Don’t be sorry... They’re not

By Kimberly Marston
Staff Writer

"I have had people say things like, ‘Oh, I’m so sorry that you can’t hear,’" says Jody Phillips, president of the Student Organization for Deaf Awareness.

"I also have had people pretend as if they understood me by nodding their heads when they really don’t have a clue of what I’m saying," she says.

This is one typical reaction to a hearing person who might not know how to talk to a deaf person. Sending deaf people into these situations in which the hearing person comes up to them and starts talking, unaware that they are deaf.

That person tends to say, "I’m so sorry," then walks off without uttering another word or any effort to communicate with the deaf person.

"Most of the time when I meet hearing people, they say, ‘Oh, um...’ then stop to gesture or move their lips slowly and say, 'Um, I don’t know any sign language. Bye,'" says Abbey DriGo.

Being in this certain situation can be frustrating, especially for the deaf person.

"Sometimes I feel bad, because I couldn’t help them if they needed help," says DriGo.

"At times I get upset and want to say, ‘Excuse me. I may be deaf but I can function well in the hearing world... except that I can’t hear,'" says Phillips.

There are solutions.

If you don’t know sign language, don’t let that stop you from communicating with deaf people. You can talk to them in other ways, such as writing your conversation on paper or using gestures.

To communicate with a deaf person, you can just grab a pen and paper and write down the conversation. If there is no pen of paper around, gestures can help, especially along with facial expressions.

"I would suggest for (hearing) people to write down what they want to say," says DriGo.

Another way that could do is make up signs or gestures and move their mouths slowly and make sure I understand.

So, when you meet a deaf person, whether at school, work or at the store, don’t be shy to try to talk with him or her.

Eye contact is important.

If the deaf person needs you to write down what you want to say, do not hesitate.

Using gestures with facial expressions won’t hurt either.

Communicating with a deaf person can be done if you put in the effort. For more information on deaf awareness, or if you really want to learn sign language, visit Disabled Student Services in Daugelle Hall or call 782-4009.

Fighting an uphill battle
A student finds himself the victim of a crime that police say rarely ever happens in Jacksonville.

By Adam Smith
News Editor

Imagine yourself alone in your apartment late at night.

You’re relaxed. You’re comfortable. All is right with the world.

All of a sudden you hear a knock at the door. You have nothing to fear in this sleepy college town with the exception of not putting in the extra hours of studying for the big test or forgetting to do a homework assignment.

The people that knock at your door are friendly and non-intrusive.

Suddenly you find yourself in the middle of your worst nightmare, and two armed men are deciding whether you live or die.

This is exactly what happened to one JSU student early Monday morning.

Anthony Hill, a JSU junior, and resident at Campus Inn Apartments, had been helping a friend study when he decided to return to his room shortly after 1 a.m. Around 1:25 a.m. he heard a knock at his door. Thinking that he may have been the person he was helping, he opened the door feeling safe and secure in his surroundings.

Unfortunately, Hill found himself at the mercy of two gunfire who were determined to find drugs that were nowhere on the premises. In a terrifying 15-minute ordeal, Hill lay face down with a towel over his head on his apartment floor while two men pilaged his apartment stealing many of Hill’s belongings.

At the beginning when it first happened, I had a huge adrenaline rush," said Hill. Hill originally thought he would be able to defend himself against the first attacker, but what he didn’t know was that there was another man waiting to come in. Both men were armed with handguns.

"After that happened, the adrenaline was still going, but when I got on the floor and they put the towel over my head, then reality started to set in," said Hill.

Hill said the intruders held a gun to his head the entire time, and one of the men kicked him in the back several times. However, Hill’s worse fears came to a head when one of the men suggested that they should kill him. "Really definitely set in at that," said Hill.

While Hill is still in a state of shock, he sees his whole ordeal as a lesson.

"You can’t just look at Jacksonville as just a small town anymore. You have to look at it just as you would if you were from Chicago, Ohio, Ala. or Tallahassee. People are going to be people," said Hill.

Hill is also shocked that it could happen to a person like him. He had taken unarmed self-defense classes, see Hill, page 7.

The Chili-Cook Off is a...gas, gas, gas
JSU’s first spicy festival has folks crying for more

By Stephen Davis
Staff Writer

Last Thursday morning, the JSU Faculty filled the air outside the Gamecock center with the smell of chili.

JSU had its first Chili Cook-Off, sponsored by Student Council for Exceptional Children (SCEC) and the Jacksonville Association of Alabama Young Children (JAYC).

The judging ran between 11 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. and then the chili was served from noon until 2:30 p.m. Local celebrities Mike Raitia and Sheila Downey, as well as JSU coaches Mike Williams, Lisa Howe, Jose Rivera and Janice McGinnis judged the cook-off. ABC 33/40 covered this event and aired it that night at six o’clock.

