

# UAH Basketball season has begun

By Taylor Reed  
Staff Writer

The long wait is over and the highly anticipated UAHuntsville Basketball season is once again upon us.

This year both the men's and women's teams have high hopes for the season as they are looking forward to making a run for not only the GSC Conference title, but for the National Title as well.

The women's team had a tough regular season last year as they finished 16-17 mainly due to a record of 4-10 away from Spragins. Six of those losses came from one streak of away games. The Lady Chargers knew their potential, but that was hidden from the rest of the conference until the conference tournament. The women from Huntsville unleashed an explosive offense and pressure defense that caught every team in the tournament off guard. UAH won the GSC and advanced to the NCAA tournament where they advanced to the second round of the tournament.

Last year's season for the men was one for the history books as well, as the Chargers were the first Division 2 team to ever be invited to the NIT Tip-Off tournament. In



Photo: UAH Sports Department

front of a skeptical crowd, the little team from Alabama did not just hang in there with the big boys, but they actually won the first game of the NIT defeating Division 1 North Texas. The men finished last year 25-6 as regular season champions, making it into the NCAA tournament where they won the first two games.

Although both teams had great seasons last year, each year brings its new challenges and for the men, this is a year many people believed to be a "rebuilding year." The first game of the season against Vanderbilt however, proved that the No. 19 ranked team in the country is far from simply rebuilding. The

Chargers traveled into a powerful SEC atmosphere where they squared up head to head against the Division 1 powerhouse and gave them a good scare. UAH lost by a mere two baskets and even outscored the home team in the second half. The women traveled to Middle Tennessee State for their Division

1 Challenge. The Lady Chargers gave the Blue Raiders more than they wanted as they finished the game 60-77. The Lady Chargers' defense proved strong as MTSU had averaged 112 points against the Chargers the past three seasons. UAH kept a close game despite many turnovers, which Coach

Heintz will definitely minimize before the Chargers hit the hardwood against Division 2. Both the men and women have proven that they can compete with their Division 1 challengers, so Charger fans, be sure to come out and support the Chargers in Division 2 this year as both teams look to win it all.

## Student Spotlight: Travis Cram

By Melissa Berry  
Staff Writer

Husband, father, Army veteran and now UAHuntsville College of Business student Travis Cram says, "UAH makes it so that every student – especially veterans – have the resources to succeed." Cram would have never imagined going to college at UAH and settling down with a family in Huntsville, Ala., but he is here and he is thankful that the Army brought him here.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Cram attended Utah Valley University after graduating from high school. His mother was assisting with tuition while he worked full-time and attended classes. He realized after one semester, that he needed to do "something else," so he decided to join the Army.

Cram had never been east of Utah, but that changed when the Army sent him to Fort Benning, Ga., for boot camp. After boot camp, he



Photo: Travis Cram

decided on Special Forces and was sent to Fort Bragg, N.C. A few weeks in, Cram decided he did not want to pursue Special Forces, so instead he trained in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in Huntsville, Ala., where he met his wife. The army describes its EOD personnel as "warriors who are properly trained, equipped and integrated to attack, defeat and ex-

plot unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and weapons of mass destruction."

After training in Huntsville, Cram reported for infantry duty at Fort Campbell, Ky., and continued to commute back and forth to Huntsville to see his wife. Within six months of being

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## Huntsville ranked as technological hotspot

By Claudia Mesnil-Baez  
Staff Writer

An analysis by Michael Mendel from the Progressive Policy Institute found that Madison County, which includes Huntsville, is No.3 in the nation in high tech and information job growth.

Some that have lived or visited, or really understand the different "forces at work" in Huntsville, Ala., were not surprised by this analysis. Others however, were truly surprised to see that there was actual growth in Huntsville rather than just a few government contracts and a few missile defense companies at work.

Usually studies and analyses conducted to measure job growth and growth in the technology sector are conducted to compare, contrast and rank large metro areas and cities of the U.S. Mendel's latest analysis, which looks at the growth by county, found surprising growth in areas with popula-

tions as low as 300,000. These areas, which had not been evaluated closely before, show surprising numbers and raised questions about what really matters in the high tech industry.

Some articles, such as that of The Atlantic Cities, regard Huntsville as a familiar tech hub. But the article also emphasized that this latest metric by Mendel analyzes all numbers in a broader definition of the "tech/information" sector. His analysis took into account the employment created around tech positions and new and emerging digital and IT (information technologies) jobs inside companies. He also included government positions that are part of more traditional industries. These include news, publishing and telecommunications.

The data looked at the numbers from 2007 to 2012. Madison County and Orleans Parish County were the only sectors of the southeast to project this kind

of significant growth in employment, while San Francisco County topped the list and the rest of the sectors are mostly along eastern states.

This seems to build a positive reputation for Huntsville and it enhances and adds to the already existing reputation of a town of engineers. The numbers showed a 25.7 percent growth of high tech jobs, but a -5.6 percent growth of non-tech/info private jobs. With these results and a lack of further analysis of the growth in Huntsville specifically it is easy to begin making assumptions about the reason for the negative growth and the effects of it. Orleans County in comparison had a 7.9 percent growth in the non-tech/info private jobs. This can only show that Huntsville's greatest strength of attracting info tech professionals and expanding in this sector may be a weakness

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# UA sorority scandal: Moving forward or falling behind

By Ashley Cain  
Staff Writer

Following a tumultuous Fall Rush season, the Greek system at the University of Alabama is looking forward to a fresh start.

