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UAH Tuition Set to Increase 9.5%
By Chris Brown
Tuition expenses are set to rise by 9.5% at UAH, which is equivalent to nearly $400 per year for the average in-state student. This increase is more than twice the state average of 4.3%.

According to UA System Board of Trustees Spokeswoman, Kellee Reinhart, "Because of the inflated cost of utilities and flat state appropriations, increased tuition is inevitable."

The increases are mostly to generate money to raise faculty and staff salaries, but according to Reinhart the system would have had to raise tuition regardless due to inadequate state funding.

The Tuscaloosa campus will be facing a 12% increase, while UAB will see an increase of 9%, Auburn will also experience an increase of 9%, while the University of South Alabama, the University of North Alabama and Alabama A&M University will all have an increase of 10%. Monroe also faces the biggest jump at 15%.

Alabama ranks well above the regional average in the percentage of operating budgets that comes from student tuition payments at 25-34%.

According to Alabama Commission on Higher Education Spokeswoman, Margaret Gunter, tuition dollars are needed to cover holes in state appropriations. Gunter stated that universities' dependence on tuition has doubled in the last decade and blames poor allocation of state money for the shortfall.

Gunter also noted that the state funding for universities, which is already highly unpredictable due to the tax structure in Alabama, is not increasing fast enough to cover rising costs. One of the major costs that is rising is that of employee retirement benefits and health insurance.

In addition, Alabama is in a minority of states that do not pay for deferred maintenance on university buildings.

Students and those concerned with college affordability are worried that the rising tuition costs, which have doubled in the last decade for Alabama schools, will keep some students from being able to attend college and will keep others from taking the desired number of classes per term.

According to Auburn University Trustee Jimmy Rane, who cast the lone dissenting vote in their move to raise tuition, "We continue to place the burden on the backs of those who can least afford this."

"As a student, any raise in tuition is unfortunate and frustrating," said SGA President Erik Thacker. "However, it is a little more bearable knowing that the funds raised from this increased tuition are going directly to faculty salaries and classroom resources."

I hate that tuition is going up," said SGA Senator Carol Steelman. "But between higher taxes and higher tuition I would rather pay higher tuition because at least that way I know the money is going to UAH." Steelman continued, "I am sure that it affects some people, and it is bad for people who have to pay themselves and cannot get the financial aid they need."

The newly approved tuition increases will take effect for the 2004-2005 school year.

Rapes in Area Concern for Students
By Chris Brown
Police are searching for a rapist in the Northwest Huntsville area. Three rapes have been reported in the University/Sparkman area, near the UAH campus, in the last week.

Early Monday morning, June 27, a man allegedly broke into an apartment at Summit Tree apartments on Sparkman Drive and raped the female resident. A day earlier another woman told police that she had been walking home to her apartment in the same area of Sparkman Drive when a stranger forced her behind a building at gunpoint and raped her.

On Sunday, June 27, around 4:00 A.M. a woman was raped at the University Square office complex just off University Drive. Police investigators have come across very few clues in the case. There is a lot of speculation that the three rapes are connected and could have been committed by the same perpetrator, however, police could not confirm that at the time of print.

These incidents caused some concern among female students at UAH because of the proximity to the campus. "I'm a little worried because these rapes are really close

Concrete Canoe Third at Nationals
By Chris Brown
The UAH Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers finished in third place overall in the national concrete canoe competition, upholding a long tradition of excellence.

The competition is divided into four categories: design paper, oral presentation, final product, and the races. Each one counts as 25% of the overall score. These categories are set up to challenge the teams in areas critical to their careers as engineers, specifically in clear communication and in designing a product to meet specific guidelines and performance conditions.

UAH took third place overall, out of 22 of the nation's top competitors, finishing only 0.6 points behind Université Laval, The University of Wisconsin at Madison finished first overall. UAH took first place in the design paper, third place in the final product, and sixth place in the oral presentation, yielding a second place finish in the academic portion of the competition. UAH placed 9th in the races.

"I am extremely proud of how we did," said ASCEE President Sarah Yeldell, "First off, we have not been to the national competition for the last two years, which really put us at a disadvantage as far as experience. Only three of us had ever been to nationals before, so we were really the only students who had an idea of how much it would take to win. We also

Students are concerned about affordability as tuition rises again for the 2004-2005 school year. A dispatcher at the campus police station had not previously been aware of the incidents but said that he would take steps to make sure that the administration knew about the situation and could take appropriate action to warn the student body and members of the faculty and staff if necessary.
Researchers at The University of Alabama at Huntsville say that real-time processing and exploitation of an increasing amount of data received from active sensors is becoming increasingly important.

In order to take advantage of this wealth of information, on-board processing is necessary. By supporting autonomy, helping to reduce bandwidth requirements, and providing for in-theater processing, coordination and exploitation, on-board processing will prove to be most helpful in making the best use of data.

Users will be able to customize data requirements thanks to the availability of custom processing, feature extraction, and scientific data mining on space-borne, airborne, and ground-based sensor platforms. This will make data more accessible, thereby overcoming the isolated nature of current remote sensing platforms.

