Kirkpatrick appointed new dean

It takes a unified effort. My job is to unify these efforts and focus them. Kirkpatrick also has the confidence of the university administration to accomplish her goals as a dean.

As Chair of the Psychology Department and as a long-time participant in undergraduate program development, Dr. Kirkpatrick has demonstrated her ability to serve this university in a leadership role," said Dr. Sam McManus, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "I value her commitment to students and their success.

At UAH, Kirkpatrick has also served as director of the Academic Advisement Center and Interim Director of Admissions and Registrar. Honors include a Distinguished Teaching Award, Danforth Fellow, The Ohio State University Young Professional Achievement Award, Outstanding American Educators Award, World's Who's Who of Women and Who's Who of American Women. Kirkpatrick has also been active in community service.

UAH welcomes students

Kenny Ostrom
Staff Writer

UAH's freshman orientation program, otherwise known as Compass, ended last Sunday with a picnic reunion of all five sessions.

The Compass Program prepared students for college life at UAH in five two-day sessions over the summer. At the end of the last session, and also on move-in day for students living on campus, everyone was invited back for the "President's Picnic" by the duck pond.

The students seemed to enjoy the picnic. LeKeisha Burton, an incoming freshman, said that while the orientation was "like an orientation," she enjoyed staying over at the dorms, and the party at the end of the first day of orientation.

Luisa Reyes, an incoming math major, felt the orientation was too long, but she met a lot of new people, and sophomore transfer Charles Bush was very grateful for the course planning sessions with the Compass counselors.

"It's the President's Picnic, but I'm just the beneficiary of the hard work of others."

— Frank Franz

The Franz's wandered about talking to everyone, especially new physics students. President Frank Franz said, "It's the President's Picnic, but I'm just the beneficiary of the hard work of others."

The cheerleading squad performed stunts, the soccer team did a juggling demo, and the defending national champion concrete canoe team showed off their new lighter-than-water concrete. The weather was, unfortunately, much too hot for our other defending national championship team to appear.

Compass isn't just for students, though. Parents are invited to visit the campus with their sons and daughters. They have their own Compass orientation, separate from the students.

Ned Johnson, one of the few parents actually at the picnic, said that this is the third child he's seen off to college, and that UAH is the friendliest of all he's visited. (And yes, they were all Southern.)

The Compass Program, directed by Rosemary Archuleta, founder and CEO of MBEVATEC Corporation, is the Women's Equality Day program guest speaker. Her address, entitled "Overcoming Barriers to Equality," will be given at 7:15 p.m. in Morton Hall, Room 200.

Archuleta, founder and owner of MBEVATEC, a technical engineering firm, was recognized last year as the "1995 NASA Minority Subcontractor of the Year." Earlier this year, Archuleta was one of five women in the nation to receive the 1996 Women of Enterprise Award sponsored by AVON Products, Inc., and the U.S. Small Business Administration honored her in June.

An official proclamation designating August 26, 1996, as "Women's Equality Day," has also been signed by the governor.

See Kirkpatrick page A-2

See Compass page A-3

On the Street: A Cross Section of Community Opinion

How can The Exponent be improved?

"I believe we ought to get the equipment we desperately need."

— Gricel M. Ocasio
Editor

"We need an advisor of the caliber of Dr. Lee who will commit to being our representative to the administration and the publication's board."

— Denise Accardi
Entertainment Editor

"The university should take steps to incorporate the journalistic experience gained into the core curriculums of the communication department."

— Alicia Tyson
Sports Editor

"More money, more money, more money!"

— Jennifer Lester
Sci. & Tech. Editor

"I think that The Exponent could be a great paper if the university would keep its promises and give us the proper resources."

— William Smith
Assistant Editor
NEWS

Campus News

UAH faculty participate in NASA program

Four University of Alabama Huntsville faculty members participated in NASA's Summer Faculty Fellowship at Marshall Space Flight Center. Dr. Larry Smalley, professor of physics, Dr. Ronald Young, professor of biological sciences, Dr. Gordon Wilson, assistant professor of physics, Dr. Greg Nordin, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, participated in the program.

Smalley worked on astrophysics, cosmology and gravity; Young researched cell biology and muscle cell interactions; Wilson focused on space plasma physics; and Nordin worked on lidar beam scanning.

The program pairs a professor with a NASA colleague to stimulate an exchange of ideas. Participants attend weekly seminars during the program and present reports on their research findings to their NASA colleagues.

Paige Graves awarded Beta Gamma Sigma scholarship

Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society in Business recently awarded $1,000 scholarships for use during the 1996-97 academic year to Outstanding Beta Gamma Sigma members. Paige R. Graves of University of Alabama in Huntsville was named as one of the 1996-97 scholarship recipients.

