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BRIEFS

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The first major topic of the symposium was U.S. Space Policy, 2010 Perspectives. Panel speakers included five members of the NASA administration as well as government agency representatives such as the former Director of the National Security Council. The policy's goals include re-engaged domestic industry competitiveness, increased stability, newly developed technologies and improved space (as well as Earth) observation.

The international perspectives on the Future Use and Development of Space began with a gathering of the Washington Office heads of the European Space Agency, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the regional state secretary of Germany and an Indian Embassy representative.

The ESA representative spoke about myths about the agency, such as inefficiency. Its low budget restricts the ESA’s capabilities and is only half of NASA’s budget, which makes space exploration a low priority. The European Union promises to improve this, however.

Sixty percent of its needs are provided by U.S. companies, which contradicts the idea that the ESA is uninvolved with the U.S. ESA has 18 countries or members, with major plans concerning an International Space Station.

The ISS plays an important part in the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s plans as well, which has one-tenth of NASA’s budget, with 25 percent going toward the ISS. Its capabilities are only limited through budget constraints.

The Indian Space Research Organization, meanwhile, has been conducting international flights for decades, and continues to supply information to the international community through its satellites. UAH has just partnered with Rostock University in Rostock, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, for co-op programs as well as collaboration in research. The rektor, or highest academic official, of the university talked about the future of aerospace, which depends on today’s students and such partnerships as the universities’ ties.

Major business operators such as NASA, ATK, Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, Lockheed Martin, Boeing and Aerogest discussed a future space industrial base. Stability was one of the main points; it is important to know the outlook for incoming engineers who need guarantees. The IS was described with the idea across all companies that “cost is king,” which leads to high levels of consolidation, or factory reductions into one facility, while keeping the same capabilities. These consolidations result in higher efficiency, but venturing into space capabilities fall to be utilized.

Most agreed to approving a Mars project as a way to collectively tackle a problem to the international community through its satellites. NASA is going on at the same time, Tracy McConegahee and Josh King brought the world of Pandora to UAH.

SALOME SALLASHIVILI Staff Writer

“Mars is in our grasp,” Lockhead Martin’s John Karas declared at the third annual Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium. He referred to the future of space exploration and development in collaboration with the world's top space agency heads.

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From Nov 1-12, the Art Club is displaying works of art in the Salmon Library Gallery. Art majors and other students, professors, and random people who happened to stop by the library all contributed to a project to create artworks ranging from sculptures to pen drawings.

On Monday afternoon, the Art Club brought materials with no plans or designs in order to create art. Club President Tabatha Jarmulowicz called this “a true collaboration.” The club hoped that students would come together and add their visions to form unified artwork.

The purpose was not only to involve UAH students in more creative projects and to put them more at ease with it, but also to bring the art community out into the larger campus community.

One contributor put up chicken wire, while a bit later somebody added flowers to it in what Jarmulowicz explained was a “visual communication.” Contributors stopped by as long as they wanted and added as little or as much artwork as they liked, creating a very free and relaxed atmosphere.

The project was a success, as more and more students posed in. As a result, the room took on a definite personality.

Jarmulowicz is optimistic that the project will return next year or even next semester, depending on the response.

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ARTS & LEISURE

BRIEFS

Wernher von Braun Memorial Symposium Brings Together International Representatives

SALOME SALLASHIVILI

Staff Writer

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Opinion: The Bowl Championship Series System

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

The Bowl Championship Series has been in effect for college football since the 1998 season and has seen controversy ever since. Fans, coaches, players and the media have all voiced their opinions of a system that was supposed to provide an undisputed national champion.

The controversy started in its very first year of existence. No. 1 Tennessee and No. 2 Florida State were obvious choices for the championship game, but No. 3-ranked Kansas State was passed over for an invitation to a BCS bowl game. A rule was made that year that provided an automatic bid for a No. 3-ranked team.

