THE CHANTICLEER

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IN THE News

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - (L.A. Times) At least 24 people are dead and 200 injured in the wake of last weekend's powerful thunderstorms and tornadoes. Governor Mike Huckabee said it seemed like "a year's worth of tornadoes." The destruction was most concentrated in a 260-mile path from Hempstead County in the southwest to Greene County in the northeast. More than 10,000 people were reported to be without power.

ATLANTA, Ga. - (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) Atlanta has been rocked by three bombings since last summer, which leaves many residents wondering if the bombings are connected. Jay Spadafore, FBI spokesperson in Atlanta, dismisses this idea, saying "there may be more randomness to it than people realize." The most recent bombing was that of the Otherside Club, a gay and lesbian bar. . .

WASHINGTON, D.C. - (N.Y. Times) President Clinton told Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yassir Arafat that he regrets Israel's decision to build new housing for Jews in Arab East Jerusalem. Palestinians have gone on a general strike to protest the planned housing site. The strike has temporarily disabled the public transportation system in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

CARACAS, Venezuela - (L.A. Times) The Venezuelan coastline is threatened by a 20,000-barrel oil spill off its northwestern coast. The Greek tanker involved is chartered by a subsidiary of the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela. The oil slick is several miles long and spreading in the Gulf of Venezuela.

NEW YORK- (College Press Service) College grads will "sell out" if the salary is right, says a Cornell economics professor. Robert H. Frank conducted a poll of Cornell seniors and found that students will trade their ideals but expect to be well-compensated for their compromise. Men were more likely than women to take the money and run, according to the study. This may account for the gap in average salaries paid to men and women, suggested Frank.

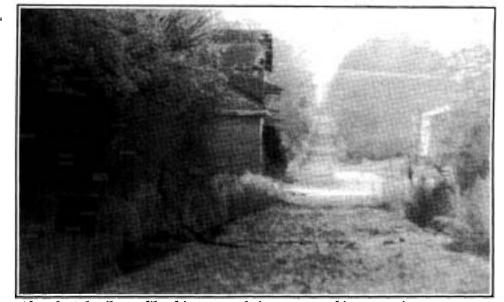
Program converts J'ville railway to trail

by Jennie Ford

News editor

On September 28, 1996, the first phase of the Chief Ladiga Trail opened in Piedmont, Alabama. This trail is part of a nationwide project called Rails-to-Trails. Rails-to-Trails is part of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, an organization dedicated to converting the nation's ever-increasing number of abandoned railways into trails to be used by walkers, runners, bicyclists, and "others who want to enjoy the beauty of the American landscape," according to the organization's pamphlet.

The Chief Ladiga Trail which begins in downtown Piedmont and runs 8.9 miles, the trail will run a total of 33 miles through Calhoun and Cleburne counties when completed. These other phases will eventually lead the trail into Georgia. The project costs about \$550,000 and the City of Piedmont along with Calhoun County contributed \$130,000. The rest of the money



Abandoned railways like this one are being converted into exercise Tamara Miles trails as part of a nationwide program called Rails-to-Trails.

for the Chief Ladiga Trail began seven the railroad, federal Department of years ago. "It's been an uphill battle dealcame from federal sources The planning ing with a lot of bureaucracy. Dealing with See Trails page 3

Transportation is tough, but it's been well

Rape drug victim warns other students

by Chris Gardener

Daily Iowan/ College Press Services

IOWA CITY - After spending her first night at a bar in downtown Iowa City, 19-year-old Sara woke up the next morning at 11 lying on her back in the bathroom of a Coralville hotel room, naked, alone and confused.

It was January 1996. The bathroom door was open and Cindy Crawford's voice on MTV's "House of Style" could be heard throughout the empty room. Sara realized she was in a hotel because of the two double beds, a television set and a Bible.

She gathered the clothes that were spread around her and dressed, feeling uncomfortable about awaking in the nude. She walked out of the bathroom to find the hotel room door open to a parking lot heaped with snow and only two cars.

Sara's first thoughts were that she was somewhere in the Midwest because of the snow, but other than that, she had no idea where she was.

The only thing she was sure of was that she had been sexually assaulted, and was convinced the "date rape" drug Rohypnol was to blame for her condition.

Rohypnol, also known on the street as

roofies, rophies, R2 or roches, is prescribed by physicians in more than 64 countries to treat patients suffering from chronic sleep disorders and is used also as a pre-anesthetic in surgeries. Its effects are comparable to the sleeping pill, Valium. However, Rohypnol has approximately 10 times the potency.

