keeping people off of MySpace and Facebook when I actually have to do stuff for academic reasons. And hiring someone 24/7 is probably not a problem for the library." -Melanie Eckstein, history, senior

"I think the new swipe access will make the library an area for students, staff, etc., only, though I believed our library was supposed to be open to the public. I'm not sure exactly where they're going with this, but it should definitely be open 24/7 once the swipe access is implemented." -Sharon Conrad, earth systems science, junior

Popular opinion is that the swipe card system should allow for at least extended access to the library. According to the administration, not enough students used the library when the arcade hours were extended. Thus, the extended hours are no longer available to students.

Would you use the library more if it was open twenty-four hours a day?

"Yes, I would, if there were proper security in and around

the building for when I decide to leave." -Sharon Conrad, earth systems science, junior

"No, I don't think I would go to the library more. But I do know people that would love the library to stay open 24/7." -Melanie Eckstein, history, senior

"I am not sure. I think I would feel uncomfortable going there at night, if there weren't a lot of staff present." -Amy Tillery, math education, senior

"I don't go there now unless I have a group project. If the hours were extended, people who work during the day can go there when they need to." -Kirby Viall, aerospace engineering, junior

Most students would utilize the UAH library and other campus facilities more if they were available at times convenient for every student. Most students spend their entire day in class or at work. At night they want to relax or hang out with friends. Many UAH students work on their homework, write papers and conduct Internet research late at night. When such resources, such as the Internet, have been exhausted, students have nowhere to turn. The library is a wonderful resource, but it is not being used effectively. If it were open later or even had a single room that was open 24 hours, students would come.

From EPIC on Pg. 3

I have been trying to lose weight, so I want to weigh 140 pounds by the end of my epic year. I also do not wear a lot of makeup nor do I try to dress very nicely except for special occasions. I want to change my image and become a little more self-aware.

I also want to pick up some better eating habits. I decided that for a week I would eat nothing but fruits and vegetables in hopes that I would learn to eat healthier. Another week on my list has been devoted to avoiding all sugars in an attempt to cut out any junk food and fattening snacks.

Flossing regularly has always been a problem for me as it takes up so much time considering I have a permanent retainer on my bottom

teeth. So, I hope a week of flossing everyday might get me more in the habit of flossing more often. I also want to get whiter teeth. I always brush my teeth at least once a day but I think that if I spend a week brushing my teeth three times a day that I may be more inclined to do it at least twice a day.

Besides crafts and self-improvement, I also devote many list items to learning skills and random things. I want to learn how to make balloon animals and at least ten different origami shapes. Calligraphy can be a very useful skill and so I want to learn it. I want to be able to write my name in fifty different languages. Morse code is something that may not be necessary to learn anymore but could come in handy so I plan to learn it this year. There are also things such as learn

how to carve wood, learn about the history of Tibet, and learning how to Feng Shui my room.

I also want to devote some time to helping others. I want to do things such as volunteer for at least twenty hours, donate money to a charity, put pennies in the give-a-penny, take-a-penny jars, and make presents for my friends. Showing my boyfriend that I care or getting beer and zombie movies for him and his friends are things that I can do to make life more about others than myself.

I have also followed in the footsteps of Julie Powell, from the movie, and created a blog to keep record of my epic year. It can be found at <http://ashleysepicyear.blogspot.com>. This year is about bettering myself, learning new skills, and doing for others.

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The Meaning of Everyday Phrases and Where They Came From

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

The human language becomes more involved and intricate as time passes. Words lose their meaning. Words take on new meanings. New words emerge. Certain phrases have been passed down

from generation to generation without any thought to where they originally came from or what they meant originally.

In 570 CE, the bubonic plague raged through Europe and Asia and was closing in on Rome. Fearful and desperate, the Romans did not want to take any chances at becoming

the next victims and tried to sort out the source of the disease. Sneezing was believed to be an early symptom of the plague. Saying "God Bless You" was thought to completely halt the disease and save a person from death. Other peoples believed that your heart stopped every time you sneezed and

that they had to ask God to bless them so that they would be able to continue living past the sneeze. A more popular belief was that your soul would be thrown from your body during a sneeze making you prone to being taken over by demons and evil spirits so that you must be blessed to keep your body safe from possession. Others believed that every sneeze was an evil spirit trying to escape and thus by saying "God Bless You" the demon would not leave the sneezer and enter someone else. Some believed that sneezing meant that God was smiling down upon the sneezer and their prayers would be answered and saying "God Bless You" recognized their good luck. In modern times, the meaning behind this everyday phrase has been lost. It is generally considered to be a common courtesy with no underlying meaning. Also, because of the secular shift in society, the "God" part of the statement has been dropped for the sake of political correctness.

