Campus Crime

- The Campus Crime Docket is never, and will never be, edited unless an incident report involves a minor.
- Items 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.

- 10-19-00: Larry Virgil Thomas Jr., of Jacksonville, Ala., reported unreasonable noise from a motor vehicle to JSUPD at Nelson Ave. and Trustee Cir. occurring on 10-19-00.
- 10-19-00: John Courtney Lankford, of Stevenson, Ariz., reported unreasonable noise from a motor vehicle to JSUPD at Cole Dr. occurring on 10-20-00.
- 10-20-00: Phillip Anthony Easterwood, of Steele, Ala., reported unreasonable noise from a motor vehicle to JSUPD at Cole Dr. occurring on 10-20-00.
- 10-20-00: Kenny Jay Compton, of Pell City, Ala., reported unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle to JSUPD at Crow Hall occurring on 10-20-00.
- 10-22-00: Dennis Lance Carr, 21, of Wellington, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD on charges of carrying a concealed weapon at Sturmart on Hwy. 204 occurring on 10-22-00.

Clubs and Organizations

- Up Till Dawn: We are excited to announce that team applications are ready. We hope all students will participate in this wonderful event. Up Till Dawn is a fundraising event in which all JSU students can participate to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. All you need to do is get a group of up to seven people together to form a team. This team will raise money to be able to participate in the Up Till Dawn extravaganza on March 9th and 10th of 2001. This extravaganza will be a twenty-four hour party with tons of entertainment to keep you on your feet and “Up Till Dawn.” To be the Up Till Dawn office, Room 402, on the fourth floor of the TMB for your team or call us at 782-9054.

- Zeta Tau Alpha
  
  Good Luck to the Zeta Football team. Awards this week go to Cuddle Bunny- Janna Keenum, Strawberry- Leslie Perkins and Beautiful Zeta- Heather Plew. Happy Birthday this week to Ashley Rogers! We hope that all women living on campus received their shower cards. Remember that this is breast cancer awareness month. Please come out and support our philanthropy, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, as we sponsor a Fun Run on November 11th at nine o’clock. Please fill free to ask any Zeta for information. Don’t forget our ???!! This is weekend we plan on leaving at 9:15. Zeta’s also don’t forget your Zap money as due at tonight. Good Luck to the JSU Football team! Go Cocks!

- Alpha Omicron Pi
  
  Congratulations to Ginny Wyatt for making the Homecoming top ten. The sisters of AOII would like to congratulate our new member class on their initiation. We love our new sisters! Good luck to all intermural football teams in the upcoming playoffs. We are looking forward to the mixer with Pi Kappa Phi this afternoon and also the Gamecock football game tonight. Happy birthday to Andrea, Erin, Kim, Jennifer, Lacey and Kelly! Awards for the week: Sister- Jennifer Mosley, Positive Panda - Lesley Caulet, Officer - Leslie Daniel.

- Delta Zeta
  
  We would like to wish all the homecoming candidates good luck today. Thanks to everyone who participated in our 2nd annual Turtle Tug. We had a blast!! Congratulations to our newly initiated sisters: Liza Parker, Casey O'Connor, Charlette Mitchel, Kelly Copeland, Allison Gannon, and Amy Payne. We would also like to welcome our newest member, Stacey Dickerson. Good luck to all seniors who are running for executive offices and chairmanships in Delta Zeta for the 2000-2001 year. We would also like to wish Delta Zeta a happy 90th birthday. Awards for this week go to twisted Becca Murphy and Becky Stone, support- Michelle Zopfi and Stephanie Bradford, alumni of the week- Candace White, new member of the week- Stacey Dickerson, faculty member of the week- Dr. Whetstone.

- Phi Mu
  
  Phi Mu wishes the Gamecocks good luck tonight. Go cocks! The Phi Mu ladies of the Week are Lorie Ash, Brandy Tillman, and Misty Haynes for making the Homecoming Top Ten! Good job ladies. The other awards are as followed: Athlete of the Week-Summer Bagwell; Phi Award-Kelly Allen; Sunshine Award-Laurie Barnett. Becky Wilson is Phi Mu’s Adopt-An-Alum for the month of October; thanks for all you do, Mrs. Wilson! Congratulations to Phi Mu’s football team for making it to the playoffs and the bowling team for placing second in the standings! Phi Mu, along with Sigma Phi Epsilon will bring a smile to local residents of the Wessex House this Halloween by trick or treating them! We hope everyone has a great week and Happy Halloween!