This semester the UA Greek system has endured scrutiny and criticism from students, faculty, fans, national chapter headquarters and major media outlets following allegations of discrimination during the Fall 2013 Rush week. The denial of two African-American female students into any traditionally Caucasian sororities sparked controversy throughout the country and caused the protest of hundreds of UA students against segregation in the Greek system. However, as the University of Alabama sorority scandal edges out of the limelight, many are wondering what changes will be made to prevent further acts of discrimination.

University of Alabama President Judy Bonner has released several statements criticizing the practice of discrimination in the UA Greek system (Bonner confirmed the presence of discriminatory practices in a video earlier this Fall) and emphasizing that the Univer-

sity of Alabama is working with the Greek system to eliminate any discriminatory practices. Despite these fervent statements by Bonner, the outlined consequences for these practices have been extremely vague; though Bonner has claimed the consequences are “going to be systemic change” and will not be solely a “Bandaid” on the issue. So far Bonner has mandated the practice of continuous open bidding at the University of Alabama, a practice which allows sororities and fraternities to extend invitations for membership throughout the year rather than solely during rush periods. Additionally, the University of Alabama PanHellenic Council held a vote to increase the sizes of Greek chapters on campus, leading to an increased number of 360 members per chapter.

With increased numbers for chapter membership and the presence of university-directed continuous open bidding, the University of Alabama is hoping to speed up the integration process of its’ Greek system. But one question remains, what role will Greek Alumnae and Chapter advisors play in the membership selection process? When the discrimination allegations

first arose, the Crimson White, UA’s student run newspaper, reported allegations of Greek alumnae attempting to dissuade the admission of African-American recruits with threats that they would withhold funding from chapters, as well as the interference of chapter advisors in the membership selection process. The University of Alabama and President Bonner have not released a statement commenting on what role advisors and alumnae would play in the bid process.

Despite what looks to be promising, affirmative action toward the integration of the University of Alabama’s Greek system, many are left with questions about the details of the integration process. University of Alabama President Judy Bonner and members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama continue to provide the public with vague statements regarding what consequences the Greek system will face and the new practices that will be put into place to prevent further discrimination in the UA Greek system. As the process of integration continues to move forward, only time will tell what successes and pitfalls the University of Alabama will face.

# Warhol art missing from Texas museum

By Maria Recio  
MCT

WASHINGTON — Farrah Fawcett, iconic beauty. Ryan O’Neal, leading man. Andy Warhol, enfant terrible. What could be missing from this 1970s soap opera?

It turns out that a very valuable Warhol painting of Fawcett allegedly is missing — and very much at the center of a tabloid-frenzied drama involving all three, even though Fawcett and Warhol are deceased.

Who owns the 1980 portrait of Fawcett by Warhol, done in his signature silk-screen pop art style, showing her with bright green eyes, eye makeup and red, red lips? O’Neal, her partner for many years, has it and says it’s his, but no less than the University of Texas Board of Regents is suing him, saying it’s missing from her bequest to her alma mater.

The drama will play out in Los Angeles Superior Court starting Wednesday, in a two-week trial with an all-star cast, including O’Neal; his son with Fawcett, Redmond O’Neal; celebrity Alana Stewart; and Fawcett’s fellow “Charlie’s Angel” Jaclyn Smith on the witness list.

To ramp up the voltage, O’Neal has a celebrity attorney, Martin Singer, described by The New York Times as “guard dog to the stars.” Fawcett died of cancer in 2009 at age 62. She left all her artworks in her living trust to the University of Texas at Austin, where she studied before going to Hollywood in 1968 to become a model and actress.

But unbeknown to the university, a painting was missing. To the school’s surprise, it discovered there was not one Warhol painting of Fawcett, but two — the artist had painted nearly identical portraits at the same time — and they’d been in her Los Angeles home. The tipster was Fawcett’s secret Texas boyfriend. Only one of the “twin” portraits made it to Austin with her extensive art collection, where it’s on display at the university’s Blanton Museum of Art.

After the school did some sleuthing, even hiring a private detective, officials had their suspicions confirmed: O’Neal had the portrait. In a twist worthy of Hollywood, the missing Warhol painting appeared in a short-lived 2011 reality show, “Ryan and Tatum: The O’Neals” about the “Love Story” star and his daughter, that showed



This Andy Warhol portrait of Farrah Fawcett is missing from the University of Texas. (Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin/MCT)

the Warhol hanging in Ryan O’Neal’s Malibu home.

The Texas university system promptly sued, and O’Neal countersued.

O’Neal said that one of the portraits was his from the start — one painting for him, one for Fawcett — and Warhol was his friend, whom he’d introduced to Fawcett. He also wanted back another Warhol, a sketch of split hearts the artist had scrawled on a cloth napkin with ink when they were all at a dinner, inscribed to Fawcett and O’Neal and signed by Warhol. The “Warhol napkin” is in the hands of the University of Texas.

The core issue in the case, which will go to a jury, is who owned the portrait: Fawcett or O’Neal.