Graves is a senior majoring in accounting at University of Alabama in Huntsville. Selected by her local Beta Gamma Sigma chapter, Graves and the other 49 winners were chosen based on their academic achievements, leadership and community services activities.

Membership in Beta Gamma Sigma is available to business majors who rank in the upper 7% of the junior class, upper 10% of the senior class or upper 20% of the graduating master's class and are enrolled at institutions where the business program is accredited by the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). While almost 300,000 students receive bachelor's or master's degrees in business each year, only about 15,000 students are elected to lifetime membership in Beta Gamma Sigma.

Beta Gamma Sigma was founded as a national organization in 1913 through the merger of three separate societies established to honor academic achievement in business. Since its founding, Beta Gamma Sigma has continued to foster in its members an enduring commitment to the principles and values of the society: honor and integrity, the pursuit of wisdom and earnestness.

Beta Gamma Sigma is now poised to enter the 21st century knowing that its membership of 375,000 comprises the brightest and best of business leaders.

STUFF TO DO:

Thursday, August 22
Second day of classes!

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.: Concerts in the Park, Big Spring International Park. Featuring Heartland. For more information call 533-6655.

6:00 p.m.: Theatre Round the Corner presents Beauty & the Beast, the age old classic story about how a pure beauty sees through the rough exterior of the beast to see a prince within.

8:00 p.m.: UAH Men's Soccer vs. Carson-Newman. For more information call 539-PLAY.

Friday, August 23
5:30 p.m. ( Gates Open), 8:00 p.m. (Race): Huntsville Speedway Race. Back to school night sponsored by Pepsi. For more information call 882-9191.

Sunday, August 25
Study Today!

6:00 p.m.: Movies on the Mountain, Monte Sano Park. Feature: Dirty Dancing. For more information call 539-FILM.

Wednesday, August 29
7:00 p.m.: Huntsville Stars vs. Knoxville, Joe Davis Stadium, Minor League Baseball. For more information call 882-2562.

7:00 p.m.: Theatre Round the Corner presents Beauty & the Beast, the age old classic story about how a pure beauty sees through the rough exterior of the beast to see a prince within.

For more information call 539-PLAY.

Saturday, August 31
All Day: UAH Volleyball, East Commerce, Tx. For more information contact the Athletic Department at 880-6144.

Who buys Treasury bonds?

Net foreign purchase of U.S. securities, 1996:

Total: $99.1 billion

U.S. residents

European investors

Japanese investors

Net Foreign purchases

$93.5 billion

Net Foreign purchases

$16.8 billion

Net Foreign purchases

$35.5 billion

SOURCE: Commerce Department, Investment by Nation

Differences: 1. Figure is reversed. 2. Plate is larger. 3. Arm is reversed. 4. Lamp is missing. 5. Sweater is added. 6. Bloud is lowered.
Courting first years: The business behind orientation

Colleen DeBaise
College Press Service

They wine you, they dine you.
They take you to the top of a Rocky Mountain peak at midnight. They gather you around a quad of ivy-covered buildings for a candle-lighting Ceremony. They send you off with discharge cameras to take photos around the city with your new classmates. After all, you’re a freshman.

And some universities will do just about anything during orientation to make sure first-year students form a bond with their institution especially in the face of national statistics that say more and more students are dropping out or transferring after their freshman year.

According to a recent report from the American College Testing program, the number of students who leave after freshman year is 26.9 percent, an increase of about 2.5 percent over the year. If the class size is 500, a freshman class size is 2,000, on average 538 freshman will not be on campus the following year.

For a class size of 5,000, about 1,345 students will not return. Education experts blame the increase on an improving economy, which tempts some students away from academia and into the work world. Also to blame, experts say, are rising tuition costs, especially at private schools, where a four-year stay can total more than an entire show-room of Ford Explorers. And as always, there’s the loss of students due to homesickness or academic troubles.

So for many schools, freshman orientation, whether it occurs during the summer or before classes start, is the perfect time for officials to pitch the university’s strengths and prompt students to bond with new friends and a new home.

“Any freshman orientation you can do that blows them away…is absolutely necessary,” said Diana McNab, director of wellness at the University of Denver. “I honestly think these orientations are probably the biggest impact we can have. We got to get them right away.”

The first weekend at DU, all 600 freshmen head to a resort in the Rockies, where they join faculty for a few days of square-dancing, crafts and story-telling around the bonfire. Then there’s the bonding experience of scaling a mountain peak at midnight.

“It’s just a great ice-breaker,” said McNab. “You can’t not have a good time, hiking up the mountain with a glowstick…laughing your ass off as you go up.”

The special attention to freshman seems to be paying off at DU: the attrition rate is 10 percent — far less than the national average. DU’s “Pioneers in the Rockies” program is more than 30 years old. But more schools now are choosing to “bond” first-year students by sending them off on a camping, canoeing, kayaking or backpacking adventure before classes start.

