Unusual Gifts

by Scott Turner
exponent staff writer

At one time, this was the season for children to hang their stockings on the mantle, hoping to find them stuffed with apples and oranges. The tots went to bed with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads.

Not anymore!

Now, children hang their stockings hoping they will be stuffed with video-game cartridges, and go to bed with visions of E.T., Sanders and Garfield.

Once again, the multi-million dollar business of Christmas is here, and merchants all across America are smiling. Millions of Americans will flock to local shopping centers and malls to do their annual Christmas shopping.

The usual gifts of tie, shirt, sweaters, cologne, perfume, and socks will fill many lists, but there are also a couple of orders that are relatively new.

Video games are listed in many letters to Santa this year. One has the option of spending from $150-$2,000 on a system, and from $99-$270 on a cartridge. Atari, Mattel, Magnavox, and Coleco will all enjoy a very green Christmas!

Another newcomer to Santa's list is E.T.

E.T. has something to offer in just about every market, from dolls to video games to records. Steven Spielberg is assured a merry Christmas, too.

But just in case you are not the normal gift giver, here are a couple of ideas for that special someone on your list who just has everything.

For only $70, you can wish someone happy holidays on a 20 by 40 foot spectacular computer-animated board, located in the middle of New York's "Great White Way." There is one catch: the message only stays on for 30 seconds. But you can have everything.

Another good idea is a universe globe. It is a globe that is encased in another transparent globe that depicts 1,100 stars and 80 constellations of the Milky Way. All of this for only $275.

An excellent idea for the person with everything is component television. You can now buy, in separate parts, the monitor (19 inch), tuner, speakers, recorder, and video rack. All this for only $3,165.

For the expert golfer, a good idea might be a 24-karat gold electroplated, personalized putter, which at $755 is a steal.

A few other lovely ideas for the person with everything is a bullet-proof vest: $349; a lighter in the shape of a detonator: $26; a globe that opens into a bar: $399 and a portable, solid stainless steel humidifier: $22.

But the ultimate gift for the person with everything is a relaxation tank. Just crawl inside, shut the door, and relax for an hour in the buoyant solution of water and isolated ozone salts maintained at 93.5 degrees Fahrenheit (average relaxed skin temperature). This for just $4,985.

Finally, if you want to spread some special Christmas cheer, musical Christmas cards are available. For only $25, you get six cards that play "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Silent Night".

Whatever you decide on this Christmas, you can rest assured it will probably be returned, anyway.

School of Nursing Accreditation

The UAH School of Nursing has been notified that accreditation has been renewed for the maximum 8-year period by the Board of Review of the Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs of the National League for Nursing.

The school was notified at the same time of the initial accreditation of its masters program, also for the maximum 8-year period.

Academic accreditation is a national recognition of sustained quality in professional education programs and application for accreditation is voluntary, according to Eta Anne Hincker, Dean of the UAH School of Nursing. She said that great strides had been made in the school since the first students were admitted in 1972.

The first accreditation was received in 1974, and the master's curriculum initiated in September of 1976.

During the 10 years of operation, the school has graduated 669 generic graduates, 113 registered nurses and handed out 24 masters degrees.

For more information, please contact Dean Eta Anne Hincker at 885-6512.
Time-Who Has Enough?

by Nancy A. Parker

expponent editorial page

"Does thou love life? Then do not squander it, for that's the stuff life is made of," said Benjamin Franklin.

Time, an invisible measure of duration.

There is always the hustle and bustle of things to do, arrangements to plan, last minute details to work out. No matter where we are or what kind of life we lead, there always seems to be an endless list of tasks we need to do before the holidays.

Time is quite literally consumed through the holidays.

Time is spent sending joyous greetings around our nation and around the world. From now until that magic hour arrives, each of us will spend most of our time preparing to celebrate Christmas in our own way.

Right now we think about getting everything done on time.

Getting home on time.

Mailings packages on time.

Get to get this done, that done on time.

Time. That invisible measure of duration. Do we have the time? Time! Time! Time!

Think about it. Think hard before you spend it all.

Yes, we are hurrying and scurrying now to get ready for those magical holidays. Baking sweet smells, putting up Christmas trees, brilliant stars, and the felt clad man in the bright red suit. Thoughts of holidays filled with laughter, songs of "Auld Lang Synn", gathering with friends and holiday cheer.

For many houses across America, these preparations will suddenly stop. Good food will be wasted on deserted dining room tables. Holly and Christmas greens will dry up and die. Christmas trees will go unlit. No one will hear the soft jingle of sleigh bells. "Auld Lang Synn" will not be sung.

Holiday cheer will not flow.

Time will stop.