Rohypnol can be bought for around \$2 in one- to two-milligram doses. The effects can last anywhere from six to eight hours after ingesting a two-milligram dose. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd., a pharmaceutical company based in Switzerland, manufactures the drug, which is not approved for sale in the United

Rohypnol has been a popular subject on newscasts and in papers, says Sara. She hopes by hearing her story, others will be aware that its use happens not just in the headlines, but in places such as Iowa City.

"I think it's very common and I think it happens all the time," she said. "I have my reasons why I didn't report it - so I can't judge others who don't report it, but I wish I would've and I encourage others to."

Instead of letting the events of that cold January night dwell in her mind and weigh on her conscience, Sara said she has come out a stronger individual, with a determination to stop this from happening again.

"I feel I am stronger, physically and mentally," she said. "I feel like no one will ever be able to do this to me again."

Since Rohypnol is such a potent drug, it creates problems with drug testing and investigation, Steven Eck, a criminals with the Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI),

"It's a very potent drug. Therefore it requires such a small amount to achieve the effect, so it's harder to detect because there is less in the body." Eck said.

According to a report from the DCI, there is a low probability of detecting processable levels of Rohypnol from blood samples collected two hours after suspected dosage and urine samples collected within six hours after a suspected dosage. Therefore, urine samples are preferred, but getting either one can be a problem for victims.

"The best advice is to go to the hospital as soon as it's practical and have the test," Beth Barnhill, director of Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault, said. "However...for many people (it) isn't practical, given the effects of the drug."

Julie Harders, a law student at Drake University in Des Moines, went to a party last July while in New York visiting a friend. She See Rape drug page 3

CAMPUS CRIME DOCKET

2-27-97 JSU reported attempted theft of property at Houston Cole Library.

2-27-97 UPD reported minor in possession of alcohol at the International House parking lot.

2-27-97 Douglas Reed Warren, Jr., 19, of Huntsville, AL was arrested at the International House parking lot and charged with minor in posses-

2-27-97 Harold Joe Powell, Jr., 23, of Childersburg, AL was arrested at Forney Avenue and Campus Inn Apartments and charged with possession of marijuana 2nd and resisting arrest.

2-28-97 RA at Fitzpatrick Hall reported fight call and consumption of alcohol by minor at Trustee Circle and Fitzpatrick Hall.

2-28-97 UPD reported DUI at Park Avenue and West Mountain.

2-28-97 Raymond Lee Austin, 24, of Jacksonville was arrested at Park Avenue and West Mountain and charged with DUI.

2-28-97 UPD reported minor in possession of alcohol at the parking lot of Building Services.

2-28-97 Kristy Ann Swanson, 19, of Jacksonville, AL was arrested at the parking lot of Building Services and charged with minor in possession of alcohol.

3-2-97 UPD reported reckless endangerment, possession of marijuana 1st, possession of drug paraphernalia, and resisting arrest at East Francis and Highway 21.

3-2-97 Michael Dewayne Troy, 21, of Birmingham, AL was arrested at 508 2nd Street and charged with reckless endangerment, possession of marijuana 1st, possession of drug paraphernalia, and resisting arrest at East Francis Avenue and Highway 21.

3-3-97 Deborah Moon Curry reported harassing communications at Wallace School of Nursing.

3-4-97 Charles Scott Myrick reported assault at Bibb Graves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

•A financial aid help session will be held in the Roundhouse March 14 from 10-11 a.m. Applications for financial aid are available in the Financial Aid Office, Room 203 Bibb Graves Hall. The deadline to apply for financial aid is March 15, 1997.

•The JSU Art Department presents an exhibition of art works curated for the Alabama Clay Conference 12 from now until March 28, 1997. The Hammond Hall Gallery's hours are M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

•The Little River Canyon Field School announces An Orienteering Adventure from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and a Nature Photography Workshop from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at DeSoto State Park Nature Center March 22. There is a \$2.00 per person fee for orienteering and a \$25 per person fee for the photography workshop. To register call Angela Morgan at (205) 782-5697.

THE CHANTICLEER Single Cop Free Additional Copies:

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SGA election nears, candidates profiled

Thomas Webb

News writer

This week the Chanticleer concludes the profiles of the candidates for SGA offices. The elections for SGA officers will be held March 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the fourth floor of the TMB. There are only 34 candidates for the 35 senate positions, which means that when the new Senate meets on April 7 they will have to appoint someone to fill the vacancy. The office of Controller is uncontested this year.