"It's raining cats and dogs" is another common phrase still in use today. In 1738, Dean Jonathan Swift, a poet, wrote "Polite Conversations," which contained one of the first uses of the phrase in recorded history. However, it is unclear if he came up with the phrase on his own. In 1652, Richard Brome wrote a play called "The City Witt." In this play, one of the characters, Sarpego, has the lines:

"From henceforth... The world shall flow with dunces... And it shall rain... Dogs and Polecats, and so forth."

This is the most likely source of the phrase. The original meaning of the phrase is still unknown and is used now frequently, but without knowledge of what it really means, when it is raining.

The phrase "as mad as a hatter" has a more interesting background. The Journal of American Medicine Volume 155, Number 3, talks about the usage of mercury in hat making. Hatters, or hat makers, used mercury in the manufacturing of felt hats. They would in turn come into contact with mercury quite frequently and thus experienced long term exposure to mercury poisoning. One of the symptoms of mercury poison is insanity. So, they were quite literally mad hatters. In 1865, Lewis Carroll wrote about a Mad Hatter in his book "Alice in Wonderland." This of course is the most famous and well-known reference to the phrase. However, even earlier, in 1817, Thomas Haliburton used the phrase in "The Clockmaker." Today, this is generally used to describe a crazy person or an angry person.

"I don't give a damn" was actually originally "I don't give a dam." A dam was a coin made mostly of tin that was minted in India by English businessmen during the English occupation of India. The coin was basically completely worthless in the English market

and anything that you could not trade even a dam for was considered absolutely worthless. Thus if "you didn't/wouldn't give a dam," it was too worthless to even bother with. Today, the phrase has no such meaning and generally just means "I don't care" or "I could care less." The phrase changed from "dam" to "damn" once the coins had been phased out and "damme" the formal way of damning someone, was replaced with "damnation."

A very common phrase used in everyday life is the phrase "cat nap." Most people today believe that it refers to cats' tendency to sleep at short intervals throughout the day. Thus taking a quick nap would be a "cat nap." However, the phrase actually goes back to the old West and the time of stagecoaches. A cat burglar would get on a stagecoach and pretend to sleep, lulling the other passenger or passengers into a false sense of security so they would also go to sleep. Once the passengers were sound asleep, the thief would rob everyone and get off at the next stop. By the time the passengers woke up and realized that they had been robbed, the thief would have already escaped.

Have you ever been "saved by the bell?" Today this might mean that your professor singles you out and asks you a question that you cannot answer only to have him realize that class is over. Or you have been presented with a tough question or situation only to be called away by someone else saving you from the awkward moment? This is a common interpretation of the phrase. However, it has a very dark and macabre history. England is a small island and there are very limited places to bury the dead. In the 1700 and 1800s, the English began digging up coffins, dumping the bones in a house, and then would reusing the coffin. In approximately twenty-five percent of the coffins that had been dug up, there were scratch marks on the inside. They had been burying people alive! They began to tie strings to the wrist of the bodies buried and run them up through the ground to the surface and attach them to bells. A person would be stationed in the graveyard all night to listen for any ringing bells. (This is where the term "graveyard shift" actually came from.) Because of this, people were actually being "saved by the bell."

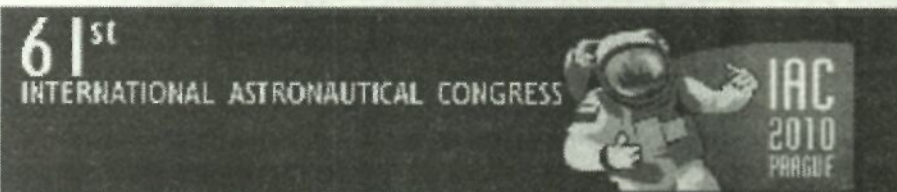
Understanding the history of language and why certain words have been linked together gives significance to modern English where previously there was none. Also, knowing the original intentions of a phrase changes how one might use the phrase, changes how often one might use the phrase, and whether or not someone may use the phrase at all. Knowing what you are actually saying when you use a phrase is the true key to combating ignorance.