Time will stop for someone because they did not plan ahead. Time will stop for someone because they tried to do too much in too little time. Times will stop in the hearts of many families because a student did not make it home for Christmas. That loved one started home too late and tried to beat time by going too fast.

Time will stop for someone because they had too much good cheer and tried to drive. Time is precious, but an invisible measure of duration, and time does march on. No matter what we do, what we plan, there is just so much time.

Plan your time accordingly. Leave for home so that you will have plenty of time to get there safely. Get plenty of rest, eat properly, and be relaxed for the journey home.

And when you do enjoy yourself just a little bit too much, stay where you are or have someone drive you home. Remember, even though the magic of time, sparkling lights, Santa, and the peace of Christmas help us forget our problems, there is still a real world out there.

Don't let Time catch you unaware.

"Today is the very first day of the rest of your life" (Anonymous).

Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

To the Editor,

Cooperation is needed during this bleak period of a parking shortage.

Just the other day, I was attempting to park my "over 13-foot" car into a "legal" parking space when suddenly a compact car dashed in and occupied the space. Just behind this driver were three spaces "reserved" for compact cars.

What would happen if I parked in one of these "reserved spaces" meant for compact cars? I would probably receive a ticket.

Mickey Bates

The exponent is the student newspaper of the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Views expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the official opinion of the University. Editorial and advertising sales offices are located in the Student Union Building, Room 211. Telephone 205-6080.
Christmas: Joy, Happiness and Safety

by Bryan Turner

Christmas is a time for joy and happiness.

But for many families, this joy and happiness will literally go up in smoke.

According to Inspector Sharpe of the Huntsville Fire Department, there are between 50 and 100 Christmas-related fires each year.

Sharpe said he does not remember any fatalities caused by the fires, though. "We've been fortunate," he added.

Sharpe said problems were caused by improper-sized lights and too many extension cords. Not keeping the trees properly watered is another hazard.

Another problem noted by Sharpe was the early purchase of Christmas trees. He said that many people buy their trees as early as November. When Christmas comes, the trees are dried out, creating a fire hazard.

Finally, Inspector Sharpe said that "the best Christmas present you can buy someone is a smoke detector."

Jack Robertson, spokesman for Huntsville Utilities, pointed out the shock hazard created by Christmas lighting. Robertson said "there's always that potential, especially with the outdoor lights."

"The most danger can come when putting up outside lights."

He added that the lights should be unplugged when they are installed.

According to Robertson, "The main safety factor is to make sure all cords are in good shape."

Cords with worn, or broken, insulation should be avoided.

You need not worry about Christmas lights running up your electric bill, however. Robertson said these lights only account for a small portion of the electric bill.

Housing and air conditioning make up three-fifths of the electric bill, with another fifth going to heat water, he said.

With these safety rules in mind, you can enjoy your Christmas without worrying about fire and shock. You will probably be able to enjoy the new year, too.

Museum Of Art

Porcelain Exhibit

By Elena Karina

An exhibition of porcelain vessels by Elena Karina will be on view at the Huntsville Museum of Art from Nov. 14 through Dec. 23. Called "tidepools," these porcelain forms are evocative of marine life and shell forms found in pockets of clear water along a rocky seashore.

Karina grew up in Los Angeles near the ocean and has, from years of beachcombing, developed an extensive store of marine forms. Her hand-built sculptures call to mind coral and mussel shells, chambered nautilus, and mussel-juet none of her work is a direct copy of a specific shape. Rather, the delicate vessels are prised and fringed and scalloped to suggest both the forms and movements found at the ocean's edge.

In a statement on her work, Ms. Karina writes, "I enjoy complexity—a multiplicity of forms, such as might be seen while walking along a pebbly, rocky beach layered with fragments of shells and seaweed. The sense of kinesthetic motion is an important element for me—the swirling shapes, engulfing at the top suggest the splash of water in the tidepools and the flowing movement of seaweed in the water."

National Safety Council Membership

Chicago, ILL - Students interested in occupational safety and health or driver and traffic safety are eligible for a special membership in the National Safety Council.

The Council is offering student membership rates for persons enrolled for academic credit in a post-secondary educational institution. The cost is $20.

Student members will receive information from one of two areas of their choice: occupational safety and health or driver and traffic safety. Members, during the year, will receive three publications dealing with subject matters from either of these two areas.

In addition, special benefits and privileges are available for students who become members. Safety specialists are available to answer questions and assist with safety-related problems. Student members can also place a free job-placement advertisement in National Safety News, the Council's monthly publication.

Another benefit is access to the world's largest safety library, located at the Council. A computer is used to retrieve data for members' requests for general and technical information.

Math Colloquium

The University of Alabama in Huntsville Department of Mathematics Colloquium on Friday, Dec. 17, 1982, at 3:30 p.m. in Madison Hall, Room 308. The speaker will be Dr. Stephen Dow, Assistant Professor of Mathematics at UAH.

