2000 JSU Peer Counselors off to busy start

By Amanda Laughlin
Staff Writer

The 12 new Peer Counselors and two Peer Coordinators are off to a busy start planning the five summer orientation sessions, which will begin on July 24-25 and end on August 7-8.

Interviews, the final phase of three in the Peer Counselor selection process, were held on Sunday, Jan. 30. Just two weeks later the six men and eight women were honored at a reception at the Alumni House. They have also helped out at the two Spring Preview days. But the crux of their activities so far took place at a retreat held on March 10-12.

“It’s the first opportunity to be together as a group,” said Orientation and Advisement Director Eric McCulley. “We’ll start planning orientation for the summer and learn to act as one unit.”

At the retreat, the skit for the main orientation session (which is attended by students, parents and guests) is sketched out. The retreat is also a time for the new Peer Counselors, who are chosen partially for their participation in a wide variety of campus activities, to get to know each other.

The next phase of preparation for orientation will take place.

Continued on page 4, PEERS

JSU alumni wins big on “Twenty One”

By Buffy Smith
JSU News Bureau

Allison Kay, who graduated from JSU with a bachelor’s in nursing in 1995, recently won $55,000 on the hit game show “Twenty One.”

“Twenty One” is a multiple-choice, question-and-answer quiz show that pits two individuals in head-to-head competition as they attempt to answer a series of questions that vary in difficulty and point value.

“I am a competitor; I love the game,” said Kay. “I started watching ‘Twenty One’ because I looked like it was fair and competitive. In other words, you had to be smart, but there was also a fair amount of luck involved.”

“Twenty One” is the latest addition to the “get rich quick” game show craze, started by ABC’s “Who Wants To Be a Millionaire.” Kay, a lover of game shows, called “Twenty One’s” 1-800 number shortly after the first show aired.

“After hitting radial, radial—while washing the dishes—I finally got through,” she said. She was told to leave her name and telephone number on the show’s answering machine and they’d call back, if interested. “However, true to my nature, I couldn’t just leave a number,” Kay said. “I said, ‘ya’ll have got to call me, I know all the answers’.”

One night when her husband Morris “Bull” Kay, a 1985 finance graduate, was out with their son attending a JSU basketball game, the game show called back.

“Twenty One” asked Kay to take a test in Atlanta. If she passed the test, she would be asked to audition for the show.

“One of course I said ‘yes,’” Kay said. “I did go to Atlanta and passed the test. We had a mock game of ‘Twenty One’, which was filmed and would be shown to the producers. It was nerve-wracking, but nothing like a final at the Lanette B. Wallace College of Nursing!”

Six months later, the show called and asked her to fly to Los Angeles and audition. Kay went to Los Angeles, Calif., on February 18 and was interviewed by producer Fred Silverman, famous for producing the classic sitcom “All in the Family.”

Kay made the cut and was asked to appear on the show. Kay then traveled to Burbank, Calif., to the studio where the “Tonight Show” is filmed. She was asked to bring several changes of clothes, in case she kept winning and had to appear on multiple episodes.

She was chosen first of the six contestants to compete.

“I was so scared, my knees were knocking in the booth,” Kay said. “I wondered if we would be able to see that on TV.”

Kay defeated her friendly competitor Craig Piano of New York City, NY. But she was stumped on a question about the Golden Globe Awards.

“Anyway, I had a great time,” she said. “I won $55 thousand. Of course, that will only be about $30 thousand after taxes, but it’s more than I had when I left.”

Kay resides in Vestavia Hills and works as a medical equipment salesperson.

JSU’s SGA out for student’s blood

By Buffy Smith
JSU News Bureau

In response to the national blood shortage, Jacksonville State University is hosting a blood drive that ends today.

From 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in Leone Cole Auditorium, technicians from the Red Cross will work to reach the JSU Student Government Association’s goal of 150 units of blood.

Donors will receive a free T-shirt, pizza, drinks and snacks. To be eligible to give blood, you must be healthy, at least 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. Persons who are older than 65 and in good health may usually donate with the approval of the blood bank physician.

To learn more about giving blood, visit the Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.
We had a great time at our sisterhood retreat this weekend at Mentone. Happy (Belated) Birthday to Lori Norton! Good luck to all the Delta Zeta ladies who are trying out for the JSU Ambassador program. Good luck to the Delta Zeta intramural softball team. Have fun! Thanks to everyone who attended our sexual assault seminar last week. Thanks to Officer Fiol of JSUPD for presenting the sexual assault workshop for us. We would like to congratulate everyone on a great Greek Week and wish everyone a safe spring break. Have a great week!

Phi Mu
Phi Mu’s awards for the week go to Sherry Todd-Pfi Mu Lady of the Week and Lindsey Wright-Phi of the Week. Phi Mu would also like to congratulate Paige Corbin and Ammie Hopkins on their engagements. We Love You! We would like to remind everyone again of Little Miss JSU April 7; all proceeds go to Children’s Miracle Network. Also a special praise to Shannon Collins for cutting her hair off to donate it to a leukemia child. Shannon you are so awesome! Greek Week was a blast this week, thank you to everyone who participated. KA we are looking forward to our mixer with y’all tonight, it will be a blast.

Delta Tau Alpha
First, Delta Zeta would like to say good luck to all groups participating in Greek Week. We are looking forward to our step show with AOII, AKA and Alpha Xi Delta. The event is open to everyone, and the battles are fun to watch. The event is open to everyone, and the members of Sigma Tau Delta encourage you to come and bring a friend. Admission is free, and the competition will only last about an hour.

The Chanticleer Staff encourages, or rather thrives, on reader feedback. If you have an opinion about anything, drop us a letter or e-mail. We are located in Room 180, Self Hall. Our e-mail address is: jsu_chanticleer@hotmail.com, thanks.

Announcements
- Free HIV testing: Nursing Center Clinic. Test done the last Friday of each month. Testing done by a representative of the Alabama Department of Public Health. For more information, call 782-5432.
- Domestic Violence Training Conference: Friday, April 7, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the JSU Gamecock Center. The cost is $25. Limited seats are available. For more information, please contact Terri Harper at (256) 235-2558.
- Student Accounting Association will be providing income tax preparation assistance again this year. This assistance will be available from February 21 until April 15. They will be available on: Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. The place is the lobby of Merrill Building.
- Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society is hosting its fourth annual Faculty Scholars’ Bowl on Thursday, March 23, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 230, Stone Center. At this event, members of the English faculty compete on “College Bowl-like” teams, testing their knowledge not only of language and literature, but also other areas such as science, math, current events, and sports. The rivalry is always fierce, and the battles are fun to watch. The event is open to everyone, and the members of Sigma Tau Delta encourage you to come and bring a friend. Admission is free, and the competition will only last about an hour.

CCBA Student Chapters of SAM & SHRM are hosting the First Annual Etiquette Dinner and Awards Ceremony on April 10 at 6:00 p.m. in the Alumni House. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to attend. Speakers for the evening are Mrs. Connie Williams, JSU and Mr. Steve Sessions, General manager of Honeywell. Tickets are $5.00 each and can be purchased by contacting Dr. Krauss at 782-5272. Limited seating available.

**The Chanticleer**

What’s that girl?
A faculty member is on the quad, naked, with their face painted like a clown, singing ‘Peaceful Easy Feeling’?
Greek vs. Greek in GW2000

By Wendy Laminack
Staff Writer

Getting wet, eating pie and changing clothes. But not all at the same time, of course. These are just a few of the many events that took place during JSU’s Greek Week 2000 (March 19 - March 23).

All Greeks battled throughout the week in various events such as the belly flop, dizzy izzy, suitcase relay and egg toss. Many of the events were held at Paul Carpenter Village.

“Instead of athletic competitiveness,” this year’s Greek Week was more about fun and enjoyment, said Cara Dawn Byford, Assistant Director of Student Activities at JSU.

One change made this year was the way the Greek god and goddess were chosen. Instead of the winners being chosen by the number of votes received, the winners were determined by the amount of change dropped into a bucket with his/her picture on it. This event took place yesterday. The money was given to United Way. All coins were counted (mostly pennies) toward the votes. Paper money wasn’t counted but was donated as well.

“It’s a good way to raise money for a good cause and to do something for the community,” said Byford.

A new addition to Greek Week is the Jail Bail for 2nd Chance, where items needed by Calhoun County’s shelter for battered women and children will be brought and donated by team members of each fraternity or sorority in order to free their person from “jail.” This event will take place today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Leone Cole Auditorium.

The blood drive will also be part of the events, held today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Leone Cole Auditorium.

