

The Crimson White

Monday, February 20, 2012

Serving the University of Alabama since 1894

Vol. 118, Issue 90



Khristin Lee of Alabama attempts to grab a loose ball between two South Carolina defenders.

CW | Pete Pajor

Tide drops home finale

Tide misses 50 shots in loss to South Carolina

By Zac Al-Khateeb
Assistant Sports Editor
zalkhateeb@crimson.ua.edu
@ZacAlKhateeb

The Alabama women's basketball team lost its final home game of the season Sunday to the No. 25 South Carolina Gamecocks, 69-55. Alabama fell to 2-12 in the Southeastern Conference and 12-16 overall with the loss. South Carolina shot well above its 38.8

percent shooting average in the first half, connecting on 15 of 29 shots and shooting 51.7 percent. The Gamecocks also had success from beyond the arc, as they went 3-5 on 3-pointers to score 60 percent during the first half. Entering the game, South Carolina ranked 10th in the SEC in 3-point percentage, with 27.8. Entering halftime, South Carolina led 38-26. Head coach Wendell Hudson said Alabama's biggest problem in the first half was letting South Carolina control the speed of the game. "South Carolina controlled the tempo," Hudson said. "And that's what the biggest problem was. Once they got

the lead, they really did a great job of not forcing shots and turning it over." The Tide didn't fare much better in the second half, as it was only able to shoot 22.9 percent from the floor and only made two out of eight attempts on 3-pointers. The Tide finished the game going 19-69 from the floor. Still, Alabama seemed to play with more intensity in the second half, using stingy defense and numerous fast breaks to keep the game manageable. Every time Alabama made a run, however, South

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 8

Cigar lounge fills niche in Tuscaloosa

New business offers relaxing area to smoke

By Will Edwards
Staff Reporter
wgedwards@crimson.ua.edu

For Tuscaloosa aficionados and laymen alike, Reagan Starner has brought something that area cigar smokers have been waiting for – a local lounge. Owned by both Starner and his father, R&R Cigars is a family affair.

"Smoking cigars has always been a special thing for me and my dad," Starner said.

Starner had his first cigar, a cuban, in Aruba at the age of 18.

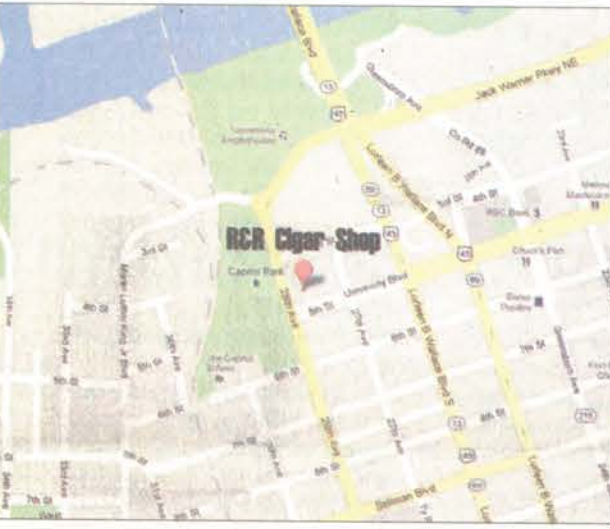
He asked his dad about smoking a cigar and said he was pleasantly surprised.

"I didn't even know my dad smoked," Starner said. "But after that, it's really something that we do."

Starner, 25, graduated law school last May but decided he didn't want to be a lawyer, after all. So, after kicking around the idea of starting a cigar shop with his father for a couple years, they got serious in October. After just three months, they opened their doors in January.

"Our success curve has been ahead of most cigar shops," Starner said. "We're really happy because

SEE LOUNGE PAGE 6



CW | Eron Szczepanski and Google Maps

Resonance raises relief

Cabaret Benefit Show will donate profit to tornado relief

By Kyle Borland
Contributing Writer

It's always been said that music has the power to heal, and the University of Alabama's Resonance Show Choir is putting on a special performance this semester to do just that.

Resonance will be hosting their first ever, one-night-only Cabaret Benefit Show tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Moody Concert Hall. Admission to the show will be \$5, and Resonance will give the profits from the show to the tornado relief foundation Alabama Forever.

"Keeli and I chose 'Crawl' by Chris Brown," said Steven Holbrook, a sophomore majoring in

IF YOU GO ...