Dartmouth College has a four-day Outing Club trip that ends at the school’s Ravine Lodge, where students can enjoy singing and contra-dancing in the New Hampshire wilderness. Marlboro College freshman hike into the Vermont woods. Students at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Wash., have “Scrambles,” in which they head to Yellowstone National park for a backpacking trip.

For some students, the adventure is closer to campus. At St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., all 500 freshman gather around the main quad at night to light candles.

“The Quad Experience [is] a way to make the freshman class feel as if they all were part of an adventure together,” explained Lisa Cania, director of university relations, “that they can count on one another, that they would have experiences that would bind them together.”

Boston University holds an event called Castle Cafe, where first-year students can play Twister, Chutes & Ladders and other board games.

Many colleges offer volunteer or service projects during orientation to help students feel connected with their new community. For instance, at Gettysburg College, students head to the historic Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg National Military Park to clear brush. Freshman at Rockhurst College in Kansas City, Mo., clean neighborhood streets;

See Freshmen page 4
Some private colleges are forced to accept students who lack the necessary academic skills and economic resources to stay there. Merkowitz added.

At public schools, the attrition rate has remained steady since 1983, although the percentage of students who leave, about 29 percent, is higher to begin with than at private schools. In general, the state-run schools face more of a challenge because they tend to take a much broader range of students, Merkowitz said.

Administrators at state-run universities offer even more reasons for the higher attrition rate. These include the enormous size of freshmen classes and a higher number of non-traditional students, who tend to take time off before completing degrees. In addition, state universities often are located in urban locations and may draw a large percentage of student body from local populations. The 23,000-student University of Texas-Arlington serves the Dallas-Fort Worth area and lists its attrition rate at 34 percent—five points higher than the national average.

"People come here because they live here," said Lou Ann Schutte, assistant director for UT-Arlington's counseling services. "They're likely to have things here...a job, spouse, kids."

Students who pick up and move to college tend to make more of a commitment, she said. "They stay longer on campus." Tim Terman, a spokesperson for West Virginia University, said many of the school's 12,500 students come from either rural areas, or, on the flip side, much more urban environments.

"One problem we face is culture shock," he said. "For some of our in-state students, West Virginia University is too big and there are too many people with urban cultural attitudes."

Like many larger state-run schools, WVU "has done some things to make a big university small," he said. For instance, freshmen are broken up into "houses" of 300 students, often with similar interests. Faculty mentors live in the house or nearby, Terman said.

At the 17,000-student University of Oregon, upper-class students and faculty call incoming freshmen while they're still in high school to chat with them individually—and try to steer new students in the right direction.

Often, the incoming freshman will ask questions such as "Should I bring my prom formal to campus?" or "Do they have detention?" according to Jane Degidio, director of student academic progress. "It's frustrating.

The OU staff relies on a 1980 ACT study on student retention as their basis for planning orientation events, Degidio said.

According to the study, "The number one factor in student retention is a caring attitude of faculty and staff," she said. "Students are more likely to feel connected."

Increasingly, universities are extending their orientation of new students with pre-summer sessions and into the classroom. At the University of South Carolina, an optional, summer-long course called University 101 was started more than two decades ago.

"It's just a class to get them to use college life," says Jeff Wilson, a USC spokesperson. The credited course deals with issues such as dating, sex, drug, drinking and academics and usually informs students of the university's policies.

Universities around the nation have added similar University 101-style courses to the curriculum, he said.

Women from page 1

nor, and mayors of other cities in Madison County. Norman said although women were given the right to vote 76 years ago, people still need to be made aware of the history of the women's rights movement.

"Wyoming became the first woman's suffrage state in 1890. But, Tennessee was the last state needed to ratify the 19th amendment, and it passed by two votes. The young man whose crucial vote changed the course of history forever, made good on a promise to his mother to do the right thing," said Norman.

She said the 19th amendment was passed by a one-vote margin, on Aug. 18, 1918, by 24-year-old Harry Burn, the youngest member of the Tennessee House of Representatives. "Burn, from a rural district in east Tennessee, apparently fearing his mother's wrath above that of his powerful political colleagues voted 'yes' and the amendment was carried."

Norman said before casting the vote, Burn's mother, a staunch suffragist admonished her son to "Vote for suffrage and don't keep them in doubt. I notice some of the speeches against. They were very bitter...Don't forget to be a good boy and help put 'Rat' in Ratification."

For more information on the Women's Equality Day Celebration, contact the UAH Women's Studies Program at 890-6210.
EDITORIALS

Bottled water got us pregnant and goofy

Sean Jaco

Welcome to UAH, which as you know is one of the most respected and fastest growing universities in the South. College is much more than just classes. Getting involved and joining clubs and organizations make the complete college experience. One of the highlights of this groups is UAH's Greek system.