A representative from each fraternity and sorority met weekly to decide on the events for Greek Week. The events that had the most votes were put on the agenda for the week.

Each group that participated was awarded points. First, second and third place winners in each event were also awarded points. At the end of the week, the group with the most total points won.

Each group in each event were given certificates. Plaques will be given to the winners of each division, and an overall trophy will be given this year, and it will rotate to each winner each year.

The awards ceremony will be today at 6 p.m. on the quad ending with a Greek unity step show and awards.

“I think it’s a good time for people just to get out and have fun together,” said Byford.

“We’re all just having a good time, and that’s what Greek life’s all about.”

JSU students spend spring break on missions trip to Apache, Hopi reservation

By Amanda Voss
Staff Writer

Eight JSU students from the Chi Alpha Organization will be spending their spring break on a mission trip to the Whiteriver Indian Reservation in Arizona. The Reservation is home to the Apache and Hopi Indians.

They will be participating in numerous activities throughout the day. The young people in the reservation will have their spring break as well, so the Chi Alpha Group will be providing transportation for the students to the local Assembly of God Church where Bible School will be held. In the evenings there will be revival services where the JSU students will be interacting with the youth group from the church. The church is fairly large, with a membership of 300 people.

“We will go door to door spreading the gospel and some of us are considering preaching sermons on Thursday night,” said Shon Cornett. Sarah Trotter, Fayelle Ward, Jennifer Teel, Justin Dew, Brandi Apperson, Jaime Henderson, and Shannon Wallis are the other missionary students. Lanier Nail is the Campus Minister and will be leading and traveling with the students.

“I want to teach children about the gospel of Jesus,” said Cornett. “I hope to plant seeds into the hearts and minds of these people.”

A lot of preparation and fund raising effort went into this trip. The students wrote letters to friends and family telling them that if twenty people donated $25 that all of the money would be raised for the mission trip. The organization held a car wash and spoke to churches to raise money as well. Students presented the trip to the Student Government Association at Monday’s meeting and the SGA donated $300 to go toward the fund.

The missionaries will fly to Arizona on Saturday and return the following Saturday.
Disabled high school student finds home at JSU

By Betsy Smith
JSU News Bureau

To meet her, you wouldn’t think that Brandy Wade is different from any other 18-year-old girl. A senior at Jacksonville High School, she bounces over with excitement when asked about her college and career plans.

“JSU is actually my second choice,” she said boldly in front of JSU President Dr. Bill Meehan and Vice President Dr. Alice Casinano.

“I don’t care what choice we are, as long as you end up coming here,” said an amused Meehan.

Wade explains, “I want to be a missionary, so I want to go to Wesley College in Florence, Mississippi.”

A flute player in the Jacksonville High School marching band, Wade spends 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. attending class. Then she clocks in to work at JSU’s Houston Cole Library where she types, files, stuffs envelopes and answers the phone for the Center for Individualized Instruction.

The CII staff agrees that she’s a great addition to their team. It’s hard to believe that some people actually wouldn’t hire her because she has language disability. Although it’s a disability that shouldn’t limit her success, many companies wouldn’t hire her.

In the U.S., almost two-thirds of people with disabilities are unemployed. More than 70 percent of those unemployed want to work, but can’t find jobs. To increase the career potential and self-sufficiency of Alabamians with physical disabilities, a community-based program called “Start on Success Alabama” (SOSAL) has been formed.

SOSAL works in partnership with the National Organization on Disability and is sponsored by the Lakeshore Foundation. The goal of the non-profit group is to introduce young people with disabilities to a workplace environment so that they can gain experience and learn job skills. The program also helps employers and communities gain a better understanding of people with disabilities.

“Brandy may never want to work in a clerical or university setting,” said Bonner Wagon, representative from Lakeshore Foundation. “But this gives her a reference when she goes into the workforce.”

Seven Alabama communities participate in the program—Calhoun County, Covington County, Dothan, Escambia County, Montgomery County, Montgomery County Mobile and the Shoals area. Five to ten students from each area are selected to participate per semester. The students’ interests and career goals are assessed; then they are placed in a participating business. JSU is one of the first colleges in Alabama to employe one of these students.

Wade, who has been on campus about a month, loves her job. “The people are real nice,” she said. “I’ve made some friends here and we can talk about anything.”

CII is also pleased with the results.

“I think that Brandy shows an incredible amount of zeal and determination to overcome her situation,” said co-worker Ryan Kruzinski. “Hopefully, with the help of JSU in collaboration with Start on Success, her pursuit of her educational and personal life will be an outstanding success.”

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Peer Counselors gear up for summer orientation

May term. The group meets twice a week and also receives a 2-hour class credit for their hard work. Some of the preparation in May term will involve the Faculty Mentors, who are still in the application process. The mentors also meet twice a week during May for what they call “Mentor May-nia” to train them on how to better advise freshmen and also to get to know one another. The Peer Counselors and Faculty Mentors sometimes meet together in preparation for orientation.

McCullsey says the biggest changes for the upcoming summer orientations will be a “change of venue.”

“We’ll be back in the TMB, where orientation was housed for 10 or 11 years,” said McCulley. The freshman orientation students will be housed in Fitzpatrick Hall. Last summer they were housed in Logan and Patterson Halls. All of these changes will make orientation run more smoothly, because they are close in proximity. The students will have to walk less.

The 12 Peer Counselors for 2000-2001 are Destiny Barnes, Stephen Brackett, Steven Brooks, Keith Bryant, Allison Garner, Misty Haynes, Donnell Humes, Brandon Lewis, Matthew Remillard, Shannon Smith, Deidra Tidwell, and Elizabeth Webb. The Peer Coordinators, who plan year-round and work closely with McCulley, are Allison Eason and Angie Meyer. Each Peer Counselor receives approximately one semester’s tuition for their summer orientation job, plus class credit. Eason believes the best thing about being a Peer Counselor is “showing freshman all the great qualities about JSU.”
What’s happening to the ‘Land Of Fantasy Vacations?’

By Rich McKay
Knight Ridder

An undertaker's wife is killed and her corpse secretly buried with another woman — in the same coffin. A whale the size of a Greyhound bus toys with the nude body of a drowned Hare Krishna wannabe. A self-avowed vampire bludgeons his girlfriend's mom and dad to death. Nala the escaped lion prowls the tourist district. Half a million mice rampage through modest subdivisions. There’s no doubt about it: Central Florida has been dripping with drama lately — in strange, violent and downright peculiar shades.

What happened to the laid-back land of fantasy vacations, beaches, gated golf communities and early-bird specials?

It used to be that Miami got the bad rap. But the spectacles of drug-trafficking violence seem to have given way there to more mundane things — political corruption and the like. So is Orlando destined to take over the weird-city mantle? Well...probably.

Any time that events clash with our perceptions, it leaves a mark. The question is how much. And for how long. And for Orlando, the contrasts are so striking.

Look at the other boomtown Sun Belt spots of California, Texas, the Carolinas. None has that downright wholesome image to quite the degree that Orlando has. There’s the sunshine, the lakes and the trees. The air and streets are clean. Everything’s pretty new. And there’s that pixie dust thing.

“Every kid grew up knowing Disney,” says June Nogle, a research associate with the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research. Orlando’s very name is linked with smiles and childhood dreams. So anything that happens here that’s shady, off-color or just plain weird gets seen through the magnifying glass of that innocence.

People will remember places and the things that happened there, if only for the short term. Gainesville, for instance, was known as “Murderville” for a time after the August 1990 slayings of five University of Florida students. But just say Gainesville now, notes James Twitchell, a University of Florida English professor and author, and you think about college football.

For now, mention Central Florida to folks... probably.

Continued on page 14, ORLANDO

Birmingham
3/23/00 Tim Whiton—Stardome
3/24/00 Deke Dickerson and the Eco Fonics—Zydeco
3/24/00 Greg Crow—Five Points Music Hall
3/25/00 Pezz—Stardome
3/26/00 Hank Williams III—Nick
3/29/00 Stir—Five Points Music Hall

Atlanta
3/23/00 Angry Salad—Cotton Club
3/23/00 Film & Nine Days—Smith’s Olde Bar
3/24/00 Poncho Sanchez—Tabernacle
3/25/00 Freddie McGregor—Atrium
3/25/00 Happy Flowers—Cotton Club
3/26/00 Reckless Kelly—Smith’s Olde Bar
3/27/00 Peter Murphy—Masquerade
3/28/00 Boy Sets Fire—513 Club
3/29/00 Tracy Chapman—Tabernacle

CD Releases
‘N Sync-No Strings Attached
Ice Cube-War & Peace: The Peace Disc
Aqua-Aquarius
Patti Smith-Gung Ho
Joni Mitchell-Both Sides Now
Led Zeppelin-Latter Days
Fishbone-Psychotic Friends
Pantera-Reinventing the Steel

March 28
Farley Slim-On The Floor at the Boutique

Soundtrack-Jesus
Soundtrack-The Crow: Salvation
Soundtrack-High Fidelity
Common-Like Water for Chocolate
Catelonias-Equal Cursed and Blessed
Goldfinger-Stomping Ground
The Exies-The Exies

Brothers hosts ‘Spring Break Kick Off’

By Adam Smith
Managing Editor

If you’re one of the fortunate few who will be stuck in Jacksonville over spring break with little cash, Brothers is helping you start your festivities early.