The colloquium is entitled "Application of Projective Geometry in Combinatorial Problems."

This talk is designed to show how projective geometry (over finite fields) arises in the study of problems dealing with arrangements of the elements of a finite set into subsets.

Stephen Dow received his Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Florida in Aug., 1982. He came to UAH in September and continues to work on problems related to finite projective planes.

Colloquium will be served beginning at 3:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Dr. Kyle Siegrist, 865-6470.
A Familiar Stranger

by Nancy A. Parker

There was something about him that made goosebumps pop out all over me.

A friend of mine and I had walked into a local department store. We were standing at the perfume counter, looking at the pretty bottles and gaily wrapped gift sets. Out of the corner of my eye, I spied the familiar stranger.

He had just walked into the store. He was big; he was tall; he commanded the stores as he walked through. Dressed in a bright red flannel shirt, blue denim bib overalls and boots, he resembled a farmer.

I turned to get a better look at him. He loudly scolded told me he was a proud, dedicated, determined individual. As I surveyed his every move, I judged him to be about 60 years young. His bright white hair belied the smoothness of his fine face.

He had a beard and a mustache that gave him a further romantic distinction.

I thought to myself, "There is a stranger that I would like to meet, to learn more about." He seemed so impressive, so sure of himself.

Do I dare walk over and introduce myself?

"That man looks awfully familiar," I said, nudging my friend. "Do you think that I have got the courage to go over and introduce myself?"

"Yes," smiled my friend, "I think you have got the courage."

As I spoke, handsome stranger passed the man's accessory department. I told my friend, "I am going to do it."

I grabbed my pen and note pad and embarked upon my first interview with a familiar stranger.

He stopped at a corner laden with men's military belts, keys chains, and other fine accessories. He was alone and just looking. I could see out of the corner of my eyes that a subconscious war was ongoing.

I hastened my steps to get the stranger's attention. As I got closer to this burly individual, my heart began to pound.

"Who is this man that has me in such a dither?" I asked myself.

Only a few feet from this white-haired gentleman, I was beginning to have second thoughts.

"Get a grip," I ventured two more paces and tapped him lightly on the right arm.

"Golly!" I thought. "He sure is a big man.

Turning sparkling eyes to me, in a deep and gentle voice he asked, "Well, young lady, can I help you?"

Startled, I thought, "I know you from some place." I swallowed a couple of times and answered, "Yes, I am a cub reporter who has been given an assignment to interview someone and you are it.

"Well, I guess I am glad that I am it," he laughed. "Let's go over there to that bench and sit down, and we will talk. You ask the questions, and I will give you the answers."

As we walked toward the bench, I asked if he was carrying a water bottle or a belt or some gift for someone.

"No, I was just looking," he answered. "I was just killing time for the next 30 or 20 minutes."

We got to the bench and sat down. I was shaking like a leaf. I had my pad and pen ready. I knew I had to ask the next question.

"What is your name?" I finally asked.

"First, let me tell you a little something about myself," he replied.

That opened up a flood gate of information.

"I was born 65 years ago," he began.

Big hands resting on his knees, he seemed to get lost in time.

"I can't really remember too much of my early years, but I do remember walking to school in Opelika, Alabama," he said. "Walking to school was fun. We would either play, flip, or fight all the way to school.

"When I was about 10 years old, my teacher...Miss Parrott was her name...Well, Miss Parrott asked me to take part in the school play that Christmas.

"I had been a named Fatty Arbuckle after the fat little boy in the old Our Gang features. Since I was fast I guess it was just natural that she asked me to play the part of Santa Claus. I agreed because Miss Parrott threatened to whip me if I didn't. I respected my teacher.

"My pulse began to race. "This can't be," I thought to myself.

"So when the big day came, my new friend continued, "they got a great big suit of clothes and stuffed me with pillows. So, pillowed, padded, and prodded, with white cotton stuck on my face with glue and a white borrowed wig on my head, I buckled up my belt and went into the classroom scared to death.

"You could see my hat off about two minutes before I got on stage," laughed the big guy.

"I played the part well," he reminisced. "After the play-acting and seeing the enthusiasm of my classmates, I got the idea that this was something I would like to do."

"Of course," I sighed. "Of course, I know who this is! I was holding my breath."

"As I grew older," continued my familiar stranger, "I realized that being a Fatty Arbuckle was not for me. So I undertook to turn my fat into muscle. I made my own weight lift using concrete blocks, one-gallon buckets and one-inch pipe for bars. Soon I found myself getting lean and muscular."

He glanced at his watch and stood up. "I'm awfully sorry, but I've got an appointment at one o'clock. I would like to continue my story, but for right now I'm going to have to leave."

