Dr. Wright Announces New School Policy

Dr. John Wright addressed the press on June 14 regarding the enrollment procedures at UAH. In his remarks, he said:

"Today I am announcing a policy that will insure the quality of UAH degrees and address the concerns of students in our most popular programs. This new policy becomes effective on August 1, 1983. Students already enrolled at UAH or new students who are admitted before August 1 will not be bound by the new policies."

"After August 1 we will control the number of students admitted to degree programs in engineering, computer science, and business. We also will give students who are enrolled in UAH degree programs first priority for courses in engineering, computer science, mathematics, and business."

"This decision comes after months of studying alternative ways to manage the money we've been appropriated by the state. We basically had to make a choice between our responsibility to provide any qualified Alabama student with the education he or she selects or to provide quality programs for the number of students state funds will allow us to admit."

"The number of restricting enrollment was precipitated by an accreditation review of our engineering program. A review team who visited our school found that our resources simply are not adequate for growth in the number of students. Therefore, our institution had to make the painful decision to provide programs of desirable quality to the same number of students, instead of providing programs of unacceptable quality to a greater number of students."

"We believe our first responsibility is to provide quality programs for the number of students our resources will support. If we admit a student, he or she has a right to expect a quality education."

"UAH reached this point because the increase in enrollments has not been matched by the necessary increase in state appropriations. As you can see from the first chart, for 1983-84 UAH had 5.3 percent of the students going to four-year colleges and universities in Alabama, yet we only received 4.4 percent of the regular academic program dollars. The disparity between enrollment and funding is increasing rather than decreasing. Unless we put a ceiling on enrollment, we expect the figure to rise to 6.4 percent of the state's total in 1983-84 while our projected funding remains at the same level of 4.4 percent for next year."

"The point is illustrated further when you realize that over the last five years, enrollment at UAH has grown by 43 percent while state appropriations for instruction have increased by only 21 percent at UAH."

"UAH's O&M state appropriation is only 70 percent of the ACH recommendation. While it's true that several Alabama schools receive less than parity with other institutions in the southeast, UAH's percentage of the formula in O&M appropriations is lower than the average of other Alabama institutions. If UAH were to receive funds equal to the ACH recommendations, there would be another two million dollars in our budget."

"If we had just received funds equal to other institutions in Alabama over the last five years, we'd have received another four hundred thousand dollars per year. That may not sound like a significant figure until you're aware of how thinly we must stretch our dollars."

Continued on Page 3
Legal Aspects Of Auto Accidents Reviewed

Having an automobile accident is an unpleasant and unsettling experience, even if no one suffers an injury. And the likelihood of experiencing an automobile accident is greater than you may think: last year in Alabama there were 101,513 accidents, an average of about 280 each day. There is no way to avoid the aggravation accompanying an accident, but understanding your rights and responsibilities following one can help prevent unnecessary frustration and inconvenience.

Under Alabama law, both car owners and drivers may be liable in an automobile accident. Being liable means being legally obligated. Many people have insurance to provide protection for their liability. Liability insurance pays for damage you do to another person's car and property. It does not pay you for damage done to your property.

If your uninsured car is involved in an accident, you run the risk of having your car tag suspended by the state for up to three years, even if you were not driving the car at the time of the accident. The driver of an uninsured car may have his or her driver's license suspended. In addition, as a car owner, you may experience the unpleasant possible consequences of having a lawsuit filed against you for a substantial sum of money.

Suppose you have a collision with someone we will call Jack Smith. Immediately report the accident to the local police or state trooper, depending on whether the accident occurred in a city or on a highway. A policeman or trooper will investigate the accident and complete an official traffic accident report. In many cities, a body shop cannot repair your car unless the police have placed a special sticker on it, indicating that the accident was reported as required.

If you have automobile insurance, you should also notify your agent as soon as possible. Mr. Smith should do the same.

Within 10 days after the accident, you must send an accident report, called Form SB-13, to the Alabama Department of Public Safety, or your driver's license will be suspended. This form is available from your local police department or state trooper office.

To complete the SB-13, you must first get a copy of the official accident report from the law enforcement agency that investigated your accident. There will be a small fee for this report.