A bigger controversy, and one that strikes close to home for many Alabamians, is the 2004 season, in which five teams finished undefeated. Utah and Boise State played in much weaker conferences, leaving the championship game to be played between two of the other three undefeated teams: the University of Southern California, Oklahoma and Auburn.

The BCS selected the Trojans and Sooners to play for the title, leaving Auburn in a still-prestigious bowl, but less than what the Trojans felt it deserved. USC went on to blow out Oklahoma 55-19, as Auburn went on to win its game against Virginia Tech, leaving many wondering if Auburn should have gone in Oklahoma's place.

Most fans will agree that Alabama was the best team in the nation last year, but some will argue that Boise State deserved the chance to play the team, instead of Texas. The Longhorns had barely avoided a defeat by Nebraska in the Big 12 title game, but were able to maintain the No. 2 ranking, thanks in part to another weak schedule by Boise State.

The Broncos were then able to destroy No. 4 Texas Christian University in the Fiesta Bowl. Even this year, the Broncos are trying to climb in the rankings, and despite their undefeated record, their weak schedule could once again keep them out of the championship.

Despite the system's flaws and controversies, most head coaches stand behind the BCS.

"I think college football has the most exciting regular season of any sport because there isn't a playoff system," Georgia Head Coach Mark Richt said. "The whole season is a playoff system."

Arkansas head coach Bobby Petrino agreed and pointed out that the season is already long enough for the players. "It puts a tremendous amount of stress and fatigue on our players," he said. "Everybody needs to relax a little bit and understand the players are here to get an education. Let's make the conference championships a big deal and make the bowl games a reward. I hope that we never do see a playoff."

Oklahoma's Bob Stoops, Boise State's Chris Petersen and Ohio State's Jim Tressel are other coaches who are outspoken about...
Charger Chic: Halloween Edition

SALOME SALIAISHVILI
Staff Writer

Blue skin, long and braided hair—if it doesn’t make you think of “Avatar,” you might have been hibernating the past year. As students dressed up in an assortment of costumes for about 10 parties going on at the same time, Tracy McConnaghuy and Josh King brought the world of Pandora to UAH.

Diverting from the traditional witch and zombie costumes, those dressed in “Avatar” costumes reflected the previous 10-months’ phenomenon—a phenomenon that grossed $2.7 billion worldwide and was 10 years in the making.

The details of McConnaghuy’s and King’s costumes appeared authentic. The dots on their faces, the black streaks and especially the convincing blue skin had everyone doing a double take. Their clothing was also faithful to the movie, even their accessories.

This is the true essence of Halloween, dressing in a way that any other time would be considered strange. Maybe hippies got away with it a few decades ago, but now, even they have been added to the list of costumes.

Throwing on a last-minute combination, though, still works for those occasions where it’s simply your only option.

A cool idea leads to a fashion move that is only possible at Halloween. The night brought out Han Solo, a typical UAH engineering student (which added a touch of realism); an assortment of zombies; a cupcake; and Waldo (of the “Where’s Waldo?” books).

For most people, Halloween is fun; for some, it doesn’t matter; and for a few, it’s a nuisance. Revelers in Canada, the U.S., the United Kingdom and Ireland (where Halloween originated) treat it as an excuse for getting dressed up and goofing off. Most also agree that it’s the most fun in the college years. Right now, Halloween parties are definitely in fashion.

Women’s Studies Sponsoring “The Yellow Dress”

DREW WOOLLEY
Staff Writer

The UAH Women’s Studies Program will be sponsoring a showing of “The Yellow Dress” at 7:30 p.m. in the Chan Auditorium on Nov. 9.

The play, written by Deborah Lake Forton and originally produced in 1995, will be put on by Deanna’s Educational Theater, an organization founded in memory of a young woman, Deanna Brisbois, who was the victim of dating violence. The production is a one-woman play dramatizing the issues surrounding dating violence and sexual assault. The 30-minute show is also followed by a question and answer session led by the actress Annie Cazel.