The candidates for First Vice-President are:

Josh Bearden

Classification: Sophomore

Campus Involvement: President of Freshman Forum, SGA Senator, Executive Assistant to SGA President. Chairman Constitution/Code of Laws Committee, Intra-Fraternal Council delegate, Peer Counselor, Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Goals: "My first objective would be organizing the committees. I think we have a lot of commitees that. . . don't do too much. We have some that achieve many goals ... Residence Life ... Environmental Committee ... Academic Awareness ... even my committee... It would be my duty as First Vice President to organize these committees and make it more pro-active and productive within our campus and within our community."

Leanne Jordan

Classification: Sophomore

Campus Involvement: Homecoming Chairperson, Appropriations and Residence Life and Facilities Committee, Peer Counselor, Phi Eta Sigma, Scholarship Director for Phi Mu, SGA Parlimentarian.

Goals: "I think if I could make some kind of form for concerns. . . have suggestion boxes . . . and have the senate so well organized that I can say 'I'm giving this to the [appropriate] committee. . .' I plan on getting more people to respect the SGA. . . I would try to get an hour's credit for the Senators that work hard."

Doug Woodward

Classification: Junior

Campus Involvement: Intra-Fraternal Council, President of College Republicans, Phi Eta Sigma, Secretary of Alpha Tau Omega, SGA Senator, SGA President Pro Tempore

Goals: "I'd like to have more student involvement in SGA . . . the SGA was formed for them. I would like them to have more of a say in their education and where their money goes . . . The SGA has a lot more power than most people think, but without student input we don't know where to spend the money."

The candidates for Second Vice-

Greg Swindall

Classification: Junior

Campus Involvement: Member Delta Chi Fraternity, member of SGA Public Safety Committee,

Publicitty Committee, Entertainment Committee

Goals: "I'd like to see concerts here . . . I want to have fun here. I have friends that work for 92J . . . people on the Chanticleer that I'm friends with . . . athletes I'm associated with . . . and Greeks that I'm friends with and I'd like to get their input. The fact is no one person or one organization can accomplish... . the main goal - a campus that is united and can have a lot of fun."

Shane Thomason

Classification: Freshman

Campus Involvement: Freshman Forum, Cinematic Arts Committee Chair, Blood Drive Volunteer, Visitation Day Volunteer, Casino Night: Dealers/Games chair. College Bowl, Collegiate Legislature, Chuck D volunteer.

Goals: "I want to do my part in helping to meet the needs and wants of the student body. I care about what happens on campus and I would like to be involved in making JSU a better university."

Controller for the 1997-1998 year

Dusty Kilgore

Classification: Junior

Campus Involvement: Fraternal Council, Vice President Rush, Order of Omega, Delta Chi Treasurer and Delta Chi President.

Goals: "I would like to continue helping the SGA move forward here at JSU. (I) also would like to further the leadership experience of the SGA."

Organizational News and Announcements

JSU Chamber Players

JSU Chamber Players Orchestra will perform Saturday March 22, 1997 at noon in the Mason Hall Performance Center. This performance is free and open to the pub-

Alpha Xi Delta

Alpha Xi Delta - Congratulations Mrs. Horton on receiving Advisor of the Year. We love you! Congratulations Nicole Teirney on receiving Sister of the Week. Congratulations Patti Maness on receiving New Member of the Week.

Delta Chi

Delta Chi received fraternity of the year and philanthropy award.

JSU History Club

The JSU History Club will meet today, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. in room 327 of Stone Center. Everyone is invited. Dr. Phillip E. Koerper will lecture on Jack the Ripper and the Whitechapel Murders.

Zeta Sigma Nu Mountain Bike Club

The Zeta Sigma Nu Mountain Bike Club meets every Wednesday night at 9:00 in the Roundhouse. If you

would like more information on the JSU Mountain Bike Racing Team, call 435-0881.

Alpha Omicron Pi

Alpha Omicron Pi will host the Mr. University Pageant, March 6, at 7 p.m. in the TMB auditorium. For more information call Stacey Holt at 782-2844.

Model Arab League

JSU is sending a team to participate in the 1997 Model Arab League, March 20-22 in Savannah, GA. All interested students can contact Dr. Tom Bascom at 782worth it," Tommy Allison, project manager told The Birmingham News in September.