If the officer who investigated your accident says you were at fault, and you do not have liability insurance, you will be subject to the Alabama Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act. Under this law, you must make arrangements with Mr. Smith or his insurance agency to pay for the damage you have done.

If you feel the accident was not your fault, you will have to post a bond with the Department of Public Safety equal to the amount that Mr. Smith claims you owe him. If you end up in court and Mr. Smith cannot prove that you caused the accident, your bond money will be returned to you. But if he proves his claim, you will lose this money.

Should you not post bond, and if you do not have liability insurance coverage, the Safety Responsibility Act requires that your driver's license be suspended and your car tags confiscated. You have a right to appeal this suspension, but it must be appealed within a few days following notification of suspension.

If you lose your appeal hearing, you may file an appeal in circuit court. You will need a lawyer to help you at this point.

On the other hand, if Mr. Smith was at fault and does not have insurance, before you sue him for damages you should consider using the Safety Responsibility Act to force him to pay. The Department of Public Safety will send you a letter asking whether you have a claim against Mr. Smith. If you do, complete the affidavit you were sent and return it. Once the Department of Public Safety receives your affidavit, it will notify Mr. Smith that his driver's license and car tag will be suspended unless he makes arrangements to pay you for your damages.

If Mr. Smith does not care if he loses his license and tag, you may have to sue in court to get your money. If the amount due you is less than $600 and no one has been hurt in the accident, you may sue on your own without a lawyer's help in Small Claims Court. If more than $600 is involved, or if someone has been hurt in the accident, you should see a lawyer for help in settling your claim. When an injury has occurred, it is possible for additional claims to arise later which you may not recover if you settle without the advice of a lawyer.

When you consult a lawyer, be sure to take with you all repair bills or estimates, all medical records and bills, and a copy of the official accident report.

This article is for general information only. Persons with legal problems should seek the advice of a lawyer. If you need a lawyer and do not have one, you may call the Lawyer Referral Services sponsored by the Alabama State Bar. That toll-free number is 1-800-392-5660.

If you have a limited income and think that you may be eligible for free legal assistance, call the Legal Services office nearest you.

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College Grads Are Jobless

Palo Alto, CA (CPS) — The job outlook for college grads "appears bleak" for the rest of this decade, according to a new Stanford University study of the long-range college job market.

Moreover, "an increasing number of college graduates will be forced to accept jobs, usually in service and clerical jobs, for which they are over-qualified," he predicts. "It isn't necessarily true that those people will earn less money, but they will have lower-level jobs," he adds.

College grads currently earn an average of 65 percent more than high school graduates, Rumberger says, and for those lucky enough to find jobs in their fields a college degree will still be worth more.

"I'm not discouraging people from getting a college degree," he adds. "For students who do go on to college, they still have a better chance of getting a better, higher-level job. It's just that there's also a good chance they won't."

Consequently, "it will be more important than ever to pick a major which is in high demand. A college degree by itself just won't mean much."

Still, predicting the job market years in advance is a risky business, warns Linda Pengilly, with the College Placement Council.

"I haven't seen the study, but we don't do any long-range forecasts because we've seen how many variables there can be in the market."

The number of people with degrees may well create a glut of college grads, she says, but unpredictable turns in the economy could also create very strong demands for certain majors.

"I can't even get employers to project what their hiring will be like this fall, let alone what things will be like in several years," she adds.

New Degree Policy Discussed By Dr. Wright (Cont. From Page 1.)

at UAH. Another $400,000 could have made a substantial difference in the equipment we could purchase. UAH has had essentially no equipment money from state appropriations for four years."

"In addition to equipment, the lack of funding manifests itself in library holdings and in faculty and staff salaries. UAH must have faculty of the greatest competence. Such faculty deserve competitive salaries, but the faculty at UAH are among the lowest paid in Alabama."

There are several things we need to point out about this change:

1. We will manage the enrollment in engineering, computer science, and administrative science by limiting the number of incoming freshman in each program at the current level.

2. Other degree programs, such as English, history, and other humanity programs, are in good shape and will not be affected by this change.

3. Students who register before August 1, 1983, or who are already registered in a degree program, will not be affected by this change.

4. Students who register after August 1 must meet admission standards and be considered as part of the year's quota as outlined by the particular degree program.