"Where are you going?" I asked rather presumptuously. I did not want to lose this familiar stranger.

"Well, right now," he smiled, "I have got to get into my uniform."

"Uniform?" I questioned.

"Yes. It is red and white with black boots and belt."

"And your hair and beard and mustache," I asked, getting up from the bench. "Is that part of your uniform?"

"Yes," laughed the big man with the twinkling eyes. "Are you Santa Claus?"

As the familiar stranger walked away, children stepped, eyes bright with recognition. Adults watched him, smiling with thoughts of yesteryear bounding into their memories. magically, Santa C. was in our midst.

"Oh, Sir," I called to him. "Yes," he said, turning toward me.

"Sir, what Christmas wish do you have for the children this year?"

"For the children?" he stopped to think for a moment.

"May the world be at peace."

"And the children?" I persisted.

"For the children to be happy and healthy," he replied, "My one wish for everyone, 'Peace on earth, good will to all peoples'."

I watched him go and smiled. He had never told me his real name. I made a mental note to interview him again after the new year.

I heard a resounding "Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Right now it did not matter. The familiar stranger was Santa Claus.

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UAH STUDENTS FREE
Dr. Meek-Dean of Humanities-Profile

by E.A. Urbana

"I would pay to do what some universities have paid me to do."

That is how much Dr. Roy L. Meek, Dean of Humanities, enjoys his career as educator. He loves university life because "it provides the opportunity to work with professors and students who are idealistic and retain an excitement for new ideas."

Even though his main responsibility at UAH is administration, he teaches a course in political science every quarter. That is a must.

Also, he has very definite ideas on education.

"Simply stated, a sound class in the humanities and social sciences should be a beginning in a lifelong voyage that leads toward ever more complete understanding of one's self and the world in which we live," he says. In an article, "The Traditional in Non-Traditional Learning Methods."

This statement is not only a teaching principle, but a guide for Meek's own life. The thrust of his own education was not a specific career goal, but a search for knowledge.

"I've always felt that, if you are educated, there is always something you can do," he says.

Meek writes further, "An appropriate university education does not provide simplistic formulas to be applied to every situation, but it does provide tools that can be used in dealing with the unknown."

He believes in broad education for students, and also that a large humanities dimension leads to a better society.

The educator's job, for Meek, is searching for truth and retelling his findings to students. "Searching and telling" is the way knowledge is disseminated.

"I'm horribly old-fashioned," says Meek. "A Ph.D. is a trust that you receive, and you must make a contribution--add something to the fund of knowledge for the next generation."

Therefore, he thinks instructors should not tell findings to students, but to others, even those outside the field. Meek feels that humanities scholars can popularize the humanities and relate them to larger life.

"Excellent teachers are creative and have new ideas about their discipline, and they should communicate it to others. The communication of these ideas is the primary reason why I expect faculty members to engage in scholarly publication," he says.

In fact, he feels that communication is lacking in his particular field, political science. He says that people do not understand nearly enough about politics, and that new ways of communicating need to be developed.

As an administrator at U.A.H., Meek says, "I can only make it possible for the faculty to do their job."

He wants "to promote academic excellence and increase scholarly activity."

The dean is originally from Oklahoma, another "cotton culture" like our own area. So Alabama is somewhat reminiscent of his home.

But what Meek likes most is the size of UAH. After spending 14 years at a large university like Colorado State, he enjoys the smallness of his campus.

"A better job of education can be done here than in larger institutions," he says.

Also, he was attracted to UAH because of our commitment to liberal arts. But he is worried that we may be losing that commitment. He believes, however, that this threat will pass without significant modification to the institution.

As for the computer college

University Playhouse

HAY FEVER

University Playhouse will present Noel Cowerd's popular comedy "Hay Fever" during Homecoming week, Jan. 25, 27, 28 and 29 at 8:15 p.m. in the Von Braun Civic Center Playhouse. Auditions for the play resulted in a good group of U.P. veterans and newcomers. Cast were the following: Ginny Good, John Turner, Melissa Babcock, J. Patrick deHays, Melinda Yearwood, Ginger Pierce, James Roberts, Heather Fisher and John Smith.

Dr. Bob James will direct the U.P. production with assistance by Carol Rives. Costumes will be done by Lorie Gill and Cynthia Meyer will be in charge of set design.

Positions are still available and help is needed. Any interested student or faculty member is invited to call Bob James at 895-6191 or Debbi Pitt, 885-6428.
Christmas With Dr. Wright

by Karen Saunders
experienced staff writer

There is quite a lot of sentiment in an old-fashioned Christmas. The smell of fresh greenery and hot spiced tea sets the perfect mood for the holidays.