Announcements

- Free confidential HIV testing is available at the Nursing Center Clinic, at Lurleen 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 today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the TMB.

- The African American Association will have a meeting today at 4 p.m. on the 4th floor of the TMB in the Multicultural Services Office. For more information email Cicelyh@hotmail.com.

- Applications for Orientation Peer Counselor are available in room 201 Bibb Graves Hall. Requirements to become a Peer Counselor are: 2.25 GPA, 24 semester hours earned, have previously served no more than one year as a Peer Counselor, a strong desire to assist new students in their transition to JSU, and strong communication skills. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 14 in room 201 Bibb Graves Hall. For more information contact Eric McCullay at ext. 5278.

The Chanticleer would like to thank those responsible for putting together our special Halloween cover. Gamecock drawing by J.D. Strickland. Digital painting done by Buddy Rodgers. Photoshop manipulation/layout by Destiny Barnes. Artwork created in coordination with the Art Alliance. Thanks for your hard work.
JSU’s 2000 Homecoming off to a royal start

By Wendy Laninack
Staff Writer

As students at Jacksonville State University are making plans for homecoming, the selection of JSU’s Homecoming Queen is already in progress. Homecoming 2000 has brought changes to the court. Women sponsored this year had to have at least 32 hours in studies at JSU with a 2.25 average, said Terry Casey, director of student activities.

In years past, women nominated for homecoming queen were scheduled for an interview with the panel of judges. This year, each contestant was given the opportunity to introduce herself and give a brief background, such as hometown, sponsor, parents and major course of study. Each contestant was also asked two individual questions—one question from her bio sheet and one general question. “The crowd really enjoyed it,” said Casey, who was afraid of controversy over the change. Casey heard no complaints.

Last year, 50 percent of the score was based on the interview, and 50 percent was based on on-stage presence. According to Casey, each contestant’s stage introduction and questions worked out to be about the same amount of time as an interview would have taken, which was approximately two and a half minutes.

Each judge could give the contestant 50 points or less. Each woman was judged on extra curricular activities and scholarship, poise, appearance, personality and how well the on-stage questions were answered.

JSU’s homecoming pageant has steadily grown over the years. This year, 10 women were chosen from 24 contestants.

• Brandi Tillman, from Muscadine, is sponsored by Phi Mu Fraternity. She is a sophomore majoring in marketing. Her parents are Randy and Debbie Tillman.

• Misti Wilson is sponsored by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and is a senior majoring in pre-professional biology with hopes to become a medical doctor. She is from Boaz, and her parents are Joyce Wilson and the late Woodrow Wilson.

• Shannon Smith is from Oneonta and is a senior majoring in Secondary Ed/Social Science. Zeta Tau Alpha is sponsoring her this year. Smith’s parents are William and Paula Smith.

• Heather Stedham is sponsored by Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. She is a senior from Anniston and is majoring in nursing/psychology. Her parents are Richard and Linda Stedham.

• Destiny C. Barnes is a senior majoring in graphic design. Jacksonville State University Art Alliance is sponsoring her this year. Barnes is from Madison and is the daughter of Rueben and Millie Barnes.

• Stephanie Janis is sponsored by Alpha Tau Omega. She is sophomore majoring in criminal justice.

Janis is from Huntsville and is sponsored by Phi Mu Fraternity. She is senior majoring in marketing. Her parents are George and Michele Ash.

Virginia (Ginny) Ellis Wyatt is a junior majoring in computer science. She is sponsored by Alpha Omicron Pi. Her parents are Wallace and Brenda Wyatt. She is from Pell City.

Misty Dawn Haynes is a junior majoring in computer sciences information systems. Phi Mu Fraternity is sponsoring her. She is from Oates and the daughter of Alvin and Patricia Haynes.

Allison Eason is sponsored by Zeta Tau Alpha. She is a senior majoring in criminal justice (FL). She is from Birmingham and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kent Eason and Ms. Johnie Kay Eason.

All enrolled students can vote for up to five candidates today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the fourth floor of the TMB.

On Thursday, Nov. 2, the queen will be voted on from the top five. JSU’s new homecoming queen will be announced at the bonfire on Friday, Nov. 3, at 7 p.m.

Legends of the jack-o-lantern

By Gracie Catches
News Editor

The legend of the jack-o-lantern comes from Irish folklore. According to wilstar.com, there was a man named Jack who was a notorious drunkard and trickster. One day he tricked Satan into climbing a tree. Jack quickly carved an image of a cross in the tree’s trunk, thus keeping Satan from descending. If Satan never tempted him again, Jack said, he would promise to let him come down the tree.