The Interfraternity Council: Greeting students at UAH

Dear friends David and Wendi are responsible for the recent upheaval in my life. I love Dave and his wife live in Nashville. She writes books, does research and works on her doctorate. He does whatever he wants, which consists of running a coffee shop right now. All in all, it seems like a pretty good, kind of relaxing life.

The Interfraternity Council is better known as IFC — is the governing body of the fraternities. The IFC is hosting Fraternity Rush August 25-29. Most of you may never have thought about joining a fraternity before or may think that college fraternities are just like high school fraternities. If this is the case, I ask you to go through our Fraternity Rush so you can have a chance to see all of our fraternities for yourself.

Our fraternities are not the "animal houses" that you see on TV, they realize that the most important aspect of college life is an education. Our fraternities will help you with your college work process as well as teach you things that you can not learn in a classroom. Being in a fraternity will teach you how to work within a group, run a large organization, network with business people in your field, and most importantly build lifelong friendships that you will cherish forever. This does not mean that we do not have responsible parties and mixers because as you will see fraternity parties account for a majority of the student life at UAH.

Once again, I ask you to give us as well as yourself a chance to get to know each other personally. We have seven fraternities at UAH and all differ tremendously, so no matter what your interests are, there is a fraternity for you. The way that you can get registered for fraternity rush and get a chance to meet most of the leaders on campus and make friends with several hundred men and women is to go to the University Center Room 100. There you will find Tini Morgan, our Greek Advisor, who will get your signature for rush. The cost is only $10 and just because you go through rush does not mean you have to join a fraternity. So, come out and meet people. The deadline for registration is the opening whichever of the week August 25th at 2:00 p.m. in the Administrative Science Building auditorium.

I hope to see you there taking the first step towards making your college experience an enjoyable and complete one.

Todd Whetstone
IPC President

Voice your opinion!

Write letters to the editor and let us know how you feel!

The deadline is Thursdays at 11a.m.

DO IT NOW!!
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Meteorite from Mars gets hi-tech scrutiny

C. L. Smith
Sci. & Tech. Writer

The case for ancient martian life is circumstantial. Scientists are promising more rigorous examinations of the evidence. What is quite certain is that meteorite ALH84001 did in fact come from the Red Planet. This is due to the work of two robot Viking spacecraft, which sampled the environment of Mars upon landing in 1976. Scientists matched the composition of trapped gases within the meteorite with that of the martian atmosphere reported by the Vikings.

The detection of evidence of life inside the martian meteorite was made possible by more recent discoveries in terrestrial biology and laser technology.

The Allan Hills meteorite was discovered in Antarctica in 1984, but previous studies did not pick up any evidence of fossil life.

Student dies after participating in research study

Press Release
Special to The Exponent

A University of Rochester sophomore died of cardiac arrest after participating in a federally sponsored research study for which she was paid $150.

Hoiyan Wan, 19, volunteered to undergo a bronchoscopy, a 45-minute procedure in which cell tissue is collected from the lungs by way of a tube inserted into the throat and windpipe. The research was for a study on how the environment may affect the lungs.

Hospital officials said Wan, who was conscious throughout the procedure, was apparently given an overdose of Lidocaine, an anesthetic applied to the throat. After a short observation period following the procedure, Wan was released and went to a friend's house, hospital officials said. She suffered a heart attack that same morning and died less than 48 hours later.

"Our findings ... have indicated that she had a high level of Lidocaine," said Bob Loeb, public information director for the University of Rochester Medical Center, which conducted its own investigation.

Meanwhile at Stanford University, Dr. Richard N. Zare developed a method to measure trace amounts of organic molecules without altering or destroying the sample being measured.

The method is called "microprobe two-step laser microscopy." It uses a pulsed infrared laser to vaporize a tiny spot on a sample within a vacuum. A second laser emits a pulse of ultraviolet light to ionize the molecules. The electrically charged molecules are accelerated by an electric field into a detector, which distinguishes the smaller faster ones from the larger slower ones.

This one-two punch is remarkably sensitive to minute amounts of organic compounds. "Nobody understands why this works as well as it does," said Zare.

For the meteorite examination, the laser was turned to ionize polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).

The Stanford researchers found easily detectable amounts of PAHs concentrated near the carbonate globules, adding to the circumstantial case for life on Mars in the past.

"Life on Mars? How to Answer the Question"

Wednesday, August 28, 7-8:30 p.m.,
at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library auditorium, 915 Monroe Avenue.

Local experts on Mars will be there, including NASA employees.

Free admission, public welcome.
Call 461-3064 or 721-1083 for information.
Ancient seafarer shares his thoughts on world poverty

Jennifer Lewter
Science & Technology Editor

In an exclusive interview with a Merchant Marine Radio Officer who wished to be called "Sparks," The Exponent managed to get a glimpse at some of the real-life situations occurring across the planet, and noted the advice given to us by a man well experienced in world travel.