5. Any person who wishes to take classes at UAH or register for a degree program should contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 806-8210.

"The ramifications of this decision will affect the entire state, especially the north Alabama business community which relies upon UAH for manpower and education. The rapidly growing high tech and aerospace industries in our region want UAH graduates in engineering, computer science, and management. Employees of these high tech industries depend upon UAH's graduate, undergraduate, and continuing education programs for their further education.

Large numbers of students at UAH do not fall into the traditional student category. Six-thousand students registered at UAH last fall, but throughout the year, 9,000 different individuals enrolled in credit courses. That's because many of our students are employees who take special courses directly related to their employment needs. Because we cannot accommodate all students in English, business, computer science, and math, we will have to give priority for courses to those students who are pursuing a degree at UAH. This means that we cannot assure our nontraditional students that they will be able to take the courses they need."

"The issue cannot be resolved by transferring money from one program to another because 80 percent of our students are in the high demand fields of engineering, administrative science, computer science, nursing, mathematics, and science."

"A study by Chris Paul of UAH's Center for High Technology Management and Economic Research found that Huntsville is the fastest growing high tech center in the state. The report projected that by the end of 1983, commercial high tech firms employment in Madison County will increase from 16,600 to 25,000 individuals. By 1987, this number is expected to be greater than 35,000. Total payroll for these commercial high tech firms, which amounted to just over $380 million last year, is expected to increase to between $450 and $550 million during 1983, and between $720 and $1400 million by the end of 1987."

"This is hopeful news for our state which has been so troubled economically. But we must remember that one of the primary factors which might affect this forecast will be the availability of manpower."

"Last year alone, over one thousand engineers were needed in Huntsville to meet the demands of this growth in our region. The community needs engineers and managers and computer technicians. To help the economy of north Alabama and the entire state, UAH needs to train our students in the fields where the job opportunities are. We need to train Alabama people so they can fill the jobs available in Alabama."

"UAH and the north Alabama region have grown and prospered together. But there is still tremendous potential in that relationship which remains untapped."

"It was with great reluctance that this decision was reached. However, our first priority must be quality degree programs. We serve neither our students nor the region well if we do not maintain high standards in these degree programs."

"We're simply producing more college grads than the labor market can absorb, and it's going to get worse."

Many grads—particularly those who are not choosy about their majors—will be pushed into service and clerical jobs for which they are over-qualified, he predicts.

"Based on projections of low employment growth for the eighties," he explains, "and the increasing number of people who will hold college degrees, I see a large number of college graduates who will be over-trained and not able to get upper-level jobs."

Already, Rumberger says, one out of every four young workers in the labor force has a college degree. And by 1990, he estimates, one out of three will be college grads.

At the same time, the number of jobs which require a college education is holding steady, while the number of services and clerical jobs is expanding.

There are already a glut of college grads in many fields, Rumberger points out, and soon even high-demand majors like engineers and computer science grads will be competing for fewer and fewer job openings.

"We're simply producing more college grads than the labor market can absorb, and it's going to get worse."

Many grads—particularly those who are not choosy about their majors—will be pushed into service and clerical jobs for which they are over-qualified, he predicts.

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Consequently, "it will be more important than ever to pick a major which is in high demand. A college degree by itself just won't mean much."

Still, predicting the job market years in advance is a risky business, warns Linda Pengilly, with the College Placement Council.

"I haven't seen the study, but we don't do any long-range forecasts because we've seen how many variables there can be in the market."

The number of people with degrees may well create a glut of college grads, she says, but unpredictable turns in the economy could also create very strong demands for certain majors.

"I can't even get employers to project what their hiring will be like this fall, let alone what things will be like in several years," she adds.
Preschool Learning Center Helps UAH Parent-students

by Nancy A. Parker

exponent staff writer

The little yellow cottage sits just off Holmes Avenue. Huge, brightly colored paper flowers are in the windows. Shades softly wave in the breeze. A sign in the spacious yard reads, "Preschool Learning Center."

Inside, walls are gaily decorated with pictures of cuddly kittens, spunky puppy dogs and other soft furry animals. Children squeal with laughter as they play. Eyes, wide with anticipation, eagerly watch a small bird perch on the window sill. A soft tinkle of a bell on a small fire engine can be heard in the background. Looking out the large window where the paper flowers are displayed, the sprawling UAH campus can be seen. Voices, high with excitement, greet each visitor.