According to the tale, after Jack died, he was denied entrance into Heaven because of his evil life on earth. However, he was also denied entrance into Hell because he had tricked the devil. The devil then gave Jack a single ember to light his way through the frigid darkness. The ember was placed in a hollowed out turnip in order to keep it burning longer.

Another account of the legend comes from Jack-O-Lantern.com. This is a tale of a stingy drunkard of an Irish blacksmith, named Jack, who happened to run into the devil while he was searching for coal from the fires of Hell. Jack placed the coal in a turnip he was eating so that the light wouldn’t burn out in the wind. The Irish brought the “Jack’s Lantern” tradition with them when more than 700,000 immigrated to America during the potato famine of the 1840s. Turnips were not as plentiful in America as they were in Ireland, so pumpkins were found to be a good substitute.
Have a ghost problem?
Meet the Alabama ghostbusters

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

If you have a “ghostbusting” problem in Alabama, you need to call the Investigative Committee for Unexplained Events (ICUE).

The ICUE’s Web site touts the organization as an “informal association of individuals interested in the study of the phenomenon of ghosts and in helping people who find themselves involved in a haunting situation.” The mix of personnel in this on-site team includes members with backgrounds in scientific studies as well as those who have backgrounds and talents in psychic exploration. With their combined efforts, the ICUE members endeavor to find ordinary explanations for reported events as well as information beyond the physical world.

“We don’t wear jumpsuits or backpacks,” founder Jeff Ballard of Huntsville said on ICUE’s site, “but ICUE can help.”

The popularity of such shows as “The X-Files” and “Sightings” attests to the public’s preoccupation with the paranormal. The ICUE, founded as the Investigative Committee for Unexplained Events (ICUE) that bring to mind images of the International Parapsychology Research Foundation, now known as the International Parapsychology Research Foundation. Through this organization, he met people involved in ghost work and was accepted onto MUFON. During some of these investigations, Ballard found that some of the instances people experienced in their homes did not fit the typical “alien encounter” model.

Ballard found an organization nearby, the Athens State College Parapsychology Foundation, now known as the International Parapsychology Research Foundation. Through this organization, he met people involved in ghost work and was accepted onto their team. The original team changed leadership and now operates under ICUE.

There are two core members of ICUE that bring to mind images of Dana Scully and Fox Mulder. Jeff Ballard is the founder, and Jeannette McClure is a professional psychic who has been featured on the program “Sightings.” McClure provides the psychic side of the operation, while Ballard provides the scientific know-how—a switch from Mulder and Scully’s roles.

If you are having problems, encounters or dealings with some sort of paranormal form, ICUE can be contacted through their web site: http://members.aol.com/dreamer33/ICUE/icue.htm.

Universal ghosts and some close to home

By Stephanie Pendergrass
Staff Writer

Have you ever stayed in an old, gloomy house where there is a constant feeling of uneasiness? Have you ever heard strange noises in the night?

Those events are scary enough, but this is the time of year when thoughts of ghosts and haunting are everywhere.

If you check the Internet, under “Halloween.Com,” you can find numerous sites consisting of ghost stories that are extremely creepy, one in particular is “The Shadowlands: Ghosts and Hauntings.” This site is dedicated to true ghost stories and the webmaster-Dave Guliano is constantly searching for people who will share their haunting experiences.

Some of the actual haunted houses which are covered are the McRaven House in Mississippi, the Edgar Allen Poe House in Maryland, the Whaley House in California, the LaLaurie House in Louisiana, and the most haunted house in America—the Myrtles Plantation.

Ghost stories and haunted houses can be found universally. I recently interviewed one local Calhoun County resident who wished to remain anonymous. She told of an experience that occurred during her sophomore year of high school. While her mother and father were away one night, she and her maternal grandmother woke up to find an apparition standing in the doorway of her room.

The sight of this occurrence was in a house that had been in the family for several years, and although she did not openly discuss the experience, she found that other members of the family had seen the same ghost, many times before. The subject noted that things like lights coming on unexpectedly, curtains moving for no reason and indentions as if someone was sitting down on the bed were very common. Most members of the family believe this specter was that of a female relative that died in the house years before. The subject also stated that she would never stay in the house again.