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In order to promote participation of UAHuntsville students, the Office of the Vice President for Research with support from the Office of International Programs and Services will consider full financial sponsorship for a limited number of students, whose papers are accepted, to travel to the conference for the purposes of promoting their research and enabling them to present their papers.

Any graduate or undergraduate students who have questions regarding participation in the congress as a presenting author can contact Dave Cook in the Office of International Programs and Services at (256) 824-6055 or at david.cook@uah.edu.

This Week in History

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

March 3

- In 1869, the University of South Carolina opens to all races.
- The U.S. Steel Corporation is organized in 1900.

March 4

- William Herschel spots the Orion nebula in 1774.
- The first United States railway is chartered in 1826.

March 5

- In 1836, Samuel Colt manufactured the first pistol.
- C. H. Gould patents the stapler in 1868.

March 6

- In 1521, Magellan discovered Guam.
- The first telecast from an airplane in the United States occurred in 1940.

March 7

- Alexander Graham Bell patents the telephone in 1876.
- Willis Farnsworth patents the first coin-operated locker in 1911.

March 8

- Everett Horton patented the fishing rod made from telescoping steel tubes in 1887.
- In 1946, the first helicopter was licensed for commercial use.

March 9

- In 1959, Barbie debuted. Over 800 million were sold.
- The first known radar contact is made with Venus in 1959.

UAH Introduces New Major – Modeling and Simulation

MATT SAYAR
Senior Science & Tech Writer

One of the greatest forces driving technological advancement is the ability to express ideas cheaper and faster, and the demand for people capable of doing so is rising. UAH's Dr. Mikel Petty, director of the Center for Modeling and Simulation, is helping the university answer the demand by pioneering a new graduate program called Modeling and Simulation.

Modeling and Simulation involves two distinct parts, which is evident from the name. The student must first create a model of a something he or she is interested in.

Then, using the model, the student creates a simulation to determine the outcome of the system without physically doing it. An example is making a model of a traffic system, complete with algorithms that compute traffic flow based on real data.

The student can then add a bridge to the traffic system model and simulate the change in the traffic flow. With the simulation, he or she can determine if building a bridge in a certain location would affect the traffic situation.

Simulating these experiments on a computer would save count-

less dollars, compared to actually building a bridge and discovering its placement does not alleviate traffic problems.

The time spent creating the simulation would also be significantly less than creating a bridge in the real world. Many scenarios are possible, including models of combat, assembly lines and shipping in a port. With modeling and simulation, one can "work in so many different domains," Petty said.

Modeling and simulation is becoming commonplace in the workforce today. "It's impossible to find an engineer or scientist who doesn't do modeling and simulation," Petty said. Without the benefit of an M&S education, however, it is more difficult for these experts to get results. Despite the necessity of an undergraduate engineering or science degree to become an M&S major, M&S isn't necessarily bound to either discipline.

M&S can't train every student to become an expert in a subject first before creating a simulation, but it does help teach students to work with experts in the domain to produce reliable models and simulations. With more and more businesses having M&S departments, this kind of flexibility is highly desirable.

With a science or engineering degree and an M&S graduate degree, Petty said, one would have "zero trouble finding a job." With relatively few M&S programs in universities, obtaining a job as a professor would be the only challenge.

Petty has a Ph.D in computer science and was the advisor to the first Modeling and Simulation major, John Sokalowski, in 2003. This relatively new program is only available in a handful of universities, and Old Dominion University is the only school with an undergraduate program. Petty helped create the graduate program at the University of Central Florida, and he used his experience to model UAH's program after ODU and UCF's programs. UAH's catalogue already has the majority of classes necessary for the major, and only seven classes were added to round out the program.

The Modeling and Simulation graduate degree program was officially approved on Feb. 5, and the first classes will be available this summer, with the program getting underway in the fall. The long-term goal is to produce three to five Ph.Ds per year, which aligns with Dr. Williams' "Power of Ten" goal to graduate 100 Ph.Ds per year.

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Chargers Clinch Gulf South Conference East Championship

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

The UAH Chargers have been playing their best basketball as of late, and their hard work has paid off. The men's basketball team clinched the Gulf South Conference Eastern Division Championship and a No. 1 seed in the GSC

tournament after an 86-66 win over West Alabama.

UAH has won 14 of its last 15, including seven in a row after Saturday night. Their last loss came against Valdosta St. in January, but the Chargers returned the favor that next month in one of their most impressive performances of the season.

The Divisional Championship is the first in seven years for UAH.

Coach Lennie Acuff credits the teams' consistency for their performance this year.