Presently, the Chief Ladiga Trail organizers are turning their attention toward the next phase of the trail. It will run through Jacksonville adjacent to JSU. Pete Conroy, JSU Environmental Policy and Information Center Director, says the exact route of

the Jacksonville phase of the trail is not yet definite. The trail will be four miles long and stretch south from the Maxwellborn community to Alabama Highway 204 in Jacksonville. Calhoun County is ready to begin an additional three- mile long segment east of Piedmont. The Cleburne County Commission will also begin the rehabilitation of the

existing railroad bridges on its 8.8-mile segment of the project. Also, the cities of Anniston and Weaver are preparing to begin development of a segment three

The Piedmont segment of the trail is now open and free to the public. However, there are certain rules and restrictions that must be followed. No alcoholic

beverages are allowed, and all pet owners must clean up after their pets. Trail users are also expected to respect the property and privacy of the homes adjacent to the trail. To ensure that these rules are followed, the trail will be patrolled by two Piedmont police officers on bicycles. The trail opens one hour before sunrise and closes one hour after sunset.

The Chief Ladiga Trail gets its name from Chief Ladiga, an influential and powerful Creek leader. Ladiga led the Creek Indians of this area in the early part of the 1800's.

On March 27 at 8 p.m., Alabama Public Television will feature the Chief Ladiga Trail on its program "The Alabama Experience."

Rape drug from page 1

drank only a few beers and then blacked out, only to wake up in a strange bed with her clothes messed

Harders took the next available flight back to Iowa, went to a local hospital and reported to health officials what had happened. It was never chemically proven through

the hospital that there was Rohypnol in her system, but she is also convinced the "date rape drug" had a play in what happened to her.

"People need to realize that we all have the same symptoms, so there must be something," Harders said. "They all have this common theme with a woman being given a drink

to her, and for some unexpected reason, you pass out and don't remember a block of time - like a black hole.

"You can't smell it, you can't taste it and by the time you figure out something is wrong, it may be too

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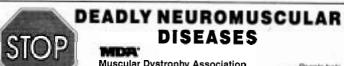
To the student winners of free graduation announcements.

> Chris Sullivan Arlinda Zeigler **Brigit Cook**

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downset.'s music is food for thought

by Keith Tasker

A&E writer

downset. is the band that has been called the cousin of Rage Against The Machine, only a little more educated and little more real-I had a chance recently to talk to downset. front man Rey Anthony Oropeza. Through all the phone crackles and beeps I got to get inside the head of a man that would rather educate the masses than simply make money with his music.



Out of this interview came some of the most intriguing and enlightened views to hit me in year. So here it is, a message from a 26-year-old Spanish/Native American for everyone to take to head and heart.

Keith Tasker: With such politically motivated lyrics, do you feel that you are trying to educate as well as enter-

Rey Anthony Oropeza: For one thing I don't consider what I do entertainment. We've always done this music because it meant something personal to us and I think that entertainment is a pretty shallow word.

We're completely politically and socio-politically motivated, we always have been and we will always be. If people listen, they listen. If they don't listen, then they don't. I don't care. I'm not concerned if people listen or not.

I don't care if we have 5000 or 50 people at our shows. It doesn't matter to me. Our music is direct communication and direct action. It's a direct physical manifestation of resistance to things we are sick of and it organizes a lot of different people to be in one place.

KT: Do you think that your music can change people's opinions or get them to question their morals?

RO: Yeah, it's already happened to people. Over the years, I've gotten thousands of responses. People are sick of it. When people find out that one out of every three women in America is raped in her lifetime, that is something that you can't just sit around and accept. Those are things you have to get up and combat. If we are going to call ourselves a civilization, we should start acting civilized.

We should start manifesting civilized activity instead of going around and supporting all this misogynistic and sexist crap. I've gotten letters from women who were really touched by songs like "Ritual" (from downset.'s first record).

Think about being 14 years old and being raped and not telling anyone and then hearing this guy on this song saying that he cares about the way you feel and about your life. Telling you it's not your fault and you're not the one to blame and you just have to go forward. You just have to believe in yourself and in the issue of good

KT: In "Ritual" there is the line 'Physical rape is psychological murder." Such a bold statement suggests that you are active in the Feminist/Pro-Choice movement.

RO: I'm not really down with abortion but I'm down with women having the right to have an abortion. I'm not pro-abortion but I'm pro-right and ultimately it's their body and I'll protect their right to choose.

I'm into motivating people to start female 'zines or to organize female rallies at colleges. I'll back up the feminist movement all the way. Women are incredible, women give birth to life, and I think that we live in such a Euro-centric, male dominated society and women just get treated like trash and I'm not with that at all.