If you too have experienced hauntings, feel free to contact Dave Guliano and his staff at Shadowlands. The web address is ghosts@theshadowlands.net, and they would love to hear your story.
Thought you were leaving?  
Why not stay!

Could one of the following JSU graduate programs be for you?

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If you would like to know more, come visit the Graduate Office staff on the eight floor of the Houston Cole Library.

Give us the opportunity to show you we are... Right for YOU!

Jacksonville State University

College of Graduate Studies

256-782-5329 or 1-800-231-5291, ext. 5329
Email: graduate@jsucc.jsu.edu
visit us at www.jsu.edu
March 9-10, 2001 Up 'Til Dawn event will take place at 6:00 p.m.
On March 9th and end at 6:00 p.m. on March 10th.

This event will be held in Stephenson Gym on the JSU campus.

We have tons of entertainment planned to keep us up for 24 hours. To be a part of this event you have to form a team of up to 7 people to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

How Can I Help With Up 'Til Dawn?

Up 'Til Dawn is an event to celebrate many fund-raising activities held throughout a years time, all to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This event will take place March 9-10 of 2001 beginning at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at Stephenson Gym here at JSU. All you have to do to help is create a team of seven people, who will work together to raise a minimum of $750.00 to be able to attend this event. You can do this through various fund-raisers such as canning, letter-writing campaigns and may other creative ways. If you can not be on a team, we would love for you to donate your time or services to benefit our event. We are also looking for companies to help us as well. Any company can donate to this worthwhile event and it is tax deductible!!

The children at St. Jude fight disease every day of their life. We will stay up for twenty-four hours to represent the struggles they encounter everyday. In the end all the hard work, dedication and support will be worth the chance to make a difference is a child's life.

Please help us make this event a success...we want all JSU students to participate in saving a child’s life.
The Thompsons are coming! The Thompsons are coming!

By Adam Smith
Editor

Arguably the best band to hit Jacksonville in some time will be making a return on Nov. 1.

The Thompson Brothers Band, from Nashville, Tenn., has made a handful of appearances at Brothers over the last year and has gained a loyal following in Jacksonville. Comprised of brothers Andy (guitar) and Matt (drums) Thompson, the band has been kicking around all over the world with bassist Mike Whity since 1986. This “power-trio” plays a rock-heavy batch of tunes that never fail to energize its captive audience, no matter what the size.

Hailing from Boston, the trio moved to Nashville in 1991 and built up a dedicated following with their roof-raising performances. Originally crafting a more polished country-rock sound, the band gets down and dirty during its live shows.

Signing with RCA in 1995, the group made powerful allies in country stars like Lester Wickand Steve Earle, who appeared on their 1998 release “Blame it on the Dog.” Touring the U.S., Canada and Europe, the band has also opened for acts as diverse as the B-52’s and Willie Nelson.

Parting ways with its record company in 1999, the band has tried to shrug off the pitfalls of the Nashville establishment by touring relentlessly and building up faithful followings with their shows. Hard hitting originals like “Falling In” and “Wanderlust” fit perfectly alongside well-chosen cover selections like an excellent take on Al Green’s “Take me to the River” and

JSU ready to do the “Time Warp” again

By Christina Morrison
Features Editor

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show,” the longest running movie in history, has long been known as a movie that is so bad it’s good. The Student Government Association has taken advantage of the popularity of this cult classic and brought it to the students of Jacksonville State University for a Halloween event.

The movie was shown on the Quad last year, but this year it will be shown in the newly remodeled auditorium of the Theron Montgomery Building on October 31 at 8 p.m.

The “Rocky Horror Picture Show” made its debut on a small London stage in 1973, and was performed to English audiences until it was brought to the U.S. and performed on Broadway and elsewhere. The production was a smash hit in the U.K. as well as the U.S., which prompted the movie adaptation.

Many of the same actors who portrayed the characters on stage also played the film roles including Tim Curry in the lead as the sexually bizarre Frank N. Furter from the planet Transexual in the galaxy of Transylvania.

The film version was released in 1975 to bad reviews by the press and dwindling returns at the box office, until the film began being released as a midnight movie at many L.A. and New York theaters. This sparked the fame that currently makes the movie such a success. People turned out in huge numbers to see the film again and again and even began dressing up as characters from the show.

Frequent dance numbers and occasions for participation present themselves throughout the show. The song “Time Warp” even has the dance directions written into it, making participation easy and fun. Audience participation quickly became a must for anyone who planned on attending the show, and a props list was quickly developed. The SGA encourages students to participate and dress up for the show.