UAH researchers are working to investigate, design, and develop the next generation of autonomous on-board processing systems with Internet capabilities to support the situational awareness of processes. Dr. Sara Graves says that intelligent operations, natural hazard detection and prediction, intelligent sensor networks, and disaster response applications all stand to benefit from these sensor networks.

EnVIrCoinInt for On-Board Processing (EVE) is a UAH development that provides an extensible and highly flexible processing framework that can be defined and controlled in the interactions of multiple processes working on many platforms. EVE is the beneficiary of UAH's extensive experience and research with scientific data mining and knowledge discovery.

UAH Senior Research Scientist Steve Tanner leads a team of researchers that are building upon the current framework to produce on-board platforms with the ability to detect complex phenomena based upon information collected from the cooperation of multiple sensors. Tanner says EVE is designed specifically to support constraints on these platforms, such as limited memory and processing capacity, limited power availability, security and real-time data streams. The team expects the upgraded system to be operable within an array of satellite, airborne and ground-based sensors, as well as on-line sensing systems.

In the future, on-board processing capabilities for phenomena detection and decision support will be aided by airborne platforms such as Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Tanner says that through the integration of an on-board processing system with instrument packages on the UAV, data collection can be achieved more accurately than current manned scenarios, and also can be used in situations where manned vehicles are not possible.

Mission automation and communication capabilities among disparate sensors will enable quicker responses to interesting, rare, or unexpected events in all environments, which is especially crucial in time-critical situations such as chemical detection, missile firings, or battlefield situations. An intelligent network of sensors allows each sensor to benefit from the unique capabilities of each sensor in the network.
Cassini To Arrive At Saturn With Tremendous Fanfare

By David Hewitt

For many months now, planetary scientists have been eagerly focused on the Cassini mission, the greatest and most complex undertaking ever attempted by the United States. No one knows what wonders the Cassini spacecraft will discover about Saturn, its moons, rings, and atmosphere, but everyone is excited about the mission's potential. The Cassini-Huygens mission is a collaboration between NASA, the European Space Agency, and the Italian Space Agency, and it is the most ambitious space mission ever undertaken by any nation. The mission was launched in 1997 and will arrive at Saturn in 2004, after a journey of more than 7 years and 1.2 billion miles.

The Cassini spacecraft will study Saturn's rings, moons, and atmosphere, and will also link up with the Huygens probe, which will descend into the atmosphere of Titan, Saturn's largest moon. The probe will study the moon's composition and surface, and will also investigate the possibility of life on Titan. The Cassini-Huygens mission is expected to provide a wealth of scientific data that will help us understand the history and evolution of our solar system.

Green Power Alternatives Available to Valley

By Derek Chris

Managing Editor

Working in the field of electronics for too long makes you think about things in different ways. In fact, it can even drive you to make your own audio amplifiers and filters, fix video game controllers and systems, have the tendency to watch science fiction movies and read comic books to pass the time. You might even consider building your own audio amplifiers and filters.

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The quest began with an internet scour for green power programs in Alabama. I immediately focused my attention on the Green Power Switch program offered by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Currently, it is a little known program, but according to the manager of the Green Power Switch program, Gary Harris, of TVA, that is about to change. "We started the program on Earth Day of 2000. Since then, there has been tremendous response to it, and, in fact, we haven't really kicked off our widespread public campaign about it yet because we have been busy just keeping up with the demand for renewable power," said Harris. Harris went further to say that they have been vastly increasing their capacity to deliver green power to consumers and TVA is going to boost public awareness of the program in the very near future.

What's impressive is that TVA's Green Power Switch program ranks very high compared to other green power programs across the country. Harris said, "With over 300 renewable energy programs operating across the nation, our program ranks in the top ten." In fact, TVA's program is seventh in green power consumption in the very near future.

Customers receiving green power range from residential users to commercial users. Harris also said that several universities are participating in the program and he would like to see UAH participate in it as well.

In asking Harris how exactly the program works, he went in great detail to differentiate between the usual way that green power programs get started and the innovative approach taken by TVA. Harris said, "While most renewable energy programs wait for money to come in from the customers before they start construction of green power sources, we were the first to invest in the capital for the project upfront. Even then, we had more demand than we could supply at the time, but we have done quite well in increasing capacity to keep up with what the customers want."

Harris said that the TVA Green Power Switch program works in conjunction with several different utility companies throughout the region, and Huntsville Utilities was one of the charter members from the very beginning. "In fact, our largest solar power range is available to Valley customers receiving green power from the outer reaches of the solar system or the universe, the Exponent will definitely keep you informed of the latest developments and news in the field of green power.

Right: The joint NASA-ESA Cassini Probe
Women's Soccer: Catching up with Coach "Lincoln"

By Ronak Patel
Sports Editor

Recently, I sat down with UAH Ladies soccer coach Tafadzwa Ziyenge, who is commonly known by the name "Lincoln". We are now in the summer months, approximately nine months since his team lost a heartbreaker to nationally ranked West Florida in the Gulf South Conference tournament on a cold and chilly November 8 night. After the loss, Ziyenge proclaimed, "We will not let a loss like this happen again." Lincoln speaks about the loss, the time since the loss, as well as Christian Brothers University (Jones) was a freshman last year that she's not a freshman anymore. The eight newcomers will have great leaders to look up to on our team.