KT: What made you decided to pick up a mic instead of peddling on the

RO: I was into hip-hop before I was into punk rock and hard-core. Punk rock and hard-core was considered white boy music where I grew up. It was almost taboo but I liked it.

When I really started checking it out and getting into the history of heavy music I found out about people like Chuck Berry and Jimi Hendrix and I found that guitar music was really a descendant of blues, and blues is black. Blues is as black as it gets, it's really a black form of music.

I picked up a mic and started flowing back in '82 and '83 and I've been a graffiti artist since I was 12 or 13 years old. So I was really into hiphop when most people were into gang banging and starting a ruckus 'cause that's the way it is down here.

Being a graffiti artist, I met a lot of people from different scenes, people into stuff like Suicidal Tendencies, Black Flag, and the Dead Kennedys and from that I started getting into punk and more positive straight-edge

KT: Your lyrics seem to portray the ills of society. Yet there always seems to be an answer in it.

RO: Yeah, I talk about how rough it is to become an individual. At the end of it I say take your life back. And part of taking your life back is realizing that your potential as a productive human being is deep.

You have the power to do a lot. You have the power to build and face the day...do it and do it now! The thing that is most important about the past and the future is that now is now. Do what you can!

KT: What to you think of the current trends in so-called "gangsta" rap?

RO: I think a lot of the music is dope but I'm not into people who parasite off of ill will. There are so many fools trying to act like hard-core ganstas and whether you come from the Barrio or the Hood is fine, but now what? You're trying to leech and that's not funny.

If you really did see one of your homeboys get shot in the face with a shotgun, it's not funny. You need to see it for what it really is, not go around bragging about it. We live in a very decadent age.



KT: Have you yourself ever been a victim of violence?

RO: Constantly, my whole life - I'm not just saying that to make myself look like a tough guy. That's just L.A. You can be a middle-class white kid out here and go through hell. L.A. is the wild west, kid. Fools pack gats out here, and they'll use 'em on you,

KT: Were you ever in a gang?

RO: Yeah, I was involved and my family has been involved for generations but it's not something I think is cool or something I want to brag

When you have a broken family and when you're living in the shadow of the Vietnam war and you're looking for a family and you want someone to support you through the darkness that you are feeling. A lot of kids on the street will do a lot for each other, but people really twist it up into this gang mentality and end up killing instead of coming together and realizing that they are all just hurt

KT: What do you think of the situation in Mexico right now?

RO: The Mexican people are sick and tired of this NAFTA crap. It's the new Indian wars. What people don't understand is that in Cheapos, Mexico there is a lot of oil and the American government wants it.

They need oil, this is an industrialized nation and they need oil to be a productive nation. I'll tell you this, I don't believe in violence and I don't believe that violence gets anything

It's a shame that a ten year old native girl has to walk around with a AK-47 and a laptop computer to protect what is rightfully hers, which is her native land.

There has to be a time when you have to say that this is it and I'm not going to take this anymore and you have to stand up. I won't use violence but other people will. I think violence has only a temporary victory. It doesn't do anything long term.

Man has perfected the art of murder. He can murder you from a satellite in the sky. Murder doesn't accomplish anything, brutality doesn't accomplish anything.

KT: On the new album you have a song called "Ashes in Hand" that has an intro of "Sex Kills!!" repeated over and over. Why is that?

RO: If you think that AIDS is only in the homosexual community, you're fooled. It's not an age where you can hop around and have sex wherever and whenever you want it. If you don't use contraception and don't practice monogamy and abstinence you are really risking your life.

Sex is a weapon. People use it against each other. People use it for envy, jealousy, deception, and betrayal. It's just sick, and it will kill you. That's the point of that song.

self and if you don't you can really have problems. You can die! So if you are going to have sex either use contraception or practice monogamy.

KT: Finally, how do you think we can make this country a better place to live in?

RO: Number one, you have to realize that you have a responsibility not only to yourself but to external issues. Since we live under a capitalist society it really narrows you down to focusing on a "me" hamburger with "I" sauce.



It really narrows you down to focusing on yourself, and that's where it all starts. But in America we have really lost a sense of community. You really have to start focusing on other people and at the same time focus on yourself.

