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2010

Exponent (1969-2012)

2010

Exponent, Vol. 41, Iss. 21, 2010-04-21

University of Alabama in Huntsville

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Recommended Citation

University of Alabama in Huntsville, "Exponent, Vol. 41, Iss. 21, 2010-04-21" (2010). *2010*. 13.
<https://louis.uah.edu/exponent-2010/13>

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The Exponent

The Student Newspaper of UAH

Volume 41, Issue 21

April 21, 2010

NEWS BRIEFS

During a national convention for the Pre-health honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, the UAH chapter was voted Best Small Chapter in the Nation and won first place in the Regional Activities Award. The convention was held in Tampa, Fla. from March 18 to March 21. Four UAH students attended, accompanied by Debra Moriarity, who is temporarily taking Adriel Johnson's place as faculty advisor.

See CHAPTER on Pg. 3

ARTS & LEISURE BRIEFS

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are found in virtually every food product Americans consume daily. From our fruits to our vegetables, GMOs construct the basic foundation of the American diet. According to GMO advocates, genetically modifying organisms shows to have many advantages including easier shipping, more quantity, and better capability to feed world hunger. GMOs, however, do not receive praise from all directions.

See PRODUCE on Pg. 5

SCIENCE & TECH BRIEFS

UAH's Aerophysics Research Center (ARC) hosts one of the largest-caliber guns in the nation. The research center conducts various tests to measure different aspects of a very fast-moving object. The ARC is housed on Redstone Arsenal, where the facility houses the 254 millimeter Light Gas Gun.

See GUN on Pg. 6

SPORTS BRIEFS

The Charger Hockey squad had a terrific run to end the season this year, catching fire late in the season to win the College Hockey America Tournament. The win guaranteed the Chargers a place in the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Tournament. The win would also turn out to be the last CHA game to be played.

See HOCKEY on Pg. 7

INDEX

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| News | 2 |
| Arts & Leisure..... | 5 |
| Science & Tech | 6 |
| Sports | 7 |
| Puzzles | 8 |

Parents Struggle to Pay for Tuition with the Collapse of PACT

JULIE RAMHOLD
Staff Writer

Parents usually begin considering payment options for college when they start their family. About 20 years ago, they had the option to participate in a program called Prepaid Affordable College Tuition.

PACT was a simple plan. Parents would pay \$5,000 at the time of their child's birth. Eighteen years later, the program would pay four years' worth of tuition for that child at an in-state university. Now, those parents are experiencing anxiety over paying for college—the opposite of the intended result.

The program is now expected to run out of funds next year. Many parents are concerned, particularly those who have children in college right now.

Terri Johnson, an instructor in the math department at UAH, is concerned about the outcome of efforts to save the program. She and her husband purchased PACT

contracts for their three children in 1992, 1994 and 1999.

In the five years between '94 and '99, the wording of the contracts changed. The 1994 contract, as well as the 1992 contract, state that the program "guarantees payment of undergraduate Instate Tuition and Mandatory Fees." However, the 1999 contract states that the program "provides" those payments.

Later contracts sound as if payment is not guaranteed, per se. As of late 2009, enrollment in PACT was suspended altogether.

Some have banded together to try to save the program. The Web site <http://www.savealabamapact.com/> was created as a resource for parents and children who participated in the program. Save Alabama PACT offers the latest news and even some advice to parents who considering canceling their contracts.

State representatives are trying to bring about changes that will work for everyone. On April 8, the

Alabama House of Representatives passed SB 162 with a vote of 102-0. According to a *Birmingham News* post at http://blog.al.com/spot-news/2010/04/alabama_house_passes_bill_to_g.html, the bill will give \$236 million to the PACT program over eight years.

But as of April 13, the Alabama Senate had rejected the same bill the house passed. On April 13, WAFF reported on its Web site that after April 13, "lawmakers only have three days left...to reconcile the two bills and pump new money into the financially struggling tuition program."

The two bills do not differ much, except for the cap on tuition. The house bill included a 2.5 percent cap on tuition increases for PACT students. The senate bill does not have the clause, but it would also provide the \$236 million to bail out the program.

The legislators have to make a decision soon. While some parents may be worried for their younger children who have yet to reach

college age, the high anxiety rests mainly with parents who have children in college now.

Parents in that situation have not had to worry about paying tuition or fees, and so there may not be a backup plan for them. Students may not have even been eligible for scholarships.

Should the PACT actually fall through, students who rely on it may have significant difficulties funding their education. In fact, some may not even be able to return to school. Parents are angry, because they put their trust in this program, only to learn that those responsible did not do what they said they would.

"This is a legal contract between the state and our family, and if we hold up our end of the contract, namely getting our child accepted to a state . . . institution, then the state is obliged to honor the contract," one parent said. "It is not my obligation to figure out HOW the state will honor this contract."

Dean Dasher Discusses the Future of Roberts Hall

JULIE RAMHOLD
Staff Writer

There is no doubt that the campus art community needed to move into Wilson Hall as soon as renovations finished. No one could blame students eager to have an upgraded workspace.

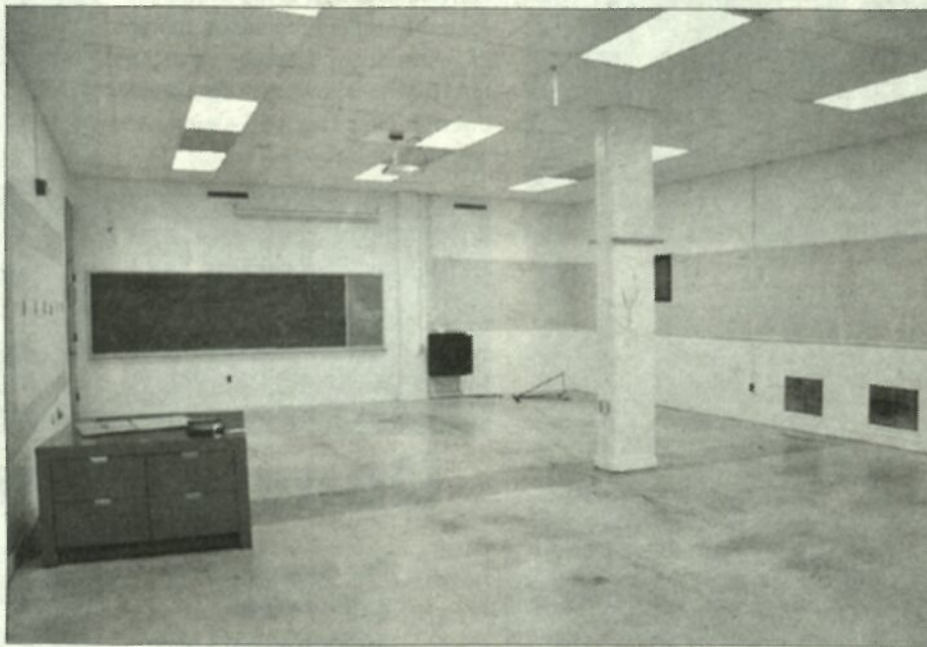
However, their move has left a large chunk of space unoccupied in Roberts Hall. Now many wonder—what will become of the building?

