

Automotive club competes in national racing week

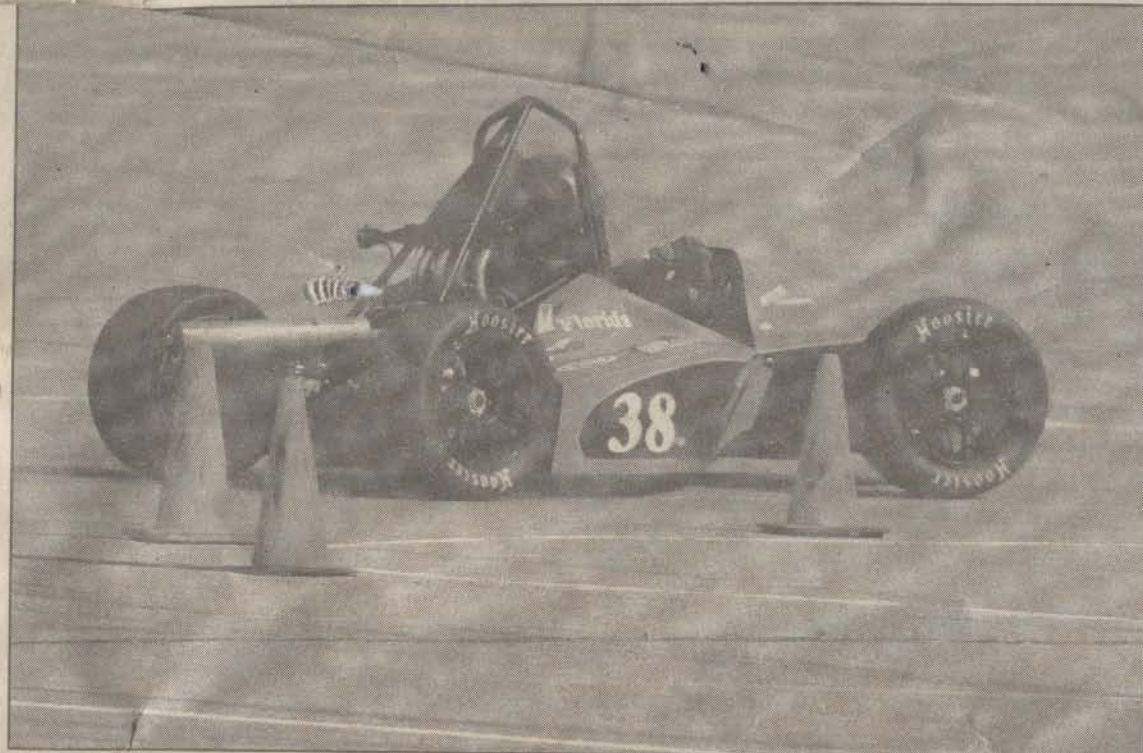
By LYNN...
Alligator Writer
llewis@alligator.org

Constructing a car to race in the world's largest collegiate engineering competition was no simple feat, said Khalil Mohmed, president of the UF Society of Automotive Engineers.

The group designed and built a car from the ground up, and despite a wreck that left them scrambling for time earlier this year, the automotive society placed 53 out of 140 competing schools in an international competition in Pontiac, Mich.

Mohmed, a 22-year-old senior, and other club members spent almost a year building their entry for this year's Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition, an annual event that judges custom-built cars on cost, design and racing abilities.

"The past three months, I don't think there's been a day when I've spent less than eight hours in the shop," Mohmed said. Seventeen members of UF's automotive society traveled to Michigan to compete, along with 139 other schools, in the Pontiac Silverdome



Colin Wheeler / Special to the Alligator

Khalil Mohmed races the UF entry during endurance events at the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition in Pontiac, Mich. last week.

last week.

There, the Gainesville group presented and raced their vehicle in this year's competition.

"Each year, we build a car from scratch for the competition," Mohmed said. "But the cars are judged on design and costs as well

as racing, so you have to justify the choices you made in building."

Three judges evaluated the car's design innovation and cost-effec-

tiveness, after which the vehicle was tested in four events to measure several automotive features, like endurance and acceleration, Mohmed said.

