Is alcohol a problem at JSU?

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

"These days it's hard to find a college student who does not drink. Many students who drink are underage and/or binge drinkers. Are the pressures of college life so great there are no other ways to cope? Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among the nation's youth, and it can have serious, often lifelong consequences for them, their families and their communities," reported a news advisory issued by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. According to their web site, "support and conducts biomedical and behavioral research on the causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of alcoholism and alcohol-related diseases," the website reads.

A student buys beer at the Cook Pit from Edwin Conception, a clerk. "We can't anybody who looks under 20," said Conception.

SGA says "no show" for fall concert

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

With his cowboy boot crossed over one knee and his fingers laced together underneath his chin, SGA Vice President Donnell Humes could not conceal the regret and disappointment in his voice. A concert that was tentatively scheduled for "Whoop Troy" week this past August 15, Humes said. "The window of opportunity closed. We couldn't secure contracts for the right amount of money for the right people at the right time.

A concert that was tentatively scheduled for "Whoop Troy" week is no longer in the cards for Jacksonville State University.

"That tucks me off, I voted for one," said JSU student Stephani Sinyar in reference to SGA's concert poll at a recent football game. Humes said SGA sent its agent to go after a band. "We get our agent to go after a band, and then they jumped $5,000-$6,000 out of our budget," said Humes. The University Police Department's 1999 crime statistics reported five instances of public intoxication on campus, 31 DUIS, and 11 violations of the liquor law. Eighty-nine percent of crimes on campus were non-alcohol related, according to their web site, "support and conducts biomedical and behavioral research on the causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of alcoholism and alcohol-related diseases.

"It (the budget) puts us in a very limiting group of acts," Webb commented. "We either have to get people that are coming up or people that are coming down. Basically the problem we run into is we want a good concert for the students. If we get a good name that's very popular with the college crowd right now, it's around $55,000-$70,000."

Humes added that if SGA overexerted their budget for a fall concert, or if the concert did not come out well, the University would not be able to have many (if any) major events in the spring.

"I think it's to the prudence of this executive council and to the Office of Student Activites that we hold off till the spring and find a better option, find the band we want for the right price at the right time," Humes said.

Booking was also an apparent problem in securing a band to play at JSU. Humes stated that bands such as Fuel, Nine Days and Destiny's child could not break $6,000 out of the budget. Humes stated that bands such as Fuel, Nine Days and Destiny's child could not break away from their current touring schedules.

The idea of imposing a manditory student activity fee on JSU students has been debated as an additional source of funds for such events as concerts. According to Webb SGA has explored several possibilities for this fee.

"There was the possibility of $1 for every hour a student takes. We talked about just adding $5 onto every student's tuition. That would be roughly $40,000 to work on a concert. We could get some option, find the band we want for the right price at the right time," Humes said.

The only prerequisites for the service, which costs $4 per month, is the customer must have a Caller ID box, which costs about $10.

For more information, call 793-2000.

A student buys beer at the Cook Pit from Edwin Conception, a clerk. "We can't anybody who looks under 20," said Conception.
The Campus Crime Docket is never, and will never be, edited unless an incident report involves a minor. Inquiries in the Campus Crime Docket are obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department. JSU students have the right to view these public records. If any information is incorrect, please contact us at 782-5701 or call the JSU Police Department at 782-5050.

10-04-00: Kimberly Anne Hays, of Tallassee, Ala., reported criminal mischief to JSUPD occurring at Rowan Hall parking lot on 10-04-00.

10-04-00: Jessica Johnson, of Jacksonville, Ala., reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring at Sparkman Hall on 10-04-00.

10-05-00: JSUPD reported public intoxication occurring at Fitzpatrick Hall on 10-05-00.

10-05-00: William Joseph Hug, of Jacksonville, Ala., reported harassing communications to JSUPD occurring at Stone Center on 10-05-00.

10-07-00: Karen Elizabeth Russ, of Jacksonville, Ala., reported Trespassing 1 to JSUPD occurring at Sparkman Hall on 10-07-00.

**Club**

**Habitat for Humanity**

Come be a part of the newly-forming JSU Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Contact Kim Weatherford at 782-5762 or weatherr@jsucc.jsu.edu for more information.

**Zeta Tau Alpha**

On Oct. 15 Zeta will be 102 years old! A special thanks to Coach Crowe, Gina Smith and Brandon Lewis for visiting our meeting on Sunday. Awards this week... EC Member of the Week - Kim Loeb, Strawberry- Britney Smith, Cuddle Bunny- Elizabeth Webb, and Social Bunny- Candace Calhoun. Good Luck to the Zeta football team this week. Happy Birthday to Amy Glenn. Good luck to the JSU volleyball team and JSU rugby team. Remember that the month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

**Rho Lambda Greek Women’s Honor Society**

The following women were initiated on September 18, 2000, into Rho Lambda, the National Greek Women’s Honor Society: Rebekah Adams, Alpha Omicron Pi, Lorie Ash, Phi Mu, Summer Bagwell, Phi Mu, Amber Burgess, Alpha Xi Delta, Mary Cash, Zeta Tau Alpha, Allison Eason, Zeta Tau Alpha, Kelli Patterson, Alpha Xi Delta, Christy Ramsden, Alpha Omicron Pi, Jamie Rotters, Zeta Tau Alpha, Shannon Smith, Zeta Tau Alpha, Deidra Tidwell, Alpha Omicron Pi, April Warhurst, Alpha Omicron Pi, Elizabeth Webb, Zeta Tau Alpha, and Ginny Wyatt, Alpha Omicron Pi.

Rho Lambda recognizes the top 10% of Greek women on the JSU campus and the requirements for membership are to have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, be a junior or senior, and have extensive leadership roles within the campus and Greek Community. Congratulations to these outstanding women!

**Alpha Xi Delta**

We hope that everyone is having an awesome week! Good luck to our football and women’s basketball teams. You girls are doing an excellent job. Congratulations to Pi Kappa Phi on a successful War of the Roses! Gamecocks, we’re behind you all the way! Keep representing us well. Sigma Nu, we are looking forward to our mixer with you. Our awards for the week are: Rose Character Award-Kelli Patterson, Sister of the Week-Nicole Harvel, Member of the Week-Amey Rains and Lisa DiMartino, Study Bear-Celinda Gardner, Beary Best Bear-Miranda Killingsworth, and Support Award-Ann Marie Reynolds.