Janet Weeks, director of the preschool, hurries the children to play as she greets visitors with an outstretched hand and a pleasing smile. It is a typical day at the preschool.

The Preschool Learning Center does not belong to UAH now, however. "When UAH began to cut budgets, the preschool was one thing they thought they could do without," said Weeks.

"The parents who bring their children here," she continued, "had a fit. So now we are financed by the Preschool Parents Association. We are completely self-supporting."

The university does not help the preschool in any way financially.

"UAH did give us an initial dollar amount when we first went on our own," explained Weeks. "They gave us some money to fix the place up and get things going.

"SGA does sponsor us," added Weeks. "They give us a supplement of $2,000 each year. SGA supplements us for equipment because it is a student thing. Most of the children enrolled here are children of UAH faculty and students.

"We have some from Research Park," she continued, "but those people are connected in some way with UAH, alumni, whatever."

The preschool is an asset to the UAH community, she said.

"I think primarily we are good for UAH because we offer part-time care," explained Weeks. "Most day-care centers do not offer that. Our hours are from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"Another asset is that parents can come by anytime to see their children," Weeks continued. "Parents are in and out all the time. They feel better, knowing that their children are close by, and they can see them throughout the day. We encourage those visits.

Parents are not the only visitors to the preschool during the day.

"I think the main thing that the university does not understand is what an asset this preschool Learning Center is to them," said Weeks.

"It has been a great benefit to the different schools over there."

The nursing department uses us as sort of a laboratory. They come over here and observe the children. Individual nurses come and study the hygiene program.

"The children just love it. They know what is going on. They catch on really fast when a strange person comes in. The children usually ask a stranger, 'What are you going to do with us? I am surprised that you got in here without being interrogated,' laughed the director.

"But we visit the university. We have swimming classes, we work with the music department, the education department. We go over there and they come over here," Weeks continued.

"Overall, the graduate students come to do most of the observing of the children. The parents know about it and they don't mind.

"And we really think that it is an asset to the children. They learn from a variety of cultures. The older children greet the new children and kind of take them under their wing until they get acquainted. We really seem to have a unique situation here, one that is very helpful to all concerned."

Licenses under the State Alabama Department of Pensions and Security, the preschool is a combination kindergarten and day nursery. We have a planned curriculum," said Weeks. "Our mornings are strict. We offer more free play time in the afternoon, but we are organized children are given assigned things to do.

"We feed the children two snacks each day, and we have a cooked lunch for them. In order to get our license from Pensions and Security, we have to comply with rules of the Health Department and the Fire Department," she said.

The Preschool Learning Center seems to be a well-organized institution.

"Our main source of income is from tuition," concluded Weeks, summing up her thoughts on the Preschool Learning Center. "We have two board meetings each year. At those meetings, we encourage parents to become acquainted. Even though we discuss budget reports and other areas of business, the meetings are informal. We send out letters during the year to each of the parents, keeping them informed."

Alabama A&M College Founded By Ex-Slave

by Carrie Bridges

An ex-slave started the school that is now Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1876.

According to the "Alabama Almanac and Book of Facts," the university began with an appropriation of $1,000 per year, 65 pupils and two teachers.

William Hooper Councill, ex-slave, was the principal for the first 35 years, the almanac says.

He goes on to say that industrial education at the school was introduced in 1878. It attracted wide attention, and the school was assisted by the Slater and Peabody Savings and Private Contributions.

Continuing, the almanac says that the work in industrial education was so successful that the state authorized the name to be changed to the State Normal and Industrial School at Huntsville.

The appropriation was then increased by the state to $4,000 per year, according to the almanac.

The first Morrill or Land-Grant Act, according to historical records, was passed in 1862. The second act, or amendment, was passed in 1890.

The fund's purpose was to further training in agriculture and mechanical arts, according to the "Alabama Almanac and Book of Facts."

"Predominately white schools received help from the first land-grant act," says Dr. Bradford, Jr., chairman of the music department at A&M University, Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., chairman of the music department at A&M University, Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., chairman of the music department at A&M University. "Negroes were not given any aid until after the 1890 bill was passed."

