

# The Chanticleer

March 21, 1996

Jacksonville State University

Jacksonville, Alabama



INSIDE • PAGE 6

## IN THE News

### English Competency Exam Offered to Graduating Seniors

April 16, 3:00- 4:30 p.m.  
June 27, 3:00- 4:30 p.m.  
August 1, 3:00- 4:30 p.m.  
October 8, 6:00- 7:30 p.m.  
October 9, 3:00- 4:30 p.m.

### James' Plans to Cut Higher Education Even Further Foiled

Governor Fob James' plans to cut the education budget even further have been foiled by the Ways and Means Committee of the Alabama House of Representatives. And what's more, the Committee hopes to give the state's public school teachers a 4 percent raise, according to reports in The Birmingham News.

James had previously planned to cut \$60 million from the state's higher education programs and divert the money to a 3 percent raise for primary educators. The Ways and Means Committee's plan would cost the state \$80 million for pay raises, and leave the higher education budget at its present level, still down from previous years.

This development fulfills a prophecy made by JSU President Harold McGee during Higher Education Day, a March 5 rally at the statehouse by students and faculty statewide. "I think the governor's proposal has been defeated," McGee told *The Chanticleer*, "but we'll still have level planning, and level planning is still a major budget cut." Under level planning, state funding is not adjusted for inflation. According to McGee, level planning costs JSU roughly half a million dollars per year.

Rep. Bill Fuller, a Lafayette Democrat and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, says he wants to fund the plan with a 16-cent-per-pack tax on cigarettes. The plan is known in the statehouse as the "Children First" initiative.

"The Children First package of initiatives is the only new idea on the table that deserves discussion of fresh revenue," Fuller told *The News*.

James has said he would veto the tax.

## SGA Suspended

### Investigations to Begin; Minority Affairs Office Fully Funded



Minority students protest the SGA letter with a sit-in at Bibb Graves (photo by Roger Luallen).

by Benjamin Cunningham

*Chanticleer News Editor*

Demonstrators brought the attention of statewide media to the "friendliest campus in the South" this week, as minority students called for the resignation of an SGA officer and demanded the University take minority concerns more seriously. They also drew the attention of University administrators, who have agreed to make some changes in response to the protest, changes that include the suspension of the newly elected SGA for the remainder of the semester.

The dispute over comments in a letter written by SGA first vice president Matt Crandon to an opponent during campaigning last week led a group of black students on campus to stage a sit-in at Bibb Graves Hall Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

The group, led largely by Warren Carson, a graduate student serving as interim director of the new Minority Affairs Office, asked for support from University president Harold McGee in seeking Crandon's resignation. They also brought before McGee requests for a permanent position for the director of the Minority Affairs Office, rather than the wage-based part-time position now offered, as well as investigations into the SGA's involvement with Crandon and his opponent Ray Morris during the election.

In an exclusive interview with *The Chanticleer* Wednesday morning, McGee said the University intended to announce its plans to respond to the requests at a press conference that afternoon. Among those plans, McGee said, was the creation of a full-time position for the director of Minority Affairs. The decision, he said, was based on late-breaking news from Montgomery Tuesday afternoon that the Alabama House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee had dropped plans for funding cuts for higher education from the proposed budget of Gov. Fob James. The cuts would have eliminated over \$2 million from JSU's budget for the next fiscal year.

"Based on that we can now project that yes, we can create a full-time position in

**See SGA Suspended**  
*Continued on page 2*

## Students Stage Sit-In to Protest Letter

by Benjamin Cunningham

*Chanticleer News Editor*

Students upset with comments made during campaigning for last week's SGA election staged a sit-in at Bibb Graves Hall Tuesday and Wednesday, drawing statewide media attention, and sending University administrators into meetings to find ways to resolve the issues.

In question is a letter written by Matt Crandon, the incumbent candidate and winner of the first vice president's seat in last week's SGA elections. The letter was written to Ray Morris, the other candidate for the vice presidency. One sentence in particular has drawn the ire of black students: "You sold yourself out for black votes—plain and simple." The letter also mentions Morris' integrity, and Crandon writes, "I don't need the election that bad."

Crandon released a statement about the letter on Monday, admitting to having written it, and also admitting that he was wrong

in writing it. "I am not a racist," the statement says. Following Monday's SGA meeting, Crandon opened himself up to questions and comments from the student body regarding the letter, and stressed that his letter was meant to question Morris' sincerity about wanting to help minority students.

"I had a right to judge Ray [Morris] in my own mind because I know that he did not support some of the things that have come in the past," Crandon said to the crowd of around 200 following the SGA meeting. Crandon cited Morris' meetings with the African-American Association and other black groups during the election in the search for votes, saying he didn't believe Morris deserved black votes because Morris "was not a proactive supporter of AAA."

Students at the meeting were apparently

**Sit-In**

*Continued on page 3*

## CAMPUS CRIME DOCKET

- 3-11-96. Ed Hill reported trespassing on the JSU baseball field.
- 3-11-96. David L. Ayers, 70, of Jacksonville was arrested and charged with public intoxication and criminal trespassing at the JSU baseball field.
- 3-12-96. Erika Lynnore Terry reported harassment at Curtis Hall.
- 3-12-96. Brad Butler reported drinking in public at Crow Hall.
- 3-12-96. William H. Johnson, 26, of Anniston was arrested and charged with drinking in public at Crow Hall.
- 3-14-96. Nathaniel Penland reported breaking and entering of a vehicle in the parking lot of Martin Hall. Textbooks and art supplies were stolen.
- 3-14-96. Bill Hubbard reported a burglary at Houston Cole Library. \$800 was stolen.
- 3-14-96. JSU P.D. reported possession of alcohol by a minor at Pete Mathews Coliseum.
- 3-14-96. Timothy Jerrol Leach, 20, of Eastaboga, was arrested and charged with possession of alcohol by a minor.
- 3-15-96. Alissa D. Grant reported a theft of property at Fitzpatrick Hall. \$50 was stolen.
- 3-15-96. Angela Lenette Johnson reported harassing communications at Sparkman Hall.
- 3-15-96. Lakeisha M. Hawthorne reported harassing communications at Sparkman Hall.
- 3-15-96. Gary E. Gee reported theft of property at Hammond Hall.
- 3-15-96. Chad Elton Johnson, 21, of Jacksonville, was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

•The Financial Aid Office will be conducting a workshop to help students complete the 1996-97 Federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students must bring 1995 U.S. income tax returns, driver's license and social security card. The workshop is April 17 at 6:00 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Round House and will last approximately one hour. Deadline to turn in Federal Direct Loan Applications for summer 1996 is June 7, 1996. This includes May term, Summer I, Summer II and Marathons A, B, C, D and E.

## The Chanticleer

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The deadline for *Announcements and Organizations* is 12:00 p.m. Monday prior to the paper's publication on Thursday. The deadline for *Letters to the Editor* is Friday 12:00 p.m. prior to the paper's publication on Thursday. All submissions must be typed and include your name, student number and phone number. Submissions may be sent through campus mail to the Chanticleer at 180 Self Hall. Off-campus submissions should be mailed to 700 Pelham Road North; Jacksonville, AL 36265. Editorials are the opinion of the majority of the staff.