Question 1: How much does November 8 still hurt 8 months later?
"It hurts. I remember like it was yesterday. No one wants to lose after putting up a solid fight. We did everything right and we lost. We played a bigger opponent that was nationally ranked and came so close. I rather be blown out and have my team not show up than lose a heartbreaker. Our whole team after the game was looking for an answer and in the pain and confusion; I offered my sympathy and just told the girls I was so proud of them."

Question 2: What have you told your team about last year and gearing up for this year?
"I tried to remind them about the unfortunate exit and the feeling we had last year after the WFU game is something we don't want to repeat. The loss is similar to (Ziyenge is a big boxing fan) taking Muhammad Ali to 15 pounds and losing on a split-decision." (A split-decision is when two judges are scoring a match and one judge scores the match in favor of one boxer and the other judge scores the match in favor of the other boxer.)

Question 3: How has the team done in spring practice and over the summer to get ready?
"In the spring, they improved so much. All of them came out of their shell. The pain of that defeat to West Florida makes them very hungry. The defeat was definitely good for us in the long run."

Question 4: Can you sense an added driving force for your team by coming so close last year?
"Yes, I certainly can. What we have now on this team is a group of girls that are not afraid to play the giants (such as Christian Brothers University or WFU) anymore. They know we are good as WFU. We have set higher standards this season for our team. We now have that added driving force of knowing what it takes to be champions."

Question 5: You said when the clock ticked zero against WFU in the GSC tourney, you vowed that you will not let this loss happen again; are you still sticking with that vow?
"I'm going to stick with that vow. As an athlete and coach, I am confident in the abilities of my players."

Question 6: What can we expect from returnees like Lindsey Schemenaur, Heather Doen, and Abby Jones and the others?
"They are going to come back more mature and take leadership roles. Abby (Jones) was a freshman last year and I told her after the second or third game last year that she's not a freshman anymore. The eight newcomers will have great leaders to look up to on our team."

Question 7: This will be your seventh season at the helm; what can you say about your time here at UAH?
"It has definitely been a blessing. I love soccer and to coach. I know a lot of lawyers and doctors that are not happy with their jobs. But I can say that I love my job and love being around the girls."

Question 8: Since last November, what have you been doing with your time?
"Recruiting. People do not realize that when the season ends on a losing note, you want sweet revenge. I want quality people to replace the high-quality players. We have set high standards. We are now chasing the same players with Kennesaw State. I am trying my best to make us better."

Question 9: How will 2004 end for the Lady Chargers?
"I have no idea. This is our toughest schedule ever. We have out of the 16 games on our schedule, only one team is not Division II. We play 4 in region games in addition to the nine conference games."

Question 10: What would an outsider (could be anyone?) say about you as a coach?
"They would say he's too energetic. He doesn't sit too much. He's out there sweating while he's not playing. He's pointing his finger to the left and right and communicating with his players. Refs have told me "calm down."
Fireworks Safety

Provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health

During the Fourth of July holiday people often celebrate with fireworks, but if used improperly, fireworks can cause serious injury or burns. To ensure a safe holiday, the Alabama Department of Public Health recommends that parents protect children from injury by preventing them from using fireworks and leaving it to the professionals.

"Although many fireworks may seem harmless, most children do not have the ability to properly handle them," said Carol Mysinger, epidemiologist in the Injury Prevention Division at the Alabama Department of Health. "Parents should be aware that fireworks-related injuries can result in amputations, blindness, or even death."

According to the National SAFEKIDS Campaign, almost 5,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in the emergency room for fireworks-related injuries each year. Sixty-five percent of these injuries occur during the month surrounding the Fourth of July.

Over half of the injuries that occur in children result from their either being too close when fireworks are ignited, lack of physical coordination, curiosity, or unsupervised use," said Melissa Khan, epidemiologist in the Injury Prevention Division at the Alabama Department of Public Health. "Parents should be aware that fireworks-related injuries can result in amputations, blindness, or even death."

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The safest way to enjoy a fireworks display is at a community-sanctioned, licensed event. Alabama law allows only consumer fireworks, formerly known as class C fireworks. Some municipalities (including Montgomery) outlaw fireworks altogether.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission prevents large numbers of hazardous fireworks from reaching consumers. Illegal mail order kits contain chemical mixtures that can explode unexpectedly and violently. M-80s, cherry bombs, and quarter sticks are so highly explosive that they have been banned by federal law since 1966. Working with the U.S. Customs Service since 1988, CPSC has seized or detained more than 400 million hazardous fireworks at docks across the country.

If fireworks are legal where you live and you decide to set them off on your own, be sure to follow these important safety tips:

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions.
- Discuss safety procedures with children, including teaching them to "stop, drop, and roll."
- Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never aim or throw fireworks at another person.

Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Never light fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of a malfunction or fire.

For more information on this subject, contact Melissa Khan of the Injury Prevention Division at the Alabama Department of Public Health at (334) 206-5541.