“We hope to raise awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding dating violence,” said Dr. Molly Johnson, a member of the advisory committee for UAH’s Women’s Studies Program as well as the director of the Women’s Studies Program. “We also hope to foster open communication among UAH students about how to recognize, prevent and respond to dating violence.”

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Event Calendar

Nov. 4

• The opening reception for “Cyanide and Satin,” Nice Centanni’s senior art exit show, will be held in Union Grove. Free food and refreshments will be served. 4:30-7 p.m.

• Aquariums, a Nashville singer/songwriter, performs at the Flying Monkey. 8 p.m. $5

Nov. 5

• The Flying Monkey Open House, which is usually held Saturday afternoons, will be held from 5-8 p.m. There will be art, jewelry and vintage clothing for sale. Free and open to the public.

• In Irons, Dead Heroes, Roaming Cloud, and Freeman Gray perform at Planet Avalon in Decatur. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. $8

• Monkey Speak, the Flying Monkey’s monthly open-mic night, will be held at Lowe Mill. Readers of poetry, short stories and more are invited to participate. Mature audiences only. 8 p.m. $5

Nov. 6

• The Women’s Leadership Council will present Girls’ Science and Engineering Day at the Shelby Center. Activities will include missile simulators, making DNA bracelets and microscopic viewing. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. $20

• Scott Morgan performs at 801 Franklin. 8 p.m.

• Toy Shop performs at Humphrey’s Bar and Grill. 8 p.m.

Nov. 7

• The Sunday Blues Jam, hosted by Freddy Earl and The Blues Mercenaries, will be held at the Kaffeeklatsch. 8 p.m.

• Red Headed Step Child performs at Bandito Southside. 8 p.m.

Nov. 8

• Greg Rowell hosts an acoustic open-mic night at the Kaffeeklatsch. Bring an acoustic guitar and play a cover song. 8 p.m.

• In Irons. Dead Heroes, Roaming Cloud, and Freeman Gray perform at the Floating Monkey. 8 p.m. $5

• Tuesday’s Hangover performs at Bandito Southside. 8 p.m.

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Chattanooga, Tennessee: A Mini-Vacation on a Budget

RACHEL PALAZZO
Staff Writer

Fall break couldn’t have come soon enough this year, but now that it’s over students are counting down the days until Thanksgiving break. It’s a never-ending cycle for college students, who are always in need of a vacation—but why not quit waiting and take an affordable mini-vacation?

There may not be much to do in Huntsville, but there are plenty of nearby destinations just waiting to be explored. One nearby city students might want to check out on a day trip or for a weekend adventure is Chattanooga, Tenn.

Sure, Chattanooga is no Panama City Beach, but it’s only about a two-hour drive from Huntsville, and it has plenty of fun things to do. Chattanooga is home to the Tennessee Aquarium, Rock City, Ruby Falls, Point Park and the Hunter Museum of Art.

Rock City is a beautiful walking path located on Lookout Mountain, which has a view of seven states. Ruby Falls is the world’s highest underground waterfall. Right down the street from Rock City is Point Park, a commemoration of the Civil War skirmish nicknamed “Battle above the Clouds.”

After checking out the attractions on Chattanooga’s Lookout Mountain, head down to the Tennessee Aquarium to see the penguin exhibit and butterfly house. The Aquarium is conveniently located near eateries such as the Mellow Mushroom, and the art district, where the Hunter Museum of Art is located, is just a short walk away from the Aquarium. The museum has a fine collection of American art and a fantastic location on the edge of the Tennessee River.

It’s also next to the pedestrian bridge crossing the river. The bridge, with its beautiful view of the sun setting over the river, is the perfect ending to a day in Chattanooga.

Chattanooga is a nice getaway for students in need of a vacation—but why not take advantage of the offer and go with a group of friends.

Meet the Campus
Unicyclist, Nick Hanson

SALOME SALLIASHIVL
Staff Writer

We’ve all seen him. His ride is the tallest, and he towers all as he goes by. You might say “Yeah, the unicycle guy.” His name is Nick Hanson, a sophomore computer engineering student here at UAH.