**Delta Zeta**

Good job and congratulations to all the Delta Zeta ladies who worked so hard to win first place in Pi Kappa Phi’s War of the Roses last week. Congratulations to MaryBeth Edwards and Rothe McClendon for being named 1st and 2nd runners-up in the Rose Queen Pageant last week. Thanks to Pi Kappa Phi for a great week! Good luck to the Delta Zeta intramural football team as the season comes to an end. You ladies have done a great job! Good luck to the JSU football team this weekend! Awards for this week are Faculty Member of the Week: Dr. Beard, Alumnae of the Week: Lori Norton, Twisted Sister: Jennifer Ellison, Support: Becky Stone and Jessica Johnson, and Rosebed of the Week: Casey O’Conner. Happy Birthday to our CCD, Kim Dalesandro (October 14)! Have a great week!

**Alpha Omicron Pi**

A011 would like to thank everybody that attended the AOII all Greek Mixer. It was nice to be able to “mix” with everyone. We had a blast! Congratulations all new little sisters, your big love you. Congratulations to Ginny Wyatt, Erin Woodruff, and Deidra Tidwell for being nominated for Homecoming Court. Good luck to the Gamecocks in their upcoming game at McNeese State. Awards: Sister of the week - Kerry Hudson, Positive Panda - Ana Alas, and Officer of the week - Amy Whatley.

**Phi Mu**

Phi Mu would like to wish our intramural football and bowling team good luck next week! Congratulations to Zeta on taking first place in tennis, and congrats to Phi Mu on second! Congratulations to our intramural football team on their wins against A011 and DZ last week. Good luck to the Gamecocks this weekend against McNeese State. Phi Mu would like to thank Coach Crowe for coming to speak at our meeting Sunday! The awards for this week are as followed: Phi Mu Lady of the Week- Melinda Clark; Phi of the Week- Rachael Jordan; Sunirse Awards- Allison Byrd and Lindsey Jacobs; Athlete of the Week- Sommer Leathers. Phi Mu had a great time at the A011 mixer Wednesday, and would like to congratulate DZ on winning the War of the Roses! Good Luck to Beth Sellers and John Michael on their wedding this Saturday. Congratulations to all Phi Mu’s who made Freshman Forum. Phi Mu’s Philanthropy Day is October 16th and we will be hosting a “Children’s Candelight Ceremony” on the Quad from 6-8p.m. Good luck to our Phi’s next week as they begin their Inspiration Week-we are so proud of you! We hope everyone has a great week. Go Gamecocks!

**Student Government Association**

The SGA met on the third floor of the TMB on October 2nd. Elizabeth Webb briefed the senate on her discussion with President Meehan about the phone lines in the dorms. She stated that although the problem would not be fixed, it should be better this week. The senate is discussing the 2002 calendar, and the possibility of implementing a Fall Break. Student Resolution 01 passed, and called for a more professional and polite manner from the University Police when dealing with students. A bill was passed to appoint Emily Doty to the senate, and amend section 704.3 of the Code of Laws. All senator applications are due ASAP, and allocation applications are now available.

**JSU Area Events Calendar: October 12 - 19**

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<th>Mon 16</th>
<th>Tues 17</th>
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**The ECE for Fall 2000 will be given Tuesday, Oct. 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Oct. 18 from 3-4:30 p.m. Students planning to take the ECE need to come by Stone Center, Room 215 and register by Oct. 11. Optional workshops for the Fall exam will be held Monday, Oct. 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Merrill Hall auditorium, Room 101. Any questions regarding the ECE may be directed to Mr. David Myer, 112 Stone Center, ext. 5464, e-mail dmeyer@jsucc.jsu.edu.**

**Free confidential HIV testing is available at the Nursing Center Clinic, at Lorleen B. Wallace College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Please call 782-5432 to schedule an appointment. Office hours are from Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

**A health fair sponsored by the MSN students of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences will be held on Oct. 26, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the TMB.**

**The CBASE Test will be given at 1-4:30 p.m. in Room 20, Ayers Hall. Seniors may obtain registration forms in the Office of Assessment, Room 144 Ayers Hall. Students are eligible to take the test whenever they have completed 96 or more credit hours toward a degree.**

**The student health care center will be administering flu vaccinations for JSU students and employees beginning Monday, Oct. 16. The cost for vaccination is $10.**

**The international student organization is inviting all international students to their general meeting on Oct. 13 @ 5 p.m. at the International House.**
Many researchers define binge drinking for men and women as drinking five or more drinks at one sitting, according to a message from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna E. Shalala. “More students under age 21 binge drink and have alcohol-related problems than those over 21. Students who binge drink are more likely to damage property, have trouble with authorities, miss classes, have hangovers and experience injuries than those who do not.”

Recent Associated Press wire reports cited a study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that was published in the March issue of the Journal of American College Health. The study was based on surveys from 14,000 students at 119 colleges in the United States. According to their findings, “The population of frequent binge drinkers rose last year to 22.7 percent of the student population, up from 19.8 percent in 1993 and 20.9 percent in 1997.”

Studies also found binge drinkers on college campuses to be white, live in a fraternity and have a history of binge drinking in high school. “Fraternity and sorority members drink more frequently than their peers,” reported Shalala, “and accept as normal high levels of alcohol consumption and associated problems. Fraternity-sponsored parties also may factor heavy drinking. Studies have found that students who consider parties or athletics important and those who drink to get drunk appear most likely to binge drink or to drink heavily.”

According to Shalala, students not only drink because their peers did, but they may have had certain personality characteristics that were contributing factors to destructive drinking behavior. Among these characteristics were impulsiveness, depression, anxiety and early deviant behavior. Shalala also reported that some studies cited a family history of alcohol abuse as a risk factor for problem drinking in college students. JSU offers some help to students who have drinking problems. In April Counseling and Career Services will hold a workshop on understanding addiction and will also sponsor an alcohol-screening day. In addition, Counseling and Career Services provides confidential counseling for those struggling with several of the factors that cause some students to reach for the bottle: stress, depression, anger, anxiety and situational problems. For more information, contact Counseling and Career Services at 782-5475.

Chemical scare evacuates Sparkman Hall

By Josie Connell
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville University Police Department is investigating the release of an unidentified substance in Sparkman Hall Monday night that resulted in two residents requiring hospital treatment.

The Jacksonville State University Police received a call at 6:49 p.m. Monday evening from a Sparkman Hall resident who said someone had sprayed a substance in the seventh floor elevator. She also said she smelled a strange odor, and residents were gagging. However, resident Hillary McConnell said, “I didn’t get sick. I was just mad. I think it’s just stupid.”

University Police Chief Nelson Coleman said the Jacksonville City Fire Department and University Police Department were dispatched immediately to the scene. All 290 female residents were evacuated. Nelson said many residents were complaining of burning sensations in their noses, throats and eyes. “It got in my system,” an anonymous resident said, “and I have an eye infection.”

Several had stomach aches, and one vomited in the elevator. Two residents were treated at The Jacksonville Hospital for burning eyes and were released. No serious injuries occurred.