In 1919, the school became a junior college. The name was changed to the State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes, and space was provided for expansion at the current location, says the "1890 Alabama Encyclopedia."

In 1936, says the encyclopedia, the State Board of Education authorized the school to offer training on the senior college level.

The encyclopedia says that on Jan 14, 1949, the name was again changed to the Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College. Regarding recent rumors concerning the merging of the University of Alabama in Huntsville with A&M University, Dr. Henry Bradford, Jr., chairman of the music department at A&M University says, "If the two school do merge, A&M will probably be allowed to continue in the areas supported by the Land-Grant Act."

"UAH was created under the guise of being a technically oriented graduate support for NASA and the Army Missile Command," he adds.

According to the "Alabama Almanac and Book of Facts," A&M University owns 870 acres of land. The campus proper is 40 acres.

The almanac says that A&M is rated Class A by the State Department of Education of Alabama and the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
UAH Technology Center Names Director and Assistant

The University of Alabama in Huntsville has appointed a director and assistant director for the school's Center for High Technology Management and Economic Research.

Dr. Niles Schoening, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, has been named director of the center. He most recently served as the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for five years. Prior to that, he was director of the Tennessee State Planning Office for eight years in Nashville. While at UAH, Dr. Schoening will also teach finance courses.

Dr. Ernst Goes, a native of Cartersville, Georgia, has accepted the assistant director position. He comes to Huntsville from Maryville, Tennessee, where he worked with the Oakridge National Laboratory. Prior to that assignment, Dr. Goes was in Knoxville where he worked with Dr. Schoening at the Center for Business and Economic Research.

Speaking of the direction he hopes the UAH center will take, Dr. Schoening said, "I'm looking forward to working with the business community to evaluate the high technology development potential in Alabama. We will be studying the supply of high-tech graduates in Alabama and looking at the location of high-tech industries across the state."

The Center for High Technology Management and Economic Research at UAH has already released two widely circulated reports this year regarding the expected growth of high-technology in Madison County and the number of high-tech industries across the state.
VBCC Hall and Oats Concert Is Considered Superior

by Colin MacKenzie

Hall and Oates was the best concert Huntsville has seen in a long while.

This is probably the most accurate way to describe Daryl Hall and John Oates’ June 21 concert at the Von Braun Civic Center.

It is refreshing to have a band that can play some straight rock and roll, a rare commodity in Huntsville. The VBCC must be congratulated for this concert.

The civic center was filled to capacity as Hall and Oates played their many hits from a decade or so of recording. The highlights, however, were the things they played that were not on vinyl.

New life was given to the old R&B classic “Funky Broadway.” Drummer Mickey Curry proved he knew his business.

Hall and Oates did something that is rare in a concert—they made the introductions of the band members interesting, to say the least. Against the backdrop of a funk beat, each band member played a solo.

Bassist T-Bone Wolk did something that is very rare. Few people can play the bass as a lead instrument. He can.

When the sequel to the “Catalog of Cool” is written, Charlie De Chant and his saxophone will have to be included. “Mr. Casual” is written, guitarist G. E. Smith demonstrated the proper use of distortion in a manner that would have made Jimi Hendrix at least a little proud.

Not to be outdone, lead guitarist Daryl Hall played the song “The End” by the Beatles. The only other bad part of the concert was the singing on “Sara Smile.” It’s quite another when it turns into playing with an echo machine. For awhile, it sounded like some high school kids who got into a recording studio and went wild. The rest of the song was well done, though.

Finally, a word about encores. Why ruin a tremendous ending by coming back to play one more song? With lighting that was as good as the Who used last year, smoke and great music, the close was very effective, but it was ruined. Why not stop and make the crowd go home saying “Wow?”

If you missed Hall and Oates this time, you made a mistake. Do not do it again.

ATTENTION ATTENTION: Engineers Registration and Schedule

All engineering students must have their fall term registration cards approved by an engineering advisor. Schedules will not be processed without approval.

Early registration begins July 7 and ends July 20. Engineering will start advising students on the 5th. Card packets and schedules will be available in the Dean’s office and the Department/Program offices.