The dean of the college of liberal arts, Glenn Dasher, was happy to answer my questions.

"The entire second floor and most of the third floor are vacant, awaiting renovation," Dasher said.

But not everyone moved out. The sculpture department still calls about 80 percent of the first floor home. The other 20 percent of the first floor is still occupied by the music department. That department will also take over the space formerly used for photography classes; these rooms will become the departmental and chair's offices.

The history department remains on the fourth floor. The Humanities Center is also still located on the third floor. Dasher explained that the music program is keeping its residence on the right side of



Most of Roberts Hall has been vacant since the beginning of the spring semester. Photo by: Michael Barnes

the building, though plans are also being made to expand music to the other side of Roberts.

The spaces that used to house painting and printmaking studios "will be renovated to provide choir, wind and jazz ensemble rehearsal space," Dasher said. He also said that additional practice space will be created, though he did not go into details on exactly how.

In addition to these changes, Dasher said there are talks for moving the education department to the third floor, away from its current home in Morton Hall. Dasher says this move "seems pretty certain, but nothing is final yet."

Renovations to transform parts of the second floor into "acoustically balanced rehearsal spaces"

are planned. There will also have to be some work done to transform areas into useable office space for the music department. Work is also planned on the current space that music holds to create even more space for instruction and practice.

The future home of the education department will also receive some touch-ups, including fresh paint.

The plans sound grand, but they have not begun yet. Experts have seen the areas and made recommendations for the acoustical renovations. And the college still has to receive approval and funding before it can begin.

"We are just waiting for the go-ahead to get the process started," Dasher said.

Need Help Paying for Tuition? Scholarships Are Available

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

With tuition continually on the rise, a student might begin to believe that UAH only cares about money. What most do not know is that UAH strives to make college affordable through a variety of scholarships and financial aid.

UAH offers hundreds of different scholarships, all of which are available each year for the students of UAH to apply for. UAH offers academic scholarships for which the student has to keep a certain grade point average.

Each department can also give out scholarships to students in those departments. There are scholarships for those who have transferred to UAH, and there are scholarships for those who are in graduate school. The UAH Financial Aid Office also helps makes students aware of outside scholarships that are available through various companies or individuals.

Alumni of UAH who know how important education is have created endowed scholarships to help promote education in areas they believe important.

Former astronaut Jan Davis is one such individual. She wanted to help female aerospace engineering students and has offered funds to

See SCHOLARSHIPS on Pg. 8

Students Present Research at UA System Honors Conference

SALOME SALIASHVILI
Staff Writer

Winners of the ninth Annual University of Alabama System Honors Research Conference were announced after the six-hour event drew to a close. Andrew Adrian, Rose Long and Reeves Jordan all brought home awards representing UAH in what Dr. Harry Delugach, the director of the honors program, called an incredibly hard decision for the judges.

These awards are given to the honors students on all three campuses who have completed an honors research project in order to receive an honors diploma.

Their research takes them far into the realm of new ideas and methods of improvement in every field imaginable, and their work encompasses a collaborated research with a professor, usually spanning several months.

Awards at the Honors Research Conference comprise two categories, the Podium Presentations and the Poster Presentations. The presenters were judged on their ability to handle questions and on the clarity and comprehensibility of their presentations, among other standards. The winners of the first, second and third places not only received a certificate and an award,

but their papers will be published in the "Proceedings of the Ninth Annual University of Alabama System Honors Research Conference."

This year's contestants dissected and elaborated various issues in the fields of natural sciences, arts and humanities, business, health professions, and social and behavioral sciences.

The empiricism of the philosopher Heidegger was presented, and his idea that being-in-the world holds a central post in human existence was explained. The ethical breaches in government contracting in which kickbacks and bribery are common was explored. Andrew Adrian presented his discovery of a new species of parasite, *Dactylogyrus spatulus*.

Students from UA brought the millimeter-length *C. elegans* and explained their favorable attributes for research. Moreover, solutions to worldwide epidemics as malaria and Parkinson's disease were explored.

Every year, the location of the conference takes place at different University of Alabama System campuses. This year, UAH hosted the event. It exemplifies a "high level of camaraderie among the universities" and the "positive impact [of the] initiative," Rose Long, a graduating UAH senior, said.

Next year, the students will convene and new ideas will be presented to reflect the added months of research. And maybe next time UAH will showcase the breakthrough cure that will change the world.

New Research Park at Redstone Arsenal

JESSICA ROBINSON
Staff Writer

New developments affecting residents both on- and off-post are coming to Redstone Arsenal. The billion dollar project, nicknamed the "the next research park," will be located on 470 acres of farmland near Gate 9 of Redstone Arsenal.

The site was once considered for a location for summer concerts. But the idea developed into a colossal plan for a research park involving Redstone Arsenal, the city of Huntsville and a private developer, LW Redstone LLC. The new development will make areas now behind fences accessible to the general public and will contain administrative buildings, educational

areas and restaurants.

The construction comes at an important time, because the existing Research Park in northwest Huntsville has hit capacity. The new facility will create space for the thousands of contracting jobs brought to Huntsville by the Base Realignment and Closure. It will also help solve Redstone's existing space problems; currently there are requests for 1.2 million square feet of additional space on Redstone Arsenal.

The first stage of construction includes moving Gate 9 further down Rideout Road to make room for the new development. Although this is an already congested

See ARSENAL on Pg. 8



Above: Conference attendees after the award ceremony.
Below: UAH winners Reeves Jordan and Rose Long.

Student Government Senate Report

JESSICA ROBINSON
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association held its weekly general meeting on April 19 in UC 131 to discuss past and upcoming events.

This meeting was the first for the newly elected senators.

President Williams spoke at this week's meeting. He thanked the SGA for its leadership in a stressful time. He also applauded Andrew Hazen for demonstrating excellent leadership skills throughout the year. Williams stated that the quality of leadership has increased and is expressed through *The Exponent*. Williams also took time to answer questions about the meal plan and various other topics.

Cathi Curtis, director of student activities, briefly spoke to the new senate about the responsibility and accountability that comes along with being a senator.

Interested students who were not elected to office introduced themselves and explained what they would like to accomplish in SGA.

During the Officers Report, Andrew Hazen thanked SGA for a great year.

The senate discussed the "Week for Change" campaign. The senate plans to hold forums from April 26-30 for students to express their concerns. Forums will be held for dining services, housing, class-

See SGA on Pg. 8

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Next Issue: Wednesday, April 28, 2010

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Editorial: Huntsville, the Rocket City-Not the Safest City

PIERRE NELSON
Staff Writer

While many think Huntsville is one of the safest cities in America, this is masked by a pretense.

Yes, Huntsville has one been consistently ranked as one of the best cities in America for small businesses and for job growth, thanks in part to our high-tech contributions to the Army and NASA. Yes, Huntsville boasts the second largest research and technology office park in America and the fourth largest in the world—Cummings Research Park.

But no, Huntsville isn't the safe little town that we believe it to be. On a small Alabama scale, it is accurate to say that Huntsville is one of the safest cities—but on a national scale, Alabama is one of the most dangerous states in America.