## Calendar of Events

By Eryn Johnson  
Staff Writer

### Friday, November 15

Spring Registration for classes (through 11/22)  
9 AM – Art & Art History @ Salmon Library Gallery (through 12/6)  
11 AM – Week of Fundraising @ Terranova's Italian Restaurant (through 11/17)  
11 AM – Dance, Dance, Dance! @ The Slab  
7 PM – Hockey vs. St. Cloud State @ VBC  
7 PM – VB vs. Lee University @ Spragins Hall  
7:30 PM – UAH Theater: All My Sons by Arthur Miller @ Wilson Hall Theater

### Saturday, November 16

2 PM – VB vs. Shorter @ Spragins Hall  
7 PM – Hockey vs. St. Cloud State @ VBC  
7:30 PM – UAH Theater: All My Sons by Arthur Miller @ Wilson Hall Theater  
Sunday, November 17  
7:30 PM – UAH Theater: All My Sons by Arthur Miller @ Wilson Hall Theater

### Monday, November 18

4:30 PM – Annual Harvest Dinner @ Baptist Student Center

### Tuesday, November 19

7 PM – Stella's Voice @ UC 026 Gameroom

### Wednesday, November 20

10 AM – Holiday Art Show and Sale @ Salmon Library Gallery (through 11/22)  
5:30 PM – WBB vs. Trevecca Nazarene @ Spragins Hall  
7 PM – MBB vs. Trevecca Nazarene @ Spragins Hall  
7:30 PM – UAH Theater: All My Sons by Arthur Miller @ Wilson Hall Theater  
9 PM – ACE presents: The Evasons @ UC Exhibit Hall

### Thursday, November 21

7:30 PM – UAH Theater: All My Sons by Arthur Miller @ Wilson Hall Theater

For more information about student events visit the UAH Student Events Calendar at:  
<http://www.uah.edu/student-life/activities/events-calendar>.

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stationed in Kentucky, he was deployed to Afghanistan. One month before he left for deployment, his daughter was born, making the deployment that much more difficult.

Cram was sent to RC South Sector in the Kandahar Valley, the birthplace of Al-Qaeda for one year. “Being shot at and having explosives thrown at us was nearly a daily occurrence,” Cram says. “Luckily, we didn’t lose anyone. We were very disciplined and trained to always be on the alert. Every time we left the gate, we were ready for a firefight.”

When asked what the hardest part of being deployed was, Cram says, “Being away from my wife and daughter for a year.” He then chuckles and says, “And the mice. I’ve never seen so many mice in my life. We lived in the Afghan mud huts and when food was delivered, it would go in one room. Within a day, there’d be mice holes all over it.”

In talking with Cram, it’s obvious he still holds the military close to his heart. He says, “I

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because it may affect the cities well-roundedness.

It is still a surprising fact, especially for natives of Huntsville to understand the magnitude of the fact of being third in this “ranking.” This may contribute to later growth in jobs of other sectors.

In the future, this may really help Huntsville’s universities and their tech programs, as well as help attract students and business investors from the southeast. Becoming a tech magnet, or keeping its tech reputation and growing this job market, will help Huntsville’s commerce and its economic growth in general.



# Alabama surges past LSU

By Derek Williamson  
Staff Writer

The latest obstacle in No. 1 Alabama's road to the national championship came in Week 11 against No. 13 LSU. The two titans of the SEC exchanged punches early, but the Crimson Tide struck the final crushing blows that pushed Bama to victory. With the game tied at 17 early in the third quarter, Bama scored the final 21 points of the game to secure the 38-17 win.

Bama out-gained LSU 372-284 in total yards. The main difference in the game was on the ground, where the Tide out-rushed the Tigers 193-43. The Tide played a physical second half, gaining more yards

after contact than LSU had total rushing yards on designed runs. It was the first time this season LSU was held to less than 100 yards on designed run plays.

Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron finished the night with 14 of 20 passes completed for 179 yards and three touchdowns. With the performance, McCarron passed John Parker Wilson for the most career passing yards in Alabama history. Running back T.J. Yeldon led the Tide's rushing attack with 25 carries for 133 yards and two touchdowns.

LSU drops to No. 21 in BCS standings with the loss. Alabama sits squarely atop the rankings with three games remaining in the schedule.



Photo: MCT Campus



Photo: MCT Campus

# Saints top Cowboys in historic performance

By Derek Williamson  
Staff Writer

In the Sunday night NFL action for Week 10, the Saints thrashed the Cowboys by a score of 49-17. The Saints demonstrated just how dangerous their offense can be, and their defense frustrated the Cowboys all night. The Saints victory also involved some historic performances.

The Saints accumulated 40 first downs for the game, setting a new NFL record. The previous record of 39 first downs was set by the Jets in 1988. Saints quarterback Drew Brees completed a career-high 19 straight passes, tying his personal best and franchise record. The consecutive completions were five short of the NFL record. The 625 total yards allowed by

the Cowboys set the franchise record. The previous record was the 623 yards given up to the Lions in Week 8 of this season.

Drew Brees spread the ball around well, completing 34 of 41 passes for 392 yards and touchdown passes to four different receivers. Wide receivers Kenny Stills and Marques Colston caught touchdowns of 52 yards and 22 yards,

respectively. Brees' other touchdown passes were to running backs Darren Sproles and Pierre Thomas. Yet the air attack was only part of the offensive dominance of the Saints. Running back Mark Ingram finished the game with 145 yards and a touchdown on 14 carries. Pierre Thomas had 17 carries for 87 yards and a touchdown.

# Florida State handles Miami, reclaims No. 2 spot



Photo: MCT Campus

By Derek Williamson  
Staff Writer

The big game for Week 10 of college football had No. 7 Miami against No. 3 Florida State. The ACC rivals both came into the matchup undefeated, with sights set on championship contention.