Tonight, Brothers will have three bands on one ticket as part of their Spring Break Blowout. JetStar 7, Jive Mob and Something 5 will all be appearing on the Brothers stage for only $3.

“Let’s get down to business,” said Brothers operator Beau Nolen about the blowout.

Something 5 is no stranger to Jacksonville, bringing their heavy blend of catchy hooks and riffs to the masses. The Atlanta-based quartet is on the rise in their native hometown and are sure to please any rock and roll palette.

JetStar 7 is a relative newcomer to the Jacksonville music scene. Made up of guitarist Michael Naylor, vocalist Phillip Hyde, drummer Carter Kennedy and Jason Hilley on bass, they are a “new band with an unmatched, fresh creative energy,” according to their biography. Citing influences as wide and varied as Led Zeppelin, Steve Earle and the Beastie Boys, they are starting to gain a following in Birmingham, thanks to having their music added to several Birmingham area play lists.

Their bio simply states that JetStar 7 “is fun, straightforward and decidedly hip. They want fans to come away from their shows feeling better about life than when they walked in the door.” If you would like a sneak peek of the band’s music, you can check them out on MP3.com.

Appearing with Something 5 and JetStar 7, Jive Mob will mix things up a bit. The Birmingham-based hip-hop group has been touring the state for the past two years and have a sound all their own. Jive Mob’s secret weapon is Todd McGlynn, better known as DJ Crush. Occasionally playing shows with the Birmingham-based band Baghouse, DJ Crush has become known for improvising grooves, playing vinyl samples and just simply tearing up some beats on the turntables.

No matter if you’re going to Cancun, your mommy and daddy’s or staying in your castle d’apathy, make sure you get your Spring Break started right at Brothers tonight.

Local Scene
3/23/00 Spring Break Blowout: Jet Star 7, Jive Mob & Something 5–Brothers

The Red Herring
Our system sucks, 2000 pleads for a change

By Dave Sharp

I've recently had an epiphany. I now know why my generation has little to no respect and no tolerance for the system. It doesn't deserve it.

American Justice has become a punch line at the butt of many jokes, especially over the gross misuse of the ideal during the past decade or so. O.J. got off. The NYPD got off. I got a stiff fine about two years ago.

Now before you start in, I'm not one of those 'denialists' who think I didn't deserve a ticket. I deserved it. When speeding 82 mph in a rural 40 mph zone, you deserve it (incidentally, since then, the limit on that road has been raised to 55 mph). While the officer, who was a great guy (no ass-kissing there), was checking my identification, we learned together that my license had no clue it had expired.

That's me, even the officer saw how I was more surprised than he was. I was more surprised than he was.

So I got the speech: "Legally sir, I'm not supposed to let you drive away from here on an expired license." Luckily for me, even the officer saw how trivial the offense was and let me on my way. Fines could be paid by mail.

Skipping some unpleasant facts to the case that ended last week, I'll tell you the price of my freedom. For endangering my life and the life of others on the road that morning, what could be called reckless driving and an arrestable offense where I'm from (Cobb Co., Ga): $100. That's a chump change for 42 miles more than the mandated speed limit.

But wait, how about that other charge? What is the cost of six numbers running out on an arbitrarily piece of plastic? It was a victimless crime. A 'privilege' as the higher authority calls it. $175!?!?

How in the hell do they justify that? How is a card with my name and picture on it expiring more severe monetarily than reckless driving? It just doesn't make sense. I don't mind paying the fines; I do mind stupidity in laws.

It's that kind of misprioritization that makes me want to break away from the system. That same system built by our parents and grandparents whom we couldn't begin to identify with. These are people I never agreed with in the first place.

Justice has become an arrogant term used only by the ones who abuse it or the young idealists who don't know any better. And those who enforce justice and the old faws are dinosaurs from an era when "Leave it to Beaver" or "Ozzie and Harriet" was the preferred way to live life. In 2000, it's time for a change. Out with the old and in with the new. The system sucks (always has in my lifetime) and it's about time we, who shall inherit the earth, did something about it.

Forum

Dear Editor,

In response to the letter by Chris Betzler, I would like to defend the "Romans." Yes, we are apathetic, and we have a right to be. We have all spent at least 12 years in school. The real reason we are like this is there is truly nothing to do on campus. We are tired of having stupid human tricks shoved down our throats. We are not in the 5th grade. I mean how many times can you care about a dorm Olympics when you don't live in a dorm? We are adults.

When I arrived at this campus three years ago, and many beers ago, there were movies, events, concerts and a comedian every now and then to make us laugh. This school was fun for students. The food was affordable. The sodas were merely outrageous in their prices. The "Romans" stayed and took part in things. But then a dark gloom settled over the campus. Like an RA sneaking into a room when we have female overnight guests, it caught us unaware.

The SGA, for some reason known only to them, decided to stop having concerts. I know the Semisonic concert was a let down in sales, but they should have asked us who we wanted. I mean, where the hell is Semisonic today? What is the reason for this?

I don't blame the Greeks; they are just trying to get something on their transcripts. They didn't take over. We gave it to them.

So, now that I have that off my chest. What are we going to do about it?

I suggest that the "regular" students, the "suitcase" students and the commuters get together and form their own government that only wants to give the students a good time. One that doesn't spend its time worrying about football games (I mean, we aren't charged for the tickets, why do they care if we go or not?). A government that will work with the SGA and the businesses in Jacksonville (it's about time they start using some of the loot they get from the 7000+ students who go here) and start throwing some parties, maybe get some of the bands that play Brothers to play.

That way we won't have to trek through the "Square of Death" where three police departments wait to arrest us as we: drive, walk or crawl home. I love Brothers, this is no crack at them, it's the danger of being arrested that keeps the commuters from going there. So if we can just get together [Greeks, Romans, Commuters (Nomads)] then maybe we can bring this school back to it's glory days as the "PARTY" school of the South.

Thanks,

Ben Jordan
Beef
Who wants to marry a Sports Editor?

By Erik Green

Is that it? All I need is a million dollars and a TV show to get married? How about a cheesy sports section and a lousy 300 bucks a month? I mean, maybe it should be, “Who wants to date a broke jock wanna be?” I think that fits a little better. Any takers?

I’m more than just the Sports Editor. I’m more than pigskins and foul shots. I have more substance than endless pages of gray text and basketball scores. My life is more than quotes and headlines. I am a person too. Sports Editors have feelings like everyone else. Don’t you think we hurt when Bob Knight spits in our faces? Sure we cry when he does it not for the game, however. He does it for the love of one woman. The one in his dreams. The one who is the love of one woman. The one who makes the World Series look like a sandlot. She would be his life and his biggest subscriber. She is the one he will never meet.

As the sun sets on the lonely sports writer, he looks back, smiles and remembers her, whoever she was, once upon a time. He still hopes one day to find her, but his love now is for the game. The other reason he gets out of bed in the morning. The game is his soul, but she is his heart.

(Erik Green, 22 years old, Pisces, Communication major. Likes fishing, movies and long walks on the beach. Has a major crush on “Cocky,” Lives and dies over Alabama football. Bleeds Carolina blue. Loyal as a Basset Hound.)

Forum

Dear Editor,

I read the editorial from Rufus Manley and opinion of Chris Betzler and hoped I might be allowed to submit an opinion. While I don’t agree with every ingredient of Mr. Manley’s article and feel some portions were crass, I do believe the activities on campus, and perhaps the SGA is in desperate need of reform. I, like most, heard the buzz around campus after Manley’s article. Much of it coming from the blind: Greeks and SGA supporters. I would hope Manley’s comments could be taken as constructive criticism by the offended. I find it humorous that of all the threats I heard from the scorned to write a forum letter, none came the next week. All bark, no bite.