Echola Hill, the home of UAH President Dr. John Wright and his wife, is such a place. The old house is full of the warmth of the Christmas season.

The magnificent doors at the front and side entrances as well as the windows, are decorated with fresh boxwood wreaths. The stairway in the foyer, the fireplace mantels and the tables are prepared beautifully with fresh magnolia leaves and boxwood scented with burgundy-colored velvet bows. The decorations take one back into the Victorian Age.

Mrs. Wright has been decorating the house to create an old-fashioned Christmas since she and Dr. Wright came to live at Echola Hill three and a half years ago.

"There's one thing about living in a historical house," Mrs. Wright says. "Once you get the history, you quit trying to be perfect."

As Mrs. Wright says, burgundy-colored glass drops hang from its branches like crystal icicles. The top of the tree is accented with a huge burgundy-colored bow. And, the tree is decorated with hundreds of colorful glass balls.

The tradition of family and tradition in the Wright home is brought to life by Mrs. Wright's collection of Victorian Christmas ornaments, which she brought with her from her native Kansas City.

The Wrights entertain quite a bit during the holiday season. But, as Mrs. Wright is quick to explain, "after the 20th, it's only family."

The Wrights seem the perfect example of very close family. The couple openly reminisced about past Christmases and family traditions as they drank hot spiced tea and enjoyed some of Mrs. Wright's homemade goodies.

One of the most special traditions in the Wright home is the Surprise Christmas Eve Dinner. "We started this when the children were young, and we wanted to get their minds off of Santa coming and all of the excitement, so they could settle down and go to sleep for at least a little while that night," explain Dr. Wright.

Mrs. Wright prepared a surprise dinner which, she says, took the children's minds a little bit away from Santa because of this curiosity about what was to be served. The tradition still holds today. The Wrights are busy conjuring up still another special feast for this year. "We can't tell you what we're having this year," explains Mrs. Wright. "It's a secret!"

A tour through beautiful Echola Hill is a wonderful way to begin the holiday season. The fascinating history behind the old Southern door blends beautifully with the close family traditions that the Wrights share. Just a little taste is enough to set one in a holiday mood.

Theatre

Applicants who have completed their undergraduate work in theatre within the South Eastern Theatre Conference region and who are permanent residents of one of the states located in the SETC region may apply to the Robert Porterfield Graduate Scholarship Fund. For further information write William D. Parsons, Dean, College of Creative Expression, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071.
Burritt Museum--A Have

The Burritt Museum—a landmark of Huntsville history and a tribute to its beauty.

In the late fall of 1957, the Burritt Museum, located on Roundtop Mountain (a part of Monte Sano), opened its doors to the public for the first time. The museum has entertained and educated thousands during its first generation.

The history which surrounds the museum building is both exciting and nostalgic.

According to museum publicity, William Henry Burritt was born in Huntsville on Feb. 17, 1869 to Armatis and Mary Burritt, a well-respected Huntsville physician and his wife. After studying medicine at Vanderbilt and Pulte Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, Burritt returned to Huntsville in 1898 to practice medicine.

Burritt moved to St. Louis, Mo., after the death of his first wife and married Josie Drummond. He remained in St. Louis until the death of Josie, in 1936, at which time he returned to Huntsville and married Alta Jacks.

Construction on the Burritt house was begun in 1935 and was to be completed by the time of William Burritt's return. However, the original house was destroyed by fire on June 5, 1936.

The house was rebuilt and finally completed in the fall of the same year. Both the original and the rebuilt house were insulated with bales of straw.

William Henry Burritt died in Huntsville in 1955 at the age of 86. Upon his death, the property now known as the Burritt Museum and Park was willed by him to the City of Huntsville, with the provision that it be maintained as a museum and park. Since the time of the museum's opening, a pioneer village has been developed to document an aspect of the history of Madison County and to educate future generations.

There are 12 different rooms inside the museum proper, each with its own character. Some of the more unique items of interest include the Clopton Room, which features cobweb paintings by Clopton and the mask hangs over the mantel. Reception Hall and Wernher Von Braun.

Other interesting museum include a g Steinway grand piano, the Princess of Wa the Howard Weed Weeden Room conta Miss Howard Weed Huntsville artist.

The museum grew an authentic recreat village, complete with smokehouse, a barn shop. All the pioneer built in the 1800's. Last year, the Ol Church, built in 18...
En Overlooking The City

The public to complete the settlement.

The museum is run by a volunteer staff, according to Lillian Davis, a volunteer worker in the museum.

"Turnout at the museum has been remarkable over the past two years," said Davis. "People have visited us from all over the world."

Melinda Herzog, director of the Burritt Museum, agrees.