The Seminoles came out strong, orchestrating a 13-play, 72-yard drive capped off by a Devonta Freeman 5-yard touchdown run. Miami answered by moving the ball to the FSU 27-yard line, where they attempted a 44-yard field goal that went wide left. Later in the quarter, Seminoles quarterback Jameis Winston was picked off by Hurricanes safety Deon Bush. Five plays later, Miami got on the board with a 33-yard touch-

down pass from Stephen Morris to Allen Hurns. On the next possession, FSU went up 14-7 after a 1-yard touchdown run by James Wilder Jr. Later in the second quarter, Freeman took a screen pass from Winston 48 yards for the score to put the Noles up 21-7. After a Miami three-and-out, FSU stood poised to take a 21-point lead, but Winston was picked off by Rayshawn Jenkins near midfield. Eight plays later, Morris found Hurns again on a 14-yard touchdown pass, sending the game into halftime with the Seminoles only up 21-14. The score held until midway through the third quarter, when a skirmish broke out that resulted in offsetting personal fouls. Florida State went on a 20-0 run, shutting down Miami in the second half

and securing a 41-14 victory.

The Seminoles outgained the Hurricanes in total yards 517-275. Jameis Winston led FSU, finishing the game with 21 of 29 passes completed for 325 yards, one touchdown, and two interceptions. Winston had only thrown four interceptions in the first seven games of the season. Despite the picks, Winston showed composure and remains a top Heisman candidate. Miami lost leading rusher Duke Johnson to leg injury after he had gained 97 yards on 23 carries. Reports suggest a broken ankle is the issue, which will put Johnson out for the remainder of the season. Florida State jumps Oregon for the No. 2 spot in the BCS, while Miami drops to No. 11.

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FLORIDA at SOUTH CAROLINA	7:00 pm
ALABAMA at MISSISSIPPI STATE	7:45 pm



# The Charger Gourmande: Viet Huong

By Mimi Brasseur  
Staff Writer

Before I try any new restaurant, I like to research and read customer reviews and ratings on various websites. One particular restaurant that sparked my interest was a little place called Viet Huong on Old Monrovia Road which scored a 95 percent from 441 votes on UrbanSpoon.com. With a recommendation score that high and with that many votes, I figured this had to be a great place to critique, and ladies and gentleman I have found another gem

in Huntsville. My guest and I arrived at the Vietnamese restaurant around noon on a Tuesday. It was easy to find, fit snugly between Alexander's Martial Arts to the left and Sun Café to the right. As soon as I entered, the smell of broth, herbs and spices hit me. I wanted to try everything. The dishes were beautifully composed with the white from either the rice or the noodles as the canvas and the vegetables, meats, and herbs as the colors creating simple and seemingly delicious art.

The waitress sat us quickly despite the large number of customers. The restaurant was not very big; perhaps the size of a typical classroom, but it looked as if 75 people could easily dine there at once. There were plants and large paintings of Vietnam, giving the room a simple, yet elegant, feel. As the waitress seated me and my guest, she handed us a menu full of different Vietnamese dishes. The dishes were organized by category such as soups, noodles, rice or vegetarian. The prices were reasonably

low, making my decision very difficult. In the end I ordered a vegetarian noodle soup called ph (pronounced pha) along with Vietnamese spring rolls. My guest ordered rice vermicelli with char-broiled pork. It took around two minutes for the spring rolls to come to our table, and I was pleasantly surprised by how much flavor was packed into this rice paper roll. The mint and cilantro tasted as though they were just plucked from a garden. The noodles and rice wrapping were perfectly prepared, and I enjoyed

the blend of flavors between the shrimp and pork. After eating one, I felt I had tasted the essence of Vietnam. And it wasn't over. My steaming soup arrived in 10 minutes with bean sprouts, jalapeño and cilantro on the side and my guest's dish was accompanied by ground peanuts and a fish sauce. Both dishes were gorgeous with the vegetables and meats displayed around the bowl, partially hiding the noodles underneath. The smell of the broth in my soup was warming, and every sip intensified the sensation.

The vegetables on both of our dishes were raw and crunchy, even though mine had been sitting in a hot broth. My guest's pork smelled and tasted like Asian barbeque and had a surprising crunch to it as well. What was supposed to be a quick lunch turned into a three hour meal, and I enjoyed every minute of it. Many people I have spoken to about this delicious little spot have no idea it exists. Hopefully, now I have raised local consciousness about this highly-recommended, hidden gem of Huntsville.

## Review: Sullivan's Travels (1942)

By Megan Roman  
Staff Writer

D: Preston Sturges. Joel McCrea, Veronica Lake, Robert Warwick, William Demerest, Margaret Hayes, Porter Hall, Eric Blare. 91 min. Tired of making such lightweight fare as “Hey, Hey in the Hayloft” or “Ants in your Pants” of 1939, director John L. Sullivan decided to do a serious film. In his words, “a picture of dignity, a true canvas of the suffering of humanity.” To research this project, titled “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” (sound familiar?) Sullivan set out with 10 dollars in his pocket and embarked cross-country dressed up as a hobo to learn about the plights of the poor. Unfortunately his studio sent out an entourage to follow him and Sullivan

soon found himself back in Hollywood, where he met a gorgeous actress. The girl sets off with him, but once again, nothing goes smoothly. Poor Sully loses consciousness after a robbery and is sentenced to work on a chain gang under a malicious jail warden. Truly downtrodden, the director discovered his true ambition: “There’s a lot to be said for making people laugh. Did you know that’s all some people have? It isn’t much but it’s better than nothing in this cockeyed caravan.” Verbal wit and visual gags blend pleasantly in this landmark Hollywood satire, which will never lose its relevance thanks to its balance of nonsense and sorrow. By the way, the Coen brothers admired this classic so much they ended up making the drama Sully set out to make 60 years later.