The props needed for the show include, but are not limited to:

- Rice - The film begins with the wedding of Ralph Hapschatt and Betty Munroe. As the newlyweds exit the church, you should throw the rice along with the on-screen

From Left to Right: Mike Whitty, Matt Thompson and Andy Thompson

The Band’s “The Shape I’m In.”

To say they provide something for everyone would be a severe understatement. This show is definitely not to be missed by anyone.

CD Releases

Christina Aguiler-a-My Kind of Christmas
P.J. Harvey-Stories from the City
Hootie & the Blowfish-Scattered, Smothered and Covered
Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers-Anthology
Dwight Yoakam-Tomorrow’s Sounds Today
Patch the Little Nicky
Poe-Haunted

Local Scene

10/26/00 Patrick Smith Band--Brothers
10/27/00 Drifting Through--Brothers
10/28/00 Something--Brothers
10/31/00 Cool Beans--Brothers
11/01/00 Thompson Brother’s Band--Brothers
11/02/00 Colonel Bruce--Brothers
11/03/00 Members Only--Brothers

Birmingham

10/27/00 Dread Zeppelin--The Nick
10/27/00 Blue Mountain--Zydeco
11/03/00 Nine Days--Five Points
11/03/00 Sister Hazel--Sanford University

Atlanta

10/27/00 Vibrolush--Cotton Club
10/27/00 Hootin’ John--Dave’s
10/28/00 Indigo Girls--Centennial Olympic Park
10/29/00 The Impotent Sea Snakes--Masquerade
11/01/00 Moby--Tabernacle
11/03/00 Foo Fighters--Tabernacle
11/04/00 Fastball--Coca Cola Roxy Theater
Editorial

Q: How do you fill space in a weekly newspaper?

A: You interview Dracula.

By Adam Smith

So, here comes another Halloween holiday, and with it my third "Halloween Edition" of the Chanticleer.

For whatever reason I usually find myself writing some kind of opinion piece for these things. Two years ago I did a piece on Halloween and why it shouldn't be considered evil by fundamentalists Christians. Last year I did a piece on trick-or-treaters and how they were scammers and slackers.

So, instead of rambling on and on about Halloween and how great and peachy it is, I thought I'd do something different this time around. Yes, different. Nobody wants to hear the same old crap over and over again, and frankly, I don't want to write my usual Halloween fluff to take up this page. So I thought I'd do something completely idiotic and uncalled for. A move so bold, it would take an explanation like this to really understand the full magnitude of it all. So, I now present to you my interview with Dracula.

Me: What up?
Dracula: Not much man. I'm straight.
Me: So, tell me a little bit about how you got to be "Dracula, the King of the Night, the 'Lord of Blood'" and all that jazz.
Dracula: I don't know really. Just because a person keeps strange hours and looks like he's a freak in some way, I'm not that way at all.
Me: So if you could describe your real personality, what would you say about yourself.
Dracula: I'm an outdoors type of guy, you know? I like going to the beach, or taking in a Braves game. Fishing is one of my hobbies too. I enjoy cleaning the fish as well. Have you ever had fish blood Adam?
Me: No, I can't say I have. Sounds, mmm, mmm, delicious though. So, let me get this straight. You can actually be exposed to sunlight.
Dracula: Yes I can. I can see my own reflection, I tan very easily, and although my teeth are relatively sharp, I can't say, open a can of soup with my mouth. It's all a bunch of lies fabricated by the media to make us out as some kind of kook.
Me: Garlic?
Dracula: No thank you.
Me: No, I mean can you have garlic?
Dracula: Of course I can. I cook with it all the time. Cow's blood spaghetti is one of my favorite foods, and garlic really brings out the blood flavor.
Me: Stake through the heart?
Dracula: That would kill anyone, wouldn't it?
Me: You have a point there. So how old are you?
Dracula: I turned 426 last week.
Me: Well,
Dracula: Thanks, it was a good party. Renfield made the most exquisite red velvet cake.
Me: Do you feel that you've been portrayed as somewhat of a terrible or horrible person over the last hundred years?
Dracula: Yes, Adam, I have. That's one of the reasons I'm sitting down with you today. I want to tell the American people that I'm just a simple man, with simple needs. Yes, I sleep in a coffin and live in a castle. Yes, I kill innocent living beings to thrive. Yes, I like wearing dark clothes and a cape. And occasionally, I do wear makeup. Does that make me a criminal though? Why should I have to live in exile because I am whatever you say I am?
Me: Isn't that an Eminem song?
Dracula: Yeah, he's a good kid. Got a lot of style. He's a good rapper too.
Me: I think he's an untalented punk myself.
Dracula: But he's got street credibility, and that's what makes the man.
Me: I didn't come here to talk about rap with you Count. By the way, do you have a first name?
Dracula: Either Count or Dracula. Your choice. It's kind of like Madonna or Prince. Dracula, that's me.
Me: Let's do a free association thing, shall we?
Dracula: Kind of like thrill's interviews, right?
Dracula: Big coward. Could beat him with one wing, I mean arm tied behind my back.
Me: The Mummy
Dracula: It's actually a woman who had botched plastic surgery.
Me: Blood
Dracula: Where?
Dracula: Too cold. I prefer Panama City. Plenty of dumb hillbillies there who fall so easily into my trap. It's like taking candy from a baby, or something like that.
Me: Well, it's been an experience talking to you Drac. Thanks for not sucking my neck.
Dracula: I wasn't hungry, I enjoyed a couple of co-ed's earlier. Thanks for talking to me.
Me: Peace, man.
Dracula: Arrive Derci.
To me, a lot of what I saw the other day on the back porch are analogies to life. The spider jumped blindly, and we all jumped, though not quite where. We’re all just trying to jump to some other form of stability (girlfriend, boyfriend, degree, job, etc.) and tie off a bit of our life there before we jump off again, and continue with our web. Sometimes we jump and the cliff is a lot higher than we thought and then we find out there’s nothing at the bottom, so we have to climb back up empty-handed. Sometimes the wind, or some other unforeseen malady, crumbles what we once thought was stable. We have to go back and restring a strand.