FRESHMEN, SOPHOMORES, and FIRST TERM TRANSFERS will be advised in the Dean’s office as follows and only as scheduled by time and last name initial.

JUNIORS, SENIORS, and GRADUATES should see their advisor. If you do not have an advisor, call the respective Department/Program office to get an assigned advisor. See phone number below:

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If you know what you want to take, please complete all the registration materials before seeing an advisor. The Dean’s office will collect all registration packets at the close of each day and take them to Admissions and Records.

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Photo by Bryan Turner as the Who used last year-smoke and great music—the close was very effective, but it was ruined. Why not stop and make the crowd go home saying “Wow?”

If you missed Hall and Oates this time, you made a mistake. Do not do it again.

In giving us Hall and Oates, the city of Philadelphia has finally paid the world of rock and roll what was owed to them for giving us Dick Clark.
History of UAH President's Home Is Compiled

by Nancy A. Parker
exponent staff writer

Dr. Frances C. Roberts has compiled a historical account of the UAH President's home, Echols Hill.

With Dr. Roberts' permission, we have given here some of the details of the mansion from her pamphlet.

Roberts states that "in 1806 several leaders from the Broad River area in Georgia decided to establish a new community in the Tennessee River Valley where its fertile soils could insure the development of a flourishing cotton economy. One of these leaders, LeRoy Pope of Petersburg, Georgia, purchased a large tract at the federal land sales in Nashville, Tennessee, in August 1809 which included John Hunt's squatter settlement at "Big Spring." The town was named Twickenham. However, by action of the Mississippi Territorial Legislature on November 25, 1811, the town's name was changed back to Huntsville in honor of its first settler.

Roberts states that Pope is remembered as the "Father of Huntsville" because of his close association with the politics, economy and cultural development in the area. Pope "served as Chief Justice of the Quorum, Madison County's first court, and as president of the Merchants' and Planters' Bank. He provided the town with its main water supply and contributed to building several churches, schools and a theatre."

Pope built his permanent home on the highest hill overlooking Huntsville. The house was completed in 1814, and he lived there for the next 30 years. Pope sold his home to his son, William H. Pope, in 1845.

The next owner of the stately mansion was Dr. Charles Patton. After the death of Patton, the home was owned by Mary Beirne Patton. She had married William H. Echols, a West Point graduate who served under General Robert E. Lee in the Civil War. Mary Beirne Patton and William Echols' daughter, Susan, lived in the house after marrying Robert E. Spragins. Their only daughter, Susan Echols Spragins, continued the family tradition by living in the house after she had married James F. Watts.

The home is now owned by Susan and James Watts' three children, James, Susan and Robert. With the permission of the three Watts children, the University of Alabama Board of Trustees leased the mansion as the official residence of the President of The University of Alabama in Huntsville, Dr. John C. Wright.

"In planning the use of the house as an official residence," states Dr. Roberts in her pamphlet, "Dr. and Mrs. Wright retained the original floor plan with only a few modifications."

Changes have been made down through the years by the various owners.

"The Wrights were in on the refurbishing of the mansion from the very beginning, for purposes of its becoming the President's home," said Dr. Roberts in a recent interview. It is now a place where the University officials can entertain the public."

"The downstairs has been developed as an entertainment area," states the pamphlet, "that will accommodate both large and small groups. Although the rooms are spacious with high ceilings, and woodwork of excellent quality, they retain an air of simplicity and livability that makes a visitor feel welcome."

"The second floor contains three guest bedrooms, a master bedroom, a sitting room, and the president's study."

"Furnishings throughout the home include family portraits and furniture of the owners, as well as pieces belonging to the university and to the Wright family."

Dr. Roberts' pamphlet goes into great detail about the history surrounding the mansion, its original owner, and his contribution to Huntsville. Roberts also gives the history of each owner and the history of the grounds.

For a greater in-depth study of the Echols Hill home, and a delightful verbal trip through history, a copy of Dr. Roberts' pamphlet can be obtained from the President's Office in Madison Hall.