Last year, according to <http://www.walletpop.com/blog/2010/04/05/most-dangerous-states-crime-rankings-for-2010/>,

Alabama ranked as the 13th most dangerous state in America. More puzzling is that Alabama ranks third in the U.S. for murders per 100,000 residents, according to <http://www.walletpop.com/insurance/most-dangerous-states>. As <http://huntsvilleal.areconnect.com/crime/compare.htm?c1=Huntsville&s1=AL&c2=new+york&s2=NY> points out, statistically, you have a better chance of getting murdered in Huntsville than in New York City.

Sixteen murders occurred in Huntsville in 2006—a murder rate of 9.5 per 100,000 residents. New York City's murder's rate of 7.3 is actually lower than ours. Unfortunately, because of the Feb. 12 shooting at the Shelby Center, we have nearly exceeded our 2006 murder rate.

Compare our figures to Birmingham, which has a population of 230,000—a mere 65,000 more than Huntsville. In 2006, Birmingham had a record-breaking 104 murders (see <http://huntsvilleal.areconnect.com/crime/compare.htm?c1=Huntsville&s1=AL&c2=birmingham&s2=AL>). That's a lot of cars.

In fact, that's one in 12 cars. This is because everyone has a car. Do you know anyone in Huntsville of driving age who doesn't have a car? Maybe one or two people, but that's pretty much it.

A recent study by Dr. Andrew Schiller in which exclusive FBI data was compiled shows that the Patton Road neighborhood adjacent to Redstone Arsenal has an astonishing property crime rate of 691.64 per 1,000 residents. This makes it the fourth most dangerous neighborhood for property crime in the U.S., crushing property crime rates in neighborhoods in major cities such as Atlanta and Houston (see <http://www.walletpop.com/insurance/most-dangerous-neighborhoods-for-property-crime>).

In a city in which there are more churches than gas stations, the irony is that faith no longer is on your side.

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In a city in which there are more churches than gas stations, the irony is that faith no longer is on your side.

Fourteenth Annual Academic Tournament

SALOME SALIASHVILI
Staff Writer

More than 100 high school students from seven different schools across north Alabama converged on UAH on April 14 to participate in the 14th Annual Academic Tournament.

According to Dr. Andrew Dunar, the event organizer, the goal was to create an opportunity for high school students and their respective schools to "participate in an academic competition" as well as to bring prospective UAH students onto the campus—something they have been doing for more than a decade now.

The liberal arts were the focus of the event. Throughout its 14 years, different departments have participated, though the history department was the pioneer. After the success of the 1996 Tournament, the event expanded. During various years, the number of department and student participation fluctuated.

This year, the history, political science, and art and art history departments hosted the tournament.

The art and art history department offered the students a tour through Wilson Hall, with trips to Roberts Hall and the Salmon Library. The groups went to 12 different locations, at each of which professors gave them a brief over-

view. The students were exposed to many new ideas. Additionally, they were welcome to participate in such projects as the international "Dream Rocket" endeavor or have hands-on experience in the print-making studio. They even went back in time and entered the camera obscura, or a life-size dark room in which the upside-down images of their friends were reflected onto a board.

Most importantly, they were exposed to the real campus, where they could see UAH students working on their art or projects, making the experience more intimate. The high school students also got to display their own art, with a winner chosen from among them.

Similarly, winners were chosen from the history and political science groups, which had to take an administered test.

At the end of the day, the students relaxed with a luncheon outside the Chan Auditorium. This was an inspiring event intended to motivate the minds of the students, provide incentives for their success and show the variety of experiences UAH has to offer.

The students left this year reflecting on their day.

"I'm glad I went on the trip," Darrius Hayes, a senior at Athens High School, said. "I'm hoping to come here, and I especially love [the drawing studio]."


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Alpha Epsilon Delta Voted Best Chapter in Nation

ERIC MORGAN
Staff Writer

Alpha Epsilon Delta, the pre-health honor society, held its national convention in Tampa, Fla., from March 18-21.

The UAH chapter (Alabama Epsilon) was voted Best Small Chapter in the Nation and won first place in the Regional Activities Award. Four UAH students attended, accompanied by Dr. Debra Moriarity, who is temporarily taking Dr. Adriel Johnson's place as faculty advisor.

Conventions take place every two years and draw a large number of chapters, according to Andrea Stone, president of the UAH chapter. Chapters with fewer than 50 members are considered small chapters.

Several guests spoke at this year's convention, including Alabama Surgeon General David Rutstein.

Alpha Epsilon Delta is a nationally recognized pre-health honor society created to "encourage and recognize excellence in pre-professional scholarship...and to use its resources to benefit health organizations, charities and the community."

Membership is open to students who have completed a 300-level science class and three semesters at UAH (one for transfer students) and who have an overall GPA of 3.2. Those who are not



AED club members. Photo courtesy of Andrea Stone

eligible for the honor society are welcome to join the related Medical Careers Club, which is open to all students interested in health professions.

Chapter President Andrea Stone explained that the organization offers many benefits for its members including tutoring, study groups, service activities and pre-professional advising. Eighteen new members will be inducted this semester, including Johnson, who will be named an honorary member.

Johnson was quoted saying "a career in health care is a life of service." The group draws a lot of inspiration from these words.

In fact, the club has some type of community service activity

nearly every weekend, and in the past members have worked with the Salvation Army, Children's Hospital and Habitat for Humanity. They also hold blood drives, and just last week they raised more than \$300 for cancer research during Relay for Life.

More social events include a trip to the Atlanta Bodies Exhibit, sushi and a cookout on Monte Sano.

Students interested in this organization are welcome to visit the Facebook group or the chapter's Web site at http://www.uah.edu/student_life/organizations/aed-mcc/homepage.html. Find more information at the Alpha Epsilon Delta Web site at <http://www.nationalaed.com>.

Editorial: Thinking About Living "Greener"

AMBER RAUSCHKOLB
Business Manager

Earth Day, founded by environmental activist U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, is celebrated by many countries every year on April 22.

Nelson created the holiday in 1969 after visiting the Santa Barbara Channel in California. It has been estimated that 80 to 100,000 barrels of crude oil spilled there, creating an environmental crisis that killed tens of thousands of birds and caused an ecological di-

aster for California. Nelson chose April 22, between Spring Break and final exams, in order to maximize participation on college campuses, since the initiative was an "environmental teach-in."

Since the '70s, the U.S. has created regulations for companies to make the world a safer place to live by helping to preserve our environment and eliminate the impact of waste products. Today, people talk about "going green," recycling and not using environmentally harmful products, and "sustainable living," a lifestyle that attempts to reduce

an individual's or society's use of the Earth's natural resources.

I asked myself: what does it mean to live green? The first thing that came to mind was eco-friendly products. But is the product labeled "green" at the store really green?

According to Terra Choice Environmental Marketing, 98 percent of products that are advertised, labeled or packaged as "green" are not really environmentally friendly at all. This deception is referred to as "greenwashing," or making a product perceived to be green.

Just because a label says

"green" doesn't necessarily make the product green. In fact, there are strict guidelines set up by the Federal Trade Commission in code 260.7 Environmental Marketing Claims; standardized labels should not mislead the consumer about the environmental advantages of a product. Next time you shop, check the label and see if the product has been certified as being green.