University of Alabama in Huntsville
Women's Soccer 2004

August
Fri 27 Columbus State GA H 3pm
September
Fri 3 Florida Southern FL A 7pm est
Sun 5 Rollins FL A 12pm est
Fri 10 Eckerd FL H (@John Hunt) 7:30pm
Mon 13 Clayton GA H 5pm
Fri 17 UWFFL H 4:30pm
Sun 19 LmUTN A 1pm est
Fri 24 Delta MS A 4pm
Sun 26 Montevallo AL H 330pm
Sep 29 Alabama A&M AL A 2pm
October
Fri 8 Harding AR A 7:30pm
Sun 10 Ouachita AR A 1pm
Fri 15 CBUTN H 1pm
San 17 UCAAR H 330pm
Fri 22 UNAAL H 1pm
Fri 29 Florida Tech FL H 1pm

November
Fri 5 Conference Playoffs Pensacola FL
Sun 7 Conference Finals

WOMEN'S SOCCER 2004

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provided in The Exponent 1 July -14 July 5

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When Money and Youth Aren't Enough

By Shonneky Langham
Entertainment Editor

I, like everyone else, was surprised to hear the latest news out of Hollywood. Apparently, one of the Olsen twins, the Uber-rich pair of siblings famous for their appeal to teen-age girls, has been diagnosed with anorexia nervosa. For those of you who don’t know, anorexia is a disorder, which is characterized by an obsession with being thin, and compels a person to starve himself or herself in order to achieve the desired body image.

Usually the person’s image of their body is already negatively distorted and the person never achieves the body that they envision.

According to familydoctor.org, “people with anorexia may believe they would be happier and more successful if they are thin.” This quote really set me off, because I was thinking about the overwhelming success these two young women have had. Recently having reached their 18th year of life, the Olsen twins were reported to be worth $300 million each. Both of them are young, wealthy, and famous to boot. They may not have had the Beck-house beauty of Beyonce or the megawatt smile of Julia Roberts, but they were certainly close enough to the “ideal image” to not have any problems with the opposite sex.

What could have possibly contributed to one of them being so obsessed with being thin, and compels a person to starve himself or herself in order to achieve the desired body image?

By Clay Johnson

When the Rolling Stones began work on their 1969 album Let It Bleed, long-time member and guitarist Brian Jones was alive but not so well, having sunk deep into drug addiction. The last album the British rock quintet had released, 1968’s Beggars Banquet, was seen as a return to form after a brief dalliance with psychedelics, and is indeed hailed now as a master-piece. Brian Jones had contributed little to that album, however, spending much of the sessions in drug-induced state. And so, though he had been a major factor in the Stones’ massive success up to that point, services were becoming less and less needed as he crept deeper into his addictions. He had abandoned the creative force for the control and domination that his bandmates Mick Jagger and Keith Richards were expecting over the band. Thus the Stones and the Jones parted ways. Less than a month later, Brian Jones went on a trip to Switzerland in his swimming pool. The official word on the matter was that it was “death by misadventure.”

It was amid this backdrop that much of Let It Bleed was created and later released. Jones played us just two of the tracks, and his replacement, Mick Taylor, also played on only two songs.

The rest of the Rolling Stones — singer Mick Jagger, guitarist Keith Richards, drummer Charlie Watts, and bassist Bill Wyman — forged ahead and made a master-piece while deaths continued, change, and chaos swirled around them. Let It Bleed continued in the tradition of Beggars Banquet as an album of down-and-dirty, blues-tinged rock and roll, albeit an even harder and darker shade of rock overall.

The album opens with apocalyptic “Gimme Shelter” and what an opening it is. Brooding, powerful, dark, and majestic, this song is one of the Stones’ finest efforts, with well-placed guitar solos by Mick Jagger, the band’s indisputable leader. This song is also marked by a changing of the guard, the band truly deliveries nothing here but excellent acoustic blues, which recall the similar “No Expectations” from Beggars Banquet.

The only true stumbling point on the album is the somewhat strange, stripped down cover of the band’s own “Honky Tonk Woman.” Dubbed “Country Honk” in this setting, this version is definitely not an improvement over the original. But it is definitely worse, as the original is a classic. This isn’t a horrible track, but seems to serve little purpose and mostly serves only to baffle. However, the quality level retains its previous plateau from here on out. The rock and raunch of “Live With Me,” “Let It Bleed,” and the harmonica-laden “Midnight Ramble,” capture Mick, Keith, and company in their element and at the top of their game. These are followed with Keith Richards’ first lead vocal on “You Got the Silver,” a well done, largely acoustic affair. Richards can’t claim, especially considering the bandmate and prototypical rock frontman, but his performance is good and there is no reason to complain. Especially considering that the next song, “Monkey Man,” showcases again the signature Stones sound and swagger.