## NATION • STATE

The Chanticleer • March 21, 1996

## SGA Elections: The Results Are In

by Scott Hopkin  
*Chanticleer News Writer*

But what about the other people in the SGA election? With over six hundred and fifteen votes cast and sixty-two people running for thirty-five senate seats, and calls for a re-election of the 1st vice president's seat, this year's election is still heavily active.

With four-hundred and eighty-three votes, Bob Boyle defeated Allen Reynolds for the SGA presidency. A strong advocate for student activism, Boyle wants to increase student activity in the SGA. "The SGA is not a separate entity," he says. Boyle explains that the forty-odd people who run the meetings are not the SGA, "The whole student body is the SGA."

Boyle says he wants to be responsive to students. He cites Monday's SGA meeting as a good example of students coming out and expressing their views. "But how many will be back?" Boyle says that he wants that kind of participation regularly, as well as students volunteering to help on various SGA committees.

Amidst allegations of racism, Matt Crandon defeated Ray Morris, three-hundred eighty-one votes to two-hundred fifty-one

## SGA Suspended

*Continued from page 1*

of the situation, and come to a conclusion." A statement released by the University Wednesday morning said that a nationwide search for someone to fill the position could begin immediately, and that the University hoped to find an individual for appointment by August 1. The statement also said that the office was to be established as a "full time, permanent Office of Minority Affairs ... with appropriate budget arrangements."

He also said that the University would immediately begin the requested investigations into the actions of the SGA. "That will be done; it's underway," McGee said, adding that the investigation could involve hearings, and would include student representation. "A committee will be appointed. There will be significant student representation on the committee to determine the facts

votes.

Angel Narvaez joined the SGA in his freshman year, and has worked his way up since. Running unopposed for the office of Comptroller, Angel wants to move SGA events from a Monday to Thursday, and focus from a Wednesday to Sunday. Narvaez says he wants to do this to give students something to do on the weekends. He also says that he wants to encourage more students to stay, so JSU won't be a "suitcase college."

Narvaez also wants to increase involvement of organizations with their special months. He's suggested having a new committee to work with groups such as the International house for International Week, or the Minority Affairs for Black History Month. He also would like to get Hispanic student's suggestions for celebrating Hispanic Month this fall.

Robbie Patti ran unopposed for the position of the SGA comptroller. According to Patti, "The main thing I want to do is bring a little more organization to the Allocations Committee." "Speaking with past comptrollers," says Patti, "there are some months where you're so busy, you never think you're going to finish

of the situation, and come to a conclusion."

Jerry Harris, of the University's news bureau, phoned The Chanticleer just before press time Wednesday morning with the additional information that all SGA activities for the remainder of the semester had been postponed. The newly elected senate and executive officers were scheduled to hold their first meeting on Monday, April 1, just after spring break.

Angel Narvaez, re-elected unopposed to the second vice presidency, said he had no comment on the suspension of the SGA, and said he expected the investigations to find, "nothing ... at all. There was no cover up so there's nothing ... to find."

Other SGA officers were unavailable for comment at press time.

Regarding Crandon's resignation, McGee said that any such decision was Crandon's alone to

your work. Then there are some months where you sit there and do nothing." Patti plans on helping out the vice presidents and the president with their duties during his slow period.

Despite nearly twice the number of people running for office than seats, senator candidates were still able to cooperate. Marlene Alvarez-Medina and Marcelo Olivera, both international students, pooled resources to win their seats. Their signs contained both of their names, and whenever one would speak at a group, they'd mention the other. Both also share the same views on what they want to do in the SGA: to have events on the weekend. Alvarez-Medina says that not giving students things to do on the weekend "encourages alcoholism. They have nothing to do [except drink]". She wants to keep the gym and pool open to students during the weekends, as well as start cultural events such as dancing, music, and sports.

"The point is," says Olivera, "how can we help the students." He feels that changes don't have to be major, such as restructuring the SGA, but little things, such as more things for students to become involved with on the weekends.

An attempt to have him removed from office would have to be handled through processes provided for in the student handbook. "We believe that there is an appropriate due process procedure to be followed ... the students will be advised of that this afternoon," he said.

McGee has said, however, that he does not condone Crandon's statements in the disputed letter. "I think he's got some serious decisions to make," the president said on Tuesday.

Crandon has indicated that he has no plans to resign at this time.

The statement released Wednesday morning also said the University planned to conduct a seminar on "cultural diversity/race awareness" to include participants from outside the University.

Carson and other members of the group could not be reached for comment on the statement in time for printing.

**Sit-In***Continued from page 1*

not satisfied with Crandon's public apology. Several students called for Crandon's resignation, which was met with supportive applause from the majority of the audience.

Following the meeting, which grew more heated as students, SGA senators, and Crandon defended various points of view, students unsatisfied with Crandon's statements planned a sit-in protest at Bibb Graves Hall for Tuesday morning.

Tuesday morning, the sit-in started at 7:30. By 7:50 a.m., 65 students had gathered in the second floor hallway of Bibb Graves Hall, in front of the president's office. At 8:00 a.m., that crowd moved from the hallway into the waiting room outside the president's office, where they demanded an audience with McGee.

University president Harold McGee at first agreed to meet with just four representatives of the student protesters, but emerged from his office after the students, wanting the president to meet with the entire assembly, refused to send in representatives, chanting "All or none."

Warren Carson, interim director of the Office of Minority Affairs, and several of the assembled students who spoke up presented McGee with a list of concerns they wanted addressed, which McGee and the University responded to today.

After about 30 minutes, McGee agreed to meet with a group of the

students to decide how discussion on the concerns could continue. McGee proposed a series of focus group discussions, beginning that afternoon at 2:00, to discuss the issues at hand and how best to resolve them. The president also said that the requested investigations could begin immediately.

At 2:00 p.m., Around 15 African-American students representing different groups on campus, as well as student media and representatives of newspapers and television stations from Huntsville and Birmingham, assembled at Bibb Graves Hall again to meet with McGee. The press was denied entrance to the brief meeting, from which the student leaders emerged disappointed.

"A waste of time," was how Carson described the meeting on Tuesday. "He asked us to bring our concerns and he pretty much just went around each one of those concerns ... We're going to have to look at outside intervention to help the black students here at Jacksonville State University."

Asked what he meant by "outside intervention," Carson said that the group would seek help from "whatever agency that we can come to to deal with it." Carson also said that the group would consider filing a lawsuit to have their concerns addressed to their satisfaction. Carson and others met with an attorney that afternoon, who was reportedly advising the group on its actions during the protest.

Carson added that the group

would occupy the Bibb Graves hallway "as long as it takes," to have their concerns addressed.