"This event was started by the efforts of Dr. Steven Armstrong, wanting the two groups to work together for special education and early childhood development," explained Blanche Colley of the SCEC. "The funds raised will help buy books and other needs for these two good causes."

The same evening of the cook-off, the two groups gathered to plan on next year’s cook-off. According to Colley, they plan on inviting more people and organizations to participate in next year’s event. They also plan on advertising sooner, so more people will be able to attend the event. And as soon as they can gather the recipes for the chilis presented, they will publish a chili cookbook.

Out of the fifteen pots presented, the winners for the event were: Most Edible (tied)- Rosemary Harper and Charlotte Adderfield. And the Most Original Title was awarded to Dr. Wow’s Memory Enhancing Chili.

If you have any questions regarding the Chili cook-off, the two organizations, or when the cookbook will be available, you can contact Blanche Colley of the SCEC at 782-5183 and Dr. Engley of the JAYC at 782-5844.
**Announcements**

- **Emotional Development Study:** Do you have a child between 8- and 30-months old? Would you like to have the rewarding experience of involvement in important new research? JSU's Center for Child Development needs volunteers for a new study on emotional development. Call Dr. Brenda Head at 782-5431.

- **Free HIV testing:** Nursing Center Clinic, Call 782-5432 for the next test. Testing will be done by representatives of the Ala. Dept. of Public Health.

- **Student Health Services:** Flu Shots to JSU staff and students for $10 Mondays and Wednesdays, 130-4:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8:30-11:15 a.m.

- **JSU Jazz Ensembles CD “Noteworthy” is on sale from Dr. Chris Culver, trombone, in 203 Mason Hall, 782-5637. CDs are $15 each.

- **JSU Marching Southwestern Band:** Practice this month. CDs are $15 Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 9-11 a.m. Call Ken Bedford, Director of Bands, 304 Madison Hall, 782-5562.

- **Student TV station begins this month.** Volunteers call Lloyd Dobyns at 782-5238.

- **The Spirit Competition is still going on.** One point per person in your group attending SGA or JSU-sponsored events. Come out and show your spirit.

- **Athletic Booster Club Fundraising:** Applications for the 1999-2000 Director of Publicity. Requirements: Sophomore or standing with 2.3 GPA or better.

- **deadlines:** April 15, 4:30 p.m. at the SGA offices the 4th floor of TMH.

- **SGA Golden Apple Award:** The SGA is rewarding those professors that contribute highly to JSU in many ways. To nominate your favorite professor, stop by the SGA office to pick up an application form. If you’d like to volunteer for the selection committee, contact Kelliy Johnson at 782-5491.

- **Book Sale:** Sponsored by the Model Arab League: a used book sale in 238 Martin Hall during the first week of March. Books sold (50 cents to $1 each) will help defray costs of participating in this year’s Model Arab League. Please donate your used texts.

- **“Prints and Drawings,” by Conrad Ross, will be on exhibition at the Hammond Hall Gallery March 2-19. Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be an opening reception, Thursday, March 4, 6-8 p.m. in the Gallery. Ross will conduct a talk on his work and the “Wycross Press Collaborations,” Wednesday, March 3, 10 a.m. for more information, call Steve Loucks at 782-5708 or Charles Groover at 782-5625.

- **Friends of Houston Cole Library sponsors “The Good Boy In Literature—Stereotype or Archetype?” a lecture by Pam Kingsbury of the Alabama Humanities Foundation. Thursday, March 18, 11:30-1 p.m. Free admission.

- **M. University’s pageant will be held on Thursday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Leake Cole Auditorium. There is a $10 entrance fee for contestants and admission to the event will be $2. For more information call Christy Ramsden at 782-7716.

- **The Center for Cultural Arts** hosts five of JSU student Mario Gallardo through March. A reception will be Tuesday, March 9 from 5:30-7 p.m. For more information contact Heather Ricks at 543-2787.

- **International Student Exhibition at Dillen Field, Sunday, March 7, at 1 p.m.**

- **Heritage Exposition at theAnderson’s house on the square, 5 p.m. Come see other cultures.

- **International Cinema: South Africa,” March 11, 1 p.m. Free admission.**

- **SGA elections, March 9-10, on the 4th floor of TMH from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sixty applicants for 35 spots: come and vote your favorite.**

- **ACE Seminars (213 Stephenson Hall): Awareness Training—Tuesday, March 9, 9-11 a.m. Sexual Harassment—Tuesday, March 16, 1-3 p.m.**

- **International Week, March 10: Hispanic-Latino Night at the International House, 7 p.m., and Flamenco Ballet at Stone Center, 8 p.m. (RSVP 782-5648)**

- **JSU Jazz Band will play in the TMH Food Court, March 11 at 5 p.m.**

- **International Week Special Speaker presents of the East, Thursday, March 12, 11 a.m. Free admission.**

- **Attention: Lost and Found:** If you have lost something in the vicinity of the Student Health Center (located between Sparkman Hall and Mason Hall), please call Nancy or Norma at 782-5310.