Exponent: You believe that every junior in high school should spend a year over seas?
Sparks: "Yeah. You should see some of the world when you're old enough to begin to understand what it is all about.
Exponent: Even if the U.S. were to approve such a thing, do you think that other countries would be happy about that, or that they would be able to pay for it?
Sparks: "We pay for school here, we'd have to pay for bellies, begging for money, do you give them any running around with children, wearing raggedy clothes."

Exponent: How can they live? How can they live long enough to reproduce?
Sparks: "That's a good question. It was strange, when we were pulling into Bombay, it looked like twin San Franciscos from a distance. But the closer we got, the uglier it got. As you get really close, you realize that they were filthy and the place was just a madhouse."

Exponent: Are most other countries like that?
Sparks: "No. Japan is amazingly clean. They have special rules over there. You can't drive a car that's over three years old. I didn't see a dirty car or truck. The people are all older. I didn't see a dirty car or truck."

Exponent: How can they live? How can they live long enough to reproduce?
Sparks: "Yeah. You need to actually see it for yourselves so you know it's not a joke, and that it's a threat to the future of mankind."

There are so many people that you can't give to just one. On our last trip, one of our crew members was escorted back to the ship by the country's (India) officials because he was passing out money. It would've caused a riot.

Exponent: Haven't you taken rations over to people?
Sparks: "Yeah, we do all the time."

Exponent: But if we keep feeding and feeding these people and they continue to reproduce, won't they eventually come to a point where we can't afford to feed all of them and then an even larger amount of people will die?
Sparks: "Yeah, but people are short-sighted. People are busy living their own lives day-to-day and really just give second thoughts to the rest of the world. It's hard to look at starving children and say, 'No you can't have any grain.' It impresses you in places like India where the population is overwhelming. There's literally thousands and thousands of people living in the streets. There's somewhere around 26 million people living in the Bombay area, and 20 million of that 26 are homeless. They literally have nothing. They roam around...

Exponent: How can they live? How can they live long enough to reproduce?
Sparks: "Yeah, we had to have cholera shots to go to India. We had to have Yellow fever inoculations, too. There's only a couple of countries left in the world where you have to have inoculations before you go to them. India's one of them, West Africa is the other."

Exponent: Now that you've sailed around the world more than a dozen times, and you've seen first hand how overpopulated the world is, would you agree with a government regulation enforcing that couples only have two or less children?
Sparks: "No, you can't do that...There are organizations that try to explain population control."

Exponent: Is there anywhere else on earth you'd consider leaving the United States for?
Sparks: "That's a good question. It was strange, when we were pulling into Bombay, it looked like twin San Franciscos from a distance. But the closer we got, the uglier it got. As you get really close, you realize that they were filthy and the place was just a madhouse."

Exponent: Are most other countries like that?
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Exponent: How can they live? How can they live long enough to reproduce?
Sparks: "Yeah. You need to actually see it for yourselves so you know it's not a joke, and that it's a threat to the future of mankind."

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http://www.att.com/college
Comedienne to open entertainment series

Ian Spelling
College Press Service

Some men thought Renee Hicks is kinky because she had a bald head. Some women thought she’s a lesbian because she had a bald head. And some people thought she’s a kinky lesbian because, well, she had a bald head.

To college audiences, however, Hicks — who stuck with the bald look after a niece botched a haircut just before a stand-up performance — is among the most popular comedians on the campus circuit. She played at nearly 200 colleges in the past year or so and was named the National College Comic of the Year. Not bad for a former certified public accountant who also happens to be the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher.

So just how does a C.P.A. go about becoming a hot comic? Would you believe it’s the old “friends-convinced-her-to-get-up-on-stage-at-an-open-mike-night-in-a-San Francisco-comedy-club-and-things-just-took-off-from-there!” story?

“It’s true!” yells the high-energy Hicks by phone from a Texas hotel, where she’s staying while in town for a college show. “I’d been really reluctant to go up on stage, but my friends dared me. Then they said, ‘We’ll give you a hundred bucks.’ When they talked money, I listened. So I got on stage, and I was really comfortable. When I got off, other comics came up to me and said, ‘You’re really good’ and ‘Where do you play?’ I told them it was my first time, and nobody believed me. After that night people started hiring me to emcee their shows; that led to me quitting my job as an accountant and doing the comedy full-time.”

Hicks, who was born and raised in San Francisco and attended college at Cal State in Hayward, explains that the secret to her humor is her ability to mine everyday life and everyday people for laughs. “I do what I call humor people, which means that no matter who you are — black, white, Hispanic, straight or gay, male or female — you can come to my show and be able to enjoy it,” she says. “What makes me laugh is watching normal people and observing the absurdities of life. That’s how I get my material. When I’m on stage, I’m just me. I’m the same way on stage that I am off it. Sometimes, when I get off stage, people say, ‘OK, you can calm down now,’ I say, ‘I wish I could!’ I just got lucky enough to have this personality that lets me make people laugh.”