McGee said on Tuesday that he also thought little was accomplished at the first focus group meeting. "Until we can begin some dialogue, it's not going to be possible to resolve the larger issues. They already made their points about their unhappiness with the election with SGA, and so that's understood and accepted. We need to move on from there to some of the other issues they want to discuss, and it's going to take a while to finish the investigation part, to see what can be done on that."

As the University offices closed for the day at 4:30 p.m., McGee and other administrators continued to meet regarding the matter at hand. Shortly after 5:30 p.m., Warren Carson suggested to the group that they disperse for the evening, and return Wednesday morning at 7:30 to see if the administration had made any progress on addressing the group's concerns. After meeting with various media, Carson and the group trickled out of the building, emptying the front hallway for the first time in nearly twelve hours.

Protesters returned as promised Wednesday morning, anxiously awaiting rumored announcements by the University.

Late Wednesday morning the University announced a press conference about the matter, and released a statement agreeing to work with the concerns raised by the protesting students.

**ORGANIZATIONS**

•**JSU's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta**, a national English honor society, cordially invites students and the public to attend a program presented by Dr. Steve Whitton, "The Gentleman from the Cane: Will the Real Davy Crockett Please Stand Up?" on Thursday, March 21 at 3:30 p.m. in Stone Center, Room 328.

•**The Writer's Club** meets every Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. on the seventh floor of the library.

•**LDSSA** (Latter-day Saint Student Association) meets every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in Bibb Graves, Room 30. For more information call Dr. Donnie Ford at 782-5242.

•**The Chanticleer** is looking for volunteer writers and photographers for the Abstract, an orientation magazine for freshman and transfer students. For more information, call 782-5701 or drop by 180 Self Hall.

•**Students** interested in applying for **Editor in Chief of The Mimosa** or **The Chanticleer** or **Program Director of WLJS-FM** must submit a resume to Joe Langston in Self Hall, Room 104 by April 5 at 4:30 p.m.

•**The Social Work Club**, a community service organization, would like to invite all students interested in helping the community to become new members. For more information contact the Social Work Office at 782-5333.

•**Tau Kappa Epsilon** is currently participating in a fundraiser for Cancer Research. Members of Tau Kappa Epsilon are selling raffle tickets for \$1 each for a gold gamecock bracelet from Griffith's Jewelers. For more information call Matthew Smith at 782-7895 or Russell Taylor at 435-1997. Tau Kappa Epsilon would like to congratulate the newest members to be initiated into the fraternity: Jason Willingham, Billy Greene, Wes Griffith, Corey Clark, Josh Harden, Kennest Meador, Mathew Shipp and Corey Morrow.

•**Karate Seminars** are held every Monday, 12:15-12:45 p.m. in Stephenson Hall, Room 205. Seminars are free of charge to JSU students, faculty and staff. Instructor Chuck Torruella will cover self-defense, kicking techniques, flexibility and physical conditioning. For more information call Recreational Sports at 782-5072.

•**The Cottaquilla Council of Girl Scouts** will honor Dr. Alice Cusimano, Dr. Kathleen Friery and SGA President Emily Hawk at the **Fifth Annual Women Committed to Excellence Awards Luncheon** on Thursday, March 21 at 12:00 p.m. at the Anniston City Meeting Center. Ticket information may be obtained by calling Dianna Simmons at 237-2825.

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## ISSUE OF THE WEEK

### We're Not Just Rats in a Cage

Every local news agency worth its salt was here this week. Channel 40, Channel 13, the Birmingham News, and even your friendly neighborhood student newspaper. You probably know why by now.

This may be the most important lesson you learn at JSU: we can do something. We can make a noise, and by so doing, we can make an impact.

Perhaps "noise" is not the right word. "Noise" is what you hear on 92J between 2 and 7 in the morning: mere sound, but no message. There's been plenty of noise at Jax State since — well, since almost anyone can remember. Sound without meaning, action without purpose: students leaning together, their headpieces full of straw. Traditionally, JSU students deal with their problems by grumbling, drinking, getting into fights, or pumping up the volume on their radios. Yet the events of this week have shown us that with organization and focus, students can make a difference.

Despite all our rage, we are not just rats in a cage. On a slow news day, a student protest can grab headlines statewide. This is true regardless of how you feel about the issues currently facing the SGA. Racial tension is everybody's problem, but it isn't everybody's only problem. And compared to our current race problem, our other difficulties generate a lot of consensus on campus.

There is a reason **why** our tuition keeps going up, you know. We're paying to attend this school, but it's still a public school, funded in part by tax dollars. That tax funding was created by people who **believed** we **all** benefit when Alabama has an educated population. In case you haven't noticed, our state government no longer reflects that philosophy.

Don't worry: public officials have rarely been known to find one tune and play it throughout an entire career. Popular unrest can change even the mind of a George Wallace.

And popular unrest, if done peacefully and with good intentions, can be fun. If the student body knew the joy of watching our political leaders squirm under the light of scrutiny, they'd envy those of us who get to work for the student media. Not that they have to envy us. It's your right as an American citizen to make your representatives very, very uncomfortable. And you might just save the future of your state into the bargain.

One wonders why at least 100 students can't show up to protest cuts in programs essential to our future. Student involvement in the "march" on Montgomery earlier this month was pitiful. We can't expect faculty and staff to speak for us. It's not that they don't have our best interests at heart — but they do have jobs to lose. One day, we all hope to have jobs we don't want to lose, but we can't do it without a good education. We should act now to make sure that we'll get that education.

**We Suggest:  
Today the  
University, Pinky,  
Tomorrow... the  
World!**

## Cats Don't Eat Cheese

Last week I received my first issue of *The Village Voice*. I wondered if it was ever going to come. I ordered it last Fall from a door-to-door saleswoman. As a student on a fixed income, I never should have spent the money, but I was madly and reciprocally in love at the time, and lovers (thank God) do magnanimous things.

I was impressed by the shredded newsprint I found stuffed into my tiny apartment mailbox. The *Voice* is everything the more liberal staffers of *The Chanticleer* would like their paper to be. The writing was comfortably leftist and intellectual. But what struck me most was an ad in the Classifieds section: "The International Cat Show (tm) for the Chee-tos Coolest Cat Contest." The ad featured the image of a recumbent Chester the Cheetah, calmly picking his teeth.

It was the first time I'd ever considered the absurdity of Chester the Cheetah. He's a cat, you know. The cheetah is the world's fastest animal, faster than the clunker your parents let you drive when you got your license. The cheetah chases its food, and doesn't have much appetite for anything it hasn't felled personally. Cheese — the foodstuff on which the Chee-to is supposedly based — is the antithesis of the cheetah's diet. Cheese is full of nutrients, but it isn't going anywhere. "Cheese" is the slang word for the stuff that collects on an unwashed human body. Cheese is an eddy in the stream of life, and a cheetah wouldn't give it the passing glance that a married man gives women at the mall.

I brought this up because I have three nephews possessed of amazing intelligence — Will, Jordan, and Brendan — who probably think that the Chee-to is the natural prey of the big cats of Africa. Once my brother and



by Tim Lockette  
Managing Editor

his wife caught them playing a game:

"I'll say real food," said Will, And you say hoddy."