Finally, the album closes with a good place to start if you want to see what the Rolling Stones are all about. It is generally agreed that it also is essential listening for serious fans of rock and roll. So, if you enjoy that sort of music, highly recommended. It is almost guaranteed that it won’t disappoint.
I admit it. I love books that have a fantasy element to them. It is for this reason that I decided to read a book that I cause across when I was in North Carolina for a visit. The book is entitled Faraday's Popcorn Factory and a first-time author named Sandra Lee Gould wrote it. The novel opens with a young woman young man living next door. The small town living. Having moved from the big city and is hoping to find solace in a small town living. Having endured a broken heart, she finds herself succumbing to his relentless pursuit. The young man, named Clement, is attentive, caring, and intelligent. He's also a little strange. Still Willow falls deeper and deeper under his spell. Soon his mysterious background causes more and more problems for Willow so she sets out to find out all the kind about the man who has stolen her heart.

What do I like most about this book? Well it's weird in a good sort of way. Its weirdness enhances its readability and makes you want to know what happened. For instance, Clement's name is a small clue into his origins, although it makes absolutely no sense if you haven't read the book. At the risk of giving away pertinent information about the plot, Clement's parents are much larger than life (to say the very least). To explain further would be to ruin the fun but I can say this, Clement's parents have a tendency to be overbearing and blow into his life and create total chaos for him. Clement's parents are not necessarily people but forces and these forces can make things extremely difficult for him and the people he loves. I'm sorry I can't be more specific but its something you have to just read on your own. The characters that represent Clement's parents are mythical in nature (hint, hint) and we humans have been told on many occasions that it's not nice to fool with Mother Nature. As I said it's a weird little tale but deliciously so.

Now what don't I like about it. Well it's a bit too far reaching in places. As with my earlier attempts to not give away the plot I had to use a lot of overused clichés to give hints. At times the book can feel like one big over-worked stereotype. Clement is quiet and shy, with an almost childlike innocence. Yet he manages to be a strong partner for an even stronger woman. He's one of those too-good-to-be-true men mom warned us girls about. And what about Willow? She's supposedly an intelligent woman running away from some serious pain caused by an old boyfriend and instead of doing what we think she should and finding someone more appropriate, she finds one of the least suitable men she could find. In some places, particularly character development, the novel falls short.

All in all, the book works because it is unconventional. The author uses a mythical and totally original approach to storytelling that delights the reader and gives us a whole new way of looking at things? What if Mother Nature really was a woman and her favorite son really had run away? Reading the novel to the end is the answer to this quirky little question. Oh, and it ends differently than you would expect it to and any book that can surprise me gets a thumbs up from me. Pick this one up or if you're not sure if it's your cup of tea then borrow my copy. Just make sure you lend me one in return and make sure its one of your favorites.

Goose Creek Symphony
Appearing at
Halftime Sports Lounge
8873 Highway 72 W
(next to Mills Beverage)
July 8, 2004
Show starts at 8:00 p.m.
Phone: 430-0266
Tickets $20.00 at the door
To reserve tickets call 256-874-4411
**Never a Dull Moment**

**By Chris Brown**
**Editor-in-Chief**

This has been quite a week for me, the Exponent, and the world. You might have noticed that a large part of the paper was written by the editorial staff this week. In the experiment of printing in the summer, that was not an intended outcome, but at least there is still a paper on stands with some good articles and information you might not otherwise get. I have personally been recruiting new writers at the Compass Orientation sessions, and that has been going great. At the rate we are getting writers we will have twenty-page paper every week in the fall. As always though, there is plenty of room for writers in every section as well as sales representatives to sell advertising to local businesses. There is also a pretty exciting newspaper-related program that Student Affairs will likely adopt in the fall, so stay tuned for information as it comes.

The last week has been very big in US and international politics as well. Canada has just elected the first minority government in a generation as the liberals managed only 135 (out of the newly increased total of 308) seats, despite defeating the new unified conservatives by a much wider margin. The Bloc Quebecois (who want an independent Quebec) won 54 seats, the far-left NDP won 15 and there was even 1 independent. Canadian politics are interesting to me, in part because Canada seems to have the highest power in the land (something that I find reprehensible), and in part because a lot of their current governmental ways are set by custom only. Also of interest is that parliamentary deadlock, practically never persists, because a Prime Minister with little or no support of the House of Commons must either step aside for a new opposition government or call for an election of a new supportive House. Canadians basically get to toss out their government for one that will get what the people want done every time the government comes to a deadlock.

While I was reading the Canadian election results I couldn't help but think of some of the positions of the government of Canadian government, and this quote was particularly interesting: "We want criticism, we want watchfulness," said cabinet appointments, visit friends and loved ones who are far away, and even purchase everyday items that must travel through our economy. The increased costs of goods and services impact every community, and they are especially harmful to rural areas and small businesses. Most importantly, they can be devastating for anyone who struggles just to make ends meet.

I believe we must address the problem of volatile gasoline prices, and their related costs, before they threaten our economic recovery and our long-term prosperity. Without a comprehensive strategy to ensure steady, reliable supplies of petroleum, our country will always be subject to erratic prices that result from the uncertainty created by the cartel of oil-producing nations. The price of crude oil accounts for nearly half of the price of a gallon of gasoline, and it is a major factor in the rise and fall of gas prices.