“My dad had [a unicycle] in the garage, and I was inspired to ride it, so I did,” Hanson said.

How many times did he fall? “Countless times,” in that I wouldn’t keep track of it.” Few falls were serious, though—mostly he just landed on his feet.

He has had numerous proteges throughout his unicycling career, starting in high school and continuing to this day. Most recently, his roommate has learned how to ride a unicycle, and some of his friends have obtained their own unicycles, thus spreading their use.

“It’s more efficient than walking,” Hanson said, though comparing it to a bike, he stated, “I can’t coast, so biking has a significant advantage. And with a bike you can go a lot faster. [They are] a little more stable.”

See UNICYCLIST on Pg. 7
The UAH Apollo Project Recreates NASA Simulation-Building

MATT SAYAR
Staff Writer

The UAH Apollo Project is an ambitious, student-led organization at UAH that has as its main goal "designing and fabricating our own Apollo Command Module flight simulator by January 1, 2012."

This team, which was chartered through SGA in January 2010, is heavily education-focused and seeks to help students apply their classroom knowledge to a project that could help bolster their resume.

"We want all of our members to come away from the project with more than they came with, and we want to help them stand out to potential employers. More knowledge, more experience, more practical knowledge," team lead Anneliese DeVyldere, the team's project manager, said. "According to the 2010 Annual Report of the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in four women is likely to experience violence when it happens."

Violent crimes, especially those involving weapons, are the most common crimes committed by men. A recent study in the United States found that a quarter of all violent crimes were committed by men.

The actual simulator itself is based on the Apollo Command Module Flight Simulator that astronauts trained in for the Apollo missions. The team is working with other organizations on campus, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, to help build those physical components.

The software half of the simulation, which is being worked on in conjunction with UAH's Association for Computing Machinery chapter, will be more flexible and able to run on any desktop computer. When it's completed, the team plans to use the project as an opportunity to gain more experience, and to help students come away from the project with more knowledge, more practical knowledge, and a better idea of what they want to do with their classroom skills, a better idea of what they want to do with their next degree, more friends and more contacts in the working world.

"The actual simulator itself is based on the Apollo Command Module Flight Simulator that astronauts trained in for the Apollo missions. The team is working with other organizations on campus, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, to help build those physical components."

Considering the resources that go into military development, one wonders what goes on specifically. This is a brief report on General Dynamics, which is ranked as the fifth-largest defense contractor in the world as of 2008.

The company is a conglomerate made up of around 43 businesses, such as Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, a major jet aircraft producer.

Four business groups define the company and ensure its international success. The business groups break down into the following areas: Aerospace, Combat Systems, Marine Systems, and Information Systems and Technology.

General Dynamics C4 Systems is a worldwide business unit of the company, which has an office in Huntsville. It integrates secure communication and information systems as well as technology. They are a part of the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal, which awarded the C4 Systems $12.2 million for a Tactical Airspace Integration System. This system provides army commanders 3-D visual awareness in scenarios generated by a computer. It is simply mounted on a Humvee and is self-contained.

The company has a $30 billion sales revenue through its diverse products, such as the GAU-17,19 miniguns, armored vehicles, jets and tanks.

Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines are the cheapest of the variants. The variants dive at 800 feet and operate on pump-jet propulsion systems that increase their stealth, being quieter and faster. Their production will be increased to two a year starting in 2012, though a Senate committee declared the pace insufficient to fill the U.S. arsenal.

Consequently, there is a push for innovations in cost reduction, which would lead to faster production. There is a danger, though, of cutting quality for cost, instead of coming up with new ways.

General Dynamics has also built 28 Arleigh Burke class destroyers, which are armed with over 90 missiles and are the first destroyers to be built on the powerful radar and guiding weapons system Aegis Combat System. These destroyers are extensively used and continue to be built after 25 years.

The company's advanced Styrks, a family of eight-wheeled armored combat vehicles, have also met with huge success.