"Okay," said Jordan.

"Real foood!"

"Hoddy!"

After observing this bizarre custom for some time, my brother and his wife finally realized that their children were mimicking a slightly bluesy jingle from a Hardee's commercial.

I love kids. My nephews live in Montgomery, but I do my best to make time to play with my six-year-old cousin Owen, who lives just down the road from my parents' house. One of Owen's favorite pastimes is a game which I call "In the Name of Justice."

It goes like this: I'm the bad guy, and Owen is the good guy. We fight for a time with swords — they look like sticks to me, but Owen says they're swords — and eventually I surrender, being, after all the bad guy. Then I kneel before the mighty Owen Timothy Greer, who shouts "In the name of Justice," and proceeds to lop off my virtual head. Fortunately, virtual heads grow back quickly, and soon we are fighting again.

Once I asked Owen what those words mean: In the name of Justice.

"I don't know," he said, "It's just something you say when you cut off somebody's head."

As you might imagine, my cousin and nephews watch a lot

of commercial television. I come from a long line of pretty intelligent people — Granddaddy Angel, for instance, never got the chance to finish college, but he was a crossword puzzle wiz, and he actually read *Don Quixote* from cover to cover. We are born learners, and my young relations are learning, from commercial television, how to be consumers in a capitalist culture.

I'm not saying that I didn't tug at Mama's skirt and beg her to buy me Star Wars toys, once upon a time. Quite the contrary: Owen often plays with my old Star Wars toys, and recently he convinced his mother to buy me a new Darth Vader action figure. My old Darth Vader has been headless since 1981 — in I suppose, the name of Justice. I seem to recall that I was chewing on the Dark Lord of the Sith during a tense scene on *The Dukes of Hazzard*, when suddenly his head popped off into my mouth. Mama said I didn't need a new one, but Owen finally redeemed me. As Blake said, the child is the father — or cousin — of the man. *Star Wars* toys mean a lot.

I learned a lot of things from watching *Star Wars*. I learned that if you kill a defenseless old man, his soul will come back to haunt you. I learned that bad guys sometimes wear white uniforms. I learned that we are luminous beings, not this crude matter. I also learned that I should go out immediately and buy every product Lucasfilm has to offer. After four years in the military and a year in journalism — both nasty businesses — I've lost most of my idealism about the force that binds all living things. The message of consumerism is the only one that still thrills me to the core.

See *Cats Don't Eat Cheese*  
Page 5

# Letters to the Editor

## Whatever Happened to Putting an Overpass Walk Across Highway 21?

Dear Editor:

I was impressed by Matt Brooks' "Letter to the Editor" in the February 1 issue of The Chanticleer, where he discusses the unfortunate accident in which his sister Lesleigh, a JSU senior, was struck by a speeding car and seriously injured while crossing Highway 21 on campus on the way to class.

I am surprised that aside from The Chanticleer's report in January and Mr. Brooks' letter, nothing else has been said about the incident. Isn't it time we talked about the need for an overpass walk (or better still, a subway walk) across Highway 21 on campus?

Someone told me that arguments were brought forth at an SGA meeting to the effect that there is no need for an overpass or subway walk. I would be very interested in hearing these arguments because frankly, I have been quietly wishing for a crosswalk for over ten years. I can't conceive of how there could be a strong argument against an overpass or subway walk, but am anxious to hear it and am open to the possibility that it might be valid. The point I am making here is that there is a compelling need for an open public discussion about this vital local issue which directly affects our campus and community.

Please consider that Highway 21 is the major north-south thoroughfare in Calhoun County. Consider that it cuts directly through the heart of our campus, is heavily trafficked with cars and trucks, and that literally thousands of students, faculty, staff, and others cross it on foot each day. Consider the large number of DSS students we have at JSU. Consider that the logical, common sense thing to do would be to build an overpass or subway walk across Highway 21 which would drastically reduce if not totally prevent such accidents as befell Lesleigh. Consider that if such a walkway is not built it is probably only a matter of time before some other pedestrian is seriously injured or killed. At the very least we must have a public discussion — isn't that how citizens in a democracy make responsible decisions?

A couple of weeks ago I was standing on the corner of Highway 21 and 204, in front of Martin Hall and just across from the BCM, when an 18-wheeler going 40 miles an hour whizzed past my head about two feet away. Had I slipped on a banana peel or for any other reason lost my balance and lurched into the street, I'd be history right now.

If JSU can afford to build a new baseball field costing a million dollars, surely it can afford an overpass or subway walk across Highway 21 on campus. Perhaps the county and state can help pay for it. I urge students, faculty, staff, administrators, the Mayor and City Council, local citizens, the county commissioners and the highway department immediately to engage in a thorough public discussion.

Sincerely,  
Rufus Kinney  
English Department

*Editor's Note: Letters to the Editor must be typed and must include your name, student number and phone number.*

### Cats Don't Eat Cheese Continued from page 4

Fortunately, Lucasfilm wasn't my only educator. There was also Kermit the Frog, who was one of the main reasons why I could already read when I entered the first grade. Later came Bill Moyers, whom I still regard as my favorite English teacher. And there was Ken Burns, who taught me things about my Confederate heritage which I would never have learned in an Alabama public school.

I can't understand why Republican legislators want to cut the head off public television. They say it's in the name of Justice, but I have to wonder just whose Justice this is. My brother, a computer programmer, can afford cable and the educational channels it offers his children. Cutting wasteful programs will cut his taxes so he can afford the Disney channel. Then his kids will learn that cats don't eat cheese.

But I live on the west side of Jacksonville, and some of my friends can't afford telephones, much less cable. And though I hate to admit it, many of their children are every bit as bright as my nephews. For those kids, summer offers two viewing choices: CBS soap operas and Sesame Street. Those are the same choices my brother and I had, back when Ted Turner was just a guy who owned an independent station in Atlanta. When election time comes, I'm going to vote to keep those choices. Take a few cents out of my paycheck if you want. I love kids, and when people are in love, they are (thank God) magnanimous.

## VIEWPOINTS

### Do You Think Matt Crandon Should Resign From His Position As SGA 1st Vice-President?



**"No, he was only calling... on dirty politics."  
-Chris Smith  
Senior**



**"Yes, because he should have kept his opinions to himself."  
-Terrance Horton  
Freshman**



**"Yes, because he should have talked to Ray and not written a note."  
-Kevin Smith  
Freshman**



**"No, not over 'he says, she says' stuff without knowing the actual content. I can't say he should resign."  
-Joelle Jaeger  
Senior**

# Features

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## PHAT!

see below

"You know," I say to the boss, "I kind of feel like we're in one of those Frankenstein movies." Emily and I are careening down the highway near Heflin chasing a tip in true reportorial fashion: we've heard that the Rainbow Family has materialized again in the Talladega National Forest. Hailstones bounce on the road before us. The voices on Q-104 are shouting ominous warnings about possible tornadoes. This particular road suffers from a strange lack of signs of any sort, and dangerous curves seem to leap out in front of us like boogeymen.