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Minority Scholarship Available

For the second year in a row, Boeing Military Airplane Company has made available a minority scholarship to the University of Alabama in Huntsville for the 1983-84 year. Richard A. Holloway (right), ATS product director in Huntsville, is seen above presenting a check for $1,000 to Dr. Richard Griskey (left), dean of the school of engineering at UAH, and Frederick Arline (center), recipient of this year's scholarship. Mr. Arline is a junior majoring in electrical engineering. At the presentation, Dr. Griskey stated that, "The continued interest and generosity of Boeing contributes to the growth and excellence of the UAH engineering program."
How to write clearly

By Edward T. Thompson
Editor-in-Chief, Reader’s Digest

If you are afraid to write, don’t be.
If you think you've got to string together big fancy words and high-flying phrases, forget it.
To write well, unless you aspire to be a professional poet or novelist, you only need to get your ideas across simply and clearly.

It's not easy. But it is easier than you might imagine.

There are only three basic requirements:

First, you must want to write clearly. And I believe you really do, if you've stayed this far with me.
Second, you must be willing to work hard. Thinking means work—and that's what it takes to do anything well.
Third, you must know and follow some basic guidelines.

If, while you're writing for clarity, some lovely, dramatic or inspired phrases or sentences come to you, fine. Put them in.

But then with cold, objective eyes and mind ask yourself: “Do they detract from clarity?” If they do, grit your teeth and cut the frills.

Follow some basic guidelines
I can't give you a complete list of “dos and don’ts” for every writing problem you'll ever face.

But I can give you some fundamental guidelines that cover the most common problems.

1. Outline what you want to say.
I know that sounds grade-schoolish. But you can't write clearly until, before you start, you know where you will stop.

Ironically, that's even a problem in writing an outline (i.e., knowing the ending before you begin).

So try this method:

• On 3"x5" cards, write—one point to a card—all the points you need to make.
• Divide the cards into piles—one pile for each group of points closely related to each other. (If you were describing an automobile, you'd put all the points about mileage in one pile, all the points about safety in another, and so on.)
• Arrange your piles of points in a sequence. Which are most important and should be given first or saved for last? Which must you present before others in order to make the others understandable?

There you have your outline, needing only an introduction and conclusion.

2. Start where your readers are.
How much do they know about the subject? Don't write to a level higher than your readers' knowledge of it.

CAUTION: Forget that old—and wrong—advice about writing to a 12-year-old mentality. That's insulting. But do remember that your prime purpose is to explain something, not prove that you're smarter than your readers.

3. Avoid jargon.
Don't use words, expressions, phrases known only to people with specific knowledge or interests.

Example: A scientist, using scientific jargon, wrote, “The biota exhibited a one hundred percent mortality response.” He could have written: “All the fish died.”

4. Use familiar combinations of words.
A speech writer for President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote, “We are endeavoring to construct a more inclusive society.” F.D.R. changed it to, “We're going to make a country in which no one is left out.”

CAUTION: By familiar combinations of words, I do not mean incorrect grammar. That can be unclear. Example: John's father says he can't go out Friday. (Who can't go out? John or his father?)

5. Use “first-degree” words.
These words immediately bring an image to your mind. Other words must be “translated” through the first-degree word before you see it.

“Outline for clarity. Write your points on 3" x 5" cards—one point to a card. Then you can easily add to, or change the order of points—even delete some.”
"Grit your teeth and cut the frills. That's one of the suggestions I offer here to help you write clearly. They cover the most common problems. And they're all easy to follow."

First-degree words are usually the most precise words, too.

6. **Stick to the point.**

Your outline—which was more work in the beginning—now saves you work. Because now you can ask about any sentence you write: "Does it relate to a point in the outline? If it doesn't, should I add it to the outline? If not, I'm getting off the track." Then, full steam ahead—on the main line.

7. **Be as brief as possible.**

Whatever you write, shortening—condensing—almost always makes it tighter, straighter, easier to read and understand.

Condensing, as *Reader's Digest* does it, is in large part artistry. But it involves techniques that anyone can learn and use.

- **Present your points in logical ABC order:** Here again, your outline should save you work because, if you did it right, your points already stand in logical ABC order—A makes B understandable, B makes C understandable and so on. To write in a straight line is to say something clearly in the fewest possible words.
- **Don't waste words telling people what they already know:** Notice how we edited this: "Have you ever wondered how banks rate you as a credit risk? You know, of course, that it's some combination of facts about your income, your job, and so on. But actually, many banks have a scoring system...."