"We've been remarkably consistent," Acuff said. "Even the five games we've lost, we had a chance to win all of them and had the lead in the second half in every one of them."

The next game for the Chargers will be the last of the Quarter-Final games in the GSC Tournament. UAH will play No.4 seed Harding; a team the Chargers beat

65-56 earlier this year, at 7:30 this Friday night.

All games in the GSC Tournament will be played at the DeSoto Civic Center in Southaven, MS. Students can purchase single-day tickets for \$8.00, or an all-tournament pass for \$20.00. Parking is \$3.00 at the Civic Center for the entire tournament. Tickets can be obtained at the box office or by calling (662) 470-2131. More information, including directions, hotels, is provided by the GSC at <http://www.gulfsouthconference.org>.



Photos courtesy of UAH Athletics

CHARGER SPORTS CALENDAR

Ice Hockey Record 10-16-2 CHA 6-9-1

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 5	Bemidji State	Home	5:35 p.m.
March 6	Bemidji State	Home	3:05 p.m.

Men's Basketball Record 21-5 GSC 9-1

Date	Opponent	Site
March 4-7	GSC Tournament	Southaven, MS

Women's Basketball Record 4-20 GSC 1-9

Date	Opponent	Site
March 4-7	GSC Tournament	Southaven, MS

Baseball Record 6-5 GSC 0-0

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 3	Martin Methodist	Home	1:00 p.m.
March 6	Arkansas-Monticello	Monticello, AR	12:00 p.m.
March 7	Arkansas-Monticello	Monticello, AR	12:00 p.m.
March 9	Montevallo	Home	2:00 p.m.

Softball Record 10-1 GSC 0-0

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 5	Georgia Southwestern	Carrollton, GA	3:00 p.m.
March 5	Barry	Carrollton, GA	5:00p.m.
March 6	Florida Southern	Carrollton, GA	12:00 p.m.
March 6	Anderson (SC)	Carrollton, GA	2:00p.m.
March 7	Rollins	Carrollton, GA	12:00p.m.
March 7	Augusta State	Carrollton, GA	2:00 p.m.

Track and Field

Date	Opponent	Site
March 6	Alabama A&M Bulldog Relays	Normal, AL

Men's Tennis Record 2-1 GSC 0-0

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 5	Alabama A&M	Home	3:00 p.m.
March 6	Cumberland	Home	10:00 a.m.
March 7	Western Kentucky	Home	2:00 p.m.

Women's Tennis Record 3-1 GSC 0-0

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
March 5	Alabama A&M	Home	3:00 p.m.
March 6	Cumberland	Home	10:00 a.m.
March 7	Western Kentucky	Home	2:00 p.m.

CHARGER SPORTS SCORES

Ice Hockey Record 10-16-2 CHA 6-9-1

February 26	Niagara	4
	Chargers	3

February 27	Niagara	3
	Chargers	1

February 28	Niagara	2
	Chargers	3

Men's Basketball Record 21-5 GSC 9-1

February 25	North Alabama	71
	Chargers	78

February 27	West Alabama	66
	Chargers	86

Women's Basketball Record 4-20 GSC 1-9

February 25	North Alabama	101
	Chargers	47

February 27	West Alabama	87
	Chargers	65

Baseball Record 6-5 GSC 0-0

February 24	Delta State	10
	Chargers	8

February 24	Delta State	4
	Chargers	3

February 27	Stillman	4
	Chargers	5

February 27	Stillman	8
	Chargers	12

February 28	Stillman	8
	Chargers	15

Softball Record 10-1 GSC 0-0

February 26	Auburn-Montgomery	0
	Chargers	10

February 26	Auburn-Montgomery	3
	Chargers	5

February 27	Wisconsin-Parkside	3
	Chargers	4

February 27	Wisconsin-Parkside	9
	Chargers	1

February 28	Indianapolis	3
	Chargers	10

February 28	Indianapolis	1
	Chargers	4

Men's Tennis Record 2-1 GSC 0-0

February 27	Stillman	0
	Chargers	9

Women's Tennis Record 3-1 GSC 0-0

February 27	Stillman	0
	Chargers	9

New Research Contests Primordial Soup Theory

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

Since 1929, it has been generally accepted that life began in a "primordial soup" filled with gases and organic molecules before emerging from the ocean millions of years later. Scientist J.B.S. Haldane proposed this theory 80 years ago. Scientists such as Dr. Nick Lane of the University College, London, now contest this.