Lost, we stop at a little gas station, a spot of light in the darkness. Lightning flashes overhead. "You go in and ask directions," the boss says. We're both wearing tie-dyed T-shirts, and I've just finished telling her about the ending of *Easy Rider*, a movie she's never seen. We both have the eerie feeling that we might run into some of Pat Buchanan's "peasants with pitchforks."

It may be fear of peasants with pitchforks which makes the Rainbow Family so hard to find. The deaths of Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda in *Easy Rider* signaled the beginning of the end for the 1960's counterculture: movies and music brought the youth movement into the mainstream, and soon hippies were abandoning their communes for mortgages and Volvos. The spiritual revolution was over.

But not for the Rainbows, a nebulous group of wanderers and weekend mystics who converge harmonically in America's national forests to celebrate peace, love, and ecological grooviness. The Rainbows are a living artifact of past American culture, an antique vehicle shambling across the US with a surprising number of its original parts — and no license plates.

That vehicle may soon be pulled over by the U.S. Forest Service. A new Forest Service regulation requires a permit for any group of more than 75 people who wish to gather in a national forest, and grants the government the right to refuse such a permit. Rainbow gatherings in Talladega National Forest have drawn as many as 10,000 attendees in the past, and many locals would prefer to see them shut down.

After a bit of haggling, Emily and I agree to go into the store together. A

sales clerk and the two locals leaning on the counter regard us with bemused interest as we purchase Beebo Moon Pies and Pepsis. I can tell by their expressions that they must have already seen some Rainbows today. I ask the woman at the counter for directions.

She regards me with worry, as if she knows my kin. "Surely y'all aren't going out there with them?" We explain that we're from a newspaper, and one of the men at the counter tells us how to find them. The other man at the counter

wrong to be nervous — these locals seem to regard the Rainbows with the same head-shaking amusement people reserve for their eccentric relatives.

We hop into the car and drive further into the storm. The directions take us into that region which frightened motorists call the Boonies. Lightning rumbles, and things keep getting boonier and boonier, with no sign of the Rainbows. Then suddenly, we catch a glimpse of a campfire by the road, and see yellowish light streaming from the

waiting for us as we enter. We roll down our window, and he shines his flashlight inside, like a policeman. "Welcome home," he says, "I'm Two Bears."

This is great. Two Bears has been appointed by the media as the leader of the local Rainbow group — he's one of the people named specifically in the suit against the group, and has been mentioned in an Associated Press report on the local gathering. Somehow I had imagined that getting to speak to Two Bears would be like getting an audience with a Polynesian tribal monarch, but not every group operates like local government.

We hop out of the car for an interview in the rain. Two Bears knows what we want to see: from his pocket he produces a ragged sheaf of folded papers. "I'm indicted by the Justice Department for f\*\*kin' bein' a Rainbow member, man." He points to names on the paper in the glow of the flashlight. "These are all the people that are indicted. They're trying to say that we can't do this. They're going to indict me again at this one."

"When are you going to appear?" we ask.

"I don't. My lawyer does." Two Bears says his lawyer has taken the case pro bono. Leaving it to the lawyers is probably a good idea: Two Bears is not arraignment material. Along with the black hat, he sports a western-style suede jacket, a dissheveled head of blond hair and sort of Fu-Manchu mustache. He has the easy, laid-back manners of a Californian at a keg party. He's Peter Pan trapped in Yosemite Sam's body.

We warn him that there may be tornadoes on the way. "We love tornadoes," he deadpans. "Tornadoes love us. They do. They tear down wood for us." According to Two Bears, Rainbows never harm trees — they collect deadwood for their fires.

"Ever been to a kitchen?" he asks. Rainbows set up free open-air restaurants — kitchens — for guests at gatherings. "Ya'll'll have to come see my kitchen tomorrow, 'cos I got a phat kitchen. It's kind." He pauses to light something resembling a little brown cigar. "Don't worry, this ain't no crack or anything."

It's probably the warmest discussion



**Thumbing Their Noses At Plastic Babylon: Stuff-Enuff and Two Bears converge harmonically in a mobile ashram parked in Talladega National Forest. (Photo By Emily Wester)**

laughs: "Now how do you know how to get there?"

"They come up and asked me to have lunch with them." All three of them have a chuckle. Apparently we were

windows of an old schoolbus nearby. We pull in, nervous, expecting anything from wild-eyed militants to self-righteous nudists.

A man in a black US cavalry hat is



I've ever had in the freezing rain. Two Bears has a personable, Joe-Sixpack aura about him. We discuss the organization of the Rainbow Family — how do people know when there's going to be a gathering? "They read it in the papers. And those papers find out from other papers. Give us a good write-up and it'll be phat. The only problems we ever have is when some locals come in, they come in all f\*\*ked up. (But) as long as the papers are good to us, we never have a problem."

Two Bears describes his position with the Family as "greeter," usually for the "A" camp: a section of a gathering where alcohol is allowed. Alcohol use is discouraged at most gatherings, and overuse of any drug is a no-no. Hard drugs are among the few forbidden items at a meeting, along with aggressive dogs, weapons, and "bad attitudes." If you've noticed a gap in there — between beer and hard drugs — you're right. It's hard for a reporter to pin down a Rainbow on the subject of marijuana use, but their Internet site — the closest thing to an "official channel" — says they discourage intoxication, at least that of a chemical variety.

After a fruitless search for other encampments, we return sopping wet to Two Bears and ask him to board the nearby bus with us for a photo op. There we meet Stuff-Enuff, a fortyish woman who wears Grateful Dead dancing bear stickers on her glasses, and her husband Samo-Jamo (pronounced like "Same Old Jame-O"). They admit us graciously into their truly mobile home, and I must admit I feel an odd sense of safety,

like a kid at Grandma's house. When you don't have a radio, a tornado watch sounds just like any other storm. The roof of the bus is covered with uplifting graffittoes, and the couple keep their possessions in plastic milk crates. A dog lies on a mattress beside the crates.

Stuff-Enuff is nowhere near as laid back as Two Bears — there seems to be a greater sense of mission in her participation here. One of the first questions she asks us is, "Do you believe in God?" This is not, generally, a good question for a journalist to answer, so I say: "Not really." She turns to the boss and begins explaining the Rainbow concept, as she sees it. I converse with

Two Bears, occasionally catching bits of the other conversation — stuff about peace, love, and "Plastic Babylon." That's the Rainbow word for the "real"

world of careers and possessions. If the mainstream views the Rainbows as a horde confused people in a den of iniquity, then the Family views "Babylon" the same way.

Two Bears is shocked by his status as a Rainbow "leader." He says that he just arrived at the Talladega camp, as he likes to stay behind at old campsites and help clean up. Local media began reporting on him before he even got here. Earlier today, he says, he heard his name on the radio: "I was like, damn, damn, they're

already quoting me... I'm not a leader, I'm just a traffic cop."