"For the 1981-82 season we had 87,000 visitors," she said. "And last year we had about 93,000. People from 22 different foreign countries visited here in 1981."

Herzog stated that 47 percent of the museum's visitors come from the Huntsville area.

"The rest have all been from tourism," she said.

What lies in the future for the Burritt Museum?

According to Herzog, there will be two major events next spring: Portrait of Southern Women, which will be in early March, and The History of Folk Medicine to 1930. The date of the latter is yet to be finalized.

Several rooms in the museum are now undergoing renovation for future exhibits, stated Herzog. The museum staff is also looking into the possibility of restoring William Burritt's rare right-hand-drive DeSoto. If accomplished, the car would be on display in the basement of the museum building.

Yet perhaps the most attractive and lasting impression one gets from a visit to the mountaintop museum is the expansive view of the city below. The entire city lies at the foot of Monte Sano and stretches almost to the horizon when seen from a clearing in front of the museum.

The Burritt Museum will be closed until next spring, so the opportunity to view some of Huntsville's most fascinating history has passed for this year. However, the grounds will remain open until sunset each day.

Plan one of your first trips of the new year to visit a slice of Huntsville history and beauty, the Burritt Museum.
Russell Erskine Hotel

by Jo Serochi

It was called the grandest hotel in Huntsville by those who were there to see it. It was the Russell Erskine Hotel. Named in honor of the head of the Studebaker Corporation, the hotel was a tribute to a man from the city who had become an outstanding figure in America's financial circles.

According to the Sept. 13, 1928 issue of The Huntsville Daily Times, the $500,000 hotel was a 12-story building, and it was to be the third building of skyscraper proportions in the city.

A thirty year lease was contracted on May 16, 1929 for $1,500,000. The Times reported the Russell Erskine was to become a part of the Mayer Hotel Chain.

Henson continued. "The Blue Room opened in the early 1940s and became a very popular night spot. School and club dances were popular there. sometimes even a dance was held at the Blue Room during Christmas," he said.

Parts of the hotel were closed in the 1960s and '70s, Henson recalled. "The old dining room was not used in the 1950s, she said, "because there weren't enough people staying in the hotel, and the room was so large."

There was a dining room on the balcony in the 1960s, she added, "but that eventually shut down, too."

On Nov. 5, 1971, The Times reported that the Russell Erskine was leased to Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Bullard and Robert Nelson for reopening. The attempted reopening was a failure, and the hotel was leased to James Lane and H.E. Monroe, Sr., in May 1973.

The Russell Erskine Hotel retained bankruptcy in 1975, and a bankruptcy hearing for Lane was set for October 1979. The Times reported.

When the hotel permanently closed its doors, in 1975, all of the occupants, including the hotel manager, were ordered by the owner to evacuate the building,

said Bill Sanford, a librarian at the Madison County Public Library.

Therefore, the Russell Erskine Hotel was purchased by H. Carey Walker and Charles Smith for restoration as a senior citizens center. The remodeling will be complete in 12 to 14 months, according to Moody Brandyfield of Valley Contractors, the company which is handling the construction work.

Walker reported that the building will contain 69 apartment units upon completion. This units will be divided into two rooms for the handicapped, 10 two-bedroom apartments, and 57 one-bedroom apartments.

The building will be sold to a limited partnership called Russell Erskine Properties prior to completion, Walker said.

Dr. Hull-Lecture Series

Four lectures exploring the human side of opera will be presented in Huntsville at the downtown public library starting Sunday, Jan. 8, and ending Sunday, April 10. The lecture series, which will develop the theme, "Treasures from Europe: Field Opera and the Humanities," is funded by the Committee for the Humanities in Alabama and is sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Opera Association. All four lectures will be open to the public without charge.

The first lecture, "Verdi: His Politics, His Worldview, and His Music" will be presented by UAH's own Henry Lane Hall, who is well known locally and in the university classroom. Professor Hall is interested in the fact that Giuseppe Verdi lived in an age of nationalism and idealism and that he was able, musical visionary that he was, to capture some of the social and political issues of his long life in his great operatic works. In the first lecture, Dr. Hall will sketch the scope of Verdi's work in the context of his time.

The second lecture, "Mozart: Nationalist First, Composer Second," is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 4, and will also be delivered by Professor Hall. Mozart's work reflects his national identity—an identity that caused him to fall into the same intellectual trap that many of his contemporaries did in other fields. In the following illustrated talk on Mozart, the bold Russian democratist, whose political vehicle was music.

The third lecture, "Elgar: An Excursion into the World of Don Giovanni and the Troy Messenger"

David Marion, former editor and publisher of The Troy Messenger, Troy, AL, has been named Director of University Relations at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The announcement was made by Jim Simpson, Director of UAH University Advancement.