- **The Chanticleer staff encourages, or rather thrives on the feedback from their readers. If you have an opinion about anything, please free to drop us a letter or e-mail us. We are located in Room 180 in Self Hall and our office e-mail address is newspaper@student-mail.jsu.edu — Let your voice be heard!**

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**Campus Crime Docket**

- **Items in the Campus Crime Docket are obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department.**

- **SGA students have the right to view these public records.** If you believe your information is incorrect, please contact us at 782-5701 or call the JSU Police Department at 782-5505.

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**The Chanticleer**

- **Single Copy:** Free. Multiple Copies: $0.25 each.

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**Our office is in Room 180, Self Hall; phone us at 782-5701 or 782-5703.**

**For our Advertising Director, please call 782-5712.**

**Our e-mail address is—newspaper@student-mail.jsu.edu.**

Please deliver press releases via e-mail or campus mail. Thank you for reading The Chanticleer.
Laughlin speaks out

Miss JSU 1999 wants women everywhere to get tested and treated for breast cancer

By Wendy Lambert
News Writer

"In Alabama alone, there are 600 women who die of breast cancer every year," said Miss JSU Amanda Laughlin at Monday night's SGA meeting.

It's a common problem for women in the United States, yet many are unaware of the disease.

"Breast cancer is the second cause of death in women, preceded by heart disease," said Laughlin. It is very common among women ages 15 to 34. Approximately 534,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed every year in the United States.

"Each year, 44,000 women die of breast cancer," according to Laughlin, who also says people need to become more educated on the subject.

Laughlin's choice of platform for the Miss Alabama Pageant is personal. This past summer, Laughlin's mother found a lump in her breast. The test results revealed the lump was not cancerous, but it made her realize a member of her family could easily be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Referring to Laughlin's commonly asked question of why she chose Breast Cancer Awareness as her platform, "I think people are interested in knowing a personal story."

"It could happen to anybody," said Laughlin, who said one in nine women will have breast cancer in her lifetime. "If I can get one woman to prevent a case of breast cancer by early detection or get women in general to perform monthly breast exams and to get regular mammograms, then I'll know that I've been successful," said Laughlin.

Women think that seeing a doctor regularly will prevent breast cancer, Laughlin said. But it's usually found by themselves or by their husbands, and not found by a doctor.

It is vital to know how to prevent breast cancer, said Laughlin. The best way is to become familiar with your body and be aware of any changes, in hopes of finding breast cancer in the early stages, so it can be cured.

Tree-hugging on the square

By Amy Phillips and Matt Wiram
Volunteer Writers

What would campus be like without trees to both beautify and shade?

"Where would students go to escape the heat of dorm rooms with faulty air conditioning?"

Helping ensure that trees will be around to provide these things for future generations is the National Arbor Day Foundation. It sets aside a special week each year devoted to the planting of new trees.

According to the Arbor Day pamphlet provided by the Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Department, Alabama celebrates Arbor Day during the last full week of February to coincide with the best tree planting weather.

Last Monday afternoon many organizations helped to kick off Arbor Day week on the square by giving away a variety of trees, posters, and pamphlets. All twelve cases of trees were donated by the Alabama Forestry Commission: seven different types of trees, ranging from dogwoods to the Alabama state tree, the Longleaf Pine.

The Calhoun County Beautification Board was in charge of putting on the tree giveaway, and the city of Jacksonville offered the square and supplied all the fliers and tables. Girl Scout troops 141, 150 and 151 provided many volunteers. The girls earned a patch and certificate for their efforts.

A "treeture," who resembles a squirrel, was on hand to get the kids interested in Arbor Day and was provided by the Calhoun County Cooperative Extension Service. According to David West, the treeture makes sure the trees spread their pollen so that seeds can be made to help trees grow.

"Arbor Day is different from other holidays because it focuses on the future instead of the past," said Charles Glazner of the Jacksonville/Calhoun County Beautification Board. Glazner also wants people to become more aware of the beautification board and that the board gives out awards to businesses and land owners for their beautification efforts.

If anyone is interested in learning more about the beautification board, the board meets the first Monday of every month in the office of the Calhoun County Cooperative Extension System. For more information contact David West at 237-1621.

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Beauty by Benigni

By Eric L. Adler
Staff Writer

Roberto Benigni’s movie, “Life is Beautiful (La Vita è Bella),” winner of the Best Picture award at the European Film Awards, has received praise as the best movie of the year or possibly the best movie of the decade. It could be. It is that good.

You won’t find it in theaters anywhere near Jacksonville, though. I had to go all the way to the Riverchase Galleria in Birmingham. It is worth making the trip to Birmingham or Atlanta to see this film.