Digging deeper, I asked myself how I could apply sustainable living to my own life. I find this to be a bit easier, because I don't live on campus and instead live in a house.

I have the option to recycle, grow my own food and compost the organic matter that I would otherwise throw in the trash.

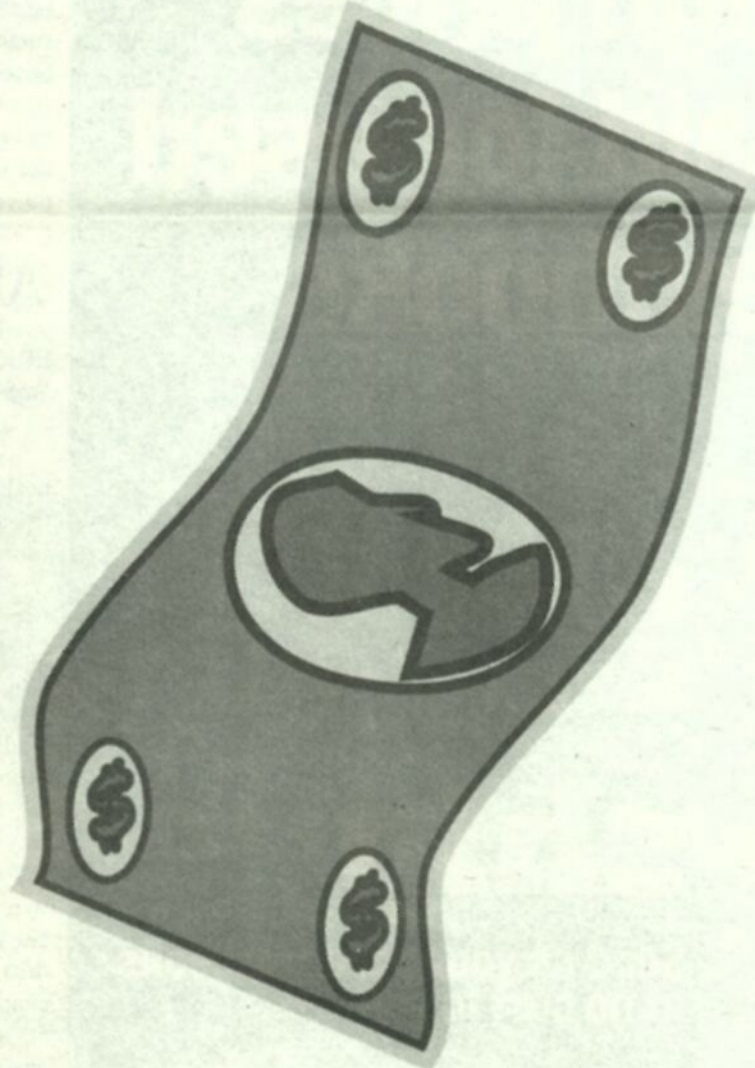
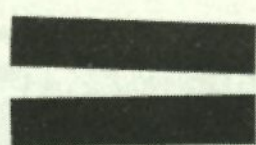
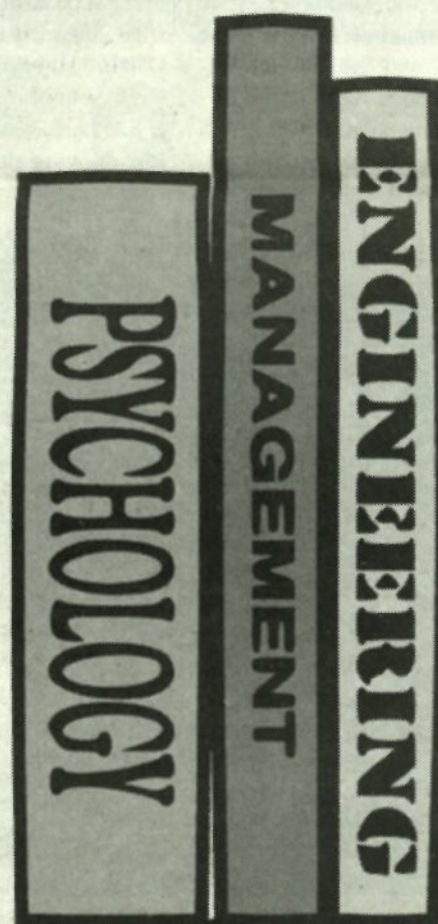
Again, I asked myself how I could think sustainable. It's funny, really, because I was going through my newspaper recycle bin to pull paper out so I could make compostable peat pots, and lo and behold, I found an article about Lincoln Mills Project off of Meridian Street.

Lincoln Mills, originally the

See GREENER on Pg. 6

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Charger Talk: What Do You Think About the New Mandatory Meal Plans?

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

What do you think about the new mandatory meal plans at UAH?

"I don't think they're needed, but for people who live on campus and rely on their Charger Bucks a lot, it's great. The food at the cafeteria is terrible. I live at home and eat everywhere, but I know I'd take advantage of the two restaurants for convenience factor." -David Vail, freshman, communication arts

"If we can use it at the on-campus restaurants, then I don't mind it, but if it's just the café, it's kind of ridiculous." -Lindsay Lee, junior, foreign language and international business

"When we first heard about it, we were pissed because we never eat on campus, but then we thought about the new restaurants coming to campus, and I think we'd use it. I think it should still be a choice, though." -Ashley MacWhirter, junior, art history

"It makes sense to require this of those who live on campus, but it's illogical for those who live off-campus. This is a commuter college, and it's only hurting that body of students." -Jared Robison, junior, history and social science

"We had a meeting last [week] about it with John Maxon, and I

personally disagree with the mandatory meal plan. Plus, I don't think they are going to listen to us. At the meeting, he appreciated our comments but wasn't listening to them." -Ankur Patel, sophomore, management information systems

"I'm against them for one thing. I think it puts an unnecessary financial burden on too many of the students." -Rachel Speakman, junior, nursing

"I think it's definitely not the best idea, especially with all that's happened with the dorm regulation that was revoked. It might be the straw that breaks the camel's back." -Julia Paul, freshman, nursing

"I have written a letter to the president saying it was irrational and unfair. I understand that he's trying to make the university bigger and better, but I wish he had at least brought something healthier than a greasy pizza joint." -Alissa McCain, senior, nursing

"I don't think that students should be forced to buy a meal plan. The reason I believe that is because people might not want to eat on campus, so they should not be forced to. They should not be required to sign up for a provision that requires them to do so." -Joshua Riddle, junior, history

"I say it sucks." -Melanie Eckstein, senior, history

"I feel the establishment of

the new meal plan is a transparent attempt by the administration to make up for the loss in profits as a result of the change they had to make regarding the initial plan requiring students to live on campus." -Ashlie Hathaway, senior, history

"They can suck it. They already take enough of my money. I come from a poor background, and I'm still poor. I am getting loans in the fall, but not enough to cover classes, books, fees and a meal plan. The meal plan is useless because a lot of people come here just for classes and go back to work and don't have time to eat on campus. Even the students who live on campus buy their own food for their dorms and eat on their own time and not at dining times." -Jasmin Patton, sophomore, history and German

"It sucks. I don't have time to go there. It's too expensive anyway." -Thomas Coke, senior, history

Popular belief seems to be that the mandatory meal plans for all undergraduate students "sucks." Most seem to think that the purchase of a meal plan should be a choice for students to make themselves. The only ones who appear to have accepted it are the ones who will use the new Chik-fil-A and Papa John's out of convenience.