But humans, unlike spiders, will cry and sit and cry about it, when that’s just the way it goes. Fall is such a sobering season, heralding the cold, darkness of winter. Just like the spider, we are beckoned by fall to fully live a few more days before hibernation (or death, because I don’t think spiders hibernate), beckoned to spin the biggest and best web of the season, and then we find out there’s nothing at the bottom, so we have to climb back up empty-handed. Sometimes the wind, or some other unforeseen malady, crumbles what we once thought was stable. We have to go back and restring a strand.

I didn’t see the spider preparing for the jump, but he must have been taking some deep breaths and trying to get his courage up. All I saw was a small speck floating down toward the ground. I assumed it was a piece of pollen, or a bur covered in squirrel fur, but when the speck stopped in mid-air, I knew that this was not the average bur.

At first I blamed this gravity-defying act on Super Extra Flu Kill II and my slight fever, but hallucinations are always better if you’re sure you’re hallucinating. So I stood up and walked over to the suspended speck. That’s when I realized that the speck was actually a fall spider. I’ve been spooked. The spider must have thought, for he began climbing frantically up his silk rope and back on top of the roof. I had never given it much thought before, but how does a spider make a web? Like life, there is a certain amount of gambling involved.

So let’s go back to the beginning: while I was all curled up in a blanket on the back porch, hatching violently, the spider was on top of the roof doing Tai Chi, a Kamikaze ritual, or maybe the age old courage ritual (or die a t h a t because I don’t think spiders hibernate), beckoned to spin the biggest and best web of the season, and then we find out there’s nothing at the bottom, so we have to climb back up empty-handed. Sometimes the wind, or some other unforeseen malady, crumbles what we once thought was stable. We have to go back and restring a strand.

I and the lady who called some of us “DO NOTHING STUDENTS.” I would like to remind her that all of us can not be perfect students like her and may not be able to attend every little event on campus.

To the lady who wanted to see Point of Grace and Michael W. Smith all I have to say is “No. Please, no.” I don’t want to see Vertical Horizon or Destiny’s Child as much as I don’t want to see Point of Grace.

And by the way, I did not know that students not in the SGA could attend SGA meetings; at the college I attended before transferring to good ol’ JSU, non-SGA members were not allowed to come to meetings, so I am SO sorry I have not been at any SGA meetings, I just did not know. Maybe if I did come on campus I would have more friends and be a good little student and make all of you happy. Or maybe next year I will join a sorority and just buy all my friends. That seems simpler.

The SGA did not have a big enough budget to get a band. So instead of whining, get involved and help out. If you don’t want to get involved, then shut up.

Yours truly,
Nicole Bates

Dear Managing Editor Chris Lauer

First of all I can’t believe I called you mister, and second, what’s all the fuss about? Is everyone at JSU afraid of you? I think they are. Since when has a little free speech caused so much controversy? Well, I take that back, when does a little free speech not cause controversy?