Coleman said the substance was concentrated on the top three floors but was circulating throughout the building. Firefighters blew out each floor, and doors and windows were opened for ventilation.

Monday night Coleman said officials tried to contact an expert who had access to proper equipment to determine the identity of the substance, but he couldn’t be reached. After fire officials determined the building safe, the hall was re-opened at midnight.

However, Coleman said many students opted to stay with family and friends. Any resident who did not want to return that night was provided a room in Luttrell Hall.

The police department “has been beating out our brains” over the mysterious identity of the substance, Coleman said. Coleman also said all possible mechanical problems of Sparkman Hall were checked out.

“We checked out the elevator,” Coleman said. “We also checked out the flooring in the basement. That was just put down and we thought it might have been the glue, but it wasn’t.”

An expert was reached Tuesday afternoon to investigate the substance, but Coleman said the tests likely won’t reveal anything. “That substance has had too long to dissipate,” Coleman said. “It will be hard for his equipment to pick up anything.”

Coleman said police have one suspect and they suspect it could have been a prank.

“There were other things going on Monday night involving fraternity matters,” Coleman said. “We’re looking into it.”

It was a serious incident, according to Coleman, but he said he is proud of how well everyone worked together: “We came together and worked as a team.”
Continued from page 1, “No Show” for concert body that’s really good and that people would enjoy.”

Webb added that Second Vice President Humes is talking to several colleges to find out how their programs work, are funded, and how to implement a fee at JSU if there is going to be one.

The proposal for an activity fee would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees since it would be an additive to tuition. President Meehan views the student activity fee as taxation on students.

“I view a student activity fee as really a taxation on the students because it goes to fund the student government activities which are for the students,” Meehan said. “If the student body votes an activity fee in to tax themselves for that, then I will be in favor of it.”

Jacksonville State University senior Travis Hall said, “I would pay a little more money if it would bring more activities to the University.”

“They haven’t had a good concert here in years,” added student Misty Phillips.

The obvious concern to students is for a student activity fee to go to worthwhile activities the student body would support and actually attend.

According to Cornell University’s Supreme Court Collection website, in a recent Supreme Court case, Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System Petitioner v. Scott Harold Southworth et al., a group of students at the University of Wisconsin challenged a mandatory student activity fee used in part to support student organizations that sponsored political or ideological speech.

The exorbitant fee of $331.50 per year per student was used by the University to fund “various campus services and extracurricular student activities,” according to the Cornell site. Portions of the funding were allocated to various groups that sponsor political speeches, but these groups were advised to maintain grounds of neutrality.

The District Court and the Court of Appeals invalidated the University’s student fee, “relying upon our precedents which protect members of unions and bar associations from being required to pay fees used for speech the members find objectionable,” reported the Cornell site.

Despite this ruling by the lower courts, the Supreme Court reversed the decision and the case has been remanded for further proceedings with this opinion.

The bottom line is JSU students want more activities and events on campus. The question is, are they willing to pay for them.

“As long as tuition doesn’t go up,” said student Christol McFadden, “I don’t think it (student activity fee) would be a problem.”

JSU fraternity to sponsor marching contest for charity

By Tim Ross
Staff Writer

For the fifteen year running, the brothers of the Epsilon Nu chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia continue the Southern Classic Marching Contest on Oct. 14.

Phi Mu Alpha’s contest provides the opportunity to attend 21 premiere performing high school bands from across the Southeast. The Up ‘Til Dawn organization will be present to accept donations for St. Jude’s Hospital.

The contest was run by the Tropicana Bowl for many years until Ken Bodiford, now Director of Bands at Jacksonville State University, led Phi Mu Alpha to turn it into the present Southern Classic. “Because of its unique format of prelims and finals, it has been one of the most respected band contests in the state,” Bodiford said.

Students of JSU will have the chance to listen to this usually “dead” weekend with superior sights and sounds of marching band competition. Because contests like these create opportunity for high school students to earn trophies and awards for their performance, bands deliver more powerful performances than at their normal Friday night football games.

Thomas Moore, past band director of Trion High School, said, “The Southern Classic is the real run and has a pretty fair evaluation of the bands, giving them a chance to see what other high schools are doing. The contest is a very good promotion of music by the fraternity.”

“University bands and JSU’s Music Department are responsible for recruiting the largest group of students on campus,” Brandon Cornutt said. “Thousands of high school kids and parents will attend our contest. This will be their first impression of our school, and they will see how Jacksonville State strongly encourages music.”

“The contest is a culmination of seven months of hard work from Mr. Bodiford, university bands, my program committee and our chapter. This wouldn’t be a success without the support, patience, and family environment that surrounds the school’s musical programs, like the Southerners. We have had excellence for fifteen years, and our efforts now affect the future of the contest, which could in fact be run by those attending the Southern Classic,” said Cornutt.

Up ‘Til Dawn raises money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. It takes place on March 9th from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on March 10th at Stephenson Gym. Teams of seven work to raise at least $750 to attend through many different ways.
New JSU production commits “Crimes of the Heart”

By Christina Morrison
Features Editor

JSU’s Drama Department will begin its 2000-2001 season tonight with a performance of Beth Henley’s 1981 Pulitzer Prize winning play, “Crimes of the Heart.”

The play is directed by Susan McCain of the Drama Department and the lead parts are played by Crystal Long, Mandy Carter, Tanya Poore, Jenny Newcomb, Clint Leroy and Justine Young.

The storyline consists of three sisters who are gathered in a small Mississippi town to await the death of their grandfather, who is at a local hospital. These three are also complemented by two outsiders, a cousin and an ill-at-ease lawyer. The story unfolds the audience learns of each woman’s past and their plans for the future.

This dark comedy contains many realistic aspects of life that are intended to touch the audience while making them laugh at the same time. McCain said, “This play is truly challenging because it is so true to life. In rehearsal we’re consistently discovering these new things in it that make it so real.”

Each of the characters has problems in her life which are so bizarre that they become believable. One sister is out on bail, since she has recently shot her husband; another has returned to the hometown from a failed career as a country music singer; and the oldest sister is single and unhappily facing diminishing possibilities for marriage in the future. All of these problems contribute to the reality of the play.

The honesty of the characters and their relationships makes it a great piece to perform. It’s all so true-to-life even though they’re in what seems to be an unusual circumstance. Things happen in the play that we’ve all seen happen or been in the midst of things happening, things that happen between people,” said McCain.

The Drama Department chose to perform this play because of its renown, which the piece gained from the Pulitzer Prize and other awards, and in order to balance out the season with comedy and tragedy. “Of

Author Daniel Wallace to appear at JSU library

By Christina Morrison
Features Editor

Author Daniel Wallace will read from his new novel Ray in Reverse, and hold a book signing, at Jacksonville State University’s annual Friends of Houston Cole Library Author’s Evening at 7-8 p.m. tonight, on the 11th floor of the library.