The comedienne, who is single, thirtysomething and splits her time between Los Angeles and San Francisco, reports that she loves performing at colleges, where she recently ended her year-long “Bald Ambition Tour.”

“You can’t do a lot of political material for a college crowd. Even though they may vote, they may not be that up on what Newt Gingrich is doing because they’re busy studying. But the college crowd is a lively crowd,” she notes. “If they like you, they really like you, and they demonstrate it. They’ll yell and scream, and they want you to party with them afterward. At a comedy club, the audiences are like, ‘Oh yeah, you’re funny,’ and they’re drunk and slobbering on you.”

In addition to her campus and night club appearances, Hicks has strutted her stuff on numerous TV comic showcases, such as Caroline’s Comedy Hour and Evening at the Improv. Further, she’s guest starred in an episode of Hanging with Mr. Cooper and tackled a small role in the recent film, A Low Down Dirty Shame. Looking to the future, Hicks foresees herself jumping back and forth between movies, television and the stand-up comedy circuit.

“I want to get more into acting,” she says. “We’ve been talking with some production companies and to the networks. It’s just a matter of trying to find the right projects, ones that don’t rely just on my being bald and black,” concludes Hicks. “My management team thinks something will happen soon ... and I hope they’re right!”

Renee Hicks will appear at Mom’s in the University Center on Thursday, September 5, at 8 p.m.

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LIFESTYLES & ENTERTAINMENT

Will Smith goes for the gold

Ian Spelling
College Press Service

This summer it was Will Smith's mission to save the world. As fighter pilot Captain Steve Hiller in Independence Day, the sometimes rapper and TV's former Fresh Prince of Bel-Air teams with Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman, Robert Loggia, Randy Quaid and others to thwart an alien invasion. "I'm probably the first black guy to ever save the world," says Smith, during an interview at a Manhattan hotel. "I feel like the Jackie Robinson of saving the world."

For Smith, an admitted sci-fi fan, finding the starring role in the genre epic — which is breaking box-office records — almost was too good to be true. "Independence Day is one of those projects that comes along once in a career. It has everything," he enthuses during an interview at a Manhattan hotel. "You laugh, you cry, and it has action. It has that ensemble cast. It's everything that you could want from a movie."

So, what appeals to Smith about sci-fi? "I believe it's arrogant for us humans to think we're the only beings that exist in this vast universe. That's deep, right?" he says, laughing. "There are a lot of different planets and things, and unexplained occurrences. So, there HAS to be something else."

"Humans naturally gravitate toward the unknown. Things that we don't understand excite us. That's what it is about sci-fi. You can actually see the planets and stars, but you can't get close enough to them to really know what's there. (The writing-producing-directing team) Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich have done an incredible job of allowing us to glimpse into that "What if?" The film is just so real."

As part of his preparation for playing Hiller, Smith looked at the examples set by Bruce Willis and Harrison Ford. Willis, in his Die Hard adventures, masterfully portrayed heroes, while Ford's playful performances in the Star Wars trilogy were something to which Smith aspired. Though Smith acted in such films as Made In America, Six Degrees of Separation and Bad Boys, he knew Independence Day demanded of him a different type of performance. "Willis plays one of those heroes who don't want to be heroes. The last thing Bruce wants to do is to be a hero. If he could do anything to get out of stepping on it, he would. Ford plays his characters that way, too," he explains. "That was the one thing I really concentrated on: Don't be the guy who walks out with the gun in hand and stands in the middle shooting away while everyone is shooting all around him. I want to be the guy who says, "Why are you all shooting at me?" I want to be the guy who does heroic things out of necessity, not out of an enjoyment of it."

While Smith won two Grammy Awards as part of the rap duo D.J. Jazzy Jeff and the Fresh Prince, he plans to stay with films. A Bad Boys sequel is one likely project and Smith is currently in Manhattan shooting Men In Black, costarring with Tommy Lee Jones and Linda Fiorentino. "I'm an NYPD officer and Tommy is a Man in Black," reveals Smith. "The Men In Black was a government agency put together to police and monitor alien traffic on the planet Earth. They are starting to get old and they need a new member. So, they recruit me."

Musician. TV star. And now movie star. It would seem Smith's greatest challenge won't be keeping his equilibrium. He figures it's not even an issue. "I enjoy life. I enjoy people and having fun," Smith says. "I was never insecure enough to have to validate myself through my work. If I had a record that was a hit, that was great. If it wasn't a hit, I didn't need that to say who I was. It was something I did for fun."

He felt that way, too, about his TV series, and he feels that way about his burgeoning film career. "If I put my all into it, whatever happens, happens."