What's in the Food? Part Two: Analyzing Produce

ANNA SHAVERS
Staff Writer

Genetically Modified Organisms are found in virtually every food product Americans consume daily. From our fruits to our vegetables, GMOs are the foundation of the American diet.

According to GMO advocates, genetically modifying organisms has many advantages, including easier shipping, more quantity and a better ability to combat world

hunger. GMOs, however, do not receive universal praise.

Genetically engineering an organism changes some of the genetic material of the organism. This process, used by genetically modified crop manufacturers like Monsanto and Syngenta, produces higher yield crops that need less assistance.

Monsanto makes seeds such as Roundup Ready that are engineered to work with Roundup herbicides. Also, Monsanto has engineered

a seed that is resistant to insects, in addition to its being Roundup Ready. These seeds require little to no assistance in growth because they have herbicide and insecticide chemicals in them.

These companies believe it is not their job to test the safety of the products they sell.

"Monsanto should not have to vouchsafe the safety of biotech food," Phil Angell, former director of corporate communications at Monsanto, is quoted as saying at <http://www.nytimes.com/1998/10/25/magazine/playing-god-in-the-garden.html?scp=1&sq=Monsanto%20should%20not%20have%20to%20vouchsafe&st=csc&pagewanted=7>. "Our interest is in selling as much of it as possible. Assuring its safety is the FDA's job."

Before genetic engineering, pesticides and herbicides were used on crops, certain produce was only available at certain times. Now, we are able to have most produce all year round. The main argument against genetically engineered foods, pesticides and herbicides is that we do not know the exact side effects these processes will have on the environment and the health of humans.

Studies, however, insinuate that GM foods may cause health

Improving UAH's Vocabulary

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

A college degree provides a graduate with the ability to do a specific job with confidence. However, if you cannot communicate well, your education will become meaningless. If you cannot communicate effectively, you cannot do your job, and others cannot do their jobs effectively.

The ability to write is one of the main components of sharing ideas in a business setting. Employers want to be able to clearly understand what you have done or plan to do. They want to be able to clearly identify the benefit of what you have done or plan to do with company money or resources.

An inability to clearly write your ideas or intentions can lead to your termination within that company.

In most companies, your manager is a business person, not a technical person, and will be unable to fully understand or appreciate your written reports. This is why the ability to orally communicate with a professional vocabulary is so important.

Public speaking is no longer

something that can be avoided. A company may have you report across the Internet using a webcam to possible customers. If you do not appear professional and able to communicate well, you might lose the company business—which no business likes to do.

How can we become individuals with better vocabularies? The first step is simply to read other business reports, journals and other written works. These are a great source of jargon and new vocabulary used in the everyday business world.

Understanding these terms is the first step to fully realizing your professional potential as a businessman or businesswoman.

The next step is to actually look up words you do not readily understand or recognize. This will help the retention of certain words and their meanings. Fiction from all genres includes vocabulary from most of the dictionary and is a great way to increase your vocabulary.

A person is only successful if he or she has the ability to write and speak in an effective and clear manner. Increasing your vocabulary is the first step to success.

Event Calendar

April 21

- Sam and Greg's hosts its open mic night at the gelateria located in the square downtown. 7 p.m.
- Today is the last chance to see "Caged Vixens," a dramatic comedy about women in jail and how they interact with one another. 9 p.m. Chan Auditorium. \$5 students/\$10 adults.
- James Irvin performs at the Voodoo Lounge. 9 p.m.

April 22

- Xpia and Altered Statesmen play at the Flying Monkey Arts Center. 8 p.m. \$5
- Lynam performs at Crossroads Music Hall. 8 p.m. \$5

April 23

- Comedian Gabriel Iglesias performs in Spragins Hall. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. \$25 general admission.
- Moondust Big Band performs at the Flying Monkey Arts Center. 8 p.m. \$7
- The Felice Brothers perform at Crossroads Music Hall with special guest Gill Landry. 10 p.m. \$12

April 24

- The Limestone Dust Poetry Festival will be held at the Flying Monkey Arts Center. 12 p.m.-5 p.m.
- Delta Zeta will have a tug-of-war contest in Greek Row. Teams are composed of five players, and the cost to play is \$5. All proceeds benefit the UAH Biology Scholarship Fund. 12 p.m.-2 p.m.
- G.A.T.E. (Guatemala Art to Educate) will have a silent auction in the Union Grove Gallery featuring children's art from Guatemala. 6 p.m.

April 25

- Devere Pride Trio perform at Casa Montego. 8 p.m.
- Red Headed Step Child performs at Bandito Southside. 8 p.m.
- Freddy Earl and the Blues Mercenaries host the weekly Sunday Blues Jam at Kaffeeklatsch. 8 p.m.

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See PRODUCE on Pg. 7

The Second Largest Gun in the Nation Belongs to UAH

MATT SAYAR
Senior Science & Tech Writer

UAH's Aerophysics Research Center hosts one of the largest-caliber guns in the nation. The research center conducts various tests to measure different aspects of a very fast-moving object.

The ARC is housed on Redstone Arsenal, where the facility houses the 254-millimeter Light Gas Gun. Having a 254-millimeter caliber means the gun is capable of firing objects that have a diameter up to 254 millimeters, or 10 inches.

The largest light gas gun, a 360-millimeter caliber, is on Arnold Air Force Base in Tennessee. By comparison, a typical tank in modern combat is equipped with a 155-millimeter cannon. In addition to the 254-millimeter light gas gun, the ARC also owns a 130-millimeter and a 108-millimeter variant.

A light gas cannon works differently than a regular gun. Essentially, a piston is fired down a long tube filled with hydrogen gas, and