Wallace’s newest novel begins in heaven with main character Ray Williams telling of his death. The rest of the story consists of Ray examining parts of his life in order to figure out why he died after only 50 years of life. The main twist to this story is that it is told in reverse from his death backward, until Ray is about ten years old.

Wallace explained, “It’s just stories from this one person’s life, and as you work backwards through it there’s the idea that you get to know him in a different way than you would have had it been presented from the beginning. It also happens to provide you with a happy ending. At the end of his life, it’s not that happy. But the beginning was. I like happy endings and the only way I could get it was to structure it backwards.”

The success of his newest novel is evident in many circles. The website www.amazon.com offers reviews of his book, with the average rating of the novel being five stars, the highest possible. One reviewer commented, “Daniel Wallace is one of the original writers I’ve discovered in the past year. He’s one of the few willing to step outside the box and try something different.”

JSU Professor of English and frequent book reviewer Dr. Stevens Whitton said of Ray in Reverse, “What I really like about it was that this character discovers, after examining himself, that he wasn’t anything special because he missed all of the really special things that were around him.”

When asked what the best thing about being a successful author is, Wallace replied, “I never ever thought that I would make any money from this. Or, not very much anyway. It’s just great to have books out there that people are interested in reading and people are interested in buying. And it provides me with more time and more opportunities to write more books. That’s what it’s all about. So it feels pretty good; I feel blessed.”

Wallace found it hard to name one exact writer that influenced his work, “Well, I’ve read a lot over the

CD Releases

Wallflowers-Breach
Collective Soul-Bleeder
Slash’s Snakepit-Ain’t Life Grand
Orgy-Vapor Transmission
Merle Haggard-If I Could Only Fly
Cake-Selected Features
Cherry Poppin’ Daddies-Soul Chaddy
October 17
Johnny Cash-American III: Solitary Man
Everlast-Eat at Whitey’s
Squirrel Nut Zippers-Bedlam Ballroom
Mark Olson & The Original Harmony Ridge Creek Dippers-My Own Jo Ellen
Superdrag-In the Valley of Dying Stars
Tony Iommi-Iommi
Editorial

Fighting in the Middle East and other tales of woe

By Adam Smith

Editor

Well, in case you haven’t noticed, the world has gone crazy again. Fighting in the Middle East and a revolution in Yugoslavia are just a few of the things I’ve been trying to keep up with lately.

Fighting between the Israelis and the Palestinians is nothing new to anyone. The whole situation involving the Gaza Strip is a delicate, volatile matter to say the least. However, it took me a while to grasp what exactly happened. Some of you may also be oblivious to the facts.

In essence, Ariel Sharon, who is the chief opposition leader to Palestine, went and visited the Temple Mount, considered to be the coup de grace of all Jewish holy sites. Oddly enough, that site now stands as a holy sanctuary for Muslims. Sharon, surrounded by armed guards-a-plenty, decided to pay homage to the Temple Mount, enraged essentially the whole country of Palestine. It doesn’t sound like complicated, but it took me a couple of days to figure out why the Palestinians were so pissed off.

Some of you may be saying, “Well, why are the Palestinians so, like, angry, man?” My response is because the Middle East takes religion very seriously. You have Jewish people, and Muslim people, and never the twain shall meet.

Sharon was on “Nightline” with Ted Koppel last week and pretty much shrugged his shoulders and more or less said he had no idea that he would get this kind of reaction from the Palestinian people. I say that’s bull malarkey. He knew good and well that going over there would enflame the Palestinians. Why else would be take hundreds of armed guards with him when he went?

For example, I wouldn’t march into a fraternity house carrying a keg of O’Doul’s. If I did, some crap would go down. That’s not exactly the same, but you get the point. I wouldn’t walk into an atheist gathering decked out in my John 3:16 shirt and wearing my W.W.J.D. bracelet. It just wouldn’t be wise. Nor would I take the seven train to the Mets playoffs wearing one of the “Rocker Rules” shirts you can pick up at the Braves stadium.

So now, things are left up to other leaders to straighten things out. It will all be left up to Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to straighten everything out. Arafat is definitely one of the coolest world leaders, and not just because his name sounds like “yes, sir.” It’s because he wears a head wrap, dresses in beige and usually carries a big pistol. That’s why he’s cool.

Barak and Arafat are constantly having some kind of peace negotiations about something, and more often than not, these negotiations are never on either country’s native soil. The peace talks for this whole debacle were originally held in Paris, and then were moved to Egypt. Wouldn’t the best way to solve a problem be to stay at home and figure it out? If a man has a fight with his wife, he may drive to the bar downtown but that doesn’t make it right. The same applies here.

And better yet, why is Madeleine Albright always in the mix? Sure, we care about what’s going on in the Middle East, but it seems every time a country is in trouble, Bill’s putting Albright on a plane to go play Mother Goose to a bunch of overindulgent children. She can’t solve the world’s problems. Yasser’s a smart guy. Let him and Barak work it out themselves. And if they keep giving us problems, we’ll send in Madeleine. Bill (unless George has already taken over) and some reserves, because God knows they’re not doing anything right now but eating Twinkies and cleaning their rifles.

So what do I propose Barak and Arafat do? I don’t know, honestly. For two countries with so much turmoil and strife between them, it almost seems like a no-win scenario. Of course, people have been fighting over religious beliefs and ideals since the beginning of time. We can’t end all the animosities with the swift stroke of a pen, nor can we end strife with some brilliant words from an aging leader.

The true tragedy of this situation is that innocent people are also involved, especially children. The most horrific thing I’ve seen on television of late is the image of the father trying to protect his son from stray gunfire. Unfortunately the son was shot and killed and the father was also hit by gunfire. Maybe Barak and Arafat will take that image into consideration during their peace talks.

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the “Y Not?” by Christopher Lauer from the October 5th issue. It deeply saddens me to know that someone so cynical and sarcastic is given the privilege to write and represent our University. I found his religious biases offensive, if not repugnant.

Has Mr. Lauer no idea what abortion has done to our society? He’s probably one of the very ones who screams for gun control because of the mass murders in our schools. Due to abortion, there is no sanctity of life, therefore it’s fine to kill and maim your classmates, as in Columbine and other various schools across our country.

In response to his religious bigotry, God is indeed very alive. It is our society who has rejected Him. I truly hope the day will come when God removes the scales from Mr. Lauer’s eyes and he will be able to experience God for himself. Perhaps at that time, he will be able to look at life with a more purposeful view point.

Mr. Lauer, you are indeed here for a purpose. Is your effect going to be positive or negative?