Escape from L.A. is just what you would expect

Crystal Tillery
Entertainment Writer

Want futuristic action and adventure? You've got it. Want realism, wit and pleasurable scenery? Look elsewhere.

We first met our hero Snake (Kurt Russell) in Escape from New York, when he did the impossible and rescued the President. Now he's back in John Carpenter's Escape from L.A., with another impossible mission on the left coast. The big snake has finally hit California, and L.A. is a Pacific Island. All of the criminals and undesirables live there, yet it is the only place in a restricted and tyrannical U.S. that has true freedom. The President-for-life possesses a little black box that controls the fate of the world. When activated, the box will turn off anything run by electricity or batteries, supposedly setting civilization back by centuries. (I don't understand why people don't just turn their cars back on, make new batteries, or reharness electricity. After all, the know-how was not lost!) The President's daughter, carrying this black box with her, runs off with her boyfriend, a renegade who wants power and control of the world, etc. Snake is taken from prison and injected with a virus that will kill him within ten hours. To receive the antidote he must kill the renegade and regain the box.

Snake meets many characters on his journey, some unsavory and some just crazy, none of whom he trusts. Some of the scenes with these characters are laughably ridiculous. The special effects are totally off-the-wall, which makes this movie seem surreal. Violence, power, and betrayal are a few of the themes. (Surprise!) The legendary bad guy (really a good guy) who defies death more than once and always gets the last laugh is another.

The lack of realism and beyond-real special effects may be meant to make fun of the average action/adventure flick. Whether intentional or not, they still makes for a stupidly funny flick chock full of violence, special effects and, of course, half-clad girls.

Your AD could be here for a lot less than you might think!

College Press Service

A Joseph Conrad novel about a mad professor who shuns academia and builds a bomb may have inspired Unabomber suspect Ted Kaczynski, the Washington Post reported. Kaczynski, a former math professor indicted in four Unabomber attacks, read Conrad's The Secret Agent about a dozen times, federal authorities and his family members told the Post.

The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science." The novel, published in 1907, is about a mad professor who lives in a tiny room and devises a bomb to destroy an observatory referred to as "that idol of science."
Here's the call. Man rushes for 175 yards. He sweats. He needs nutrients. Later, he drinks milk. He replenishes fluids, drink. He sets up the attacking pressure. Striker Ikem Udibe beat the UAH defence on the wing and scored a goal that went past the goalkeeper. Ziyenge for the header at the top of the 18. UAH kept up the pace, making tight and controlled passes in and around the A&M midfield. A&M, not to be outdone, mustered several runs down the wing only to be halted by the strong UAH defence and defender Henry Mpagi. Only nine minutes later, Bruce Ogelsby, fed the ball over the top of the Bulldog defence to Ziyenge for another header just past keeper Josh Rohrer to bring the score to 2-0 for UAH.

Play continued fast with a lot of desperation apparent in the A&M attacking play. The half ended in a two goal lead for the Chargers. At the beginning of the second half, A&M stepped up the attacking pressure. UAH continued to have solid breakaways, based on good field communication to start the breakaways with crosses out of the midfield. Charger Trey Knox widened the lead to 3-0 by putting the finishing touch on an indirect kick at the top of the 18 with 15 minutes left in the match. A&M responded four minutes later bringing the score to 3-1. Striker Ikem Udibe beat the UAH defence on the wing and sounded off a shot to the near post at the top of the six. With a marginally slowed pace, UAH still held the edge on the game and rounded out the scoring and the match with a goal in the final four minutes.

Charger Fred Kaluho skillfully beat out a one on one match with an A&M defender and calmly side stepped the keeper to lay the shot home and bring the game to 4-1 for the Chargers.

Petersen has high hopes for this season and talent filled team. Simply put, "We want to be Gulf South Conference Champions and we want to win the Nationals," said Petersen. We hope we'll get recognized for our play and go to the Nationals." I'm very happy with the freshman class of new players," added Petersen. "We need to demonstrate a little bit more self-discipline and we need to get fitter, but we have a nice base to work with and we hope to go from that and have a successful season."

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SPORTS

Baseball adds valley players

Michael Napier
Sports Editor

The University of Alabama in Huntsville baseball team will add right-handed pitcher Ken Westmoreland from Shools Community College and catcher/outfielder Kevin Carte from Wallace State Community College in Hanceville to the Charger lineup for the 1997 season.

"We are excited to add Ken and Kevin to our program," UAH Head Coach Bobby Pierce said.

"Ken has the ability to pitch some valuable innings for us and will undoubtedly push for a spot as a conference starter.

"Kevin has tremendous offensive capabilities and will provide a strong left-handed arm in the middle of our lineup."