I am not a Greek. The machine was never for me (though I have Greek friends). I don’t agree with Manley’s stereotypes, although Betzler’s comments are equally ridiculous. Fraternities are supposed to represent brotherhood and leadership. They all too often do not. I’ve seen far too much on this (Greek) campus to succumb to Betzler’s disillusionment of his fantasy world. I wish fraternities and sororities did represent the creedo of the SGA in the slightest respect. As soon as one becomes a student at JSU, he has the right to bitch, whine, piss and moan, or whatever he chooses to do. The SGA listens to all this and makes positive goals from the student body’s complaints and ideas. I didn’t run for SGA, but I still have a say in its activities.

Secondly, your comments toward Mr. Manley about how he isn’t “the right material to get into a fraternity” just served to cast a snobbish, haughty light on fraternity boys such as yourself. Mr. Betzler, I don’t drink. So from your earlier comments I ascertain that this gives me the right to say something about drinking in fraternities. Fraternities, for the most part, are a drunken rabble of overgrown boys. I’m not just talking out of my ass here. I’ve been to a couple of fraternity parties, and I would have to say that in every ten members, about nine were drinking. It’s just a fact. They can drink all they want to, I have no problem with that. But I think you should admit that it goes on and not try to make fraternities look like the Boy Scouts. And finally, if the purpose of your letter was to alienate the already apathetic students of JSU from participating actively in the SGA, you’ve accomplished it.

Christina Morrison

*THE CHANTICLEER* March 23, 2000 • Page 7
Civil War ghost haunts Hammond Hall

By Kevin Cole
Features Editor

The answers to some strange occurrences on campus may have arrived as the culprit has been caught on film. Hammond Hall has been plagued by unexplainable events over the past year and has some professors and students screaming "ghost."

"The occurrences started this year," said Gary Gee, art professor. "I was the first victim of the ghost's fingers. One night as I entered my office, I was horrified to find it filled with chickens wearing ladies high heeled shoes. Blowing it off as a practical joke, I kept the chickens for myself."

One week later an art student found a message scribbled on a bathroom wall. "Fight to the death boys and we'll take every last one of them" was brushed on the wall using the students newly purchased tempera paint. In the bottom of the commode was a button off a uniform.

A concerned faculty had the button looked at by the authorities. What was thought to be a simple brass button turned out to be a Civil War relic. The button was from a Confederate uniform and more specifically, a Lieutenant's uniform.

The button was then turned over to a Civil War expert named Zeke Manley. Luckily, Manley had been doing research on the Hammond Hall building. "I was the first victim of the ghost's fingers," he said. "I felt eerie when I took the shot but when I saw what I had captured on film, I went out and got drunk."

Conteras had unknowingly caught the ghost of Lt. Kiln on film. Some say the picture of Lt. Kiln has a familiarity that's almost eerie. "He looks pretty ugly to me," said Steve Loucks ceramics professor. "I think it's somebody playing jokes."

The school is now calling in paranormal experts to investigate the building. "We should have things back to normal in a few weeks," said Charles Groover, Department head. "I just hope I don't have any late night surprises," said Gee. "Next time I might find sheep in my studio."

The ghost has become so frequent you can catch him roaming the building three hours before the witching hour, every Tuesday and Thursday night.

Where is Rufus Manley?

By Dave Sharp
Editor

Area police are ‘cruelness’ after a Jacksonville State University student is reported to have been kidnapped. Rufus Manley, 26, of Albertville, Ala., disappeared from his apartment sometime early Saturday morning, according to police. There were signs of a forced entry at Manley’s second story bedroom window where police found five empty ‘Busch Light’ beer kegs stacked on top of each other that were apparently used as a ladder. The window was broken but there was no sign of a struggle within the apartment.

The only witness to the event claims she was awoke by a crash at about 2:15 a.m. on Saturday morning (coincidentally right after the bars close in Jacksonville) and heard muffled screams coming from Manley’s apartment. She assumed Manley was having one of his famous toga parties and things were getting a little wild. The neighbor is currently in protective custody of the Alabama Bureau of Investigation until the case is solved and Manley is found.

"The police still have the apartment roped off," said Zeke Manley, Rufus’ father. "They’ve turned up some fingerprints, but they are still at the lab being identified."

The confident abductors actually took the time to print a ransom note in bubble letters on a tee shirt and left it behind sprawled on Manley’s bed. The note reads: Manley shall pay for his crimes. He won’t be coming back. Secret Kidnapping: Spring 2000.

Police are baffled by the mysterious messages. "Whoever’s dealing with is a diabolical person, or persons," said a police spokesperson. "It’s eerie as hell. This is the worst thing I’ve ever seen in my 25 years on the force."

"I just want my baby back," cried Bertha Manley, Rufus’ mother. "He didn’t have any enemies, he is a good boy."

Manley is known for the recent stir he’s caused on the JSU campus for an opinionated article he wrote for The Chanticleer. "We haven’t seen him," said Managing Editor Adam Smith. "We at The Chanticleer are horrified at the events that have transpired during the past week. Our hearts and prayers go out to Rufus, his family and friends."

Police expect Manley to turn up sooner or later. Rarely do incidents like this result in an actual death or long term vanishing, according to a JSUPD spokesperson.

"I just hope he’s OK," said Christopher Lauer, Copy Editor of The Chanticleer. "The last time we spoke was in anger and I never got the chance to apologize."

If you have any information pertaining to his whereabouts or would like to join in the search for Rufus Manley, ‘missing’ posters can be picked up at the Office of Student Activities or call (256) 555-3665.
The life and times of Mr. Squirrel

By Christopher Lau
Copy Editor

Peter Ulysses Solomon Squirrel was born on a pecan farm in Punani, Ga. He helped his father harvest nuts until he realized farming wasn’t for him. “I told my dad, ‘Hey, look, farming’s just not for me man.’ It was right at the height of the Squirrel Power Equality Revolution Movement in Alabama. Young squirrels had left behind traditions. They had left behind acorns and began to harvest mushrooms. There was big insurgency of Arizona squirrels bringing in peyote buttons. Things were crazy. I wanted a piece of the action.”

So Mr. Squirrel left Georgia and headed for the center of squirrel counter-culture-Mountain-Forney in Jacksonville, Ala. “They say if you remember the early 90’s, you weren’t really there. It’s all kind of a blur to me. The women had the big bushy tails back then. I had my fill of nuts every night. Life was good.”

“I remember this one night: me and a few of my friends broke into one of the dorm rooms on the 7th floor of Sparkman. We were trash- ing the place, eating their Fungyons-just having a great time man. When we got ready to leave, we saw a six-paced piece of paper with pictures of Ren and Stimpy on it, kind of like a Warhol or something. We thought it would look cool in our tree, so we grabbed it and hauled it back. We each took turns dragging it in our mouths. God, that’s a night I’ll never remember.”

But Mr. Squirrel’s fun came to a crashing halt in 1996, when his cousin from Beverlick, Wis. (near the home of Larry Bird) was killed in a horrible automobile accident. “He had way too much crabapple brandy to be walking across the street. The car didn’t even slow down man. They didn’t even slow down.”

After the fatal incident, Mr. Squirrel decided to make an earnest effort to turn his life around. He attempted to join the Baptist Campus Ministry and the Wesleyan Foundation, but his attempts proved futile. “They told me that animals didn’t have souls. That if I didn’t have a soul, I couldn’t be saved. They told me that since I didn’t have a soul, my squirrel life was basically meaningless. I’ve got a soul. I’ve got soul man.”

When religion failed him, Mr. Squirrel turned to education. He started hanging out at certain buildings around campus. He picked up old copies of The Chanticleer and taught himself to read. Once he could read, he started stealing students’ notes and homework. “I would like to apologize for that right now. But my confession should weigh heavily on the minds of teachers. Your students were telling the truth; they did do their homework.”

Mr. Squirrel became fluent in all two foreign languages offered at JSU. He watched through the windows of Stone Center as Childress badgered his history students, as Freddie taught the great art of theater deception, as Williams lulled his students to sleep with Liness Composed above Boredom Abbey.

Soon, Mr. Squirrel felt it necessary to share what he had learned with the squirrel community. He started holding classes on the third floor of Self Hall, where squirrel students can still be seen climbing the walls of higher education.

His enrollment skyrocketed and he was forced to open a new classroom in Bibb Graves. Soon most of the squirrel classes were taught in Bibb Graves and squirrels were always visible around the building. “I decided to set up a large grassy area and a few trees around Bibb Graves for my students. It’s beautiful out here. Seldom do we see any of your kind [humans] around here. That’s why I came up and talked to you. I never see anyone sitting on the Quad.”