Last week, General Dynamics Information Technology received $24.8 million to manage immigration credentials production for the Department of Homeland Security.

"Our project manager, Zach Groff, has put together a progressive new strategy to put us back on schedule, though, and that new strategy is working wonderfully for us," DeVyldere said.

The group is always accepting new students and ideas for future projects. They are a part of the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal. Admission is free to UAH students who show their ID at the campus showing. Students from other schools will pay $5 and general admission will be $10. All profits from the showing will go to the Crisis Services of North Alabama.
Volleyball Season Coming to an End

JONATHAN KEENUM
Staff Writer

Volleyball season is quickly coming to an end, but fans can still catch one more home game before it is all said and done. It has been another tough year for the girls. There have been matches decided by one set coming in heartbreaking fashion, and sets determined by just a few points that could have went either team's ways. Several of these games have shown promise for the young team, but UAH is still lacking the experience that other teams have. Despite the frustration they have continued to play hard and not give up.

The Lady Chargers were able to finally win a set against UNA for the first time since 2005, but were unable to come away with the match. In the games before that the girls were defeated in a pair of five-game sets. The ladies then began their four-game road tour before coming home Nov. 5 for the final game of the year.

In the second half of the match the Lady Hawks rallied to control the rest of the game. In the 64th minute (64:32), the Lady Hawks took the lead with a goal from Breathing Zhang. They continued to control the second half of the match with eight shots with one goal to the Chargers' seven shots.

Thus the season ends with a fall to Shorter, but the Lady Chargers ended their 2010 season with a record of eight wins, eight losses and no ties. (8-8-0)

Monday's game was also Senior Day for the Chargers. The Lady Chargers said farewell to their three seniors: Ashley McWhirter, Paige Boersma and Lindsay Lee.

The men's contest was definitely a test of will for the Chargers. The Shorter Hawks took the first half with a goal by Matthew Dinsmore in the 37th minute (37:34). The Hawks controlled the first half with 11 shots to the Chargers' five.

In the second half the challenge ramped up between the Chargers and the Hawks as UAH challenged ramped up between the Lady Chargers and the Hawks as UAH challenged ramped up between the Lady Hawks took the lead with a goal by Kadijah Janush and Lutting Sun, both with three shots, led the Chargers.

The Lady Chargers said farewell to their three seniors: Ashley McWhirter, Paige Boersma and Lindsay Lee.

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In the second half the challenge ramped up between the Chargers and the Hawks as UAH took the fight to Shorter. Though the Hawks came out early with a goal by Pierce Kienbi in the second half (47:39), this goal only increased the Chargers' desire to win.

In the 71st minute (71:45), Lady Chargers Set to Begin Basketball Season

The Lady Chargers wanted to open up exhibition play with a challenging competition, and Head Coach Roy Heintz did just that. The women have played Florida State and are scheduled to take on Alabama and Middle Tennessee State over the next few days.

Coach Heintz gave his young team a huge test by scheduling an Elite Eight participant from last year’s NCAA tournament. The Lady Seminoles proved the superior team, winning 122-58, but the Lady Chargers showed a lot of promise. The women hung in there early, down only 8-5, before Florida State University players started hitting a flurry of three-pointers and picking up their tempo.

It will be another tough road game for the women when they travel to Tuscaloosa on Nov. 6 to face off against the Crimson Tide. The team will get two days’ rest before heading to Murfreesboro, Tenn., to play another tournament team, Middle Tennessee State. The tough competition should better prepare UAH for the upcoming season.

The season opens up at home Nov. 15 against Fisk in the first-ever meeting between the two teams. The women hit the road for their next two games before closing out the month with two straight home games against Delta State and Christian Brothers.
From RANKINGS on Pg. 2

"Perhaps the 1-0 team beat a 0-1 team, worse than an average team, the 1-0 team is punished, and given only [five-sixths] of a win, whereas the losing team lost to a 1-0 team, better than an average team, and is rewarded by suffering only [five-sixths] of a loss," Colley says.