The original theory proposed that ultraviolet radiation provided the necessary energy to turn the available methane, ammonia and water into the first organic compounds. However, critics of this theory believe that there has to be a sustainable energy source to drive any reaction. Without this energy source, there can be life.

Scientists then look for another possible and more plausible source of energy that could have jumpstarted the chemical reaction of life. One proposed source is deep sea vents.

Geochemist Michael J. Russell, an expert on alkaline deep sea vents, stated that these vents produce chemical gradients that are

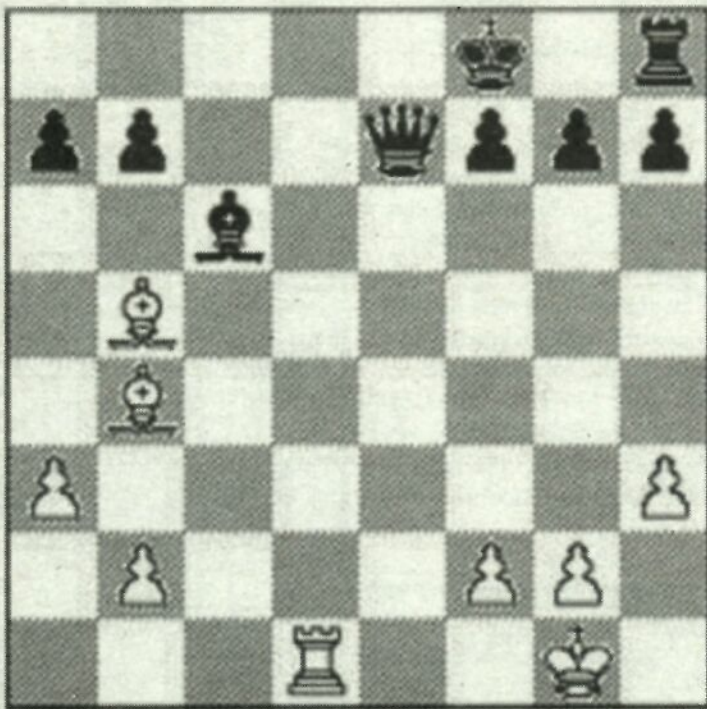
similar to those found in almost every living organism today. Chemiosmosis is the process of exploiting these gradients in which the proton gradient drives synthesis of the universal energy, the enzyme ATP or adenosine triphosphate, or other enzyme equivalents. The cells would then later evolve to generate their own proton gradients through electron transfer.

Nick Lane believes that the "primordial soup" theory is simply outdated. "Far from being too complex to have powered early life, it is nearly impossible to see how life could have begun without chemiosmosis," he stated. "It is time to cast off the shackles of fermentation in some primordial soup as 'life without oxygen' -- an idea that dates back to a time before anybody in biology had any understanding of how ATP is made."

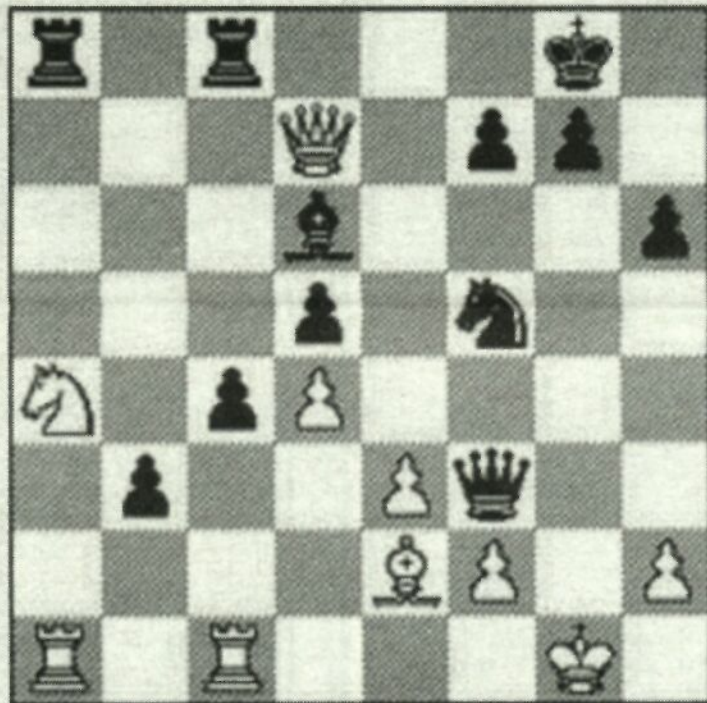
New scientific technologies and more finite research have enabled scientists to understand the nature of the world and how it works in better detail than ever before. This may only be the first long-accepted theory to crumble in light of new research.