We have to get back to the sense of community. Take responsibility for yourself and help as many people as you can. Whether if it's someone who needs a place to stay and you can give them one or if you know someone who is dependent on drugs you can support them to get off of them. We just need to get back a sense of community, a sense of self, and your own sense of spiri-

It's really not that complicated at all. People are really going to need to come together like never before in order to really deal with the bureaucracy in the government because the government is out of control. We really need to start checking the government.

It's happening already because the militias are out of control. In this country when middle-class and lower-middle-class white men start having problems with the federal government then you know we have problems because America is a white, middle-class, privileged culture and the greedy are getting more

downset. will bring their classroom on the road to the Masquerade next Tuesday, March 11.

You really have to take care of your-

THE CHANTICLEER• MARCH 6, 1997

When you get to this point and time, the way we approch it is, it's a whole new season.

- Coach Dana Austin 33

SEE BELOW

Lady Gamecocks start tourney play today

by Rebecca Matanic

Sports editor

The Lady Gamecocks lost their final two road games, dropping them to second place in the TAAC regular season and the number two seed in the conference tournament.

"I think it is just making us pull together more and really want to go win it (the conference tournament) after those big losses," guard Shneka Whaley said.

Jax State faces the seventh-seeded Mercer Bears, today at 11:15 a.m. The teams split in the regular season, with each team winning on its home floor.

"We can run them (Mercer) to death, until they get tired," center Alfredia Seals

"They can't stop our post players," senior Kathy O'Konski said about the Bears.

A Gamecock victory advances them to a 7 p.m., game Friday against either host team Stetson or Campbell.

"When you get to this point and time, the way we approach it is, it's a whole new season," coach Dana Austin said. "And, if you looked at the SEC (Southeastern Conference) women's championship, it goes to show you that anybody can beat anybody on a given night."

The Gamecocks have beaten each of the teams in the TAAC Tournament at least once, but their failure to capture the top seed has placed them on a difficult road to the championship.

"The people that are matched up in our bracket against us, its probably the toughest bracket we could have got into," Austin

Even with a tough draw, the Lady Gamecocks are optimistic about claiming the tournament championship and a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

"It doesn't matter," Whaley said about the bracket. "If you're going to win you've got to win on the road. A good team can win anywhere and anytime."

The consecutive road losses which dropped Jax State to second are still fresh in the Gamecocks' minds.

"I think we kind of needed the losses a little bit to help us realize that we are a good team and we need to pull together to win," O'Konski said. "We can't win by being individuals."



Austin feels her team can rebound from the disappointment of not capturing the regular season crown.

"We wanted that regular season conference championship, but on the same hand this team has been able to bounce back, and I have no doubts they will be able to again," Austin said.

earn a regular season title banner to hang

in Pete Mathews Coliseum, the tournament gives the team a fresh start.

"The other season is gone and past. We'll take that mentality and get our minds re-focused and regrouped and know that this is the most important," Austin said. "This is what gets you to the 'Big Dance."

The Lady Gamecocks' TAAC Even though the Lady Gamecocks didn't Tournament games can be heard on 91.9

UCF ends Lady Gamecocks' conference title hopes

by Rebecca Matanic

Sports editor

"Central Florida played the way we were hoping they would not play," Coach Dana Austin said two days after the Lady Gamecocks dreams of a regular season conference title disappeared.

The loss to UCF along with Thursday's loss to Stetson and Florida International's victory against Florida Atlantic dropped the Gamecocks to second place in the confer-

Jax State embarrassed the Golden Knights 78-41 at Pete Mathews Coliseum Jan. 2, but Austin knew then their next meeting with UCF would not be as pleasant.

The Golden Knights connected on nearly 50 percent of their shots from the field in a 72-64 victory over the Gamecocks, Saturday in Orlando, Fla.

Suzan Shirley led Jax State with 20 points including four 3-pointers. Melissa Harden scored 14 points, but no other Gamecock reached double figures. Alfredia Seals was limited to 2-10 from the field for four points.

"I think we still played good enough to where we put ourselves in an opportunity to win the game, but we could just never get over the hump," Austin said. "So many times we cut it to two. I think if we could



Coach Dana Austin feels her team is ready for tournament play

have ever taken the lead we could have had the momentum shifted into our hands."

Shantrice Saxon led UCF with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Chariya Davis added 13

The victory improved the Golden Knights to 9-7 in the TAAC and earned them the

"They had a lot to play for and we had a lot to play for," Austin said. "Our girls knew it and there's no doubt in my mind they wanted

"I think it was just a case where we didn't play to our top potential like we had at other times, and we didn't get the breaks we needed and Central Florida did," Austin said.