"Our members applied what they learned in classes to real life, and we built a car that goes from zero to 60 in 3.5 seconds and exceeds speeds of 100 miles per hour," he said.

Although Mohmed said he wasn't pleased with UF's final standing in the event, a number of unforeseen hardships hindered this year's construction process.

"We ended up 53 out of 140, which I don't think is very good, but we faced a lot of challenges," Mohmed said. "Our car got wrecked midway through the year, so we had to completely start over."

Although many group members returned to Florida after the conclusion of the competition, a few remained in Michigan to compete in this week's Saginaw Valley Grand Prix, Mohmed said.

"We want to win these events so badly," he said. "Everybody has devoted a lot of time to this, and I basically haven't had time for anything beyond working on the car — just ask my girlfriend."

Gainesville high school plays host to MTV program

UF students take advantage

By DRU ORTEGA
Alligator Contributing Writer

Producers of an MTV program showcasing high-school scandals documented the story of an Orange Park girl Sunday, using East Gainesville's Loften High School as the backdrop and UF students as extras.

MTV's "High School Stories: Scandals, Pranks and Controversies" filmed the story of Kelli Davis, 18, a Fleming

MTV, which eventually contacted her to document her story. "It's exciting," she said.

A crew of producers, production coordinators and camera operators were brought to East Gainesville to tape the episode. Production associate Ryan Willard said Loften High School was the closest school to Orange Park that would allow the documentary to be taped in its hallways and classrooms.

E-mails were sent to various student organizations about the show's taping, requesting volunteers to be extras.

UF junior Ali Gaffey was one of the extras on the set. "I just thought it'd be fun to do," she said. "And being a telecommunications major, I thought it'd be fun to see a show

"It's one of those rare occasions where you kind of just do it because the opportunity is presented to you," she said.

Extras were asked to show up to the one-day shoot at 10 a.m. for the 10-hour taping.

"I wore a tuxedo in my senior picture, and the principal, he was just like not going to allow it to be put in the yearbook because I wasn't wearing a drape and I'm a girl."

Kelli Davis

Automotive club competes in national racing week

By **LYNDSEY LEWIS**
Alligator Writer

Constructing a car to race in the world's largest collegiate engineering competition was no simple feat, said Khalil Mohmed, president of the UF Society of Automotive Engineers.

The group designed and built a car from the ground up, and despite a wreck that left them scrambling for time earlier this year, the automotive society placed 53 out of 140 competing schools in an international competition in Pontiac, Mich.



Colin Wheeler / Special to the Alligator
Khalil Mohmed races the UF entry during endurance events at the Formula SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition in Pontiac, Mich. last week.

Mohmed, a 22-year-old senior, and other club members spent almost a year building their entry for this year's Formula SAE contest, an annual event that judges custom-built cars on cost, design and racing abilities.

"The past three months, I don't think there's been a day when I've spent less than eight hours in the shop," Mohmed said.

Seventeen members of UF's automotive society traveled to Michigan to compete, along with 139 other schools, in the Pontiac Silverdome last week.

There, the Gainesville group presented and raced their vehicle in this year's competition.

"Each year, we build a car from scratch for the competition," Mohmed said. "But the cars are judged on design and costs as well as racing, so you have to justify the choices you made in building."

Three judges evaluated the car's design innovation and cost-effectiveness, after which the vehicle was tested in four events to measure several automotive features, like endurance and acceleration, Mohmed said.

"Our members applied what they learned in classes to real life, and we built a car that goes from zero to 60 in 3.5 seconds and exceeds speeds of 100 miles per hour," he said.

Although Mohmed said he wasn't pleased with UF's final standing in the event, a number of unforeseen hardships hindered this year's construction process.

"We ended up 53 out of 140, which I don't think is very good, but we faced a lot of challenges," Mohmed said. "Our car got wrecked midway through the year, so we had to completely start over."

Although many group members returned to Florida after the conclusion of the competition, a few remained in Michigan to compete in this week's Saginaw Valley Grand Prix, Mohmed said.

"We want to win these events so badly," he said. "Everybody has devoted a lot of time to this, and I basically haven't had time for anything beyond working on the car - just ask my girlfriend."