It seems to me that people at JSU are afraid of getting their toes stepped on a little. What is the press if it is not the “watch dog,” for the government? And what is the SGA, but the Student Government Association? It seems to me that people should be self-policing, but evidently they can’t.

And by the way, I did not know that students not in the SGA could attend SGA meetings; at the college I attended before transferring to good ol’ JSU, non-SGA members were not allowed to come to meetings, so I am SO sorry I have not been at any SGA meetings, I just did not know. Maybe if I did come on campus I would have more friends and be a good little student and make all of you happy. Or maybe next year I will join a sorority and just buy all my friends. That seems simpler.

The SGA did not have a big enough budget to get a band. So instead of whining, get involved and help out. If you don’t want to get involved, then shut up.

Sincerely,
Nicole Bates
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Manager Intern, Josh Padgham, presents grand prize winner with a palm pilot during grand opening.

Bookstore Manager, Randall Stephens, presents gift certificate to Melody Fletcher during the grand opening of the bookstore on September 6, 2000.

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UNIVERSITY HOUSING & RESIDENCE LIFE
100 DAUGETTE HALL
By Gracie Cashing
News Editor

If you and your friends are not quite sure what to do this Halloween, exercise your culinary skills and scare up some fun with these dinner party ideas. These drinks and Halloween antics guarantee a good time to be had by all.

Drinks: Witch's Brew

36 oz. un-sweet apple juice concent-rates-thaw, undiluted
5 c. water
4 c. Vodka-can use water instead
* c. limejuice
* c. gal. Lime sherbet-softened
8 c. club soda-chilled

Combine apple juice, water, vodka and lime juice in a large bowl. Cover and chill. Just before serving, spoon sherbet into a large punch bowl; slowly pour apple juice mixture and club soda over sherbet, stirring gently.

Salad: Variscos Veins on a Leaf

15-oz. French-style green beans
1 head iceberg lettuce
Red food coloring
6 tbsp. Almonds-sliced

Heat the beans in their liquid according to the directions on the can. Wash the lettuce and arrange the leaves on a serving platter. Pour the beans and liquid into a glass bowl. Add red food coloring, drop by drop, until the liquid turns red. Place the bowl in the refrigerator for 15 min. Using a slotted spoon, remove the beans and place them in a vein-like pattern on top of the leaves. Sprinkle almonds on the beans for an added bony crunch and flavor.

Soup: Bleeding Gums Gumbo

2 fresh tomatoes
2 red bell peppers-core and remove seeds
1 can chicken gumbo soup, condensed
I can tomato soup, condensed
2 cups water
11 oz. canned whole kernel corn-drained
Carefully chop tomatoes into small blood-clotty pieces and red peppers into gum shapes (cut the peppers in half from stem to bottom, then cut each half crosswise). Set aside. Pour the soups and water into a large saucepan and cook at medi-um heat until the mixture comes to a boil. Lower the heat and let simmer. Add the blood cloths, gums and corn kernels (rotting teeth) to the soup and continue to simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 5 min., or until gums are tender.

Ladle into individual soup bowls. Aux Course: Dead Man's Meat Loaf

1*- lbs. Ground beef
1 egg-beaten
1 c. bread crumbs
1 tsp. Ketchup
1 tsp. Salt
* tsp. Garlic powder
* tsp. Pepper
* c. minced onions
26 oz. spaghetti sauce
Olives, corn kernels and pimentos Place some Karo syrup in a clean plastic bag. Now add the dark red wine or grape juice. What you want is a semi-thick VERY dark red (opaque) liquid that looks like blood.

Place the bag in the mold so that the bag is still floating on top. Keep in mind that you want the Jell-O plus the bag to completely fill the mold, but have a level surface, as this is going to be flipped over later. Refrigerate and allow to chill and set.

After chilled and set decorate the Continued from page 12, Fright Food
Continued from page 12. Frightening Foods

mold with chocolate glaze, cherries and strawberries. Allow to set further if necessary, and then bring it out to your guests.

At this point your guests will probably be oooing and ahhing over this rather nice dessert you’ve prepared. Make sure you’ve got a big butcher knife on hand as you get ready to make the cut.

Cut into the side of the mold making sure you cut deeply enough to cut the bag very wide. As you continue to cut out a piece of the gelatin mold, the bag will leak into this, and your dessert will have the appearance of “bleeding.”