Marion, who has a B.S. degree from Troy State, has also served as City Editor of The Gadsden Times, assistant editor of The Charlotte News, and managing editor of The Athens News-Courier, and associate editor of The Huntsville News.

The Troy Messenger is a member and past president of The Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation, former member of the APA board of directors, and a member of Sigma Delta Chi, journalism fraternity.

In making the announcement, Simpson said Marion's many years in journalism and working with people across the state will be a definite asset to the University Relations program at UAH.

Marion is married and the father of two children.
Merry Christmas
and
Holiday Greetings
from

Kit and Kaboodle!
UAH Gallery of Art

by Cynthia Meyer

Nested in a grove of pines between Morton Hall and the University Union Building, the Art Gallery maintains its quiet solitude in the midst of the end-of-term frenzy at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The Gallery was originally the Union Chapel in Hazel Green, Ala., but was donated to the university by Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Bessell in 1970. The building was dismantled and moved to UAH, then reassembled with original materials.

When the Gallery opened in 1976, the interior had been restructured to suit the needs of a museum-quantity area of neutral-colored walls, modern track lighting, and open space to accommodate sculptural forms.

But the wood remained, a rarity on UAH’s high-tech campus.

As English instructor Dr. Larry Shifman said, “I like wood. I think everything should be wood.” He paused, then added, “Why isn’t anything else at this university wood?”

Peter Wheeler, UAH’s new art history professor agreed with Shifman. He, too, liked the Gallery. “I think every university should have one,” Wheeler said.

Gallery administrator Anthony Clark Argo was quick to point out that the Gallery has a future as well as a past.

“We are broadening our range,” he said. “The Gallery can’t carry the burden of being a stuffy place. Our goal is to be a place that everyone can come to and feel comfortable.”

PAC-MAN Phone

If you have PAC-MAN fever, South Central Bell has just the remedy: The PAC-MAN (TM) phone.

That’s right. That hungry little video-game character has jumped from video technology to telecommunications technology by way of a new Design Line (R) phone at your local Bell PhoneCenter. The shell of the phone has the same bright yellow round shape and round dark eyes that are so familiar to devotees of the game. Hinges inside the mouth hold it open in the same half-closed arcade fans know and love. But when it’s unfolded, the shell reveals a telephone that works on either rotary or Touch-Tone (R) lines,” said PhoneCenter Manager Joan Miller.

The PAC-MAN phone is available at Fairway City Mall Bell PhoneCenter through December or while supplies last.

PAC-MAN phones carry a one-year warranty. A two-year maintenance contract is available.

"TM PAC-MAN (TM) is a trademark of Bally Midway Mfg. Co.

UAH Gallery of Art

“Last week we had about 20 people show up to see ‘Fees’. I think that’s pretty good for UAH,” said Cassandra Harrington, a student staff member.

The Gallery employs one other staff member, Stephen May, who is also an art student at the university.

The Gallery features works by students year round, in conjunction with its other exhibits. An annual sale of student art is an excellent opportunity to find limited prints and originals at relatively affordable prices.

Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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A GREAT WAY TO TRIM OFF HOLIDAY INCHES!!
KISS-Record Review

by Bill Savage, exponent staff writer

Kiss, a music group whose songs have always been popular with pre-teens and young teenagers, has once again assaulted our sensibilities with the release of their latest album, CREATURES OF THE NIGHT. The "assault" is not a pleasant one.

Kiss has been recording albums since 1973. During this time, many of their albums have sold quite well. They have accumulated 15 gold and 11 platinum discs. Since 1979, however, album sales have dropped off for Kiss, due to their exploration of various musical directions. Their previous album, MUSIC FROM "THE ELDERS," a rock opera of sorts, was a success musically, but failed in sales as well as live performance.

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT is an attempt by Kiss to recapture the style that made them a success in the early '70s. According to Kiss lead singer Paul Stanley, CREATURES OF THE NIGHT "sums up everything that Kiss is." What Kiss is, then, after listening to the album, is a poor heavy-metal attempt at music.

Side one begins with the title cut, "Creatures of the Night," which is a lyrically mindless song. Side one continues with the songs, "Balini and Sinner," "Keep Me Comin'" (a song about a young girl losing her innocence), "Danger" and "Rock and Roll Hall," a song which speaks of teenage rebellion.

Side two produces the selections, "I Love It Loud," (Kiss's comment on their musical preferences), "I Still Love You," (a lame excuse for a ballad) and "Killer," (a song of a massochist praising a sadist). "Killer's" lyrics are typified by the lines:

Ooh, she'll cut you clean, Then she'll watch you bleed.
So obscene—she's what I need.
She likes to hear me scream.

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT is not an album of musical delights. The album even sounds as if it were recorded in a basement with an echo. The best part of the album, indeed, is the blank spaces in between songs.