The story begins in 1939 in Italy. Fascism is on the rise. The central character, Guido Orefice (Roberto Benigni), travels to the Tuscan town of Arezzo to try to open a bookstore. He has a bit of difficulty at first and falls in love with a schoolteacher named Dora (Nicoletta Braschi) in the meantime.

Guido woos Dora away from her fiancé through an outrageous and downright hilarious courtship. The couple marries, has a boy named Giosué (Joshua), played by Giorgio Cantarini, and opens a bookstore. Guido is Jewish, however, and the German SS eventually take him and Giosué away in a train car. Dora, a Catholic, begs the Germans to put her on the train with her husband and son.

At this point, the movie changes dramatically. Arriving at a concentration camp, Dora is placed in the women’s part of the camp, away from Guido and Giosué. Under harsh conditions, Guido spends the rest of the movie trying to make Giosué believe that the entire experience is a game in which the child with the best behavior earns 1000 points and wins his very own army tank.

Guido brings humor to the concentration camp in the most unexpected and bold ways. He risks his life to make his child and wife happy, and puts on an act for Giosué even in the face of impending death.

Despite the virtue in Guido’s actions, the second half of the movie is disturbing to watch. It is difficult to laugh at the humor in the concentration camp because of the gruesome nature of the setting and the fact that Guido keeps his son in the dark about their real existence. After the movie ends, however, it is easy to recognize the importance of humor and a positive outlook on life regardless of the conditions.

This is not a movie about the Holocaust. It is also much more than the slapstick comedy of “Hogan’s Heroes” and the satire of Nazism in Charlie Chaplin’s “The Great Dictator.” “Life is Beautiful” is a touching story of a very funny man who makes life as nice as he can for his son and wife despite living in the most awful conditions. By placing a naturally funny character like Guido in a survival situation, Benigni strips him of everything in life except the barest essentials: laughter and love.

If you do make the trip to see this movie, you will see a movie unlike any you have ever seen before. It has none of the plot twists of “Shakespeare in Love” and none of the action or special effects of “Saving Private Ryan,” but it has a special mixture of comedy and love that sends a message stronger than either of the other two films.

If you have never seen an Italian movie, or any movie with subtitles, this is a good place to start. It is certainly of the caliber of the decade-old “Cinema Paradiso” and German film “Wings of Desire,” and it is much better than the acclaimed “Il Postino,” released in 1995.

The subtitles in this movie are more distracting than in the other movies because Benigni’s comedy is so visual, but it is enjoyable none-the-less.

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Why not print?

By Phil Attinger
Editor in Chief

You can see the word “REAL” peering out from a mountain lake. Ross carved it slowly, one inch at a time, to honor Ansel Adams who developed his photographs a section at a time for greater clarity. When Adams died in 1983, on the very day that Ross finished, Ross included the word “REAL.”

“That’s reality,” said Ross, saying that people live and die, so that’s part of art, too.

Ross also includes his “life” series, that has the word “LIFE” coming out of fields and colorful patches.

As he tells the story, traveling through the Midwest in the 1970s, he saw farmers on tractors tearing up the land. Later, he came back through and saw a faint carpeting of green shoots covering the fields: “Life renewing,” says Ross.

Ross’ prints will stay on display in the Hammond Hall Gallery until March 19. Come by and see his take on life.

Yesterday, March 3, Ross gave a lecture on his work. The talk was free to the community.

Ross also sells his limited edition folios for $200 each. If you are interested in his folios, call him in Auburn at (205) 887-6836. 
When you have a coat tail like Korn to ride upon, I say, ride on. Just watch and don't ride too high.

Videodrone, a Bakersfield, California-based quintet recently signed their self-titled debut album to Korn's label Elementree/Reprise.

In the works as a band since 1988, Videodrone has managed to cut their decade of hard work and experience to good use on this eleven track CD. There is a great force behind Videodrone and they are definitely making their mark on the future canvas of modern millennium music.

Previously known as Cradle of Thorns, the band, in between runs to the studio, opened for bands like Social Distortion, Offspring and Sugar Ray. Around the same era they decided to drop Cradle of Thorns for a more contemporary Videodrone.

Videodrone is five guys who have grown up together and are releasing music that is fueled by aggression and intensity. A great CD to spin and let off a little steam.

Currently touring with Korn and now solo Rob Zombie, Videodrone is well worth checking out for any metal head.

by Dave Mathews

"Body Language" is the new album by Boney James. Boney is a saxophonist whose songs have a rhythm and blues feel. The CD is 42 minutes in length and features only one song with lyrics, "I'll Always Love You" featuring Shai. The other eight songs will soon be get lost within the music and become a bit mundane and whined, whined poety nonetheless from a man who never seemed to be in style, and gets away with it.