Lately, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which controls the majority of crude oil production throughout the world, has been reluctant to increase its output of oil to other nations. While it has increased output somewhat in recent weeks, in many ways, it continues to be a significant driver of higher prices. A number of other factors, such as conflict in the Middle East and increased demand, particularly in developing countries such as India and China, have also had a significant impact on the recent growth in crude prices.

While the price of crude oil is the most influential factor in the price of gasoline, it is the most difficult for the federal government to change in the short-term. Nevertheless, I firmly believe we must work to reduce our long-term reliance on foreign oil by encouraging exploration and production of oil here at home. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) has the potential to play a significant role in reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Only with an increased domestic capacity to meet our own oil demands will we be able to establish real energy independence, and free ourselves from the whims of the OPEC cartel.

I also believe it is important to increase our domestic oil refining capacity. Presently, the United States has reached its domestic refining capacity. Because this capacity does not meet the country's needs for refined gasoline, it must be imported, at a significant cost to the consumer. Furthermore, the construction of a new refinery in the United States has not occurred in more than a quarter century. As our demand continues to increase, so must our capability to provide for that demand. To that end, Congress should take steps to provide incentives for the construction of new refineries or the expansion of existing ones that allow U.S. refiners to increase their capacity.

We must, as a nation, continue to invest in research to improve energy efficiency and create new and improve existing alternative fuels. Initiatives such as the President's hydrogen fuel initiative have the potential to reduce America's dependence on foreign oil and we must, therefore, continue to explore them further. I believe these are important issues facing the nation, and I am committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to achieve a solution. In the short term, I believe that we must find ways to achieve lower gas prices, and in the long-term, I believe we must work towards energy independence so that we can avoid many of the problems we encounter today.

Sincerely,
Senator Richard Shelby

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**LETTERS to the Editor**

Dear Editor:

Over the past few months, I have heard from many Alabamians about the dramatic increase in the price of gasoline. Gas prices reached record levels in late May, and they are expected to remain high for some time. While the prices we are paying today do not compare to the prices our country faced during the oil embargo of the 1970s, I am concerned about the disruptive effects that they may have on businesses and individuals in Alabama and all across the country.

High fuel prices affect nearly every aspect of our daily lives, and they resonate through almost every sector of our economy. As a result, it becomes more expensive for us to commute to work, take our kids to daycare and school, get to important medical appointments, visit friends and loved ones who are far away, and even purchase everyday items that must travel through our economy. The increased costs of goods and services impact every community, and they are especially harmful to rural areas and small businesses. Most importantly, they can be devastating for anyone who struggles just to make ends meet.

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Sincerely,
Senator Richard Shelby

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**Remember that Dear Suzy is always here to lend her expertise. You can write to Dear Suzy at uahdearsuzy@yahoo.com.**
ACROSS TOWN. "M-O-O-M, I MEANT TO SELL BACK IF ONLY YOU HAD RAISED YOUR HAND IF NEXT TO THAT TRUNK OF YOUR CAR. NOW, RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU HAVE ONE OR MORE SCHOOL BINDERS STILL MELTING IN THE FRENCH ASIDE, THE TRUTH REMAINS THAT ONCE THE LAST FINAL TESTS ARE OVER, AND THE PENCIL ERASER IS ALL USED UP, THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER IT A SLY CREATURE.

Making my "to do" list is actually fun, because it makes me the boss of my time. Some activities make the list every year such as: clean the room, closet, car, computer, and medicine cabinet. Input last six months of bank statements in Microsoft Money, and sell back textbooks. Even if you are not a compulsive neat freak, such as myself, there is something that just feels right about starting out a new season with your life in order, so I recommend those steps to everybody.

My timeline is: final exams, sleep for three days straight, work at my brother's school, clean/organize stuff, etc., etc.

Now the fun begins. It doesn't matter what your goals are as long as they are meaningful to you. Think hard about what you would love to try, accomplish, or change about yourself. Some of my goals have included re-reading favorite childhood books, writing letters to friends, trying new foods/activities, craft projects such as quilting or painting, exercising, keeping a journal, spending time with family, being more helpful around the house, volunteering, and learning new things.

Once you have your list, type it up. Make it pretty and hang it up next to that calendar. Set aside some time daily or weekly to work on your goals. Early mornings or late evenings are often the best chances to spend quality time with yourself. You will find that once you start checking things off of your list, that fleeting summer becomes more like, "Oh that was the year I got my scuba license and finally learned to like salad."

If you have negative activities or behaviors that typically consume your time, make it a goal to stop those. For example, I will not spend more than one half hour a day on my computer or watch more than an hour of television. I will go to bed by midnight and get up no later than 7 a.m. You'll be surprised how much extra time you end up with to work on things you really care about.

If so compelled, keep a journal. How great to look back and be able to say, ah, June 27, 2004. Today I made pancakes with my brothers, unpacked from my trip, argued with my grandma, went to the bookstore with my family to get coffee, and wrote an article for the Exponent. Just like photos in an album, a journal triggers memories. So years from now, when you read what you wrote, you will find that you remember those days much better than you would otherwise.

A wise woman once told me, "Don't be a victim." Actually, she told me this about fifty times before I got over being chastised and really understood what she meant. These are words to live by, so get out, get busy, and enjoy that last half of your summer.