Stetson rallies to beat JSU

Stetson rebounded from a 10 point halftime defecit to defeat Jax State Feb. 27 in DeLand, Fla. The Gamecocks led by as many as 14 points in the first half, but they were unable to put the Lady Hatters away.

Guard Liz Hufford was perfect from the floor and the free throw line in the second half, scoring 11 of her team-high 19 points to lead Stetson.

The Lady Hatters hit nearly 58 percent of their shots from the field in the second half while limiting Jax State to 41 percent. Stetson also connected on 7-10 from the 3point arch.

Freshman center Nicole Knappmiller scored 14 points for Stetson and won a couple key rebounding and loose ball battles with JSU Seals down the stretch.

"They're an excellent team," Austin said about the Hatters. "They did all the little things down the stretch you need to do to win. They did it when they had to and we didn't. Overall, I think our girls really played their hearts out."

Seals led Jax State with 20 points on 8-15 from the floor, but only 4-9 in the second half. Senior guard Lori Breedlove sparked the

Gamecocks with six steals, most coming in the first half on a full court press. Harden chipped in with 13 points and seven rebounds.

JSU 3-point artist Shirley added 10 points, but saw at least three of her seven on-target

"They had a lot to play for, and we had a lot to play for. Our girls knew it and there's no doubt in my mind they wanted it."

- Coach Dana Austin

attempts from behind the arch rim out. Shneka Whaley also scored 10 points, including 4-5 from the charity stripe.

A full court press in the first half led by the hustle and defensive pressure of Whaley, Shirley and Breedlove was instrumental in giving the Gamecocks the halftime advantage. Austin resumed full court pressure late in the second half, but the Lady Hatters were better prepared and handled the JSU pressure.

"I'm still proud of our girls," Austin said. "The little things down the stretch is what we didn't do. I can see several offensive rebounds that we gave them near the stretch that we had our hands on, but we just couldn't pull it tight enough and they went in and

JSU ends season with 87-72 loss at Alabama State

by Shannon Fagan

Sports writer

The Gamecocks ended the 1996-97 season February 26 with a loss to the Alabama State Hornets. JSU was outscored 43-30 in the first half of play. The deficit proved too much to overcome as the Gamecocks lost 87-72.

In the final game of his college career, Kenny Sorenson led the charge for the Gamecocks. He scored a game-high 23 points and pulled down eight rebounds. Jay Knowlton came away with 14 points, including three from beyond the arch. Derrell Johnson chipped in with 10 points.

The Hornets were led by Terrance Simmons. He scored 19 points on 8 of 10 shooting from the field. Reginald Harris added 13 points and Arteria Clifton came off the bench to score 13 points also. Antwan Tate came away with 10 points.

The Gamecocks finished the season with an overall record of 10-17. They clinched second place in the TAAC West Division with a 9-7 record.

Hustle, intensity and talent

by Rebecca Matanic

Sports editor

She usually scores in double figures and grabs six or seven rebounds, but what has made junior forward Melissa Harden so valuable to coach Dana Austin and the Lady Gamecock basketball team are the little things she does in every practice and in every game she plays.

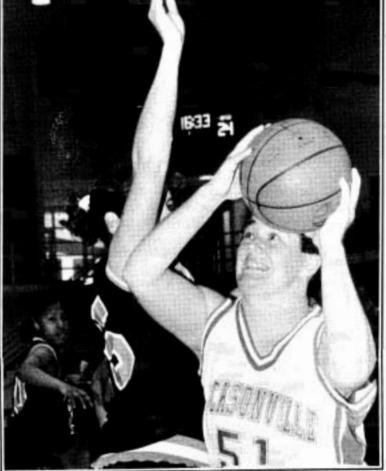
Harden, a California native and a Dodge City Community College transfer, has been an instrumental part of the Lady Gamecocks success this season. Her impact has been so great that she is nominated for the TAAC Newcomer-of-the-Year award which will be awarded this weekend.

Her intensity, which leads to many dives and falls to the floor after loose balls has earned her the nickname of "Tumbles."

"My teammates say I can't stand on my own two feet."

She may be on the floor often, but Harden is certainly coordinated and talented. Austin often calls on her to guard the opponent's toughest post player. Harden doesn't disappoint. Her defensive intensity and skills frequently deny her player from even receiving an inside pass.

"When I came here I had to work hard to get into the starting line-up," Harden said. "I've



Melissa Harden shoots for two against Mercer during the Gamecocks victory earlier this season.

always been a hard worker with a lot of determination."