Soon students of Mr. Squirrel were changing the face of the nation. There are now squirrels in the White House, squirrels on Mount Rushmore, squirrels on the Vietnam War Memorial and on, squirrels in space. All this thanks to a small squirrel who calls JSU home.

Mr. Squirrel is truly a JSU celebrity, interested in the world, the community and the future. He has seen many atrocities in this country and understands why he continues to run from students. He only granted this interview in order to better “the continued cohabitation of squirrels and humans. I hope we can continue living together. I hope, together, we can continue to turn our lives and our world around. And help others to do the same.”

Mr. Squirrel is not a meal. Mr. Squirrel is a role model.

JSU’s SGA to lower gas prices for students

By Amanda Voss
Staff Writer

Thanks to one JSU business student and the SGA, university students will be receiving huge discounts off record breaking gas prices. At the weekly SGA meeting on Monday, the Gas Bill was presented, which proposes that all JSU students showing proper school identification will receive a 50 cent discount on every gallon of gasoline that is purchased within the city limit. After careful consideration the SGA unani mously passed the bill.

Because the bill requires the efforts of the city, the bill was then proposed at the city council meeting on Tuesday. After a full hour of discussion and debate between the council members and rallying students, the bill narrowly passed by a two-thirds majority.

The baby bill grew into Resolution Law #526A which states, “As of April 1st, 2000 all Jacksonville State University Students showing proper identification (must be a picture I.D.) shall receive a discount of 50 cents per gallon of gasoline purchased until gas prices fall and stay at 50 cents lower than the posted price on April 1st.”

The passing of this bill will finally give JSU the recognition that it so rightly deserves. Governor Don Siegelman has already taken interest in the bill and will be revising for Congress to vote on it.

If the bill is passed, President Bill Clinton will be visiting JSU to congratulate our campus on the intense participation that the students show to make our university the best in the South.
On paper, Black Rob's "Life Story" would seem to have a lot going for it. Produced by Puff Daddy and a gaggle of his Bad Boy associates. "Life Story" features guest appearances by brand names such as the LOX and Ma$e rapping alongside newcomer Black Rob's raspy sounding voice. It should've been at least a good album, but a delay in its release and same production mistakes bring it down too many notches for the album to be the masterwork it was expected to be.

Granted, "Life Story" sometimes hits its mark. "Whoa!" is already a club hit and rightfully so, as it artfully jogs along, continuing the latest hip-hop trend of ending all sentences with the same word (a la Juvenile "Ha"). The track labeled "Thug Story" does a nice job of repositioning the beat and flow of Slick Rick's "Children's Story" away from a cautionary tale and move toward a non-judgmental look at a life of crime.

Overall, the album is not too "tight." Yes, Black Rob has flow, but he lacks the original vocabulary it takes to explode out of the large pack of East Coast rappers rhyming about the fast life in the inner city. He also isn't served well by the beats and sounds capes.

While it's true that Rob is never outshined by his guest, that may be because Puff Daddy, the LOX, Lil'Kim, and Cee-Lo gave average performances on the album. Don't get me started on Jennifer Lopez's dopey, altogetherness again, this CD is a risk you might want to take.

There is something about this style of music that makes you feel classy. Even if you're not into early jazz music this is not a CD for you. But if you're like me and enjoy change of pace now and again, this CD is a risk you might want to take.

By Anthony Hill

Every now and then we will get a CD that is not typical college music. This is one of those CD's. Joni Mitchell's latest release, "Both Sides Now," is a collection of classic love songs. If you're not into early jazz music this is not a CD for you. But if you're like me and enjoy change of pace now and again, this CD is a risk you might want to take.

Musically you're combining the most naked grab at a share of the Latin market since....well, since Puff Daddy's Geraldo-like rapping on his Spanish version of "PE 2000."

Ultimately, "Life Story" falls well short of all the pre-release expectations. To put it bluntly: don't believe the HYPE!

By Anthony Hill

say more? Obviously, this CD is extremely well produced by both Mitchell and long time collaborator Larry Klein. Grammy-Nominated Vince Mendoza, who has worked with Bjork, Pat Methany and Chaka Khan among others, conducts the orchestra.

Mitchell sings renditions of "Stormy Weather," "You're My Thrill," and "I Wish I Were In Love Again." There are guest appearances from saxophonist Wayne Shorter, Herbie Hancock on piano and trumpeter Mark Isham.

"I've always used my albums as a way to tell a story, to take the listener on a trip," said Mitchell in a Reprise Records press release. "I wanted this story to develop sequentially... telling a story of what two people in love take each other through."

WARNING- This CD is not for everyone. If you feel like some 40's jazz...enjoy.
The Netherlands or Holland?

By Ferdinand Gipon
Guest Writer

After living in the United States for almost five years, I have encountered many funny stories and misconceptions about my country. If I had to sum up all the things people seem to know about the Netherlands, I would start with legal prostitution, a legal drug policy, tulips, wooden shoes and windmills. That pretty much tells everything about the country, which is only one third the size of Alabama, but has more than three times as many inhabitants as Alabama.

Questions such as, if we had television in the Netherlands or if we still used carriages with horses were pretty common questions that I seriously had to answer. But last week I ran into the best story I’ve ever heard about my country. I went to one of the banks in Jacksonville with the amount of two thousand guilders. I wanted to exchange it for American dollars and get them almost immediately as a transaction in my bank account. No problem whatsoever.

A week after this transaction, this bank called me and asked me to come back over. So I go to the bank. They hand me the Dutch money with the words, “We don’t exchange this!” I stood there without any American currency. I asked why this well-known bank refused to exchange the guilders, which are considered to be in the top ten of strongest currencies in the world. (With all due respect to the following countries, I wasn’t asking to exchange a Kenyan Shilling or a South Arabian Riyal.) Their reply was a simple “Because we only take Holland guilders and not Netherlands guilders!”

This incident topped all of my previous encounters pertaining to the misconceptions of my country.

My following question to the bank employee was of course, “What is the difference between the Netherlands guilder and the Holland guilder?” He answered, that this was different currency of two countries, I was standing there with some cold gums, because my chin was hanging on my shoes. I have lived in the Netherlands for over two decades now and I never realized that my country was actually two different countries.

Just a short update on the names Holland and the Netherlands. The Netherlands is our official country name. The name is derived from the Dutch word, “Nederland,” which means low lands due to the fact that seventy-five percent of our country is underneath sea level. Holland, well that name is a little different story. In the seventeenth century, the Netherlands was a very profitable country, trading with a lot of other countries. The trade was done with the two provinces, Noord-Holland (North Holland) and Zuid-Holland (South Holland). These two provinces are situated along the coast of the Netherlands and every time people wanted to trade with the Netherlands, they said that they were going to Holland.

Since the seventeenth century, these two country names have been used interchangeably for the area between Germany and Belgium. Informing the bank employees of everything from the history of my country to its geography, I was still standing in the bank, waiting for the manager, who would clear up the whole misunderstanding. But I guess I was the misunderstanding, because she was clear about the fact that the bank only exchanged the Holland currency and not the Netherlands currency.

Having done this transaction over ten times in the recent past, I knew I still had a strong case and it was worth fighting for. But according to the bank, I was informed me that the mistake had been made in New York. The bills I got the same answers, and this time, from a lady who has been working in the foreign exchange industry for fifteen years; (of course she would know!). I explained to her that my country was the second largest investor in the United States and that she had to know that there was no difference between Holland and the Netherlands.

I lost my mind and was desperately looking for an answer. I went to Bribb Graves and visited President Meehan. He looked oddly at the money and asked me what kind of monopoly money that was. I explained to him that it must be monopoly money because the bank refused to take it. The President wanted to help and placed a couple of phone calls. Atlanta would be the place I would have to go.

I was still kind of ticked off about the whole situation, so I bravely grabbed the phone again and called Birmingham once more. The lady in charge was not present anymore, so I would have to call back the next day. So the next day I called back and she was still telling me that Holland and the Netherlands were two different countries. (If so, I guess I have another language on my résumé!) I asked her for the hard documents so I would be able to see exactly what the two different currencies where. So later that afternoon, I got a fax showing my currency, NOTHING else. Wanting to make my phone bill a little bit bigger, I walked to the phone to place another phone call to Birmingham. I didn’t go the chance though, because the phone rang and it was Birmingham on the line.

Listening to their apologies, they informed me that the mistake had been made in New York. The bills I wanted to exchange were new and they didn’t know about them yet in Birmingham, or in Jacksonville. So a bill printed in 1994 is new to Birmingham! This whole story made me think about Proctor & Gamble. It was only 77 billion dollars Durk Jager, the Dutch CEO of the corporation, lost last week. Am I paying for his little mistake?