Applying the same logic, we see the next adjustment will favor the winning team, since the team it beat has just five-sixths of a loss instead of a full loss, but by a much smaller amount. It turns out that for our two-team example, the process converges on 62.5 percent for the winning team and 37.5 percent for the loser.

The last step (the "Matrix" part of Colley’s formula) applies the above calculations to situations involving multiple games and teams, a process that involves a hefty dose of linear algebra.

Much more information and in-depth analysis is available on Colley’s site. Interested fans should check it out.

Rose Bowl and maintained its #1 AP ranking, and therefore the AP national championship. There thus were two champions in college football.

Fans may think, “Just play one more game and decide it on the field.” They’re absolutely right. There are currently no plans for a playoff system in college football, but a BCS “Plus-One” option may do the trick.

This format would allow one more game to be played between any #1 and BCS #1 at the end of the season in order to declare an undisputed champion. This would only be needed for situations such as happened in 2003 and would only take place if both #1 teams won their respective games.

It doesn’t solve every problem of the BCS, but it does make it better. Just having the option for a “Plus-One” game would virtually guarantee no more fiascos such as happened in 2003—unless several teams finished a season undefeated.

The system is not broken, but it is flawed. It may not need fixing, but there’s nothing wrong with a little bit of fine-tuning until another solution is brought to the table.

games such as Minecraft, a video game in which players can roam a virtual world and construct builds with cubes. Otherwise, he hangs out with friends and has a typical college student’s routine. And though for now he works at Redstone Arsenal, ideally Hanson wants to work for Google.

Hanson adds one more thing: “If you see me riding with headphones, I’m probably listening to The Killers.”

The group’s next guest speaker will be Dr. Cynthia McPherson from the UA’s communication arts department. She will discuss White Papers at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 4 in the Shelby Center, Room 109.

Are numerous, including hundreds of million-dollar contracts, which allows for new developments, upgrades and productions. The importance and dominance of military production on every scale across the globe is clear.

Crossword

Across
1. Crystalline minerals of aluminum silicates
2. Grape residue brandy
10. Recommends
12. Law officer
14. Drum
16. Sword
17. Male child
20. Search briskly
22. Long, laborious work
23. Makes mistakes
25. One who cautions
27. Nocturnal bird
28. Flat-bottomed boat
29. Hat
31. Whack
34. Guard dog
36. Sprinkle
38. Land along the edge of a sea
39. Openings for undoers
41. Supercilious
42. Pertaining to yesterday
43. Pertaining to yesterday
44. Sees
46. Abridging tool
47. Connect to
50. Contemptuous term of address to an inferior
52. Golf's mounds
53. Small nail
55. More nervous
57. Long-tailed rodent
58. Kind of tea
59. Bewildered
61. Bore
63. Fishing net
64. Gnarling animal

Down
1. Most stinking
2. Prefix "beneath"
3. Academic (abbrev.)
4. US V-P
5. Grasp again
6. Small nail
7. Edible legumes
8. Picasso, artist
9. Shaft shot from a bow
11. Grief
13. Artificial leg
15. Medicinal shrubs
18. Shrewd
19. Lethargic
21. Ordinals of ten
24. Grass ridge
25. One who cautions
28. Economy
29. Some unpleasantly strange
30. Gold mounds
31. Whack
32. Faucet
33. Ordinal of ten
34. Guard dog
35. Insubordinate one
36. Edible legumes
37. Someone unpleasantly strange
38. Land along the edge of the sea
39. Openings for undoers
40. Textiles
41. Inkpot
42. Bloodsucking insect
43. Persisting to yesterday
44. Swords
45. Wind-powered vessel
46. Burning of another’s property
47. Dough
51. Prefix for “sun”
54. Children’s writer
56. Tear apart
59. More nervous
60. Metal loop

Solutions to last issue’s puzzles:

Sudoku

Action is the foundational key to all success.

~Pablo Picasso

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