"Our leaders," says Stuff-Enuff, "are the smallest child that is born in the Family, and when that child is able to speak, they're not a leader anymore."

Stuff-Enuff is intensely interested in getting a favorable story in the paper. She shows us newspaper clippings from old visits. Not all of the papers have been as kind as the Anniston Star. One headline identifies the group as "peaceniks," and I have to laugh. How exactly does one define a peacenik when there's no war on? Is Pat Buchanan a peacenik?

"We've had people shoot at us down in Osceola (Florida)," Stuff says of their last gathering. This doesn't seem to worry Two Bears. Nothing much worries Two Bears, including the Forest Service and Department of Justice. He shows me a card he keeps in his wallet: it reads "Individual Permit to Gather." Beneath that is printed the First Amendment. "My lawyer gave me that," he says.

The Rainbows pose for a picture, and then it's time to head back to Babylon. After a chat with the Rainbows, it's surprisingly easy to see a few characteristics of the Biblical capital of sin even in the streets of Heflin. It's awfully tempting: to run off with the circus, to camp out for a living. But I have the feeling that after a couple more Cokes and another Moon Pie, I'll be myself again. Texaco has one phat kitchen.



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(Photo Courtesy Of The Anniston Star)

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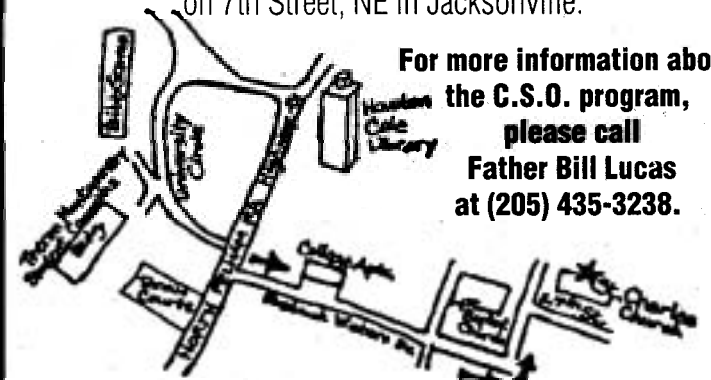
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# In Concert

Dates compiled by Keith Tasker

<b>Atlanta</b>		<b>Tears For Fears</b>	April 13	<b>The Nick</b>	
<b>Cotton Club</b>		<b>Variety Playhouse</b>		Cigar Stone Indians	March 21
Meices	March 23	Commitments	March 23	The Drag	March 22
<b>The Fox</b>		Subdudes	March 30	Ringo Levio	March 27
Jethro Tull	April 2	Joan Osbourne	April 2,3	Man Or Astroman	March 28
Tori Amos(2 shows)	April 14	Jupiter Coyote	April 5	Bad Livers	March 30
<b>International Ballroom</b>		<b>Midtown Music Festival</b>		<b>Huntsville</b>	
Everclear/Hagfish/Menthol	April 18	(Line-up Not Available)	May 3-5	University of Alabama at Huntsville	
<b>The Masquerade</b>		<b>Birmingham</b>		Fugazi	March 27
Love & Rockets/Dandy Warhol	March 30	<b>Alabama Theatre</b>			
Foo Fighters/The Amps/That Dog	April 10	John Prine/Heather Eatman	March 29		
Lush/Mojave 3/Scheer	April 23	<b>American Beat</b>			
<b>Omni</b>		Gas Huffer	March 24		
Rod Stewart	March 26	<b>5 Points South Music Hall</b>			
Liza Minnelli/Bill Cosby	May 19	Joe Satriani	March 26		
<b>The Point</b>		7 Mary 3/Poe	March 27		
Smoke	March 22	Cowboy Mouth/The Bingmen	March 29		
Dogs Eye View	March 25	David Wilcox	March 31		
<b>Roxy</b>		Vertical Horizon/Catfish Jenkins	April 5		
Guadal Canal Diary	April 6				

## In Case You Feel Like Showing Up...

Fugazi  
March 27, 1996  
University of Alabama, Huntsville

It's about time someone with a little integrity came to Alabama. In case you don't know it--and the only way would be if you've been living in a cave for the last decade--Fugazi is about the last hope for indie pride left in music today. They make their shows and T-shirts cheap, put out their records on their own label, which are too very, very cheap. And all the way have created some of the most influential and awe-inspiring music around.

Fugazi make low-fi punk/pop the way it was supposed to be made, loud, fast, and fun. It's not often that they tour and when they do you can be sure that it is not to be missed. So drop whatever you are doing and go check out one of the last indie legends before they decide to call it quits. Hey what else have you got to do for spring break? GO! That's all I have to say ... so there. -Keith Tasker

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## Reviews By Keith Tasker

NO ★'S DON'T EVEN BOTHER.  
★-WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO GIVE IT TO YOU, THEN SELL IT.  
★★-O.K. BUT NOTHING GREAT.  
★★★-PRETTY GOOD AND WORTH A LISTEN  
★★★★-CLASSIC. LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL TO GET THIS



Josh Clayton-Felt  
*Inarticulate Nature Boy*  
A&M Records

★★★

On his first solo release, former School Of Fish frontman, Josh Clayton-Felt decides to leave the standard rock ballads that made his former band so lovable, and create a whole new sound terrain to explore. *Inarticulate Nature Boy* sounds more like an experiment than your typical rock album. Clayton played all the instruments on the album, (which isn't such a novel idea these days), but he also didn't know how

to play a lot of them. And that's where the experimentation comes in. Clayton just played the instruments how he felt they should be played and about half of the times it works.

Songs like "Window," "Soon Enough," and "Matchbox Head" prove Clayton's ability to create wonderful soundscapes with a variety of instruments, but on other tracks, like "Paint The Tree Green" and "Inarticulate Nature Boy," Clayton's love of the instruments clouds his vision to know when enough is enough.

Fans of his former band may not enjoy this solo outing, but fans of the burgeoning Cyber-delic scene, including the new hot sensation Self, will love this record for its quirky noises and interesting sound experiments. This is really one album that can be called alternative because it doesn't sound like any-

thing else out there today, and that, my friend, is a good thing--even if that sound isn't pleasing 100% of the time.



Meices  
*Dirty Bird*  
London Records

★★★★

"The Meices aren't stupid, they just do stupid things." That's the way this San Francisco trio likes to describe themselves, and who am I to argue. Their London debut, *Dirty Bird*, is just chock-full of little dumb ditties. I can't seem to find one socially conscious verse on any of the 13 tracks, and that's exactly why I love them.