By the way, drugs and prostitution are only legal under governmental restriction. Tulips are really from the Netherlands. Windmills are very Dutch and when I graduate at the end of April, you will not see me getting my diploma from the President in wooden shoes. Thank you Dr. Meehan, you have been a great help.

-Ferdinand Gipon
Surviving Mardi Gras In Mobile

By Joseph O. Patton
The Annunibus

I freely admit that I had strong misgivings about letting loose on the grand city of Mobile, Ala., during the madness of Mardi Gras — especially with my girl-crazy assistant, Matt “looking’ for love in all the wrong places” Jorgensen.

The sky was clouded over Montgomery before we hit the road, and it was under those foreboding skies that some idiot at the Super Lube overfilled my oil tank, causing my baby, the Buick, to overheat and take an unexpected rest stop in the parking lot of a Mexican restaurant.

If it weren’t for a kindly Mexican gentleman with a spray bottle full of water, the four-doored wonder would still be taking a nap.

About three or four hours later, we rolled into Mobile. Matt had a headache from an overdose of the Dixie Chicks, and I had a half-number ass from all the driving.

We offered the obligatory salutation to Matt’s family and scooted over to his neighbor’s yard, where a handful of overly cheerful folks were gathered around a mysterious 20-gallon pot. For some reason, I had visions of those silly witches from “Macbeth.”

It turned out that there were crawfish swimming in their cauldron, and that those good folks with the collective beer buzz were about to eat ‘em. At first, I watched in horror as they dipped into the stainless steel container, jerked out a handful of miniature-looking lobsters and proceeded to tear those sumbitches to pieces. How inhumane, I thought — until I tried one.

Still a steady stream of sinister laughter, Matt launched into his giddy lecture on how to devour a crawfish. I watched in wonder as the boy ripped the poor thing’s head off and sucked the thing blind like a Hoover gone mad. I sheepishly began picking at one poor creature, my hands uncontrollably shaky.

My lesson on the finer points of crustacean consumption was evidently insufficient because Matt’s neighbor, a full-blooded Cajun, swooped down off the stairs like a bird of prey to snatch that crusty red thing out of my hand and show me how to “do it da right way” - the Louisiana way - and subsequently, the drunk way.

The Cajun, reeling from a bubbly salavage of beer, hacked that crawfish apart faster than one of those chefs at a Japanese steakhouse. He then balanced the crawfish guts on his finger and stuck it all in my face. Trying to remain composed, I leaned forward to retrieve the tasty morsel with my hand, but the kind Cajun recoiled from me, demanding that I eat the red menace right off his finger.

Trying not to bite him, because the last thing I wanted was to be whooped up on by a true life Bayou Boy, I nibbled the critter from his shaky index finger. Damn good stuff, I might add.

As the night wore on, Matt and I found ourselves nursing a healthy collection of Coronas in a secluded garden behind his house. With each bottle, we weighed in on such hefty topics as how many sets of exposed breasts we would see at the next parade? When all was said and done, Matt’s grabs were directed at the blonde to our left.

As the last float passed, we felt as if it was an ideal time to locate a bar. We stumbled upon one fine if it was an ideal time to locate a bar. We stumbled upon one fine daylight as we picked ourselves up and staggered, we hopped across the African plains, we hopped onward.

As we awoke, we were back in our secluded garden behind his house. With each bottle, we weighed in on such hefty topics as how many sets of exposed breasts we would see at the next day’s parade, how bad it would hurt to catch a Moon Pie in the jaw, and how long it would take Matt to find a nice girl, preferably of voting age, to share the joys of Mardi Gras with.

We wanted no time getting downtown the next morning.

How to describe a Mardi Gras parade? Well, in essence, it consists of throngs of drunken folks weighted down with plastic Chinese beads - not exactly the type of scene Norman Rockwell would paint. There is a string of trucks padded down with colorful paper mache, scads of whiny children, and women content to make themselves “bead magnets” by exposing their breasts, and there you have it.

We jumped and grabbed at countless strings of beads and trinkets, though I’m more inclined to believe that Matt’s grabs were directed at the blonde to our left.

We spent the rest of the evening back in our secluded garden behind Matt’s house. When we awoke, we discovered that the landscaping of the garden was even prettier in the daylight as we picked ourselves up from the lush greenery and brushed ourselves off.

After a shot of gasoline for Buick and a hit of aspirin for our heads, it was back to Montgomery, land of mediocrity. And that, my friends, is how we survived Mardi Gras in Mobile.

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• Fat cops ordered to climb mountain

MANILA, Philippines - Overweight police in the northern Philippines have been ordered to climb Mount Pinatubo volcano once a month as part of a fitness campaign. Officers with waists over 34 inches will make the climb on April 4 and once a month until the rainy season begins, police officials said Monday. "This is not going to be a picnic," vows Central Luzon's police chief, who will lead the officers up the mountain. The two-hour trek to Pinatubo's peak, elevation of a scenic lake, is a popular activity for tourists.

• Start practicing now

BETHEL, Maine - The North American Wife Carrying Championships is still months away, but organizers say it's not too early for men to gear up. The race requires each competitor to climb over logs, run through sand and navigate neck-high water while a woman clings to his back or holds on any other way she can. The world record for completing the 278-yard obstacle course is 1 minute, 5 seconds.

• Man gets 10 months for mooning judge

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. - A man who gave graphic expression to his contempt of court got 10 months in jail for mooning a judge. Robert White, 50, who is unemployed, was representing himself on a disorderly conduct charge for allegedly causing a disturbance at a hospital. White objected that he was being tried in a "kangaroo court" and began using foul language, witnesses said. Then he dropped his pants, bent over and gave Municipal Judge Dennis Sutterfield a view of his rear end. The judge said it was the first time in his 14 years on the bench that he had been mooned.

• Friend of 'man who hops with frogs'

ASHLAND, Ore. - When neighborhood chickens are reported on the loose, Penny Curtis is there to save them. The self-named "woman who runs with chickens" says she's working as a liaison between the police and the chicken-raising community to reunite lost birds with their owners. Police say loose chickens aren't exactly ruffling their feathers. "I've been doing this for 10 years and have had complaints about llamas, pot-belly pigs and sheep, but never chickens," said a police spokesperson. "The city is fairly easygoing about backyard chicken owners."

• And the Lego-maniacs cheer

CARLSBAD, Calif. - Now, while the kids spend hours working on miniature cities and robot ships and robots, their parents finally can work on a buzz. The state on Monday gave the go-ahead for beer and wine to be sold at Legoland California, the theme park aimed at 2- to 12-year-olds. Just as park reaches its one-year anniversary, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control approved the permit to sell beer and wine at the Knight's Table restaurant. "We see this as a way of enhancing our guest services. We get a lot of requests and we just wanted a way to meet those requests," said a spokesperson for the park.

• Just in case disaster strikes ...

DUXBURY, Mass. - It's never too early to start preparing for a nuclear disaster. The town of Duxbury, located near the Pilgrim Nuclear Station in Plymouth, approved the purchase of thousands of potassium iodide tablets in case disaster strikes. Potassium iodide, if taken shortly after exposure to radiation, blocks the thyroid gland's intake of radioactive iodine, providing protection against thyroid cancer and other diseases. A spokesman for Pilgrim, the state's only nuclear plant, said the plant has had an excellent safety record since it opened in 1972.
Wild crimes plagues top Florida vacation spots

Continued from page 5, ORLANDO such as Sam Haddock, a lifelong resident of Clermont, and you hear about “that Shamu deal, where some nut went swimming in a whale tank.”

It happened last year — a bizarre discovery one morning at SeaWorld Orlando. Workers found the nude body of a drifter draped across the back of Tillikum the whale. Tillikum perhaps mistook the human for a toy after the marijuana-smoking nature buff apparently broke into SeaWorld for a midnight dip in Tilly’s breeding tank.

Or the lingering image might be the face of Nala, the lion who got out of her JungleLand cage a couple of years ago to prowl Osceola County’s tourist strip. Her furry face was on every front page and every television from here to France.

For three days, police carried tranquilizer guns. Officials left trails of raw meat. Helicopters circled.

Did it hurt Orlando’s image? There’s no easy way to measure the net effect. We live in a society of pop culture. And news — some will say — has been reinventing itself as entertainment.

In years past, the phrase used to be, “All the nuts roll to California.”

Now, as one of the UFO-chasing FBI agents in The X-Files put it: “All the nuts roll to Florida.”