Photo: Charger Times Staff

## Rogue Ales: Part 1

By David Vail  
Staff Writer

Rogue Ales is a craft brewery founded in 1988 in Ashland, Oregon and is now one of the most popular craft breweries around. They are known for producing many different styles of beer and have historically used many local, organic ingredients in their recipes. Rogue has also worked closely with local restaurants and chefs to produce ales that pair well with specific foods. They are true experts of the craft and have won numerous awards over

the years. These are a few of their more popular offerings. Dead Guy Ale: This might be Rogue's most popular beer. It's a maibock style ale. It pours a clear amber color and has an alcohol by volume rating of 6.5 percent. Dead Guy has a good bit of malty sweetness and sort of a sour dough bread aroma. The taste is also a little bready, but yields some mild citrus and well-rounded malty sweet notes. It's pretty balanced and has a good bite. Overall, Dead Guy is a fairly unique beer and definitely worth a try. Luckily it's

also fairly easy to find. Hazelnut Brown Nectar: This one is an American brown ale, has an ABV of 6.2 percent, and of course is a rich brown color. The aroma is sweet, malty, nutty and even a little chocolatey. The taste also pretty strongly reflects the title. It's definitely nutty, and the malty sweetness is almost like some kind of synthesized nectar, consisting of hazelnut, caramel, chocolate, vanilla and an earthy, dry bite that cleans up nicely. I said Dead Guy was unique; well, this beer's an enigma.

## Redbox's Top 10 DVD rentals

(MCT) These were the Top 10 DVD rentals at Redbox kiosks from Oct. 28-Nov. 3:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. <i>The Croods</i> _ DreamWorks    | 6. <i>Now You See Me</i> _ Summit             |
| 2. <i>After Earth</i> _ Sony         | 7. <i>Iron Man 3</i> _ BVHE                   |
| 3. <i>Monsters University</i> _ BVHE | 8. <i>Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain</i> _ Summit |
| 4. <i>This Is The End</i> _ Sony     | 9. <i>The Great Gatsby</i> _ Warner           |
| 5. <i>World War Z</i> _ Paramount    | 10. <i>The Frozen Ground</i> _ Lionsgate      |

## New music this week

By Evan Sawdey  
PopMatters.com (MCT)



**Lady Gaga \_ “Artpop”**  
Inevitably, we all knew this day would come. There would come a moment when Lady Gaga’s intellect would get the best of her, and in following her desire to create capital-A “Art” within the confines of the four-minute pop song, she’d get lost inside her own universe, crafting a world that only she could see, leaving her audience out in the cold. Tragically, this time has come, and it takes the form of a very confused album called “Artpop.”

By Matthew Fiander  
PopMatters.com (MCT)



**Throwing Muses \_ “Purgatory/Paradise”**  
Reunions and comebacks are strange things. They can feel like cashgrabs, like new bursts of inspiration, like flat repetitions of what came before. Hearing the first album in 10 years from Throwing Muses, a listener might be inclined to try and peg “Purgatory / Paradise” with one of those too-easy labels, especially because it feels like it’s been way longer than a decade since Kristin Hersh and company gave us new tunes. And it should feel like a return, a reunion, because it also comes on the heels of 2011’s two-disc “Anthology.”

**Other notable releases this week:**

The Beatles \_ “On Air \_ Live at the BBC Volume 2”

Erasure \_ “Snow Globe”

John Hiatt \_ “Here to Stay \_ Best of 2000-2012”

Keane \_ “Best of Keane”

Less Than Jake \_ “See the Light”

Obliteration \_ “Black Death Horizon”

Kellie Pickler \_ “Woman I Am”

Wooden Shjips \_ “Back to Land”



# Marvel’s “Thor: The Dark World”

By Paul Sorrells  
Staff Writer

Thor: The Dark World is the latest instal-lation in the Marvel Cin-ematic Universe, an up and down series of movies that has oscillated between the near brilliant (The Avengers) to the abysmal (Iron Man 3). Thor: The Dark World is one of the better entries in Marvel’s canon, channeling a charismatic cast and outstanding spe-cial effects into arguably the most enjoyable solo Marvel film since the origi-nal Iron Man.

In an opening scene, a brief history of the conflict between Asgard and a race known as the Dark Elves is given. Thousands of years before, the Elf leader Male-kith tried to use an ancient weapon known as the Aether to destroy the universe, although exactly why he wants to do this is never adequately explained. Bor, the father of Odin and the grandfather of Thor, man-ages to lead a victorious battle against the Dark Elves, although unable to destroy the Aether, hides it in a distant part of the Galaxy. Malekith manages to escape the destruction of his army with a single ship, vows vengeance on Asgard and goes into hiding.