By Sarah Perrin

Opinion

Make Your Summer Memorable: Make a "To Do" List

When Physicists Draw

By Patrick Vitarus
President's Corner
By Erik Thacker
SGA President

Hey y'all!
UAH has had an interesting last couple of weeks.
A series of relevant but unrelated topics follows:
- Compass sessions are now in full swing. We have held two so far and there will be four more. If you get a chance, say hey to the incoming freshmen, they are the students with large name tags and blue folders. I have been impressed with many of them. So many bright and eager faces... so many budding engineers...
- Switching gears, I attended the Alabama Board of Trustees conference where the Board finalized an Owner/Architect Agreement as well as approved a preliminary project budget for Fraternity and Sorority housing. This is a huge step forward for UAH's vision of a more traditional campus. More on that as it develops.

The details of the tuition increase were also finalized at the conference. The cost of education has consistently risen over the years and there was no exception made during this one. A 9.5% increase translates to an additional $350 per year. For students, any raise in tuition is unfortunate and frustrating. However, it may be a little more bearable knowing that the funds raised from the increased tuition are going directly to faculty salaries and classroom resources. UAH must do this in order to attract and retain the quality staff. This is quite literally the price we pay for excellence. Just a thought.

I hope everyone's week goes well.

-Erik Thacker

Note: A correction of last week's article. Date of completion for the new residence hall is by the end of 'next' year.

In the mood to gripe?
Write a letter to the Editor:

SGA Review

VP of Finance Officially Sworn In

By Chris Brown

Erin Ferguson was unanimously approved by the SGA Assembly as the new Vice President for Financial Affairs. Ferguson, who had already begun performing the duties of that post, was sworn in by SGA President Erik Thacker.

Thacker discussed several ideas for improvements in the SGA and on campus that he hopes can be accomplished during his administration, noting three main areas of concern: accessibility, communication, and apathy.

"I want everyone, including new freshmen, to feel that they can come to SGA," said Thacker in regards to accessibility. Thacker had previously discussed the idea of special interest groups that would lobby representatives. Thacker has added to that a concept that he calls the "Body of Workers," which would allow anyone interested to have some level of involvement in the student government without having to go through the election or appointment process.

Communication and public relations were highlighted as key areas of focus for the SGA. Thacker mentioned the ongoing improvements to the CampusNET system and to the SGA website, which have received a lot of attention from Representative Greg Reed. Thacker also revived the idea of having media booths in a few key locations where students could pick up physical materials distributed by the SGA to provide information or advertise upcoming events.

In the House of Representatives meeting, the Body of Workers idea was discussed further. Members agreed that open legislative seats and cabinet departments should be filled first. Representatives discussed alternative ways of structuring the group along with the initial idea of having workers organized under the representatives.

The Senate considered two bills establishing attendance rules during their meeting. The first establishes a limit of three unexcused absences per semester, after which a senator can be removed from office. The second dictates that absences from committee meetings count toward the limit set in the attendance policy. Both bills, S.B.03-04.1 and S.B.03-04.2, passed unanimously.

In Senate committees, the Organizations committee is working to ensure that the UAH Cheerleaders, which are now a club rather than an athletic team, would hold to their constitution and allow anyone to join. The Campus Affairs Committee reported that unofficially they have been led to believe that the cafeteria's all-you-can-eat buffet will continue in the fall and that they will add a "grab-and-go" section. The Academic Affairs Committee is working with a previously compiled list of "bad professors" as well as the overflow parking situation on campus. The Rules Committee presented two bills concerning attendance.

The next meetings of the House and Senate will not take place until July 19 due to the Independence Day Holiday.

Frosh Mosh 2004 Sneak Preview
"Hey Y'all!"
August 26-August 29

Thursday August 26: 9pm Outcast Game Show @ UC Exhibit Hall
Win a trip to the Bahamas

Friday August 27: 5pm Free Food @ UC Quad
8pm Bishop Black @ The UC Pit

Saturday August 28: 3pm "County Fair" @ UC Quad, Snacks Provided
5pm Free Food @ UC Quad
8pm Casino Party @ UC Exhibit Hall
Sunday August 29: 4:30pm President's Picnic
4:30 Live Music
5pm FOAM PARTY!!! @ The PIT
A week filled with fun and free stuff. Come and get to know UAH.

Classifieds are FREE for all UAH students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Ads of 25 words or less should be submitted to the Editor-in-Chief at editor@exponent.uah.edu.

The UAH Chess Club meets Thursday evenings, 6:30-11:00 pm, in the UC cafeteria. Late arrivals and early departures welcome. We are in the process of forming a UAH chess team - none of our current players are tournament experienced, so there is room for everyone. If you're interested, please drop by.