This will musically take you on a ride, a ride that may be interrupted from time to time by some indescribable force telling you most of it has been done, way too much.

The jams will keep your attention but also leave you wanting more.

by Dave Mathews

N'Sync and Backstreet Boys tied, beware! Tevin Campbell is back! Campbell quickly tries to establish a bad boy image that he never even comes close to living up to before he returns to his Whorf bleating heart lyrics. With his repetitious songs, he seems to be aiming up to before he returns to his teenage crowd while supplying their demand for junior high make-out music.

In his defense, "Since I Lost You" and "The Only One For Me," featuring Faith Evans, may receive air play. Other songs do present a positive message such as the playas hate tune entitled, "Ain't Nothin' But a Good Time." But as the old saying goes, "Ya don't buy an album for its cover."

The CD is not all that bad, so I will give it an indifferent, "Buy it if you want to."

by Christopher Lauer

Do you like good jazz? Do you like the pleasant sounds of a vibraphone? Well, if you answered "yes" to the above questions, then you need to check out "Explosive," the new release by Milt Jackson Meets the Clayton-Hamilton Orchestra.

This extremely pleasant CD, available through Qwest/Warner Bros. records, is a delight to fans of the jazz and swing genres. However, if you're a fan of overall good musicianship, then it serves that purpose as well.

Milt Jackson's vibraphone playing is superb throughout. The album was in fact produced by Jackson and John Clayton, Jr. who also handles the bass duties. Also featured are Jeff Hamilton who is an extremely rhythmic drummer and Jeff Clayton who handles sax, flute and clarinet duties.

The CD also boasts a sixteen-piece orchestra which adds to the richness of such tracks as "Bag's Groove," "Deed I Do," and the lovely "The Nearness of You." The other eight songs are skillful without sounding overbearing or exaggerated.

by Adam Smith
When I first heard, my face almost hit the floor. For twenty years we’ve seen the price of gasoline soar. We drove Hondas and VWs to keep the visits to the pump at a minimum. But now, the madness has returned.

Ford has given us “The Expedition,” a sport-utility that belongs in a military motor pool.

Welcome back the behemoths. The last time Detroit put out a production car this long, it said “Cadillac” on the side.

Star Wars was a recent phenomenon and John Travolta was a big star. Wait a minute, that’s NOW — again.

Now Ford, showing what forward thinkers they are, want to sell us a “sport-utility vehicle.” They mean a tank, because only a military vehicle drinks more gasoline.

The Exhibition, I mean, Expedition is well named. You’ll need to go on one to find the back door from the driver’s seat. It boasts that it can seat nine. But it also stretches to 19-feet-long, has 10 cylinders and guzzles down a gallon of gas every 10 miles.

TEN MILES! When I first started driving, I ended up with a 1973 Ford Galaxy. It ran out of gas every other day for two reasons: 1) I didn’t have cash, and 2) it chugged the brew like a bingie drinker.

I hated it. Unless they’ve been to Commercial Driver Institute and trained on transfer trucks and semis.

Heaven help us normal drivers if a 15-year-old gets one for Christmas. We’re all maniacs at that age: I rolled a Bug and wasn’t even going over sixty-five. Speed limits today are 70.

One of my professors jokes that when he owned a 19-foot Cadillac, it had one advantage: “all the Hondas would just move into the median and let you by.”

Auto execs shouldn’t think this is a big fashion trend. People with too much money and not enough brains buy them, then the rest of us get one for only one reason: protection from the first guy.

Stop the madness! Tell Ford that its way out of line, and maybe the rest of us can get some gasoline, too.

---

The time is 1:25 A.M., early Monday morning. I was sitting in my living room, eating a plate of cheese fries while watching an episode of “The Dick Van Dyke Show.” Suddenly I hear a knock at the door.

“Who in the hell could this be at this time of the morning?” I said, and thunk to myself. Then I took a look out of the window, only to see some shady guy standing in front of my door. My initial thought was to not open the door, but I thought that I might have forgotten to turn my automobile lights off and that he might have been coming to inform me.

I opened the door to ask the guy what I could do for him.

“You got anything,” asked the man. I replied by telling the stranger that he obviously had come to the wrong apartment. He then told me that I was “jiving” him. The man then sort of gestured to his shirt to show me that he had a gun.

“Man, you are tripping,” I said after spotting the gun on his waist. I then made an attempt to close the door.

He quickly smashed his body against the door to try to keep me from shutting it on him. I drew back and caught him with a right hook against the jaw. His knees buckled slightly and he began to sway back.

Right as I began to step back clearly into my apartment, another guy with a stocking cap over his face and a revolver pistol in his hand, proceeded to stick the chrome to my dome.

After I had been taken hostage in my own home, the first guy in which I had encountered put his mask on his face and pressed his gun against my head and told me to get on the floor.