The plot Dark World picks up about a year after The Avengers, as Thor is finishing up a long cam-paign to bring peace to the nine realms in the wake of Loki’s destruction of Jotun-heim. Loki has been sen-tenced to rot in Asgard’s jails for the rest of his life, saved from execution only by the efforts of his adopt-ed mother. On Earth, Jane Foster has tried to move on with her life after Thor has gone two years without re-turning, while Erik Selvig’s exposure to Loki’s mind control powers has driven him to near insanity. Male-kith is reawakened after eons spent in suspended animation by the upcoming “convergence”, a brief pe-riod of time where the nine realms overlap, which sig-nals that it is time for him to finish what he started.



Chris Hemsworth in “Thor: The Dark World.” (Courtesy Marvel Studios/MCT)

Malekith’s plan sends As-gard reeling to the extent that Thor has to break Loki out of prison in order save the nine realms.

The Dark World fixes many of the flaws that have plagued Marvel’s stand-alone films so far. While plot holes are still an issue with this film, the pacing, characters, and story devel-opment are of much higher quality in The Dark World than in most of Marvel’s films so far. Thor and Loki remain much more enjoy-able to watch onscreen to-gether than Thor and Jane Foster are, but the movie wisely keeps its focus on the imminently watchable sib-ling rivalry, giving us more development while wisely leaving things unresolved for the inevitable sequels.

The Dark World really ups the ante in terms of size and scale, nearly rivaling The Avengers in those cate-gories. The special effects are some of the best of the year, building entire landscapes, civilizations, and cities con-vincingly. The highlight action scenes interestingly enough don’t take place on

Earth, as much of the mov-ie takes place on Asgard or one of the other realms. The best action scene would probably be when the Dark Elves lay siege to Asgard, as Malekith and his army, including a particularly nasty giant Elf (known as a Kursed) prove to be more than a match for even Thor to beat alone. By taking place mostly off world The Dark World has an excuse for not including the other members of The Avengers, as the only significant battle that takes place on Earth lasts for only a few minutes.

The cast is given more to work with than the last entry with veterans Anthony Hopkins and Idris Elba getting their time in the sun while Natalie Port-man is solid despite given little to do. Chris Hems-worth continues to prove himself the best actor/body-builder around, oozing char-isma and with the acting ability to take advantage. Once again though, it is Tom Hiddleston who steals the show as Loki. The only weak links in the cast

would be Kat Dennings who plays the comedic relief who is unfortunately rarely funny, and her intern un-fortunately is redundant in this regard.

The one disappointing part of The Dark World is the lack of development and originality on the part of the central villains, Malekith and The Dark Elves. After the brief in-tro, Malekith is rarely seen on screen, his motivations are murky and although Chrisopher Eccleston plays him well, he doesn’t leave enough of a mark on the film to be a memorable villain. Despite a prepon-derance of plot holes, the screenplay does a good job of keeping the film moving at a brisk pace and ensur-ing just about every char-acter has a few good mo-ments.

In short, Thor: The Dark World is far from a perfect movie, but it has the char-acters, size, humor, and ac-tion scenes to make it one of the better Marvel stand-alone films, and a very watchable piece of enter-tainment.

## U.S. releases emergency funds to aid typhoon victims



A resident sits on debris in typhoon-hit Leyte Province, Nov. 12, 2013. The United Nations said it had released \$25 million in emergency funds to pay for emergency shelter materials and household items, and for assistance with the provision of emergency health services, safe water supplies and sanitation facilities. It’s launching an appeal for more aid. (Lui Siu Wai/Xinhua/Zuma Press/MCT)



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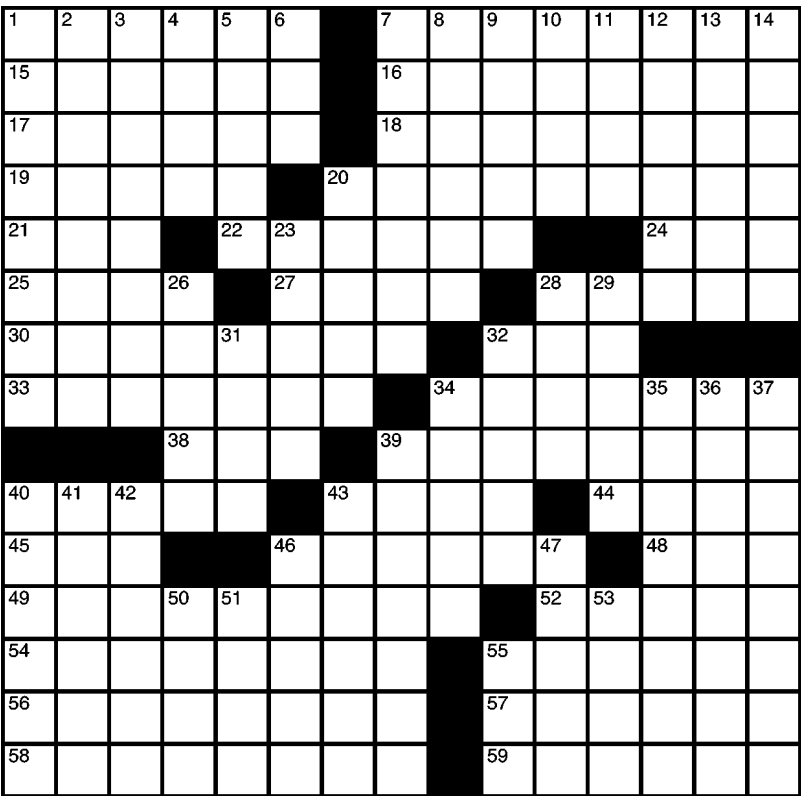
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Home to Iran's Iron Age Museum
- 7 Like some closet findings?
- 15 Time's 1986 Woman of the Year
- 16 Float, in a way
- 17 Mix up
- 18 The Joker or The Penguin
- 19 Steep-angle shot
- 20 Kuala Lumpur native
- 21 Sailor's direction
- 22 Hero who first appeared in 1912
- 24 Needle point?
- 25 Hustles
- 27 Card, e.g.
- 28 Shorten, maybe
- 30 Jellyfish relatives
- 32 Year in Nero's reign
- 33 University of Wyoming city
- 34 Guatemalan currency, or the colorful bird it's named for
- 38 Capital of 35-Down
- 39 Ratatouille ingredient
- 40 Quaker in the woods
- 43 Next in line
- 44 Revival figs.
- 45 STARZ competitor
- 46 Tapped trees
- 48 Risk
- 49 Waits
- 52 Bit of wisdom
- 54 How World Series winners celebrate
- 55 Jazz pianist Hancock
- 56 Not anymore
- 57 Like some biblical borders
- 58 Play areas
- 59 Directs