Westmoreland, a Decatur native, played for coach Mark Lee at Shools C.C. where he was 6-3 in 1995. He helped lead Shools to the Northern Division championship and a berth in the Alabama State Junior College Tournament. He prepared at Austin High School where he was an all-area selection three times and the 1993 Most Valuable Player for Coach Billy Miles. Westmoreland was selected in the 1994 pro draft by the Cleveland Indians.

Carte, a native of Moulton, played for coach Randy Putman at Wallace State in Hanceville and helped lead the Lions to two Alabama State Junior College Tournament berths. Carte hit .350 in 1996 with 18 doubles and three home runs, earning all-divi-

sion honors and making the state all-tournament team. At East Lawrence High School, he was voted all-

area three times and won the Lawrence County Player of the Year Award in 1993.

The Chancers finished their inaugural season at 37-

and 16 and won the Gulf South Conference East Division title.

They were ranked as high as eighth in the nation and finished the season at No. 16.

UAH baseball signs two for 1997 season

Michael Napier
Sports Editor

Kyle Nichols, an infielder from Southport, Fla., and Brandon Slay, a second baseman from Sheffield, Ala., will join the 1997 University of Alabama in Huntsville baseball team.

Nichols, a 6'2", 200-
pound first baseman, played for coach Harry Frank at Mosley High School in Panama City, Fla. As a senior in 1996, he set 306 with six home runs, 12 doubles and 26 RBIs while playing much of the season with an injured hand.

Slay was instrumental in leading Shools to their fourth consecutive Northern Division title and a berth in the Alabama junior college state tournament.

He graduated in 1994 from Sheffield High School where as a senior he led the team with a .598 average.

"Kyle and Brandon are both solid hitters with power potential," UAH Head Coach Bobby Pierce said.

"We expect them to be huge contributors in the lineup in seasons to come."

Puppys signs with Ice Pilots

Arti Goodman
Special to the Exponent

PENSACOLA, Fla. — Goaltender Derek Puppa and forward Alexander Chunchukov have become the first two players to sign contracts with the Pensacola Ice Pilots as the team prepares for its first season in northwest Florida.

Puppa is 24 years old and the younger brother of Darren Puppa, veteran netminder for the Tampa Bay Lightning of the National Hockey League.

The 5'9", 170 pound Derek comes to the Ice Pilots fresh from the 1996 NCAA Division II champion University of Alabama-Huntsville team.

"Derek was our first priority," Puppa's agent, Bobby Jamison, said.

"We are excited to add "}

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College football irons out championship agreement

Colleen DeBaise
College Press Service

Imagine: No more arguments in campus bars or rants on sports talk radio about which college football team is really No. 1. Beginning with the 1998 season, college football fans will have a national championship title game to watch.

ABC Sports announced July 25 that it had signed a seven-year deal with the Big Ten, Pac-10 and the Bowl Alliance to match the No. 1 and No. 2 college football teams in a post-season game.

"Thanks to the hard work of all the conference commissioners and athletic directors, college football will finally have a guaranteed national championship football game," said ABC Sports President Steve Bornstein.

Under the plan, the Rose Bowl and three other bowls participating will be a sad day," Carr said. "I think it's the greatest experience a team can have. I hate to see it end.

"The only downside of the issue of an alliance is if for some reason someone who hasn't been there like us (in 1994) all of a sudden wins the league and that happens to be the year they are playing the national championship game," said Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez. "Naturally, it would be a disappoint­ment."

He added: "But you still won the league, and I think that's very little to give up for the remainder of the package. I think it's good for college football and good for our league."

Per-team payouts in the first year of the alliance are expected to be in the $12 million to $13 million range, according to reports. The new system, unlike college basketball and pro football, will not involve a playoff and would most likely continue to use the Associated Press poll and USA Today-CNN coaches' poll to pick the top two teams.

If the current rotation schedule remains intact, the site of the first national championship game will be the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Arizona, in 1999.

Pre-season training ends for Charger fall athletes

SPECIAL TO THE
EXPOSIENT

Most of the UAH Fall sports teams have begun winding down their intense pre-season conditioning and skills practice and have begun preparing for the daily grind of the regular season.

Both men's and women's soccer teams are concentrating on field tactics in readiness for away scrimmage contests this week-end (see Staff To Do, page 2) against NAIA opponents.

The men will take on Covenant College at Lookout Mtn. Ga. in the afternoon, and the women play against Birmingham Southern in Birmingham in an early evening contest.

The gym floor in Spragins Hall will have to wait another week for a break from daily pounding from Charger Volleyball spikers. The volleyball team will see its first action when it travels to Commerce, Texas on August 30 for a weekend Division II tournament at East Texas State.

The Charger cross country runners are into distance conditioning, pounding the pavement around campus getting ready for their first run of the season. The barriers first run of the season is at Alabama A&M on Saturday, September 7. Meanwhile, the Charger tennis squads begin training for their fall training season.

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