- **What:** Resonance Show Choir Cabaret Benefit Show
- **Where:** Moody Concert Hall
- **When:** Tonight at 7:30 p.m.

journalism. "We chose it because we wanted a challenge, so we took a pop song and turned it into an acoustic ballad. We wrote the guitar and the harmonies ourselves. It turned out well. To me, Resonance is an escape. It's the one thing that allows me to leave reality for a little while

SEE RESONANCE PAGE 2

Dean drives progress

Olin has launched initiatives to benefit the College of Arts and Sciences

By Ashanka Kumari
Staff Reporter
akkumari@crimson.ua.edu

As dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Robert F. Olin oversees the administrative and academic management of the University's largest and oldest academic division with 418 faculty members and 9,000 students, said Rebecca Florence, director of relations for the College of



Dean Robert F. Olin

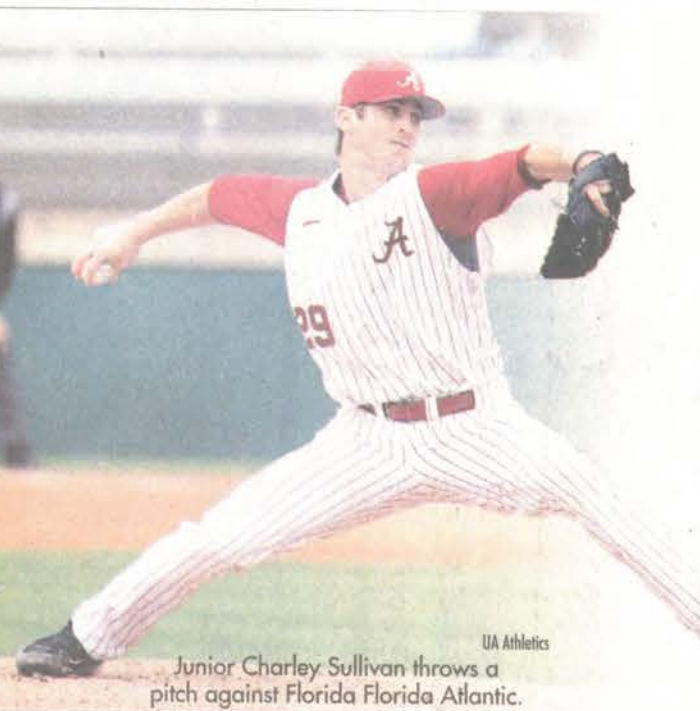
Arts and Sciences. "I thought being a dean of

a high quality liberal arts college like UA's College of Arts and Sciences would be a lot of fun and it is," Olin said. "I wanted to continue doing what I always did as a teacher – making a difference in students' lives and their learning – but on a larger scale."

Under his leadership, the College of Arts and Sciences has launched initiatives in educational technology, undergraduate learning communities, international programs for undergraduates, undergraduate research and creative activity and faculty and staff diversity, Florence said.

SEE OLIN PAGE 5

Winless weekend makes for worst Tide start in 60 years



Junior Charley Sullivan throws a pitch against Florida Atlantic.

Tide fails to produce against nonconference opponent

By Brett Hudson
Senior Sports Reporter
bbhudson@crimson.ua.edu
@Brett_Hudson

Alabama suffered an opening day loss to the Florida Atlantic Owls, 5-2, then was unable to avoid a winless first weekend, losing Saturday 9-2 then again on Sunday 9-4.

This marked the first time the Crimson Tide has been swept by a non-conference opponent since 2001 against Central Florida, and the first 0-3 start to a season since 1952. A non-conference opponent had never swept Alabama in a three-game series at home before this weekend.

"Give credit to Florida Atlantic," head coach Mitch Gaspard said. "They played

terrific all weekend and really exposed a lot of areas for us right now that we have got to get cleared up."

Gaspard said there were "too many errors at critical times," including two of them that allowed Florida Atlantic to control Sunday's game.

In the top of the second inning, a passed ball by catcher Brett Booth and a wild pitch by left-handed pitcher Justin Kamplain allowed two Owls base runners to advance to scoring position.

The Tide then saw third baseman AJ Cole commit a fielding error and Cameron Carlisle commit a throwing error on the same play, allowing the two Florida Atlantic base runners to score and batter Mike Albaladejo to move to second.

"We have to clean up our defense a little bit," senior centerfielder Taylor Dugas said. "Errors will make you lose a game in a heartbeat."

With Alabama down 5-1 in the bottom of the fifth inning, the hopes for a comeback started to rise after junior second

baseman Kenny Roberts blasted an inside fastball for a three-run home run to left field, batting in Ben Moore and James Tullledge.

"It felt great," Roberts said. "At the end of the day, I'm still upset that we got swept. But, for that moment, I had a feeling we were going to pull through. It excited my teammates and me. I felt like we were going to pull through."

The hope was still alive after a scoreless sixth inning until lightning struck twice against the Tide.

Alabama saw FAU senior right fielder Alex Hudak hit two home runs on Sunday, one in the top of the first to enable the Owls to take an early 2-0 lead, then a three-run home run in the top of the eighth inning that gave Florida Atlantic the 9-4 lead that would stay for the remainder of the game.

Hudak ended the series with six hits and seven runs batted in on twelve at-bats and ended the series without an error.

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 8