By Barry C. Silk

10/12/13

- DOWN**
- 1 Monument on the Yamuna River
- 2 Maker of FlavorSplash beverages
- 3 Piece of crummy advice
- 4 Kids
- 5 Sound, maybe
- 6 Ballet-dancing Muppet
- 7 Lowlifes
- 8 Defensive fiber
- 9 2-Down alternative
- 10 Water
- 11 LAX listings
- 12 One seeking the way?
- 13 Not tense
- 14 "Camelot" lyricist
- 20 1957 R&B chart-topper inspired by a schoolteacher
- 23 Hall of fame
- 26 Urban air problem
- 28 Paris preposition
- 29 Graceful

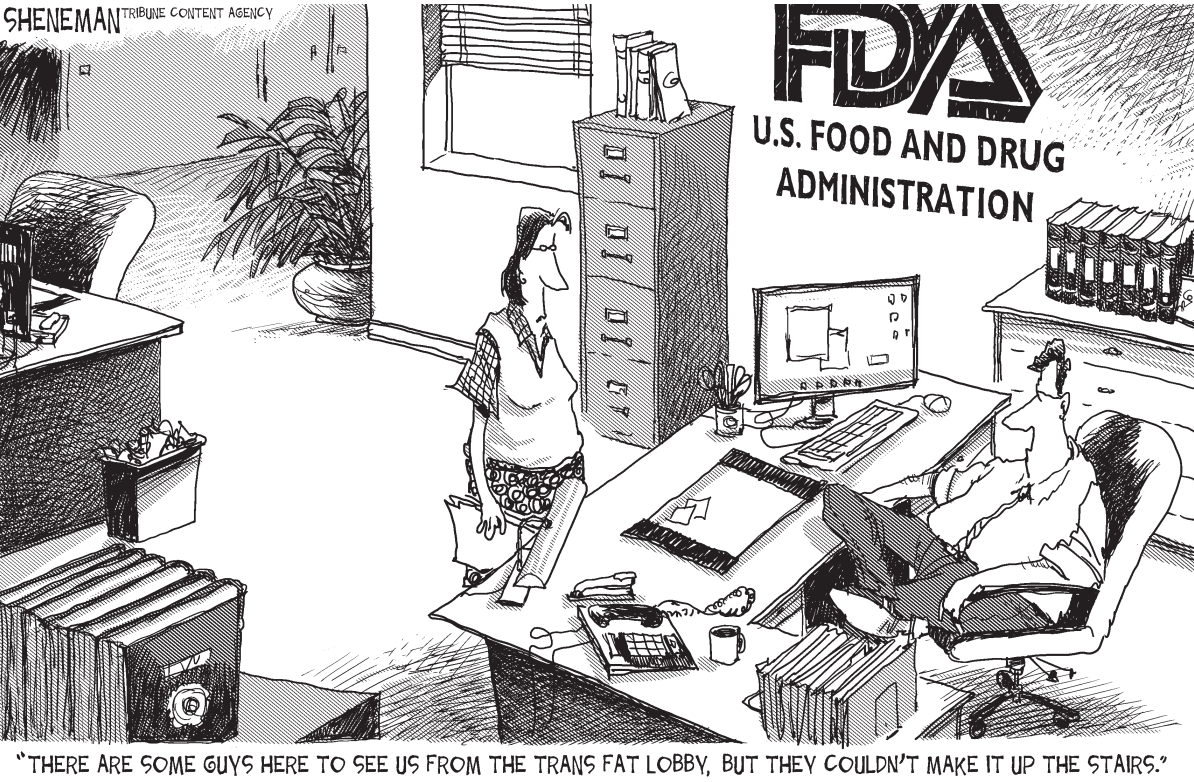
Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	W		A	H	A	B		J	O	D	I	E
E	R	A	S		N	E	R	O		U	M	A	S
N	A	S	H		N	A	C	L		J	A	R	T
A	T	T	I	L	A	T	H	E		H	U	N	K
M	E	E	S	E		R	E	B		H	E	S	
				H	A	V	E	S	O	M	E	F	U
				H	A	T		D	E	B	T		S
				A	L	E	G		T	B	O	N	E
				J	O	A	N	I		L	A	M	E
				J	U	M	P	S		T	H	E	G
				I	S	P		H	U	A		G	E
								H	A	M	B	U	R
								F	L	O	R	A	
								T	I	T	L	E	
								S	P	O	O	L	