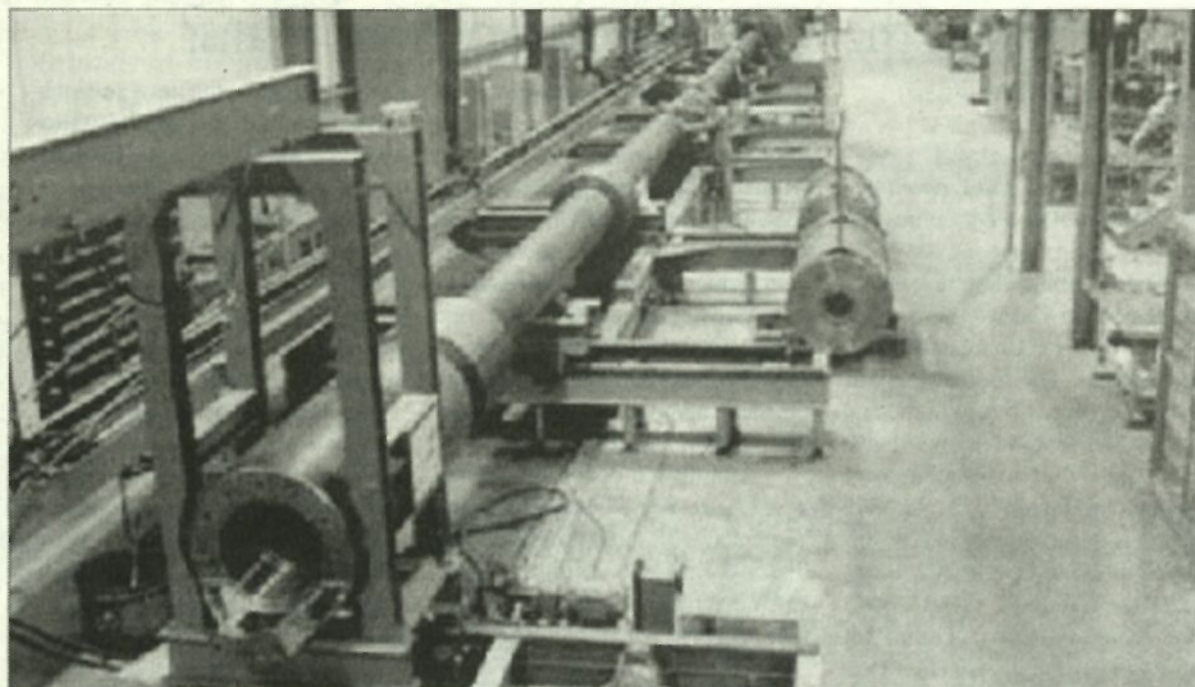
as the piston compresses the hydrogen gas, it builds pressure on the object at the end of the tube. The object is eventually launched at an extremely high velocity.

Tests have recorded objects launched from the gun at speeds of 5 km/s. When the object is launched, it flies through what is called an aeroballistics range, which is basically a large tube with different controls to change the environment within it.

Scientists can simulate various atmospheric conditions, and with the addition of high-speed cameras placed inside the aeroballistics range, they can observe the behavior of the object in flight. The ARC uses its different light gas guns to suit different purposes, and the 254-millimeter gun is only for large objects or when the highest velocities possible are required.

There is more to these light gas guns than just shooting objects and extremely high speeds.

"Sometimes the interest is in the aerodynamic behavior of these [objects], or in their signa-



The 254mm light gas gun in its facility located on Redstone Arsenal. Photo courtesy of UAH

ture as would be measured by optical or radar sensors," Dr. Richard Rhodes, director of the ARC, said. "And sometimes the interest is in what happens when objects traveling at high speeds impact other objects."

What is his favorite test? "Perhaps because I'm a golfer, but my candidate is an early experiment we did in the 254 millimeter gun in which we launched a Titleist golf ball at Mach 8," he said. "The images we took of the golf ball in

flight clearly showed each dimple and the ball's brand name."

The center recently finished a project involving the way in which shockwaves from a fast-moving object interact with specific sizes of water droplets.

This Week in History

ASHLEY TROMBA
Staff Writer

April 21:

- In 1828, Noah Webster publishes the first American dictionary.
- In 1878, the first firehouse pole is installed in New York.
- The first Polaroid camera is sold in the U.S. in 1948.

April 22:

- In 1969, the first human eye transplant is performed.
- In 1970, the first Earth Day is held internationally in an attempt to conserve natural resources.
- In 1976, Barbara Walters becomes the first female nightly news anchor.

April 23:

- In 1851, Canada issues its first postage stamps.
- In 1962, the U.S. launches the first U.S. satellite to reach the moon.
- In 1965, the Soviets launch their first communications satellite.

April 24:

- A patent is granted for the first soda fountain in 1833.
- In 1929, the first non-stop flight from England to India takes off.
- In 1970, China launches its first satellite, which transmitted the song "East is Red."

April 25:

- In 1954, Bell Labs announces the first solar battery.
- In 1957, the first experimental sodium nuclear reactor is operated.
- In 1960, the U.S.S. Triton becomes the first submarine to circumnavigate the Earth while submerged.

April 26:

- In 1721, smallpox vaccinations are first administered.
- In 1906, the first motion pictures are shown in Hawaii.
- In 1929, the first non-stop flight from England to India lands.

April 27:

- In 1937, the U.S. Social Security Administration makes its first benefit payment.
- The Tullibee, the first atomic-powered electric submarine, is launched in 1960.
- In 1994, the first multi-racial elections are held in South Africa.

From GREENER on Pg. 4

largest of seven cotton mills in Huntsville, closed its textile mills in 1955. In 1957 it was bought by Huntsville Industrial Associates, 35 local businesses and companies that including Brown Engineering, military contractors and NASA. They renamed it "Huntsville Industrial Center."

After a huge fire in 1980, the largest Huntsville's historic district had ever seen, the building closed because it was too expensive to fix. It was then bought by Robin Ebaugh, a previous tenant of the building. He held the building till 2007 and then sold it to Dr. Jim Byrne.

Today, Byrne has teamed with Wayne Sisco, a Huntsville native, to contract the building as a fully "sustainable living" facility.

Thrilled, I ventured to Lincoln Mills, which you can see north of I-565 going east. I took my faithful photographer, and we set out to see the facility. The building is currently under construction but was well worth the trip. The facility currently has some tenants: Greengate School for Dyslexia, a brewery and much more.

Plans include an organic farming and food processing facility; local restaurants; an independent movie theater; an event facility; loft homes; offices; and galleries. What is so unique is that the building will be able to host 2 acres' worth of green space. But from the interstate, you don't see much green acreage around the building.

The great thing is that it's part of the roof. Green roofing is created by putting a waterproof roof over your building so you can grow plants on top of the building. The benefits of green roofing include

the following: collecting excess rainwater, saving heating and cooling costs, creating sound insulation (good, since they are next to the railroad) and much more.

"The project essentially will relocalize the food we eat and bring the community together," Sisco said.

You might think a green roof doesn't qualify a building as an example of sustainable living, so I asked Sisco if he could give me an example of one the projects at the Mill. He told me about a soap manufacturer named Kathleen.

Kathleen is a tenant at the Mills. She uses goat's milk as a primary ingredient in her soap. The soap is sold to Lincoln Mills for use in the public restrooms.

Sisco also told me that the paper waste from the tenants in the building go to remanufacture hand-made paper towels used in the bathrooms for hand drying. After use, they go to compost.

Sisco described this dream project as "a living laboratory, a demonstration village for many such initiatives." He hopes that af-

ter this one is finished, he can continue consulting and constructing at other properties and communities that will eventually embrace this "new (to America) paradigm."

It's new compared to the efforts in Japan. According to a study done by John Olmsted, Japan plays a major role and surpasses the U.S. in their recycling program. They even have strict guidelines at home about recycling; the landfills are at minimum capacity.

But Japan has to do these things because of its large population on a very small landmass. Compared to Japan's 16 percent sent to the landfill, the U.S. sends a whopping 70 percent. The U.S. needs to pass more rigid laws modeled after the recycling efforts of Japan.