When I got on the floor, one of the guys threw a towel over my head and told me to keep quiet. The other guy continued to crash my apartment in hopes of finding drugs or a large sum of money.

Needless to say, the perpetrator found neither drugs or money.

About five minutes passed and I was still on the floor of my apartment, face down, with a gun to my head and another guy raiding my place.

“I think we are going to have to take him out,” said the guy nearest to me. I am not going to lie. I really thought that my life had come to an tragic conclusion.

Silence swept the apartment for about two minutes before I decided to remove the towel from over my head.

I quickly but cautiously looked around my apartment to see if the coast was clear.

After I felt that the scene was safe, I proceeded to call the UPD.

How could something of this nature happen in Jacksonville, Alabama, especially at JSU (the friendliest campus in the South)?

I guess being friendly does not include the citizens of the area. I am still very much in a state of shock, because who would ever expect something like this to happened to them. (NOT ME 1!)

If you ever have the opportunity to take an unarmed self defense class, take the class and pay attention to detail, because this could happen to anyone.
Student editor rocks Auburn

By Christine Tatum
College Press Exchange

Depending on whom you talk to, Lee Davidson is one of the best or worst student editors ever to lead a campus newspaper.

Her work has forced just about everyone at Auburn University off the fence of indifference; folks there either love it or hate it.

Yet her supporters and critics can agree: Davidson and the rest of the staff of The Auburn Plainsman have taught the state of Alabama a thing or two about free speech and the power of the press. The lessons learned from this story inside a story could result in a complete overhaul of the structure Auburn established to govern its student newspaper.

"We never realized what a big deal all the hubbub was about," said Ching-Wei Tzeng, a member of the university's student communications board.

Davidson and her colleagues wound up in the middle of controversy last fall after running several stories and editorials about the role university trustee Robert Lowder may have played in the midseason resignation of head football coach Terry Bowden. The Plainsman quoted other trustees and faculty members who charged that Lowder, a wealthy banker and million-dollar donor to the university, used his influence to force the resignation.

The paper's sources grumbled that it wasn't the first time university decision-makers had kowtowed to Lowder, prompting reporters to figure out why.

That's when some members of the university's board of student communications adopted a resolution to censure Davidson, claiming she had repeatedly used bad judgment when directing the Lowder coverage. They said she had overstepped appropriate boundaries and had destroyed her credibility and objectivity by printing unsubstantiated allegations. They even faulted her for putting an editorial on the paper's front page.

But what really angered reporters throughout the state was the board's threat to fire Davidson if she didn't start running the paper to its liking. Attorneys for the state press association wasted little time drafting a letter stating that the threat to fire Davidson had "crossed the line into the realm of civil liability for violation of First Amendment rights."

"We just asked her to be fair and not to make up news," Tzeng said. "...she has no right to be the single authority for the newspaper."

Whether the paper should be held accountable to the student communications board is now up for debate.

The board's 5-4 decision to censure Davidson also has been mired in controversy. The dissenting votes came from three faculty members and one student journalism major. The majority came from five students -- all connected fraternities and the student government association and none had ever had a journalism class.

The board's decision smacked of cronyism when The Plainsman published a story carefully tracking trustees' voting records and their relations outside of the boardroom. The paper revealed that one trustee borrowed a sizeable sum from Lowder's bank; while another runs a law office in a building Lowder owns. Another trustee's wife serves on the board of directors for Lowder's bank.

"Our intent is not to confuse or mislead with sensationalism," Lee Davidson, editor in chief, The Plainsman, Auburn University, said of this controversy. "Our intent is to drive home the importance of what this pivotal man has to say in his own defense."

The board's vote also had "crossed the line into the realm of civil liability for violation of First Amendment rights."

Depending on whom you talk to, Lee Davidson is one of the best or worst student journalists in the nation.

"Well, I am not sure if she is the best or the worst," said Jerry Brown, head of Auburn's journalism department. "Lee led the state press with that piece."

Disagusted that Lowder granted interviews with mainstream press but never returned The Plainsman's calls, Davidson ran a huge blank space on the front of the Dec. 3 issue above a headline that read "Speak Lowder, We Can't Hear You."

"Our intent is not to confuse or mislead with sensationalism," Davidson wrote in a letter to students. "Our intent is to drive home the importance of what this pivotal man has to say in his own defense."

However, he also said violent crime trends as a whole are down at JSU. Hill has some wise advice for JSU students who do not want to wind up in his situation. "Do not open the door for anybody that you don't know and tell the people that you want to come over to call before they come," Hill also said that if a student does find him or her self face to face, they should definitely be calm. "Don't want to show fear but at the same time, you don't want to play the hero. Just do what they say, and if God's on your side, you'll live through it."

"We never realized what a big deal all of this would become," Ching-Wei Tzeng, Auburn Student Communications Board.