- 31 It might be a warning
- 32 Money
- 34 Bee output
- 35 Hwange National Park setting
- 36 Preceding
- 37 Dragging
- 39 Gentle breezes
- 40 Agreement
- 41 1862 battle site
- 42 Distillery waste
- 43 1980s middleweight champ
- 46 One in a humming swarm
- 47 Beat
- 50 Column-lined walkway
- 51 Fair sight
- 53 Deco pseudonym
- 55 Presley's "\_\_\_ Latest Flame"

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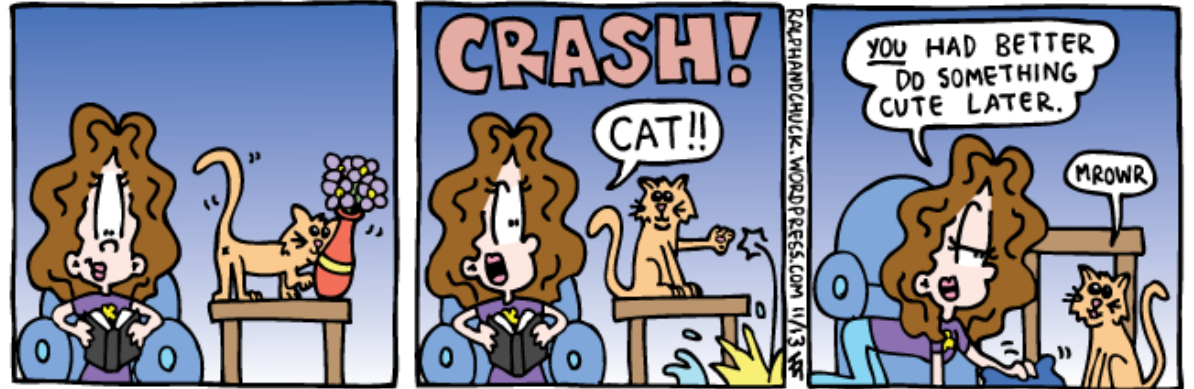
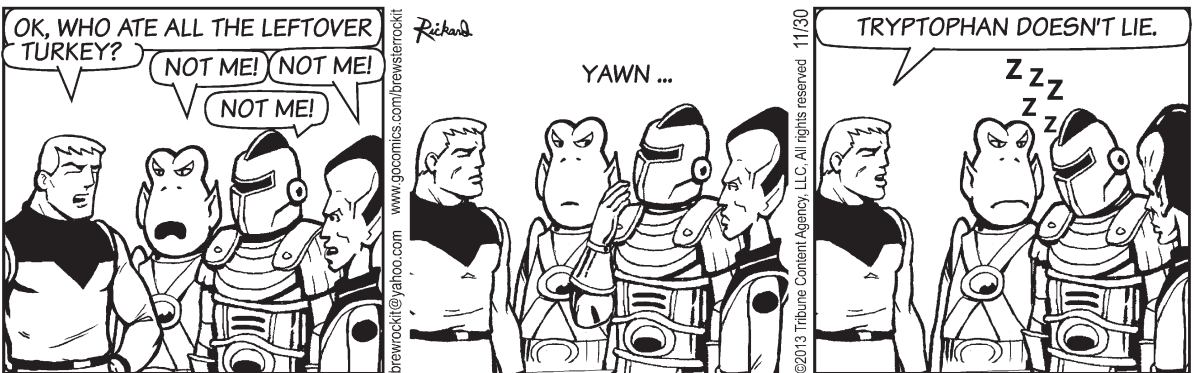
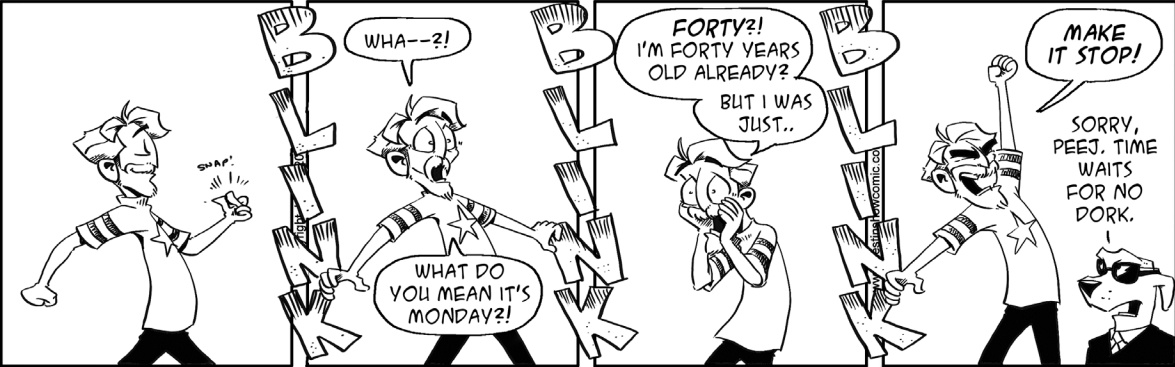
10/12/13



"THERE ARE SOME GUYS HERE TO SEE US FROM THE TRANS FAT LOBBY, BUT THEY COULDN'T MAKE IT UP THE STAIRS."

Best In Show Comic

by Phil Juliano



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