Society of Women Engineers is in the process of reorganizing and is looking for new, active members. UAH SWE is open to men and women of all majors. To join or for more information contact Dr. English at english@ece.uah.edu.
Presto, we did very well in the Thrasher, Robert Dudley, Todd Watts, Jonathan as one of the nation's top competitors. To keep our confidence in the judging at the last minute. But we adapted, and thanks in particular to the hard work of Jackie Whittaker, Todd Watts, Jonathan Thrasher, Robert Dudley, Ben Stanifer, and Andrea Presto, we did very well in the academic portions. We were able to really emphasize that technology requires that our boat designs are changed to include a new discipline. In addition to the concrete canoe, they also participate in the Steel Bridge competition. ASCE is also a chance to be involved in a professional organization. They have speakers and different activities throughout the school year, and it is a good way to make contacts in several types of engineering.

Changes in the rules of the competition led to major changes for the UAH team. According to Yeldell, "This year, the mix design rules were changed to include a reduction in the allowed water content to cementitious materials ratio, as well as an increase in the required amount of sand. Our STARS technology requires that our boat remain flexible and able to withstand deflections that would destroy the other competitors. To keep our concrete flexible, we were forced to accept a denser mix. This resulted in a boat that was significantly heavier - this year's ConQuest is 148 lbs, compared to 76 lbs in 2001."

"The biggest problem this year was the loss of several of our more dedicated team members after last year's disaster with the judging at the regional competition," stated Yeldell. "The fact that FIT was fully disqualified at the 2003 National Competition did not exactly help restore confidence in the judging here in the Southeast." She continued, "Also, this year's team was very inexperienced - for most, it was their first time attending a National Competition. Even though they knew the times Clemson, Laval, and Wisconsin were running in the races, our men's team still underestimated the competition and didn't really work as hard as they might have. We also had one of our gay paddlers quit at the last minute, which really threw off the line-up. But again, we found a replacement and overcame the difficulty as best we could. It's a lesson learned - I'm sure we won't ever make the mistake of underestimating Clemson or Wisconsin again!"

If anyone is interested in getting involved, ASCE accepts members from every discipline. In addition to the Concrete Canoe, they also participate in the Steel Bridge competition. ASCE is also a chance to be involved in a professional organization. They have speakers and different activities throughout the school year, and it is a good way to make contacts in several types of engineering.

Anyone interested in learning more about the UAH Student Chapter should visit www.teamuah.org or email the chapter president, Robert Dudley, at dudlevr@email.uah.edu.

Baptist Campus Ministries invites you to a summer celebration each Tuesday night at 8:30
All denominations are welcome!
The Baptist Student Center
450 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, AL 35805
837-9140 or 830-6611
bcm@uah.edu
www.uah.edu/BCM
FOR SALE
800Mhz Computer System, $250 or best offer. S6000Z/Atko 3000v+/60MB/40GB/DVD/CDRW/Photoscape card/Windows ME/No Modem. For sale 9/97. 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom apartment for rent in Madison. 2 swimming pools, tennis court, free basic cable TV, $600 per month plus small deposit. Pets welcome. snyfjama@yahoo.com or call 694-7810. For sale 1997 BMW/1650. Dual Sport bike. $3600 or OBO. For Sale 2002 Ford Mustang. Asking Price $1300 (Negotiable). 20 Old salt. 21 Bass and others. 22 Like yesterday's newspaper. 23 Blew up. 24 Friend. 25 Bondsman promise. 26 Likewise. 27 Vegetable mold. 28 Tortilla accompaniment. 29 Dead-end street. 30 Loser's denial, at times. 31 Confuse. 32 Precedes Falls & Rapids. 33 Coat material. 34 Found in a doctor's office. 35 Work of Keats. 36 A maneuver. 37 Payload. 38 Roger, TV anchor. 39 Philosophy. 40 Recipient of 34 Down. 41 Woody's co-worker. 42 Freight train followers. 43 Jesse James or Robin Hood. 44 After dinner favorite. 45 Narc's target. 46 Communion plate. 47 Fires. 48 October stone. 49 Notre Dame feature. 50 Half a sextet. 51 DC liberal group. 52 Hamilton-Burr event. 53 Bronte, for one. 54 Market place vehicles. 55 Wall St. worker. 56 Follows pop. 57 Follows boot or hat. 58 Roger, TV anchor. 59 Jimmies. 60 Sharp. 61 Great deal. 62 Repent. 63 Man, for one. 64 Follows fish or war. 65 USA eagle, e.g. 66 Bleded. 67 Safe place. 68 Across. 69 Hideaway. 70 Mortar's companion. 71 Chills and fever. 72 23-year-old International Company that specializes in giving students a good paycheck, great resume experience and a chance for scholarships has positions available in customer sales and service with no cold calling or canvassing. The positions are flexible around calls. Conditions apply—all ages 18+. For more information you can call the local office of 256-881-9310 or you can go online on www.collegestudentwork.com. 73 Bleated. 74 After dinner favorite. 75 DU liberal group. 76 Hamilton-Burr event. 77 Half a sextet. 78 Vegetable mold. 79 DC liberal group. 80 Half a sextet. 81 Chills and fever. 82 23-year-old International Company that specializes in giving students a good paycheck, great resume experience and a chance for scholarships has positions available in customer sales and service with no cold calling or canvassing. The positions are flexible around calls. Conditions apply—all ages 18+. For more information you can call the local office of 256-881-9310 or you can go online on www.collegestudentwork.com. 83 Bleated. 84 Across.