To make its case, The Plainsman published a university carefully tracking trustees' voting records and their relations outside of the boardroom. The paper revealed that one trustee borrowed a sizeable sum from Lowder's bank; while another runs a law office in a building Lowder owns. Another trustee's wife serves on the board of directors for Lowder's bank.

The paper also pointed out that Lowder's term expired in 1995 and that for some odd reason Gov. Fob James' nominations for Lowder's replacement had been consistently killed in committee meetings before ever reaching the state Senate.

"The first time I read it, I almost dropped my jaw bone," said Jerry Brown, head of Auburn's journalism department. "Lee led the state press with that piece."

Disagusted that Lowder granted interviews with mainstream press but never returned The Plainsman's calls, Davidson ran a huge blank space on the front of the Dec. 3 paper above a headline that read "Speak Lowder, We Can't Hear You."

"Our intent is not to confuse or mislead with sensationalism," Davidson wrote in a letter to students. "Our intent is to drive home the importance of what this pivotal man has to say in his own defense."

The questions have sparked meetings between school officials and faculty, trying to determine how the student newspaper should run next year.

By then, Davidson hopes she will have found her first job out of school.
JSU earns third seed in TAAC tournament

By Shannon Fagan
Sports Editor

Jacksonville State clinched the third seed in the upcoming TAAC Tournament thanks to wins against Florida Atlantic and rival Troy State. The tournament will begin today in Atlanta and continue through Saturday.

The Lady Gamecocks will face the Samford Lady Bulldogs in the opening round of play. Samford has been a thorn in their side this season.

Samford has beaten JSU twice already in the regular season. They come into the contest as the number six seed with an 8-18 record. Here is a look at how the Lady Gamecocks earned the third seed:

Jacksonville State 73
Troy State 71

In the home finale for JSU, Lateatrice Thomas stole the show. She had a terrific shooting night shooting the basketball, connecting on 12 of her 19 shots from the floor. Thomas ended the night with a game-high 30 points and muscled down 11 rebounds.

Thomas had support from teammates Betsy Trau and Lisa Baswell. Trau was on fire from three-point range, hitting four of six on her way to 15 points. Baswell chipped in with 12 points to help JSU pull out the win.

However, the Lady Trojans were tough to put away. Trailing 40-34 at the break, Troy State outscored JSU 37-33 in the final frame.

Leading the charge was LaKeisha Parrish with 16 points. Chandra Bradford wasn’t far behind, managing 15 points on the evening. Tomeika Golatte chipped in with 14 points but it wasn’t enough as JSU squeaked out the win.

Jacksonville State 82
Florida Atlantic 73

Thomas sparked the Lady Gamecocks once again in Boca Raton on Saturday. This time, she rocked the rim for 21 points and pulled down 11 rebounds.

For her performances last week, Thomas became the fourth player from JSU this season to earn TAAC Player of the Week.

Baswell wasn’t far behind Thomas, coming away with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Heather Mayes found her shooting touch from three-point range, connecting on four of seven on her way to 16 points. Baswell chipped in with 12 points to help JSU pull out the win.

Wednesday. Those wins assured JSU one of the top seeds in the TAAC Tournament. JSU hopes to avoid an early exit like last post-season when top-seeded Florida International defeated the Lady Gamecocks last year in the second round, 82-44.

Cocks open TAAC play, lose two of three to Mercer

By Shannon Fagan
Sports Editor

Fresh off of their trip from deep in the heart of Texas, the Gamecocks came back east to open up conference play against Mercer. The Gamecocks plated three runs and pitcher Brandon Culp pitched seven innings on the way to his first win of the year.

On Saturday, the Gamecocks and Bears got back on the diamond for a doubleheader. In game one, JSU’s Brandon Culp pitched seven innings on the way to his first win of the year. It didn’t come easy as the Gamecocks had to come from a two-run deficit in the sixth.

Grant played long ball again, ripping it for his third homerun of the year. He came away with two runs. First baseman Russell Harry had a big hit at the plate. He powered up four hits, including a double and a run.

The Gamecocks led throughout the game. They carried a 4-3-7 lead with them into the seventh inning and muscled down 11 points to help JSU pull out the win.

The Lady Gamecocks led throughout the game. They carried a 4-3-7 lead with them into the seventh inning.

Those wins assured JSU one of the top seeds in the TAAC Tournament. JSU hopes to avoid an early exit like last post-season when top-seeded Florida International defeated the Lady Gamecocks last year in the second round, 82-44.

Cocks open TAAC play, lose two of three to Mercer
JSU defeats Mississippi State

By Shannon Fagan
Sports Editor

It looked as if it was going to be a banner day for JSU when they traveled to Starkville, Miss., to face SEC power Mississippi State. They took the first game of the doubleheader on Saturday and looked for the sweep in the second game. The Lady Bulldogs regrouped and took the second game in a shutout.