Playing her first season at the Division I level, Harden says she sees a more physical and faster

paced game than she played at Dodge City. The 5'10" Harden has also had to battle many taller players at JSU, but her hustle and fundamental skills have more

than made up for any height disadvantages.

Harden, an elementary education major, came to JSU for many reasons, but admits that after living in California she was ready for a change.

"She (Austin) came out and visited when I was at Dodge City," Harden says. "She saw me play and when I came to Jacksonville State to visit, I loved it."

Harden, who hopes to coach women's basketball, says she's happy with her decision to attend JSU and play for Austin.

"I really like her as a coach all around. She (Austin) pushes you to the next level," Harden says. "I really like JSU, it is a great environment. You basically know everyone on campus, because it is pretty small."

Despite the prominent role she plays on the team, Harden says senior guard Lori Breedlove provides the key leadership on the team.

"Lori is our leader. She gets us all going," Harden says. "My goal has been to just help out the team as much as I can."

Harden has been more than just a help to the Lady Gamecocks. No matter how the team fares in the TAAC Tournament, which begins today, Melissa Harden is bound to have a significant impact.



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Auburn pitcher throws no-hitter against JSU

by Rebecca Matanic

Sports editor

Brenda Espinova threw a complete game no-hitter, the first in Auburn softball history, as the Lady Tigers completed a 7-0 and 3-0 double-header sweep of JSU, Feb. 26 in Auburn, Ala.

Espinova allowed only two Gamecocks runner to reach base in the game, one on a walk and the other on a dropped third strike. Gamecock pitcher Rachel Riddell

held the Tigers scoreless until the fourth inning when Ashley Camp, who doubled, scored on a triple by Chris Steiner.

Riddell gave up eight hits in six innings as Auburn tacked on a runs in the fifth and sixth innings giving them the 3-0 victory.

The Gamecock bats were silent in the second game as Auburn pitcher Denissa Montalvo threw a two-hit complete game. JSU pitcher Renee LeGrande was hammered in 4.1 innings of work, surrendering eight hits and six runs.

The JSU defense committed four errors during LeGrande's time on the mound. Julie Kish relieved LeGrande, surrendering four hits and one run over 1.2 innings.

Auburn's offensive attack was led by Jennifer Page with three hits and one RBI. Catcher Kris Henneghan added two hits and two

The loss dropped the Gamecocks to 6-4 while the Tigers improved to

Gamecocks take first two conference games

JSU swept Georgia State Monday to open its conference season at 2-0. The Gamecocks won the first game 3-1 and rallied from a three-run deficit to take the nightcap 5-3.

The Gamecocks were held scoreless in the second game until they rallied for four runs in the sixth to take a 4-3 lead. JSU added another run in its half of the seventh to go ahead 5-3.

Riddell came on to pitch with one

out in the seventh after GSU placed runners on first and second. Riddell got the next GSU hitter to pop out. before an infield single loaded the bases. Riddell struck out GSU's leading hitter to end the game.

The victories improved the Lady Gamecocks to 8-4 on the season. Jax State travels to Tennessee State for a noon double-header Saturday. The Gamecocks have a chance to avenge their losses to Auburn when the Lady Tigers come to University Field for a 3 p.m. double-header Tuesday.

Jax State baseball team battles Georgia

by Shannon Fagan

Sports writer

The Gamecocks traveled to Atlanta Feb. 26 to face the number four ranked and undefeated Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.

Despite pounding out 13 hits and a six run ninth inning rally the Gamecocks came up short in their upset bid, 15-12. Pitcher Bryan Williamson pitched four

innings for the Gamecocks giving up six hits and six runs in his first loss of the season. Jax State third baseman Scott Green had two hits, leading to three Gamecock runs. Roby Brooks had one hit which drove in two JSU runs.

Left fielder J.J. Thomas slammed three hits, including his seventh home run of the season. Thomas led the Gamecock offense with four RBIs.

The Yellow Jackets' Scott Prather feast-

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The Gamecocks led 5-4 after four innings. The Yellow Jackets took charge

in the fifth, scoring two runs to take a 6-5 lead. Georgia tech exploded in the seventh to score seven runs and seemingly put the game out of reach.

JSU didn't give up despite the eight-

run deficit. They tacked one run on the board in the eigth inning and exploded for six in the ninth. The Gamecock pitching allowed two more GTU runs to give them the 15-13 victory.

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