Chess Puzzles

Puzzle 1: White to Play



Puzzle 2: Black to Play



Puzzles courtesy of the UAH Chess Club. The UAH Chess Club meets every Monday from 6:00-10:00 pm at the Charger Express Cafe in the University Center. All levels are welcome!

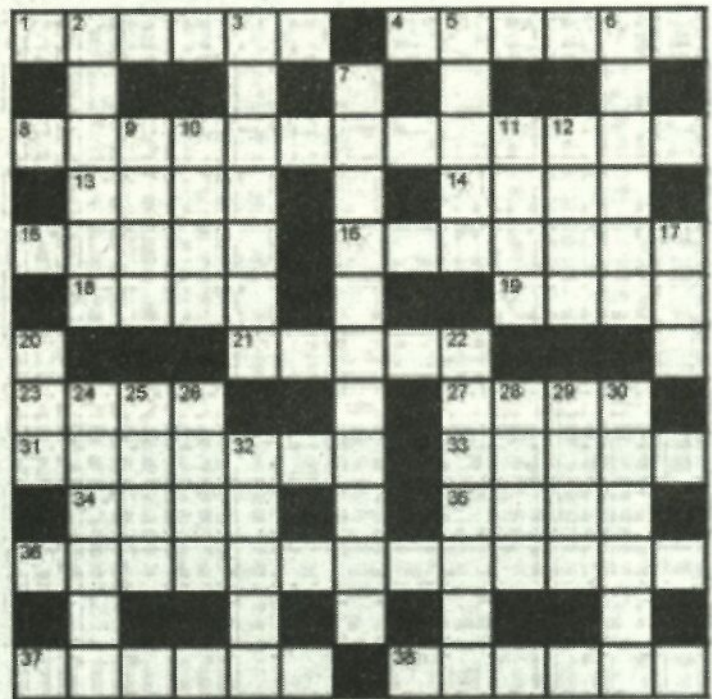
Crossword

Across

1. Recreational vehicle
4. Silly
8. Tonsillitis bacterium
13. Own
14. Ring
15. Wild card
16. Dagger-like weapon
18. Divorce center
19. Look closely
21. Lurches
23. Smooth-tongued
27. Official symbols of a family
31. Advantage
33. Extinction
34. Far away
35. Collective security organization
36. Authoritative statement
37. Help
38. Fake

Down

2. Writer
3. Ruler of an empire
5. Unskilled laborer



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 6. Man's wig | 22. Sorrow |
| 7. Paving stone | 24. Finds out |
| 9. Womanizer | 25. Dope |
| 10. Smooth | 26. Legume |
| 11. Poultry house | 28. 500 sheets |
| 12. Top of a volcano | 29. Consort |
| 17. Strive | 30. Intoxicated |
| 20. Russian security organisation | 32. Amphibians |



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Sudoku

	7	2						3
	6	8						
					9			
5	9	6		3	2			7
								6
	8						1	
		7	2					9
	3	9	8		7	2		
			5		1	3		

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

Solutions to last issue's puzzles:

3	9	1	2	8	7	6	4	5
8	2	5	6	1	4	7	9	3
6	4	7	5	3	9	2	8	1
7	6	8	9	5	3	1	2	4
9	1	3	4	2	8	5	6	7
4	5	2	1	7	6	8	3	9
1	3	6	8	4	5	9	7	2
2	8	4	7	9	1	3	5	6
5	7	9	3	6	2	4	1	8

1	IN	WARD	4	BANK	RUPT			
2	E	C	T	B	A	L		
3	PICCOLO	8	SCATTER					
4	G	O	W	T	T	B		
5	CHAUFFEUR	12	CLOSE					
6	U	N	R	A	E	V		
7	SKATER	17	ACCURATE					
8	H	R	A	S	T	G	W	R
9	ICE	22	CREAM	25	WHEEZE			
10	O	H	L	O	A	S		
11	NAVAL	28	EUCCHARIST					
12	B	P	S	C	D	I		
13	TANTRUM	34	AFFRONT					
14	S	E	A	M	U	C		
15	CHARMING	39	ROMMEL					

Chess Puzzles: Puzzle 1 - 1.Ra6 bxa6 2.b7#
Puzzle 2 - 1.Qxf8+ Rxf8 2.Nh6#