But even if people were to roll their eyes at Central Florida, the theme parks are still filling up. And certainly growth hasn’t slowed. Houses are going up so fast, construction companies are running into shortages of building materials.

It’s like the gold rush days of California, says Ken Baker, a self-styled “dirt-road sage.”

He’s chief deputy of the Osceola County Sheriff’s Office. He has gone from looking up harmless town drunks to working a homicide case where the victim’s dismembered parts were stored in the fridge in plastic wrap.

“They come here looking for gold and don’t find it,” he said. “There’s Disney, SeaWorld, Universal, people coming down looking for a dream. But they wind up working three jobs just to make ends meet.”

Along with shattered dreams is a large transient population that more often acts like a crowd than a community.

“Never before have we been such a large collection of strangers,” Baker says. “And if you’re a thief, there’s an unlimited supply of victims here — tourists carrying cash. It’s a lure.”

Others insist the villain is the media, that the news media now swim in much shallower and muddier waters to hold the attention of a fickle population bouncing from the Internet to 24-hour headline news.

“If you want to hold onto the audience, give them what sells,” said Twitchell, the UF professor. “You’re in the business of trading eyeballs for money. You get the best trade if you’re offering up vampires and killer undertakers.

“The back page, the small odd items, are becoming the front page.”

In the land of the big cartoon mouse, an invasion of real mice was just too good to be true, says Twitchell, who won the Popular Culture Association’s top award in 1997 for his work on American pop culture.

But Twitchell said it would be wrong to think that Orlando will always be seen as a bit out of killer.

“We’ll just have to weather the storm. And the wildfires. And the hurricanes. Donna Morris grew up in Lake County and went to elementary school in tiny Lady Lake in the late 1950s. She’s not an expert on anything, except the animals at her petting zoo. And she doesn’t take on airs about that. But she does watch people and the news.

“Yep, she says, it’s definitely weird now.

But she blames humans for all the troubles, even the mice plague a few months ago, when images flashed on national TV of women in sundresses using pots and fly swatters to fend off hordes of rodents.

It happened, she says, because too many people moved in. Houses went up in fields where snakes, birds and other mouse eaters used to live. That left the mice to run amok.

All you have to do is put out some bait and keep a cat around, Morris said.

“But the culs and those vampire folks, that’s something else,” she said. “Mice, I can handle.”

Another theory comes from a man steeped in the weird, a professional UFO hunter who watches Florida’s night skies for alien spaceships. He says he has spied 150 UFOs since 1991, some in lights of colored triangles, criss-crossing the night sky.

The problem isn’t space aliens, says G. Bland Pugh. It’s Yankees.

“They’ve ruined the place,” said Pugh, who lives in Gulf Breeze and is state director of Florida’s Mutual UFO Network. In the past, he said, “they’d come down for the theme parks and all — but they’d migrate back north every April.

“These days,” he said, “they just move down and stay.”

(c) Knight-Ridder Tribune, 2000
By JSU Sports Information

Freshman Bubbie Buzachero struck out nine and limited Jacksonville State (15-6) to three hits and one unearned run, in Tennessee Tech’s 5-1 victory over the visiting Gamecocks last Tuesday afternoon.

Buzachero (1-2) earned his first collegiate win, helping the Golden Eagles improve to 9-7 overall with their second win of the year over the Gamecocks.

JSU’s lone run came in the third inning when Kent Parramore walked, went to second on a wild pitch and advanced to third on a throwing error. He came around to score on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead.

The Golden Eagles got that run back in the third inning when Mark Gilliam singled to drive home Wes Dunn, who had doubled. Junior Matt Curtis staked Buzachero to a 2-1 lead with his fifth home run of the year, a solo shot in the fifth inning.

Tech added three insurance runs in the eighth inning. Ben Cunningham and Scott Terry drew one-out walks, throwing error. He came around to score on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead.

The nine strikeouts were a career high for Buzachero, who has now fanned 24 batters in 22 innings.

JSU’s Jon Hannah had retired 18 consecutive batters and was pulled in the seventh inning after giving the Gamecocks a 2-1 lead, but the JSU bullpen struggled in the eighth inning. The Raiders roughed up three different Gamecock pitchers in the inning to a tune of eight hits and twelve runs. Mike Mallone, who got stuck with the loss for JSU, lasted three different batters and was pulled in the seventh inning after giving the Gamecocks a 2-1 lead, but the JSU bullpen struggled in the eighth inning. The Raiders roughed up three different Gamecock pitchers in the inning to a tune of eight hits and twelve runs. Mike Mallone, who got stuck with the loss for JSU, lasted 14th double of the year. He now has 13 hits in his last 18 at bats.

The win came during the first game of the double header the Lady Gamecocks played against the Panthers in Atlanta. The Lady Gamecocks have been playing on the road since March 11th. Last week, the Lady Gamecocks traveled to Atlanta on Tuesday, Starkville, Miss. on Wednesday (to play Mississippi State), and Buies Creek, N.C. on Saturday (to face Campbell).

The Lady Gamecocks split the double header with Georgia State on Tuesday, winning the first game 1-0, and losing the second game 5-2.

Jana McGinnis gets her 200th win

By Erik Green
Sports Editor

JSU head softball coach Jana McGinnis won her 200th game against Georgia State last Tuesday.

The win came during the first game of the double header the Lady Gamecocks played against the Panthers in Atlanta. The Lady Gamecocks have been playing on the road since March 11th. Last week, the Lady Gamecocks traveled to Atlanta on Tuesday, Starkville, Miss. on Wednesday (to play Mississippi State), and Buies Creek, N.C. on Saturday (to face Campbell).

The Lady Gamecocks split the double header with Georgia State on Tuesday, winning the first game 1-0, and losing the second game 5-2.

Jill Wilcoxson was the winning pitcher for the Lady Gamecocks in game one. Wilcoxson struck out two batters and allowed only five hits. Julie Boland drove in Christine Tucker in the eighth inning to give the Lady Gamecocks the one point edge.

“Overall, our season has been good,” said McGinnis. “We are in a nine game offensive slump, but we have still picked up wins in the conference. In the beginning of the season, everyone was hitting top to bottom. When one didn’t hit another came in to hit. After that, the middle of the line-up is not hitting.”

Jaci Davis was the winning pitcher for the Panthers in game two. Davis struck out five batters in the game, giving up eight hits and two runs. McWhorter picked up her fourth loss of the season against Georgia State. In her six innings of work, McWhorter allowed seven hits and five runs.
NCAA’s kennel is full of underdogs

By Bernard Fernandez
Knight-Ridder Tribune

If it’s true that America loves an underdog, most of the nation should be head over heels with this most upset-riddled of NCAA basketball tournaments. In just four days, in which the original field of 64 teams has been pared to the Sweet 16 survivors, so many highly seeded teams have been knocked out it almost seems as if the tournament selection committee arranged the brackets by picking names out of a hat.

Two No. 1s, gone. Three No. 2s, gone. Three No. 3s, gone.

In the closing minutes of top-seeded Duke’s game with No. 8 seed Kansas in the East Regional, and the Blue Devils trailing by a point (they eventually went on to win, 69-64), CBS play-by-play announcer Jim Nantz wondered if coach Mike Krzyzewski’s tottering favorites could survive “the wackiest opening weekend in the history of the tournament.”

Unheralded Gonzaga — the little Catholic school from Spokane, Wash., which wore Cinderella’s slipper in 1999 by advancing to the Elite Eight (where the Bulldogs lost a close game to eventual national champion Connecticut) — again is riding through March Madness in a pumpkin that has been transformed into a gilded carriage.

Gonzaga, the No. 10 seed in the West Regional, was cheered by a vast majority of the 13,818 fans in the McKale Center, in Tucson, Ariz., as it shocked second-seeded St. John’s, 82-76, on Saturday.

“The fans really adopt us,” said Gonzaga forward Casey Cavalry. “I think a lot of people like to root for the underdog.”

One day after St. John’s, Arizona (the No. 1 seed in the West), Oklahoma (No. 3 in the West) and Maryland (No. 3 in the Midwest) were ushered out, Stanford (No. 1 in the South), Temple (No. 2 in the East), Cincinnati (No. 2 in the Midwest), North Carolina (No. 8 in the South) and Ohio State (No. 3 in the South) were eliminated Sunday. UConn, the fifth seed in the South, lost to fourth-seeded Tennessee, 65-51, guaranteeing that there will be a new national champion.

In addition to Gonzaga, other they-probably-shouldn’t-still-be-here-but-are teams include 10th-seeded Seton Hall, which wrecked Temple coach John Chaney’s hopes for that long-awaited Final Four appearance; Wisconsin (No. 8 in the West), UCLA (No. 6 in the Midwest), North Carolina (No. 8 in the East), Tulsa (No. 7 in the South) and Miami (No. 6 in the South).