Now, they aren't as stupid as the Dead Milkmen or anything, but they're more concerned with having fun than changing the world. From the opening track, "Wow," to the quick tempo, "Hold It," the Meices show their love of fast beats and groovy rhythms. This is the style of music that makes you bop around your room dreaming of the day you can be in a band. These are

just such happy, snappy songs that anyone with a pulse will be moved by them. And at first listen, the Meices could be mistakenly thrown into the punk scene, but a deeper inspection shows that the Meices have more in common with Cincinnati's Afghan Whigs than with the green-haired freaks. Songs like "Uncool," "Yeah," and "Leave Me Alone" show the band's ability to put a little soul in the music and give that lasting edge. And the accompaniment of strings on "Monday Mood" really helps to bring back the loneliness and longing of the beginning of the week.

So a word to the wise, anybody that loves soulful rock should definitely check out *Dirty Bird* because they won't be sorry.



Salt  
*Auscultate*  
Island Records

★★★★

Coming from the home of ABBA and Ace Of Base, Sweden's Salt has a lot going against it right out of the barrel. But with powerful songs and

a vocalist reminiscent of PJ Harvey, Salt nails a bulls-eye.

Deep bass lines and quivery, gutrenching guitar strokes help to propel Salt past all of the other female-led bands into the ring with the big boys. And personally, I think Salt could knock Nirvana on its ass. I mean no matter how great Kurt was, he never came up with songs as catchy and rocking as Salt's worst. Watch your back because this band is going places.

Singer Nina Ramsby's vocals can have you crying one moment and breaking windows the next. As exemplified on truly amazing tracks like "Honour Me," "Obsession," and, what is destined to be a hit with it's eerie tones and haunting lyrics, "Witty." Many bands may have helped to start this sound of heavy beats and loud feedback, but Salt is doing it faster, louder, and just down right better.

"I'm longing to be/ You've got to force me/ I could hold on/ This thing is not real/ Want to be/ Got to be/ Witty/ Don't want to/ Don't want to/ Be inert/ Inert." How can't every person in the world not relate with that, and when you hear Ramsby do it, it's like driving the nail in the coffin. Stop what you're doing and get this record because, just like the mineral, Salt can add flavor to your life or burn a festering scar.



# PLEBES

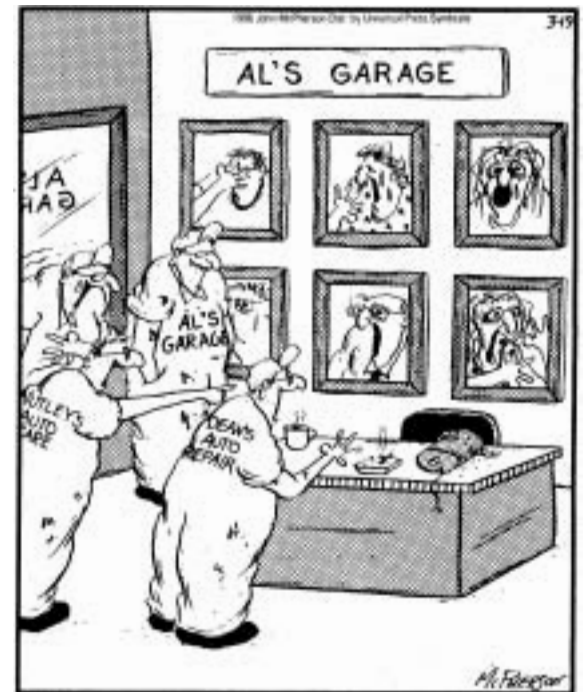
by L.T. Horton



# CLOSE TO HOME JOHN McPHERSON

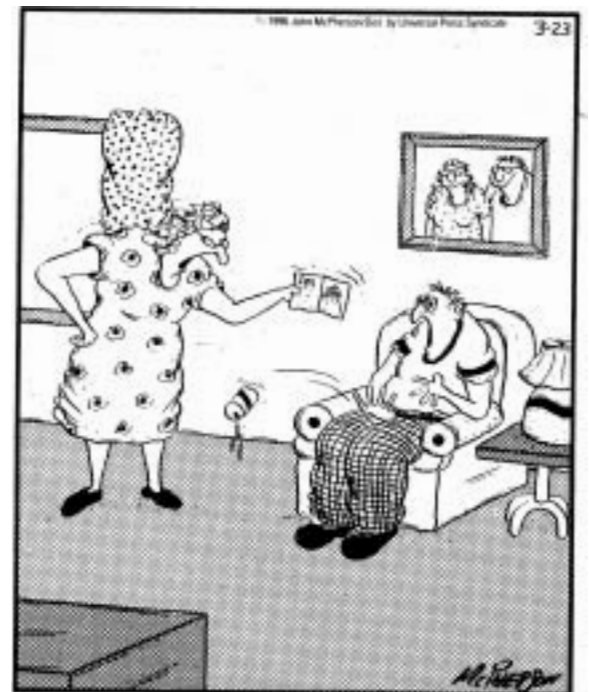
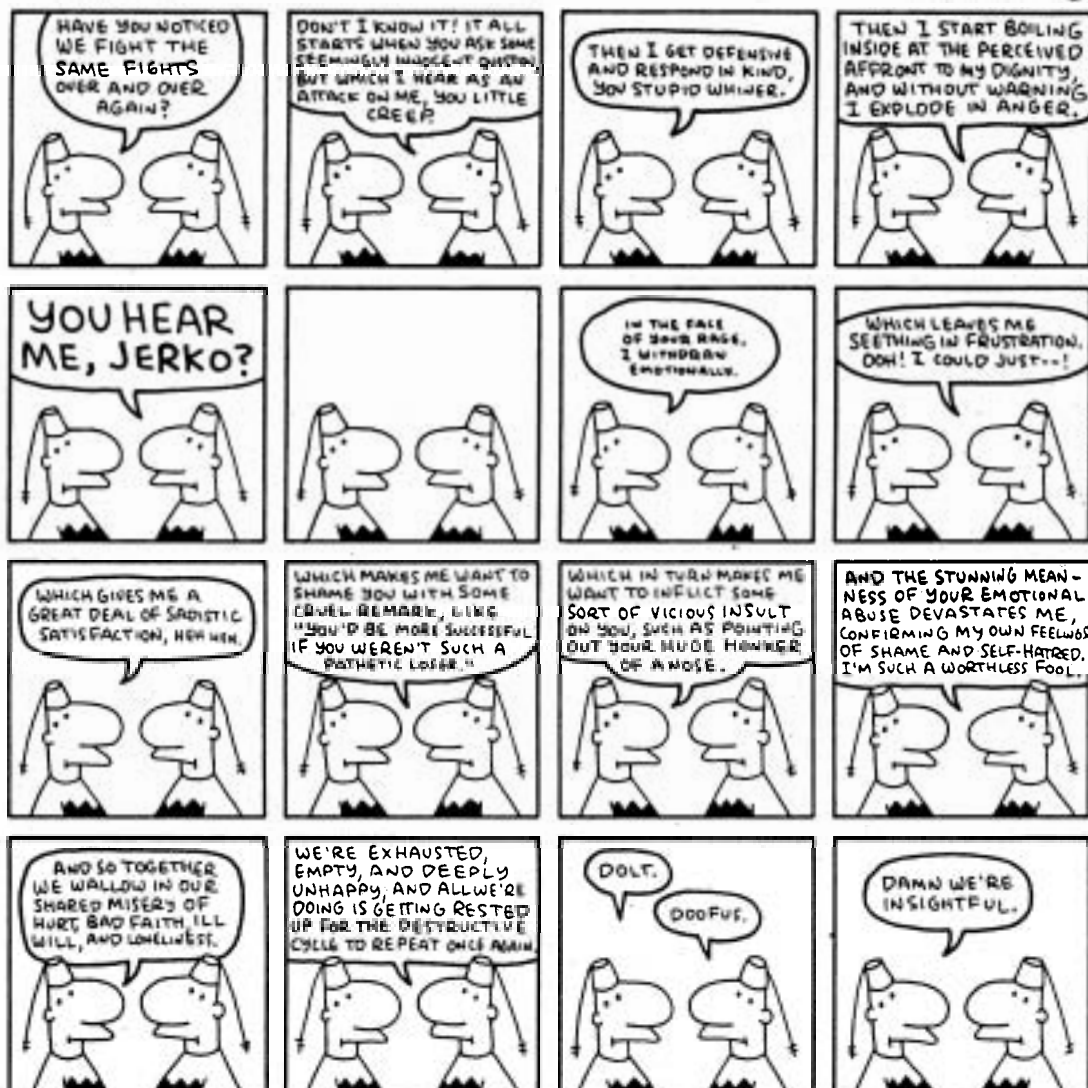