Earlier last week, JSU lost a pair of games to UT-Chattanooga and swept a doubleheader against Furman. Here is a look at the action:

UT-Chattanooga 9
Jacksonville State 3

UT-Chattanooga pitcher Jill Wilcoxson gave up 12 hits and all nine of Chattanooga's runs in game one. Julie Boland and Michelle Uribe led the offensive charge for JSU. Boland went two of four at the plate, including a double and a run. Uribe came through with two singles, but JSU couldn't cash those hits in against pitcher Talya Trudell. Despite giving up nine hits, Trudell held the Lady Gamecocks to just three runs.

Jacksonville State 12
UT-Chattanooga 1
Things got even worse in the second game for the Lady Gamecocks. They could only manage four hits off of pitcher Corianne Rogalsky. She held JSU scoreless until the seventh inning. Lauren Buck pitched six innings for the Lady Gamecocks, giving up nine runs off of 10 hits.

Jacksonville State 7
Furman 3
The Lady Gamecocks got back on the winning track against the Paladins. A four-run sixth inning in game one proved to be the difference for JSU. Several Lady Gamecocks feasted on pitcher Ashley Rayl. Second baseman Christine Tucker had two hits, including a triple and a run. Hollie Bowyer, Toni Duncan and Tifanie Cain each had two hits that led to three more Lady Gamecock runs.

Wilcoxson earned her fifth win of the season. She went the distance, giving up only five hits on the way to her second win. She also helped herself at the plate, going two for three with a double and a run. Boland and Tucker also went two for three at the plate. Cain had a double and two RBI to help JSU sweep Furman.

Jacksonville State 6
Mississippi State 3
The Lady Gamecocks made it three in a row when they traveled to Starkville to face the Lady Bulldogs. JSU jumped out to a 2-0 lead in second and didn't look back. They plated another run in the fourth and three more in the sixth. Leading the charge were Buck and Duncan. Buck ripped Lady Bulldog pitchers for two hits, including a homer and three RBI. Duncan also had two hits to help JSU pounce on Mississippi State.

Wilcoxson was back to form at the mound. She went the distance, giving up only three runs off seven hits. The win improved her record to 6-4.

Jacksonville State 4
Mississippi State 0

In game two, JSU could only manage two hits. The Lady Bulldogs took advantage and gained some revenge. Buck only had one bad inning. That came in the third when the Lady Bulldogs plated all four of their runs. Buck only gave up seven hits but JSU couldn't give her any run support.
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Aries (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — A compromise is possible, but you may not want to give up anything. Think about what you’re trying to achieve, and you’ll probably have more than enough to give up.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 5 — You work hard for the money, but today it might feel like you’re working for free. Actually, you’re making points, and that could be even more important. Someone in a position to help you for future consideration is watching and taking notes.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 7 — You are looking very good today, and most likely making a great impression. But again, that could lead to trouble. Looks like everybody wants your time and attention. Instead of picking A or B, a third option that shows up today could be your best choice.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) — Today is a 5 — Your situation should still be good, so use it. A roommate or close family member is in a cantankerous mood. You’ll never win by arguing. Instead, take the sensible, roundabout route. Prepare the special meal this person loves tonight, and you may get what you want without saying another word about it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 7 - There’s a little more confusion today. The best course of action is to see how far you’ve been through lately. Things are actually starting to calm down. Although there will still be a few rough spots, the final outcome today should be beneficial. That’s especially true if you make up with a person with whom you’ve been arguing. Forgive and forget.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 — One thing’s for sure, there’ll be lots of surprises today. Don’t take anything for granted. Just because it worked once doesn’t mean it’ll work again. Just the opposite is more likely. Don’t worry, though. Another unexpected development puts everything right again. Be patient, and wear your seatbelt.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — Back and forth, up and down, in and out. Which way should you turn next? Knowing you, it’ll probably all be of the above. You’re usually willing to try just about anything to see what’ll happen. Today, that could be very interesting. A person you thought you knew very well could surprise you, too.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 5 — You could get tangled up today in a tangle. The machinery’s working fine; it’s the people who are the problem. Somebody else’s inability to make a decision could throw you off your schedule. You hate to just step in and take over, but you may have to do just that. Don’t let somebody else’s “Ditch-Day” ruin yours.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — You ought to be one place, and you want to be another. A new technology could help you by both places almost simultaneously. You may already know what it is, but not how to use it. There’s something that fits the description, put in a little extra study time. A friend would love to help.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 5 — Money is an issue again today. Looks like it’s coming into your account, which is wonderful. Of course, you’d like to spend it on gifts, but hold back a little. The best gift of all is the one you’ll give to yourself when you’re old and gray: a big, fat retirement account. To leave a message for Linda, call (888) 522-9531, or visit her website at Astorolas-Online.com.

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