• **Cut out excess evidence and unnecessary anecdotes:** Usually, one fact or example (at most, two) will support a point. More just belabor it. And while writing about some-

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Whistler Lithographs

An exhibition of lithographs by James McNeill Whistler is on view at the Huntsville Museum of Art from June 19 through August 28. Whistler was an accomplished printmaker as well as a painter. Under the tutelage of Thomas Way, a professional lithographic printer in London, Whistler created a body of 171 lithographs. Eighty of these lithographs are featured in the Huntsville exhibition, which is the largest show of Whistler lithographs since 1919. The works include views of the Thames, depictions of London and its tradesmen, and portraits of Whistler’s family and friends.

Whistler believed that “art should stand alone” and be “independent of devotion, pity, love, patriotism and the like.” In his work, he stressed design, style, and abstraction, rather than the storytelling approach favored by many Victorian artists. Still, his lithographs are graceful, evocative, and often intimate.

The exhibition is selected from the extensive private collection of Steven Block, a native Kentuckian now of Washington, D.C., and has been organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Accompanying the exhibition is an illustrated catalogue, with an essay by Susan Hobbs. Dr. Hobbs is formerly the curator of American art at the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery of Art, where the world’s most important collection of Whistler’s work is housed. This exhibition of lithographs anticipates a major Whistler exhibition at the Freer planned for next year, marking the 150th anniversary of the artist’s birth.

Vanities

The spring production of Vanities, directed by Paul Webb and featuring Ginger Pierce, Felicia Vellocito and Melinda Yearwood has been invited to tour at the Briarfield Ironworks Park, an outdoor theatre in Birmingham. Vanities was performed by the same cast in the VBCC Playhouse this past April. The Briarfield production of Vanities, which will be presented on the evenings of July 8 and 9, will mark the first time a University Playhouse production has performed at such a prestigious event. Congratulations to the cast and crew for their tremendous opportunity and “break a leg!”
"The Man With Two Brains" Has No Brains

by Bill Savage

Steve Martin's latest film, "The Man With Two Brains," is one of the biggest bombs that has opened this summer. The advertisements for Martin's film are misleading. Newspaper ads give the character name of "The Man With Two Brains," proclaiming him "The inventor of screwtop, ziplock brain surgery. Trust him." Indeed, Martin's character is the pioneer of a new form of brain surgery, but the audience sees Martin no more than 5 minutes in the operating room and is given no insight as to why they should trust him. The film has more to do with his personal life than his adventures in a hospital.

The television ads are misleading in a different way. They lead you to believe that the movie is funny by showing the funniest scenes from the film. This is what film companies have to do when a film as bad as "The Man With Two Brains" appears. Martin takes this tactic one step further by narrating the funny film clips...using his own brand of humor to "sell" the film; i.e. "Gandhi told me to make this movie."

"The Man With Two Brains" is funny in parts...actually, only five lines in the film, are amusing. One of these lines, for example, is where Martin takes a brain, kept alive in a jar, for a row and says to it, "Are you out of your head?" Most of the other humor is boorish to the point of pain. Rather, it is a chore to sit through Martin's film without squirming in one's seat, looking at one's watch every five minutes, or leaving.

It is evident that Martin has lost his touch. What is meant to be a comedy film is a vain attempt at camp humor. The best one could say about Steve Martin's fourth film is that it was in focus. The best one could do for the film is to rettitle it "The Man With No Brains."

"The Man With Two Brains" is currently showing at Cobb's Cinema 8.

Equipment Is Stolen From SGA

by Charles F. Blakely

Saturday, June 11, audio equipment was stolen from the projection room of the UAH Student Union. The equipment included a turntable, an equalizer and a record which was sitting on the turntable. The estimated worth of the equipment is about $200. The turntable and equalizer were SGA equipment, while the record stolen belonged to Glenn Wills, director of the UAH Film Series.

Concerning the theft, Glenn Wills said, "It looks like they used a key to get in."

When asked who has keys to the room, Wills replied, "People from five years ago still have keys to the projection room."

The lock to the room will be changed, and only a few people will be allowed keys to the room. A police report has been filed and the stolen equipment is being replaced.

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