In addition to being practical, PIN tattoos are becoming chic.



Al loved to take photos of his customers the instant after they looked at their repair bill.

# LIFE IN HELL



"All right, Tom! It's time I ended this charade! I'm not Glenda, your adoring wife of 12 years! I'm IRS agent Lola Schwantz, and I know every tax trick you've tried to pull! Get ready for the mother of all audits!"



JSU's Baseball Squad is now 16-10 overall and 1-2 in conference play (photo by Roger Luallen).

## Softball Team Wins Four in a Row

by Will Roe  
*Chanticleer Sports Editor*

Coming into the 1996 softball season, there were several questions about the Lady Gamecocks. One of the big questions was "How will Ann Shelton play after a terrific 1995 season?" Shelton has pitched the Lady Gamecocks to an impressive 22-4 record on the season, and a 5-1 record in the Trans America Athletic Conference. She is 13-2 and was TAAC "Player of the Week" for last week. Here is a review of this past week's games:

Jax State 2, Troy State 0

TROY-Ann Shelton pitched a one-hit shutout of the Lady Trojans, while striking out 10 batters in the first game of a doubleheader on March 13th. Annie Simpson went 2 for 3 in the game for Jacksonville State, and Wendy McKibbin and Ann Shelton both scored runs for the Lady Gamecocks.

Troy State 3, Jax State 1

TROY-Jacksonville State's Rachel Riddell pitched six strong innings, but the three runs she gave up to the Lady Trojans cost her the game as she fell to 3-2 on the season. JSU's Rhonda Freeman went 2 for 4 for the game, and Rachel Stone knocked in JSU's only run of the game, while going 1 for 3.

Jax State 1, Centenary 0

SHREVEPORT, LA-JSU's Ann Shelton nearly pitched a no-hitter in a one-hit shutout of the Ladies of Centenary in the first game of a doubleheader on March 16th. Wendy McKibbin's RBI in the first inning was all the Jacksonville State as JSU's version of Greg Maddux (Shelton) did the rest for the Lady Gamecocks.

Jax State 2, Centenary 0

SHREVEPORT, LA-JSU took a sweep of the Ladies of Centenary as the Lady Gamecocks scored single-run innings in the sixth and seventh innings. Rachel Riddell started the game and pitched three

and two-thirds innings, giving up 4 hits and no runs. Ann Shelton came in and finished the job and picked up the win, making her 13-2 on the season.

Jax State 1, Southeastern Louisiana 0

HAMMOND, LA-Jacksonville State took the first game of a doubleheader on March 18th. Wendy McKibbin's homer in the first inning of the game was all that Ann Shelton needed as she cruised to her fourteenth win of the season. Shelton yielded SLU just three hits for the game and struck out 11 batters.

Jax State 7, Southeastern Louisiana 3

HAMMOND, LA-Rachel Riddell picked up her fourth win of the season, and Wendy McKibbin smacked her fifth homer of the season as JSU won the nightcap of the doubleheader with SLU. McKibbin went 3 for 4 in the game and knocked in two runs for the game.

## Baseball Squad Starts Play in TAAC

### Gamecocks Lose a Pair to Southeastern Louisiana

by Shannon Fagan  
*Chanticleer Sports Writer*

Gamecocks Play First Night Home Game

The Gamecocks started play in the TAAC this week when they played the Lions of Southeast Louisiana. They got their first win in the conference on Saturday, but the big story this week was the first-night home game against in-state rival UAB. Here is a look at how the week went for the Gamecocks:

Jax State 6, UAB 2

NEW BASEBALL FIELD-The Gamecocks gave up two runs in the first inning, but held the Blazers without any runs the rest of the way. Jax State had a big second inning, scoring five runs on five hits. Jason Craft pitched a brilliant game on his way to his

fourth win of the season. Craft went the distance, striking out eight batters along the way. The Gamecocks scored six runs on seven hits. UAB put up two runs on nine hits and had three costly errors. After the win under the lights, JSU Head Coach Rudy Abbott had this to say: "Jason Craft pitched a great ball game. It was a good confidence builder. We had a big inning and he held it for us. He never showed signs of getting tired."

Southeastern Louisiana 8, Jax State 5

HAMMOND, LA-JSU scored five runs on seven hits, but it was not enough as the Lions held on for the win. Blaine Douglass suffered his second loss of the season. The Gamecocks gave up eight runs on seven hits as they lost their TAAC Conference open-

er. Southeastern Louisiana 4, Jax State 2

Jax State 5, SE Louisiana 3

HAMMOND, LA-The Gamecocks played the Lions again in a double header on Saturday. They were able to salvage a split in the two games. In game one, J.R. Allen suffered his first loss of the season. The Gamecocks gave up four runs on four hits. They managed to score only two runs on four hits. In game two, the Gamecocks bounced back for the win. JSU scored five runs on nine hits as they went on to their first TAAC Conference win. Bryan Williamson posted his third win of the season. The Gamecocks gave up only three runs on seven hits. JSU is now 16-10 overall and 1-2 in conference play.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### Baseball

Mar. 21 vs. Tennessee Tech 1:00 p.m.

at baseball field

Mar. 24 vs. Mercer 2:00 p.m.

at baseball field

Mar. 27 at Jackson State 2:00 p.m.

### Softball

Mar. 21-23 at Rebel Games in Orlando

### Women's Golf

Mar. 25-26 JSU-Silver Lakes Lady Classic

### Men's and Women's Tennis

Mar. 25 at Central Florida 1:00 p.m.

Mar. 26 at Stetson 2:00 p.m.



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