Sincerely,

Paige Robinson

Crossword

ACROSS
1 Out of fashion (6)
2 Slip out by a lever (6)
3 Single copy (6)
4 Fed Atrikaners (6)
5 California saltpiper (6)
6 Boston hockey goon (6)
7 Garden cart (6)
8 Foal point (6)
9 Poor runners (6)
10 Reeling tool (6)
11 Clean and tidy (6)
12 Spavin (5,5)
13 Brandt (5,5)
14 Sound rampion (8)
15 Showed contest for (6)
16 Sleeping bag (6)
17 Heedly (6)
18 Surround by eagle forces (6)
19 Columbus’ country (8)
20 Ideal respecting (6)
21 U.S. voter (6)
22 Amen to that! (6)
23 Dali’s movement (6)
24 Church rector (6)
25 Hurry (6)
26 Bootheads (6)
27 O’Hare abbr. (6)
28 Like aermalized (6)
29 Aiming with (6)
30 Cincinnati player (6)
31 Charleston’s county (8)
32 African (6)

DOWN
1 Hocks (6)
2 Committee type (6)
3 Run-down and shabbily (6)
4 Paling ice (6)
5 Moray or conger (6)
6 Dogfish (6)
7 Destroyer or trigger (6)
8 Sure-handed (6)
9 Joe’d (6)
10 Exploiting stars (6)
11 “To My Children” character (6)
12 Salem Trinity (6)
13 The Devil’s Dictionary (6)
14 Father (6)
15 Gambling (6)
16 Mad as a (6)
17 Naughty (6)
18 The type (6)
19 Sports division (6)
20 The hundreds (6)
21 Sock (6)
22 Sticky stuff (6)
23 Evergreen light (6)
24 Collar or cap (6)
25 – de France (6)
26 Ancient (6)
27 Cross of Affliction (6)
28 Nut (6)
29 Plain-woven fabric (6)
30 Boycott (6)
31 “Key” (6)
32 Let live (6)
33 Juice (6)
34 Affirmative (6)
35 Compromise (6)
36 Resignation (6)
37 Charlton’s river (6)
38 Hack (6)
39 Thatch (6)
40 Cover (6)
41 Son of Daedalus (6)
42 50 “... of the Field” (6)
43 Lead by points (6)
44 Musical (6)
45 Aftershock (6)
46 Apotheosis (6)
47 Baggage mow (6)
48 Younger (6)
49 Base (6)
50 Afflicting (6)
51 Cereal (6)
52 Lifesaver (6)
53 Disconcert (6)
54 Aftershock (6)
55 Afflicting (6)
56 Valets (6)
57 Chanticleer’s (6)
58 Reap (6)
59 It (6)
60 Mow (6)
61 Hack (6)

Solutions

43 Son of Daedalus
44 “... of the Field”
45 Lead by points
46 Musical
47 Aftershock
48 Apotheosis
50 Younger
51 Baggage mow

Forum

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the “Y Not?” by Christopher Lauer from the October 5th issue. It deeply saddens me to know that someone so cynical and sarcastic is given the privilege to write and represent our University. I found his religious biases offensive, if not repugnant.

Has Mr. Lauer no idea what abortion has done to our society? He’s probably one of the very ones who screams for gun control because of the mass murders in our schools. Due to abortion, there is no sanctity of life, therefore it’s fine to kill and maim your classmates, as in Columbine and other various schools across our country.

In response to his religious bigotry, God is indeed very alive. It is our society who has rejected Him. I truly hope the day will come when God removes the scales from Mr. Lauer’s eyes and he will be able to experience God for himself. Perhaps at that time, he will be able to look at life with a more purposeful view point.

Mr. Lauer, you are indeed here for a purpose. Is your effect going to be positive or negative?

Sincerely,

Paige Robinson

The Chanticleer, the student newspaper of Jacksonville State University, is produced by the students. The Editor has the final decision on all content. Editorialists are paid opinions of the editorial staff unless otherwise stated. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit content and space. Our funding is received from paid advertisements, and our production facilities come from university appropriations.

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Thank you for reading The Chanticleer.

Forum is our readers’ column.

Our policy for letters to the editor should be kept in mind when sending submissions to The Chanticleer:

• The Chanticleer will not print letters, which are unsigned, libelous and/or defamatory.
• The Chanticleer reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammar, as well as style.
• There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. We will publish rebuttals no later than two weeks after the removal of the article, editorial or letter in question.
• The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission.
• Deadline for submissions is noon Monday, before desired publication that Thursday. In the event of a three-day weekend, submission deadline is 5 p.m. the preceding Friday.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT VIA E-MAIL: thechanticleer@jsums.edu.

All non-electronic submissions MUST BE TYPED! No hand-written letters will be accepted under any circumstances.
• Bring submissions or send through campus mail to our Office Room 188 Self Hall-JSU.
• All submissions must include a name, phone number and student number for JSU students.
• And remember, please think before you write.

Thank You,
The Editorial Staff
Dear Editor,

This is in response to the “Y-knot!” from October 5th. Thank you for attempting to educate the world on RU-486, and I do agree with you that abortion is a moral issue in regards to what kind of life the child will have; not to mention that the choice should belong to only those involved. But after that point is where I have a problem.

I’m from an hour north of Chicago, and to my knowledge, we’re not all pimps and whores. At least, I can’t remember the last time I threw on a crop-top and mini-skirt to go prancing around in a little income. Remember, it’s the Windy City, so it gets a little chilly doing that. Have you ever been to inner-city Chicago? Not everyone there is a pimp, either. They’re just people who don’t have it as well as you and I. Look for the homeless up there, many of them. Selling a newspaper called “Street Wise.” See, they actually have to sell the paper they write in order to survive.

Just because someone’s not making an impact on your life (are you making one on theirs?), doesn’t mean they shouldn’t have the right to reproduce. When it becomes our responsibility to take care of their children, is when the problem begins. Besides, did you give up your morning coffee today to help the invalid halfway across the world?

Francesca Rao
Richard Buckner

The Hill

On first listen to “The Hill,” one would think Richard Buckner is merely a casual observer amidst the unfolding array of characters, but he is far more than that. Richard Buckner is a graverobber, plundering through the long-abandoned cemetery atop the hill in Spoon River. It’s messy work: secrets of lust, betrayal, fear and violence pour out of the graves like the dirt through Buckner’s fingers.

Buckner knows a thing or two about loss, about secrets. He’s chronicled his most wrenching turmoil on three albums—among them the tight-throated confessions of “Devotion and Doubt” and the mercurial wash of emotions on “Since.” “The Hill” leaves Buckner’s demons alone; with careful detachment and submerged grief he enlivens the dead and their heavy burdens. Selections from Edgar Lee Masters’ Spoon River Anthology are set to the music in this scattered, beautiful 34-minute suite. Instrumentals merge seamlessly into movements of balladry and bravada, a capella shouts and unharnessed atonal dirges.