In the past, Kiss has made some music worthy of their own glitter-rock efforts. But with CREATURES OF THE NIGHT, they have produced only mindless schlock rock.

CHARGERS-CHARGERS-CHARGERS

by Karen Saunders, exponent staff writer

The Chargers met Livingston University last Wednesday night in a men/women's basketball doubleheader at Spragins Hall.

The Lady Chargers had a lot to smile about as they took their Tiger opponents in a 76-62 win.

The ladies were led by Dawn Miles, who scored 20 points in that game, and Terry Hardin, who was close behind with 16 points.

The men's game was close. The two teams tied eight times in the first half. But the Chargers just couldn't seem to get ahead.

Livingston jumped ahead of UAH 19-17 at the half. But the Chargers came back with a three-point lead halfway into the second period, making the score 39-36.

UAH kept their opponents jumping most of the game. Yet they just could not seem to get far enough ahead to take the lead.

Tigers.

The two top scorers of the evening were Ricky Edwards, with 12 points, and Dan Jones, with nine.

The Chargers lost to Livingston by a final score of 45-41.

Chargers Winning Weekend

by Karen Saunders, exponent staff writer

The Chargers had another winning weekend last Friday and Saturday nights as they defeated the University of Illinois, 14-2 and 12-3.

Dan Dorothy scored a three-goal hat trick and added an assist Friday night, helping the Chargers on their way to win the game.

The Chargers played hard against their opponents, and their determination paid off.

Tom O'Dwyer scored two goals in the first game. His first goal was scored early in the first period.

Saturday night, fans came back to see more of the Chargers' action and did not go home disappointed.

UAH took their opponents again in the second game with a winning score of 12-3.
Smurfs Alive
Ice Capades

Ice Capades is presenting its all-new extravaganza “Light Up The Ice!” in Huntsville for the very first time at the Von Braun Civic Center. This wonderful variety show will run from Tuesday, Jan. 4 through Sunday, Jan. 9 for nine performances. Tickets, priced at $8, $17 and $26, are on sale now at the Von Braun Civic Center and all regular outlets.

Featuring six dazzling productions, the all-new Ice Capades will “Light Up The Ice” with a festival of illumination and illusions skating stars. With the precision of a passing parade, Ice Capades presents the Ice Capettes and Ice Cadeus in “Precision on Parade,” looks ahead toward imaginary travel to distant galaxies in “Journey to the Ice Age” and transports the audience to the romantic realm of “Paris by Night.” For children of all ages, television’s most popular little blue people make their first live appearance in a delightful production of “Smurfs Alive! “Julio Bon Jamba” honors our nautical heritage of the past 40 years.

Championship solo and adagio presentations feature the internationally acclaimed talents of U.S. Junior Men’s Champion Richard Ewell, World Professional Champion Robert Waggenhoffer, U.S. National Junior Champion Carrie Rugh, new pair skaters Frank Sweding and Beth Flora. Also featured will be beautiful Judy Shaul, the adagio artistry of Tony Paul and Terry Pagan, and lovely Jennifer Eckman.

Ice-borne comedy is created by the hilarious Tommy Miller, while the clowning antics of Biddy & Paddie generate gales of laughter. Juggling sensation Danny Rosen keeps numerous props and flaming torches airborne while peddling a unicycle on ice.

In an exciting display of energy, colors, light and sound, the captivating cast of Ice Capades presents the very best in family entertainment. Smurf © Peyo 1982. Licensed by Wallace Berrie & Co./D.M. Int’l/B.E.P.F.

Cancer Society Skate Day

On Tuesday, Dec. 21, Carousel Skate Center will sponsor “Skate Day,” with proceeds from the event donated to the Madison County unit of the American Cancer Society. Each skater will be charged the regular admission fee of $2.50. An Atari Video Game, donated by Sears, will be given as first prize to the skater who collects the highest weight in aluminum cans. The cans will be carried to a recycling company.

For more information concerning “Skate Day,” call your local American Cancer Society office at 881-7820.

Second Chance

The local pop-rock band, Second Chance, will perform in concert Saturday, Dec. 18, 1982 at the UAH Cabaret - Winter extravaganza.

Second Chance has recently acquired a new guitar player, Keith Reel, who brings his talents to the band. Second Chance’s repertoire ranges from the hard rock beats of Styx to the country sounds of Alabama.

Second Chance also writes and performs their own music. The songs “Four for Love” and “Second Chance” were recently recorded at Sound All Studios - Huntsville, and Cook Sound, Fort Payne, and are soon to be released on a single.

Do not miss Second Chance on Saturday, Dec. 18, 1982 at the UAH Student Union Building.

CALENDAR

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