The mere fact traditional powers UCLA and North Carolina were considered outsiders in this tournament is indicative of how bizarre things have gotten in the once-orderly world of college hoops.
Winthrop baseball team trades barbs with Penn State after Confederate flag flap

By David Newton
Knight-Ridder Tribune

Winthrop pitcher John Swanson whisked “Dixie” from the dugout during a weekend baseball game against Penn State, whose players were red wristbands in protest of the Confederate flag flying atop the South Carolina State House.

Several teammates of the freshman from Surfside Beach shouted “Yankee” to the Nittany Lions during the game. When a Penn State player dived back to first on a pick-off attempt, the Eagles’ first baseman said, “Safe by a wristband.”

“That was absolutely offensive,” Penn State coach Joe Hindelang said Monday. “All we did was make a statement and wear red wristbands. Nothing else. We weren’t trying to be rebels.

“Wearing the wristbands, we, the Penn State baseball team, were stating our opposition to the racist views that have been associated with the Confederate flag.”

Swanson said the only way his team would return to South Carolina before the flag is removed would be to play a postseason game.

The protest had nothing to do with Winthrop or a request by the NAACP for an economic boycott of the state, he said.

“If one thing is so offensive to a large group of people, why don’t you change it?” said Hindelang, who is white. “I remember a number of years ago the nickname of St. John’s University was Redmen. They’re the Red Storm now.”

“It’s like the Spike Lee movie, ‘Do The Right Thing.’ Let’s do the right thing in society.

The flag has become a national issue with the NAACP’s request for a boycott. The New York Knicks will no longer train for the NBA’s preseason in Charleston as they normally do. And several college tennis teams pulled out of a spring trip to Hilton Head Island as a protest.

Franklin & Marshall, a Division III school in Lancaster, Pa., canceled trips by the women’s lacrosse and softball teams and the men’s and women’s tennis teams.

Hindelang wasn’t aware of the issue until a month and a half ago when a newspaper reporter from a small town in Pennsylvania asked if he planned to boycott any games. He then spoke to the minorities on team two blacks and a Hispanic.

Hindelang said the issue stirred careful discussion on campus organizations were discussing the matter.

“We met as a team and gathered as much information as we could through the Internet, through articles in The State newspaper and from some very knowledgeable people in and around Penn State who we respected,” Hindelang said.

The 38 players and four coaches then voted overwhelmingly in favor of wearing wristbands as a means of protest during the two-game series played Saturday and Sunday, Hindelang said.

Hindelang said the reaction of Winthrop fans and players surprised him.

Swanson told a reporter he was glad the flag flies over the State House. “It’s heritage, not hate,” he said.

Flag supporters say the flag represents Southern heritage and honors the Civil War dead. Opponents say it represents racism and hatred.

Hindelang got the impression from some that many South Carolinians don’t consider the flag a major issue.

“It’s time to wake up and smell the coffee,” he said. “It’s a national issue. Someone asked me if this was a black issue. I said if I didn’t have any blacks on my team, I would feel the same way. It’s a human relations, human being issue.

“We’re all better, the team specifically, for having discussed it, researched it, come up with a course of action and followed through.

“In the overall scope of things, we’re only 38 players and four coaches, but we feel good about what we did and how we handled the sensitivity of the issue. It can only be a healthy and positive thing.”

Buck had the best day at the plate for the Lady Gamecocks by going 2-of-3 and scoring the Lady Gamecocks only run.

On Saturday, the Lady Gamecocks traveled to North Carolina to play the Camels of Campbell. The Lady Gamecocks beat Campbell in the first game of the double header 4-0, but lost game two 6-5.

Wilcoxson returned to the mound to face the Camels and held them scoreless. Buck and Tucker led the Lady Gamecocks at the plate, both going 2-for-4.

In game two, Wilcoxson picked up the loss. Boland led the Lady Gamecocks with 2 hits in the game.

The Lady Gamecocks are now 19-13 overall and 2-2 in Trans America Athletic Conference play. The Lady Gamecocks travel to DeLand, Fla. this weekend to face Stetson.

Though road games tough on Lady Gamecocks, season’s winning streak stays alive

Continued from page 15, SOFTBALL

striking out only one batter. Tucker led the Gamecocks at the plate, going 3-of-4. Boland and Hollie Bowyer each had a RBI in the loss.

The Lady Gamecocks lost both games of a double header against SEC power Mississippi State on Wednesday. (6-0, 5-1)

Jennifer Pursell was the winning pitcher for the Bulldogs in game one. Purcell held the Lady Gamecocks to four hits in the seven inning game. Lauren Buck picked up the loss for the Lady Gamecocks. Buck allowed six runs on 12 hits in the loss. Allie Simons, Tucker, Boland, and Tanya Carter had hits in the game.

In game two, the Lady Bulldogs were led by Jennifer Nelson, who pitched five innings allowing only three hits and one run. Kim Rose picked up the loss the Lady Gamecocks. Rose allowed five hits and five runs (all earned).

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just 1/3 of an inning and allowed five runs.

Brian Davis and Brad Howard pitched the final 4 1/3 allowing just one hit with Howard earning his first win of the season for MTSU.

After Hannah’s departure from the game, the Raiders Jeff Parsons got what was to be a very long eighth inning started. Parsons chopped a ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three inning giving him five RBI all in run blast by Peck later in the same ball off the plate that bounced over the outstretched glove of Gamecock third baseman Andy Keith and trickled down the left field line. Josh Renick followed by reaching on an error. After a stolen base by Renick, the Gamecocks were forced to intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck promptly singled to right field driving in intentionally walk Josh Pride with one inning. Peck finished the after-gates were open. The Raiders tacked on 10 more including a three
**What’s Your Sign?**

**A DAILY HOROSCOPE**

*By Linda C. Black*

*Tribune Media Services*

Today’s Birthday (March 23):

The pressure’s on this year. If you’re up to the challenge, security is your reward. Put old fears to rest in March. Fight for what’s coming to you in May, but also pay what you owe. Boldly express your love around August, and you could make a solid connection. Be prepared for a major expenditure around November. Travel back to a familiar place in December, and a secret is revealed about an old love. Friends inspire your creativity in February.

To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - You’re still pushing hard, and that’s normal. Don’t start worrying; that won’t help. Instead, make a budget and a long-term plan. When you start looking at the big picture, it’ll be easier to see what you should be doing now.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - There might be a conflict today. You have strong ideas, but hold off. You may not know everything yet. Instead of doing what you’ve already decided, shop around a little more. Something new could be a better deal.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 5 - Don’t believe everything you’re told, even if it comes from an expert. Someone you’ve hired could make a mistake. If your reputation is involved, don’t rely on others blindly. Know what they’re supposed to do, and whether or not they’ve done it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 - Your intuition is on target again. Trust it, rather than information you get from a co-worker. If the news flash doesn’t sound right, it probably isn’t. That’s especially true if the gossip is negative. Believe your gut feeling first.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 5 - Although you probably feel fine, a yellow flag is on the track. You may think you’re almost in the winner’s circle, but you should be cautious. That’s especially true if other people’s money is involved. Don’t take a risk; play it safe.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - Do some long-range planning. Pretend you’re a chess play-

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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**
35. Extra-wide shoe size 37. Poewy’s Olive 38. Most compact
41. Stoker’s bloodsucker 43. Osmelit item 44. Noose people
46. Across Cindy 47. Bean’s partner? 49. Methuselah’s tenant
52. Socially inept 53. Smile derisively 55. One Judi
57. Fire safety service 61. Man dances in a double time 62. Cowardly
66. Aaron Bates 67. Monster of the Mojave 68. Park, CO
69. Film noir
t57. Glass 70. Midnight 71. Big hit

**Solutions**

10. Edible mushrooms 11. La Scala, e.g. 12. Dads
32. Passover repasts 37. Break bread 40. X on a sundial
42. Mother of "Mork and Mindy"

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**FRANK AND BOB DECIDED TO SUPER-SIZE.**

**Uh...my Dad must have modified the car alarm...**

**You are too close to the daughter...**

**Shake...Good boy!...Good boy!**

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**UH, PERCHED ON A COURTYARD ATTACHMENT.**

**YOU ARE TOO...**

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**FORMAL DOG INTRODUCTIONS.**

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**THE CHANTICLEER • March 23, 2000 • Page 19**

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**MUST WE UUUU...**

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**THE CHANTICLEER • March 23, 2000 • Page 19**
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