“The Hill” is Buckner’s most realized vision of literate wordplay and ambitious musical intensity. He revisits the sound of “Devotion and Doubt”—that sparse, atmospheric instrumentation that conjured Buckner’s own ghosts now open the gates for Spoon River’s long dead.

The album is sweeping and orchestral, moving through moments of beauty and ferocity. Brief instrumentals outline the vocals; often the antagonist of each sung poem is detailed in fleeting wordless verses of guitar and cello.

“Tom Merritt” is a grandiose beginning that rumbles out of a barrage of feedback—the buoyant melody underpinned by Buckner’s ominous vocals. “Julia Miller” is all delicacy and regret, Buckner’s voice wavering in and out of hushed whispers. And “Eliza Childers” is exquisite—cellos hum over spacious, occasional drums, the narrator addressing a dead child. “A.D. Flood” and “Oscar Hummel” are of a piece, a swelling prelude to the killing of Oscar, drunkenly documented in the guttural epilogue, “I stood there weaving and to fro taking the blows from the stick in his hand.”

Elsewhere Buckner employs a thrift-store organ, its haunting strains sounding mournful and otherworldly, while Joey Burns’ cello accents the emotion with stoic endurance. And Buckner’s voice—that swooping, husky growl—escalates here into his highest register, lovely and ragged. “Reuben Panter” is perfectly phrased and narrated, sounding not unlike one of Buckner’s own elliptical pieces. “Johnnie Sayre” buries his slurred voice in a thunderous pulse, and “Amanda Barker” erupts into furious anger, his voice a sneering attack on a husband’s loving reputation: “I exclaim from the dust that he slew to gratify his hatred.”

These proclamations from the dust are at times quite unnerving. And though the Anthology was written some eighty years ago, it never sounds stilted or archaic. Buckner refuses to wrestle with the non-rhyming words and refuses to force the poetry into musical verse. What results is a tormented conversation with the dead, eschewing niceties wrought by eulogy or epitaph.

“The Hill” is a decidedly challenging listen: its 18 pieces are melded into a single track, demanding exclusive attention. But that attention will be greatly rewarded.

“The Hill” is the bravest and most ambitious album in years, coming from a troubadour who has lain bare his own soul repeatedly, making majesty out of ache and despair. It’s time someone else volunteered their tainted soul.

And Spoon River is full of them.

By Graham Smith

Green Day

Warning

Green Day has released their newest album with some reviewers calling it the best album of 2000, while some rate its talent on a slightly higher level than Britney Spears. The only definite thing about this album is summed up in two words - catchy tunes.

Loyal fans of Green Day are used to songs about masturbation and the alienation that many teenagers feel. But “Warning” is more mature and can even be called positive. The title track on the album is very catchy and has been receiving constant radio play on local stations. It supports the cease-diem theory and also has some classic Green Day anti-establishment lyrics: “Question everything? Or shut up and be the victim of authority.”

The song “Fashion Victim” also contains a comment on society and its obsession with the fashion industry. The lyric that sums this up, and also makes the listener smirk, is “So when you’re dancing through your wardrobe/ do the anorex – a go-go cloaked with style.” Very nice.

By far the song that matches the previous album is “Blood, Sex and Booze.” When it first starts it sounds like “She,” from their album “Dookie,” but it’s quite different with the lyrics being, “Waiting in a room all dressed up and bound and gagged.” The song tells of the “fun” had with a dominatrix, who in the credits is called Mistress Simone. It’s catchy, as are most of the songs on the album, and has no message except for ‘S&M is fun’.

The song “Misery” can be skipped upon listening to the album. The lyrics are interesting, but they aren’t worth listening to the song one more time to figure out what Billie Joe is saying. Just read the enclosure. One of the best, if not the best, song on the CD is “Macy’s Day Parade.” It’s a little bit slower than the other songs, but not quite the horrid bundle of “Good Riddance (Time of Your Life)” from the last CD, which still causes me to cringe when it comes on the radio. This one is really good--great lyrics and a great sound.

My Advice - It’s a good album that has some great catchy tunes. I would probably buy it even though I’m not a Big Green Day fan.

By Adam Smith

The Wallflowers

Breach

“What do good bands do when they disappear for almost four years?”

Well, they probably try to get themselves clean and sober, or if you’re like Jakob Dylan and The Wallflowers you’re writing some damn good songs at your own pace. It’s been almost four years since The Wallflowers’ misguided cover of David Bowie’s “Heroes” from the “Godzilla” soundtrack. I guess that would drive any good band into keeping a low profile.

However, they’re back with “Breach” and it’s almost like they never left. The album is a departure from their 1999 smash “Bringing Down the Horse,” but their pop ambitions are still in tact, as well as their twang and ability to create polished roots-rock.

The album starts out with “Letters from the Wasteland,” which is a surreal, melancholy opener, considering the rest of the album is quite optimistic. Dylan’s breathy, Springsteen-esque voice is still in check, as well as the top-notch musicianship of the band. While Jakob Dylan has never been the greatest of lyricists, he turns more inward on this release, giving “Breach” an emotional quality that is not as present on “Horse.” Songs like “I’ve Been Delivered” and “Mourning Train” are two of his best lyrical pieces to date.

By Adam Smith

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Thursday...Blue Soul

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Saturday......Members Only

Tuesday...3-D Kaleidoscope

Located Just South of the Square in Jacksonville
Continued from page 5, "Crimes of the Heart" by Horton Foote.

The play will be performed on Oct. 12, 13, 14 and 16 at 7 p.m. at JSU's Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. There will also be a Sunday matinee on Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. Admission is $5 for adults; $5 for JSU faculty, staff and senior citizens; and $4 for students and military. Groups of 20 or more receive a discount when requested. Reservations are preferred. To make reservations call 256-783-5648.

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Continued from page 5, Author Wallace

years, and whatever I read is neither a positive nor a negative influence. I can’t really look to one author as an important influence. Because when you sit down and start to write, all the people that you’ve read Faulkner, Hemingway, or whoever it is—they all influence you simultaneously. So everything, even the newspaper, is an influence.”

Wallace attended Emory University and the University of North Carolina for two years each, but didn’t come away with a degree. Then he tried his hand at the business world but found that it wasn’t the area for him. He then began writing and publishing short stories in 1986. After that he began writing what he called “practice novels” and then the real thing.

Ray in Reverse is Wallace’s second novel; his first being Big Fish, which has recently been purchased by Stephen Spielberg in order to produce a film version of the book.