The U.S. has a way to go before becoming truly green. More efforts like Sisco's and Nelson's will be needed to prevent oil spills such as the one in the Santa Barbara Channel.

In the meantime, think about throwing your aluminum can in the blue recycling bin on campus, won't you?



Lincoln Mills is testing ground for living greener. Photo by: Michael Barnes

Tennis Team Eliminated from GSC Tournament

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team was eliminated from the Gulf South Conference Tournament Saturday, losing 5-0 to the Ouachita Baptist Tigers. The Chargers entered the tournament as the number 4 seed in the East, while Ouachita Baptist entered as the number 1 seed and division winner in the West. The Chargers knew it would be an extremely tough fight. The Tigers had lost only one game all year, and were ranked number 4 in the nation before entering the tournament.

The loss puts the Chargers at 9-8 overall, but still gives them a chance for a bid to the NCAA Division II South Region Tournament.

From PRODUCE on Pg. 5

and environmental problems. In one study, found at <http://www.rense.com/general80/seedsofdestruction.htm>, lab rats were fed GMO potatoes. It was later revealed that after 110 days (equivalent to 10 years in humans), the rats showed "enlarged tissues, including the pancreas and intestines" and "significant proliferations of stomach and intestines cells."

Greenpeace states at <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/genetic-engineering>, that consumers do not have the right to know if genetically engineered ingredients are in food because of the commercial interests of companies. The EU has had regulations for over five years about labeling these GM foods. When and if the U.S. will follow is to be determined by its consumers.

Hockey Team Will Play Without Conference Next Season

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

The Charger Hockey squad had a terrific run to end the season this year, catching fire late in the season to win the College Hockey America Tournament. The win guaranteed the Chargers a place in the NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey Tournament. The win would also turn out to be the last CHA game to be played.

Membership in the league has grown sparse since its founding in 1999. The Chargers joined CHA with four other schools after a year as an independent team in Division I. The NCAA did not sanction Division II hockey anymore, so the CHA was perfect for teams who were coming out of Division II to compete at the Division I level.

The success of the CHA lasted for several years, but teams started leaving for different, more prestigious conferences, and as of this year only had four teams: UAH, Niagara, Bemidji State, and Robert Morris. All four of these teams knew the end of the CHA was coming, and applied for different conferences. UAH was the only school that was denied admission into another conference.

UAH was hoping to join the Central Collegiate Hockey Association for next year's season. The CCHA includes powerhouse teams such as Notre Dame, Ohio State, and Michigan and is said to be one of the toughest conferences in college hockey. The Chargers sent a letter of intent and felt good about their chances, only to be rejected after a vote by the CCHA council.

The Chargers will be playing as an independent team starting next season. It is possible to be a successful independent team, but not easy.

"It's the single hardest thing to

do," said Niagara athletic director Ed McLaughlin.

Many scheduling and recruiting difficulties are expected, as UAH will be the NCAA's only Division I independent team. The team will be on a virtual year-to-year existence until finding a conference, which can be a major turn-off for potential recruits.

College hockey scheduling is similar to college basketball. The early season games are mostly non-conference games, which will not be too hard to schedule. The later part of the season is reserved for conference games and is where UAH will have to work very hard to find available opponents. One option that works for other schools is to schedule mid-week games, but due to the location of Huntsville that is next to impossible.

"Since Huntsville is so far away (from other programs), it would be hard to schedule mid-week games," said Tom Serratore, head coach of UAH's top rival, Bemidji State.

The CHAA has said it would be willing to help UAH schedule a few games if possible. Nebraska-Omaha is leaving the conference, which will open up a few dates late

in the season where UAH could schedule CHAA opponents.

The absolute last resort for UAH would be to drop the hockey program like other Division I teams have done. Wayne State and Findlay University are two schools who were forced to shut down their hockey program over the past few years. Serratore does not see that happening to UAH.

"Huntsville has a lot of tradition and impact in college hockey... They don't compare to Huntsville."

There is still a chance that

UAH could get in the CHAA, and one head coach thinks they will soon enough.

"If anything, they need to be patient," said Lake Superior State coach Jim Roque. "Eventually, I do see them getting in."

It looks like a tough road ahead for the Chargers, but then again it looked like a tough road entering the CHA tournament, and the Chargers were able to prevail. Fans can show their support of UAH hockey by visiting the site www.saveUAHhockey.com.



Photo courtesy of UAH Athletics

CHARGER SPORTS CALENDAR

Baseball

Record 25-14 GSC 5-7

| Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|----------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| April 24 | North Alabama | Florence, AL | 1:00 p.m. |
| April 25 | North Alabama | Florence, AL | 1:00 p.m. |

Softball

Record 35-9 GSC 20-3

| Date | Opponent | Site | Time |
|----------|---------------|------|-----------|
| April 24 | West Alabama | Home | 2:00 p.m. |
| April 25 | North Alabama | Home | 2:00 p.m. |

CHARGER SPORTS SCORES

Baseball

Record 25-14 GSC 5-7

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| April 14 Miles Chargers | 4 15 |
| April 17 West Georgia Chargers | 5 15 |
| April 17 West Georgia Chargers | 8 9 |
| April 18 West Georgia Chargers | 14 4 |

Softball

Record 35-9 GSC 20-3

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| April 17 West Florida Chargers | 1 7 |
| April 17 West Florida Chargers | 4 9 |
| April 18 Valdosta State Chargers | 7 4 |
| April 18 Valdosta State Chargers | 4 2 |

Men's Tennis

Record 9-8 GSC 1-3

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| April 16 Christian Brothers Chargers | 0 8 |
| April 17 Ouachita Baptist Chargers | 5 0 |



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From SCHOLARSHIPS on Pg. 1

help them make success possible by covering a part of their tuition. There are hundreds of other endowed scholarships included in the UAH scholarship application.

What makes the application process simple is the lack of multiple application forms for each scholarship. All a student has to do is fill out a single application to be considered for any available scholarship. For priority, this form is usually due by Dec. 1 of every year to be considered for scholarships the next fall.

But it's not too late to fill one out. After the priority date has passed, the application can still be filled out. Consideration will be given to all late applications.

The UAH Financial Aid Office and its Web site at <http://finaid.uah.edu/> are only two sources of scholarship information. There are many Web sites that are just a database of available scholarships. Apply to as many as you can, and eventually you will get a scholarship that will help you succeed at UAH.

From ARSENAL on Pg. 2

area during rush hour, the gate will remain open during construction.

A new gate will be built on Goss Road, which will open civilian clubs and the golf course to the community. Once the project is complete, designers hope the new gate will cut down on rush hour congestion.

Groundbreaking will start in late spring or early summer, and will take approximately two years to complete.

From SGA on Pg. 2

es, campus safety and campus improvement. Exact times have not yet been set.

The senate will circulate a petition about the meal plan next week. The petition will be in various buildings around campus.

The senate discussed plans to volunteer for parking at next month's commencement ceremonies.

The Green Initiatives event will be held on April 21 at noon at the Shelby Center in room 150. There will be free pizza.

This week's meeting ended with the swearing-in of new members.