Wallace said he was completely dumbfounded when he learned of Spielberg’s plans for a film version of the novel, “I was totally shocked because I didn’t think that it would ever become a movie. It wasn’t a movie kind of book. Though, when it was optioned a couple of years ago I was shocked. Then when somebody actually decided they wanted to make it into a movie, I continued to be shocked. So I guess I’ve been in a state of shock for maybe two years. I think I would’ve been feeling that way had it been anybody wanting to make a movie out of it. But the fact that it was Stephen Spielberg made it that much more amazing.”

Dr. Whitton commented, “I just think he’s quite a wonderful writer. I’m really excited to find out that Steven Spielberg will be directing Big Fish because that seems like a perfect match to me—of director and source material.”

Wallace, who is originally from Birmingham, is currently living in Chapel Hill, N.C. and works as an illustrator as well as a guest lecturer at the University of North Carolina.
TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Names like “Spark Plug” and “Miracle Tire” have prompted the tribunal that oversees the country’s public birth registry to request legislation forbidding parents from using “extravagant or offensive” names. The region where most of these names can be found is the Gracias a Dios (Thank God) province. “It is common (there) for people to employ names usually used for automobile parts,” the tribunal said. “The feast celebrates St. Francis’s love for all animals and all of God’s creatures.”

HEY MAN, I THOUGHT WE WERE PALS: A man, who had sailed down the Marco River with his girlfriend and three male friends and pulled in at the popular Snook Inn, in Naples, Fla., was somewhat taken aback when a woman there informed him that his girlfriend had gone into the ladies room and was having sex with one of his friends. He rushed in and heard the unmistakable sounds of passion in one of the stalls. He pounded on the door, threatening mayhem and bodily harm, but they continued undeterred. The situation was resolved soon afterward back on the dock outside, in an ugly scene featuring the expected screaming match and fistfight. Alcohol may have been involved.

THINK YOU HAVE IN-LAW PROBLEMS? Gary Farmer, who had met his daughter’s new husband at their wedding only three days earlier, found that he just didn’t like the groom, Mark Erlandson, one little bit. Felt, in fact that the man just wasn’t good enough for his daughter. So, while visiting the couple in their mobile home, he came around in back of the groom, pulled his head back by his hair and cut his throat with a kitchen knife. Erlandson survived. Farmer, 53, has been charged with attempted murder, and his attorney has requested a psychological evaluation.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO TRUST? Lifuna Nyambe, angered at her husband’s incessant infidelities, finally resorted to locking him in the bedroom of their home in Zambia every night to keep him from sneaking out to dally with one of their live-in maids. The husband, Patrick Sianyauka, testified in divorce court that she would also put him under lock and key when her female friends visited “so I wouldn’t be tempted.” The judge ruled that the eight-year marriage could not be saved, and granted a divorce.

LOS ANGELES — Mr. Whipple won’t get a tribute from his old boss until after the commercial actors stop picketing. Procter & Gamble said it’s holding off on the lifetime achievement honor for Dick Wilson — he played the tissue-squeezing grocery clerk on those old Charmin commercials — until the strike is over. Variety reports. Wilson believes his speech at a September 13 rally — in which he said, “Please don’t squeeze the actors” — had something to do with the delay.

NEW YORK (CNN) — At Manhattan’s Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on Sunday, a procession of animals ranging from small birds to a camel marched, with human help, to the high altar to be blessed by the Episcopal bishop. More than 4,000 people attended the celebration in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. Herbert Katz, director of communications for the church, said, “The feast celebrates St. Francis’s love for all animals and all of God’s creatures.”

Some items serving including a breakfast, lunch, and candy bar to be blessed by the bishop. There is also a bake sale for the children. The sale will be held on Saturday, October 14th, from 7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at St. Charles Catholic Church, 308 7th Street, NE, Jacksonville.
Schedule for Homecoming 2000 provides something for everyone

By Abigail Symonds Knight
JSU News Bureau

October 30 kicks off a week of tropical excitement as Jacksonville State University celebrates a “Hawaiian Homecoming.”

October 19 begins the pre-homecoming festivities with the Homecoming King and Queen Pageant at 7 p.m. in the Leon Cole Auditorium. The field of contestants for Homecoming Queen is narrowed down to 10 at this pre-festivities event. The list of contestants will be narrowed down to 5 during elections held on Oct. 26.

October 31 marks Halloween and the SGA sponsored showing of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB). Prepare to be spellbound in the auditorium of the TMB. Bresadola shares his talent at 9 p.m. in the auditorium of the TMB. Pre-game activities, beginning at 4 p.m. on Nov. 2 during Homecoming Queen elections.

T-Day, held outside the TMB will feature a bungee run, bouncy box-ing, a gladiator joust, a walk wall, an obstacle course, and extreme air—which allows you to experience the thrill of skydiving with out the hassle of renting a plane.

Spread a little off-key sunshine during Karaoke at the Cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jack Hopper Dining Hall on Nov. 3. One o’clock is tee off time at the Alumni Golf Tournament at the Silver Lakes Golf Course. The ROTC Alumni Banquet will be 6 p.m., Nov. 3 at the Gamecock Center. For reservations, call 256-782-5601. The bonfire and pep rally begin at 7 p.m. and will culminate with the announcement of this year’s JSU Homecoming Queen.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, the Alumni Association General Membership Meeting begins at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the TMB, followed by brunch at the President’s home from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. ROTC open house will be held from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Rowe Hall. The Homecoming Parade down Pelham Road North kicks off at 1 p.m. The Alumni Cookout runs from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Gamecock Center Lawn. Prices are Adults $7 and Children $5.

Pre-game activities, beginning at 3:45 p.m., include a JSU cheerleader reunion on the field with a group performance of “Two Bits.”

The JSU Show Choir “Encore!” will perform the National Anthem. Four o’clock is kick-off as JSU plays Northwestern State.

Halftime features performances by the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas, the Outstanding Alumni and Faculty Awards and the presentation of the 2000 Homecoming King, Queen and Court. Immediately after the game, there will be a complete performance by the Marching Southerners and Ballerinas.

A step show, sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Services and the Black Greek organizations, begins at 8:30 p.m. at the Pete Mathews Coliseum.

The Alumni Dance will be held at the Old Heny Farm Restaurant in Jacksonville from 8:30 p.m. to midnight. The cost is $15 per person or $25 per couple. Music will be provided by pastTino.

For further information on homecoming activities or events, contact JSU Alumni Affairs at (256) 782-5404 or the JSU Student Government Association at (256) 782-5490.

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The coaches put us in position to make the block, "all we have to do is execute," said Taylor.

St. Peter added a 43-yard field goal with just 1:03 remaining in the game to lift the Bears past the Gamecocks in their season opener.