SGA general meetings are held every Monday at 8:45 p.m. in U.C. 131, and all students are invited to attend.

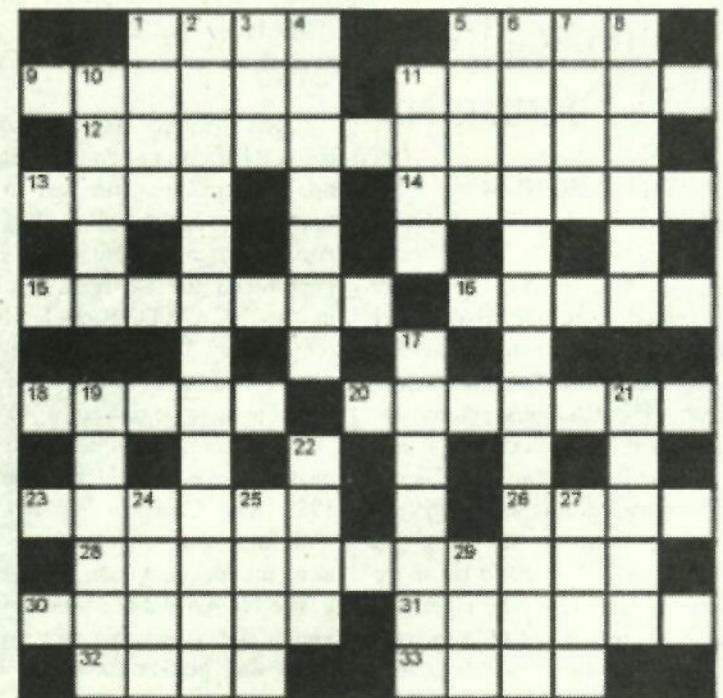
Crossword

Across

1. Narcotic
5. Catch sight of
9. Field plant
11. Stripy-faced carnivore
12. Aimed too high
13. An Afrikaner
14. Rings bells
15. Deformed lip
16. Resembling a mouse
18. State in the NW United States
20. Period of being a boy
23. European flatfish
26. Immature newts
28. Not worried
30. Capital of Canada
31. Mariner
32. Hades
33. Hit sharply

Down

1. Bird of peace
2. Tending to blind with science
3. For each
4. Unpredictable

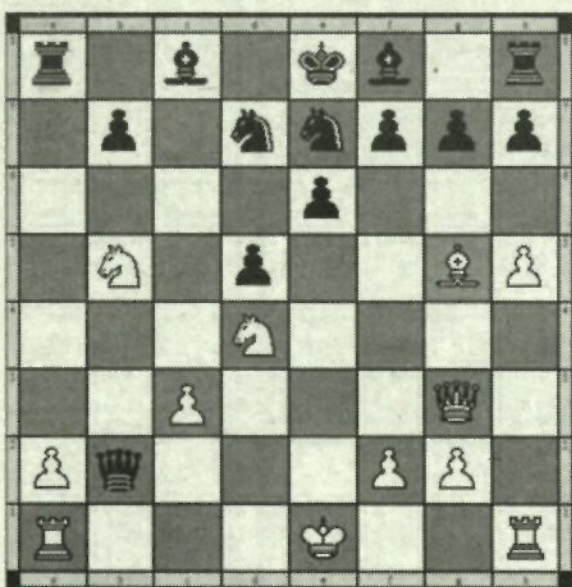


5. Apiece
6. Severe mental disorder
7. Composition in verse
8. Sings by changing register
10. Bath sponge
11. Suggestive

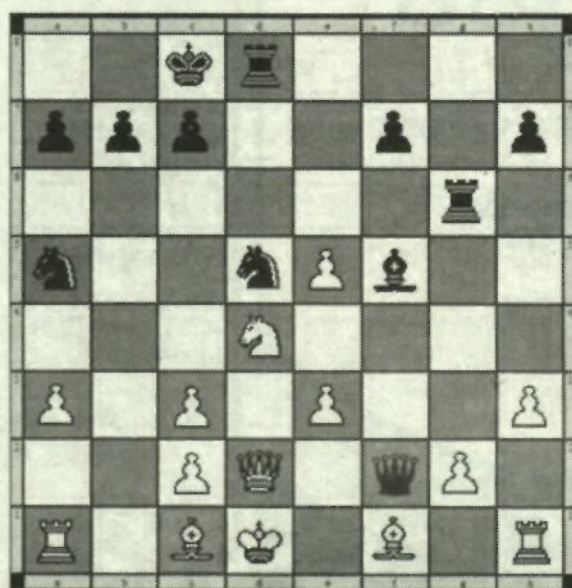
17. Plead guilty
19. Lake Superior port
21. Get the better of
22. Female given name
24. Poker stake
25. Hood worn by monks
27. Thick fabric
29. Uncooked

Chess Puzzles

Puzzle 1: White Mates in 4 Moves

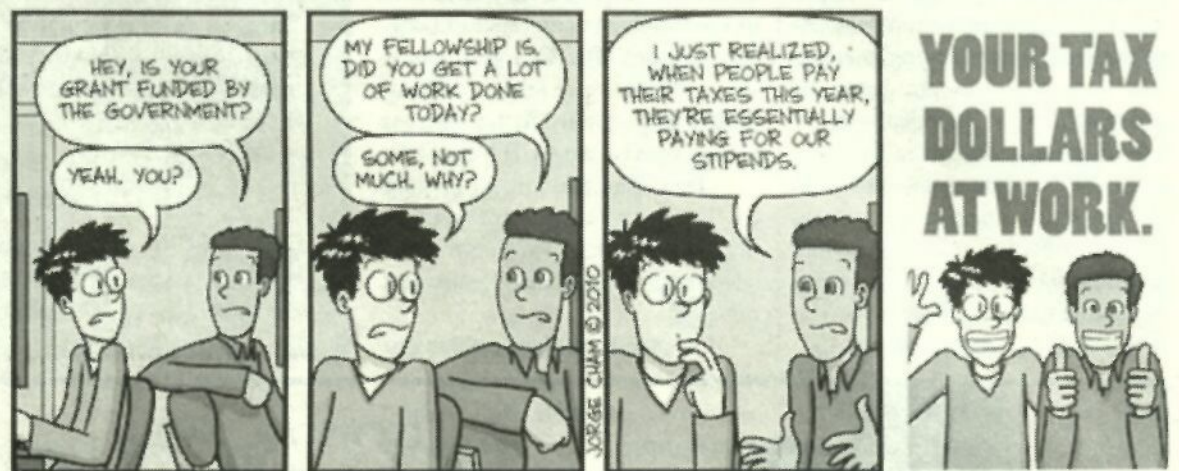


Puzzle 2: Black Mates in Two Moves



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!

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Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | 3 | 9 | | 6 | | 5 | | 2 |
| | | | | 8 | 4 | | | 9 |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 4 | 6 | | | 7 | | | 8 |
| | | | 2 | | | | | 5 |
| | | | | 5 | | 9 | | |
| | 7 | | | | 3 | | | |
| | | 8 | | | | | | |
| | | 5 | | 2 | | | | |

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

Solution to last issue's puzzle:

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