Not only did we get a touchdown, we also gained momentum going into the half," said Bearkat Head Coach Ron Rendlender.

Gamecock running back Randy Rogers scored a touchdown on a one-yard run early in the second quarter to put JSU back on top, 17-10. Rogers took the ball 60 yards on the ground as time expired in the half to tie the score at 10-10.

He would come before 8 a.m. every morning to the weight room in order to be ready for his first game of the season.

"We're going to play better next week. We don't want the day to be about him. But former Gamecock running back Rondy Reedus was one of the most inspirational athletes I've ever had, " said Gamecock Head Coach Jose Rivera.

"Only did we get a touchdown, we also gained momentum going into the half," said Bearkat Head Coach Ron Rendlender.

Gamecock running back Randy Rogers scored a touchdown on a one-yard run early in the third quarter to put JSU back on top, 17-10. Rogers took the ball 60 yards on the ground as time expired in the half to tie the score at 10-10.

"Things are different," said Trinity.

In the second quarter off a blocked punt by P.J. Traylor who returned the ball 12 yards for the touchdown. "The coaches said that I would get free after Juaqua did his thing," said Traylor.

"We work on special teams more than any team I know," said Jermaine Mathews.

The Bearkats "block out" unit has produced five blocks in as many games this year and has returned three for touchdowns.

Hitman Abbott

Hitman Abbott is back in town for his baseball reunion. But the reunion, which featured former players-some 150-plus of which were in attendance and thank them and the university for all it has given him and his family.

"He would come before 8 a.m. every morning to the weight room in order to be ready for his first game of the season. "Hitman Abbott is back in town for his baseball reunion. But the reunion, which featured former players-some 150-plus of which were in attendance and thank them and the university for all it has given him and his family."

"Hitman Abbott is back in town for his baseball reunion. But the reunion, which featured former players-some 150-plus of which were in attendance and thank them and the university for all it has given him and his family."
One on One with “Thrill”

By Anthony Hill

Montressa Kirby is arguably the best quarterback to ever play at JSU. He was also one of the best interviewers. “T-Dawg,” he was very honest. If I got him with a good question, it was like he said “Uncle!” and gave me the answer. It was like I was wearing him down, humorously pounding away at his. He seems to realize that I had done my homework, and he was going to give me the payoff for effort. He and I laughed throughout the entire interview. Montressa is definitely one of a kind.

Thrill: What’s up “T-Dawg?”
Montressa: What’s up “Thrill?”
Thrill: Your name simply continued to come up in past segments, so I just had to get you on here.
Montressa: You're a real superstar. Not only on campus, but throughout the entire community.
Thrill: How does it feel to be a regular student?
Montressa: Man, it’s a big change. You go from playing ball and being recognized around campus to just being a regular guy. I’ve adjusted well, but it’s different.
Thrill: Last year you were in Canada. You were playing for the CFL. What was it like for a guy from Anniston, Ala. to move to Canada?
Montressa: Man, I tell you. It was a big change. First of all, it was the weather. It was cold. I’m from the South, so they had to get used to the way that I walked.
Thrill: Tell me about your torn rotator cup situation. That is the injury that had you sitting out this season.
Montressa: It happened during the off season. I think that it was May or early April. I was throwing, trying to get ready for the season and heard a pop. I didn’t go to the doctor. I just kind of gave myself a break. And when I reported, I didn’t pass the physical.
Thrill: Childhood was everything but easy for you. You didn’t have much money or anything. It was simply hard. Did you imagine that things would swing in the ways that they have?
Montressa: Yeah, in a way. I put everything on my shoulders. True, we had some tough times coming up. I just thank God for my mom. She’s the greatest thing to ever happened to me.
Thrill: What’s next for Montressa?
Montressa: I heard that you are going to play in the XFL.
Montressa: I had a workout last Thursday. I think that I did well. I’m going to be in the draft. It is the 28th, 29th and 30th. Right now I’ve just got my fingers crossed.
Thrill: Reggie Stancil showed a lot of poise last Saturday and really put Montressa (laughs.) I couldn’t even tell you. (laughs again.) To tell you the truth, it started out by me just being lazy. I was a little upset from having to come back home. A lot of people want me to eat it off. I like it though.
Thrill: Let me jump back into football again. Do you feel like the year off is hurting you any?
Montressa: In a way it is. The second year of pro ball would’ve helped me out, but I’m still involved with football. I’m all right.
Thrill: You lived sort of a fairy tale life in high school, as far as football is concerned. You didn’t start until your senior year, you won the Class 6A state championship and you were voted to play in the Alabama vs. Mississippi All-Star game.
Montressa: Yeah, it was. I played back. Even though I didn’t want to play quarterback at first.
Thrill: What position did you want to play?
Montressa: Wide receiver. I thought that I was the greatest wide receiver ever. (both laugh.) My speed wasn’t the greatest like the rest of y’all cats.
Thrill: What do you do for fun?
Montressa: Most of the time I just chill with my girl. We go places. Other than that, I just do whatever.
Thrill: What made you change your hair-style?
Montressa: (laughs.) I couldn’t even tell you. (laughs again.) To tell you the truth, it started out by me just being lazy. I was a little upset from having to come back home. A lot of people want me to eat it off. I like it though.
Thrill: Coach Bill Burgess (legendary JSU football coach) said he would never have been able to coach a player of your caliber. What do you think?
Montressa: That’s like I was wearing him down, humorously pounding away at his. He seems to realize that I had done my homework, and he was going to give me the payoff for effort. He and I laughed throughout the entire interview. Montressa is definitely one of a kind.

Sports builds spirit of unity

Sports is a lot like music. It brings people together from different backgrounds and cultures. People from many spectrums of the world come together to fight for the same team, school or traditions.

How can one be a racist or a generally hateful person who be racist, suffer and sacrifices for the same principal beside people of many different races? I have long stated that music had the same effect on people. That’s one of the reasons why I did not understand why so many people got mad at Evan’s player John Rocker, for what he said last year. I am just glad that he apologized for what he said. He was simply stating what he saw during his ride on a subway in New York City. If anyone has ridden on one of those in New York, you’d know exactly what he was talking about. Okay, back to what I was saying.

How many times have you gained interest in someone after you heard them listening to a certain group or artist? Well, the same thing applies in sports. Sports not only brings players of the same team, it also unites fans and other supporters.

I have met and communicated with many people after we found out a little bit about each other. I tell you what, I am all for someone who likes Florida State. I am the die hard fan of the Seminoles. As a matter of fact, the common interest in football teams is what brings us together. All of the football parties to watch the Miami vs. Florida State games, the Auburn and Alabama games and the list goes on.

I use sports as sort of a social brunch in some cases. Offering someone sports is almost like asking someone to have a drink with the pastor.
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