Drifting Through looking to cast a “spell” on Jacksonville

“Sweetest Things” offer up some fine lyrics. The band shines instrumentally on “McMurphy” and “Hatteras.” Acting as a melting pot for every genre of music, Drifting Through plays tight, incendiary grooves that cut straight through to your stream of consciousness.

Drifting Through also had some help on “Spell” from accomplished producer, Don McCollister. McCollister’s efforts can also be heard on releases by Sister Hazel, Cowboy Mouth and Shawn Mullins. The band also got a co-production credit for the aurally pleasing disc.

Kirsch encourages everyone to download the band’s music from their website www.driftingthrough.com or from Napster for further proof.

What does the future hold for the band? “Good question,” said Kirsch. “My goal is to keep playing some big theatres. That’s what we want to do is keep playing music.”

By Adam Smith

Drifting Through based out of Raleigh, N.C., will play Brothers in Arms tomorrow night for the first time.

Touring in support of their latest album “Spell,” the band has played areas as widely diverse as Maryland, New York, Atlanta, Charlotte and their own hometown of Raleigh.

Capitalizing on the modern-day “jam band” appeal, the group mixes their technical flash on extended numbers. However, these guys pack a guitar punch courtesy of string bender Jay Doyle. Magnificent organ by Brain Werner and the knockout duo of Everett Bolton and Paul Madigan help anchor the band rhythmically.

Lead singer Randall Kirsch insists that Drifting Through is much more than just another jam band. “We’re very song oriented,” said Kirsch. “We jam on a groove or on an emotion. “Every person in the band is comfortable with improvisation.”

Kirsch’s lyrics are also what sets this band apart from the rest. Kirsch relies on telling stories in most of the songs from “Spell,” the group’s latest release. “I’m super excited about that disc,” said Kirsch. “Most of the songs are mine.”

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Independent & Proud
Ryan Adams is visibly torn between two distinctly conflicting personalities: one for musings and one for moaning. Adams wants desperately to be Gram Parsons, his voice a wistful, wounded twang. But he doesn't hesitate to wallow in self-pity; his penchant for woe-is-me posturing recalls Morrissey (to whom he argues about in the hilarious snippet of record-deck humor that opens the disc) at his bleakest and silliest.

That's a couple of interesting touchstones for a man who fronted a band that aspired to fill the void that Uncle Tupelo left in the ashes of their tumultuous breakup. Whisketown stormed their way onto the country-punk scene and quickly became the posterboys for the No Depression movement. But Adams and company were always a bit derivative—their second-hand influences diluted by more ambitious visions.

So Adams' first solo release, "Heartbreaker," is not surprisingly, sappy and schizophrene. Adams repeatedly veers into poetic self-indulgence—"Damn, Sam (I Love a Woman that Rains)" is silly and unnecessary, and "AMY" is full of obscure imagery and ineffectual wordplay. Some songs are so unmelodic that their inclusion is questionable, while others are blatant robberies: "In My Time of Need" manages a double-heist of both Townes Van Zandt's "If I Needed You" and Gram Parsons' "In My Hear of Darkness."

But there are some strong tunes here and, when he wants to, Adams proves himself an excellent songwriter. Writing with Gillian Welch and David Rawlings to his sound was a good move—they bring an authenticity, rustic sound to his balladry and burn off some of the sweetness.

"Barracuda Lilies," with its clawhammer banjo and rickety banjo drum is an unexpected treasure. "To Be Young" and "Shakedown on 9th Street" are rockabilly barnburners (and a hell of a lot of fun), and "My Winding Wheel" is a delicate, lovely ballad that truly conveys the intended emotion.

"Oh My Sweet Carolina" is Adams' best Parsons impression, right down to the Emmylou Harris harmony vocals and dead-on echoes of Parsons' drawl ("bought a bourbon and an 'learned c' dance"). And, with "Come Pick Me Up," Adams has written what could be the most realistic plea for reconciliation put to record: here he begs to be taken out and liquored up, taken advantage of and used, all for the temporary cheesiness of a lost lover.

What is good about this album is very good, but so much here is filler—meandering, overlong tunes that go nowhere slowly. The tortured artist effect is tedious and off-putting; even Parsons wasn't this victimized, and he squeezed drug addiction, drug-dodging, and family suicide into his 27 years alive. Adams should temper his melacholia; we'd all be the better for it.

By Graham Smith

Too Short seems to be a throwback to that well-enmeshed low tradi- tion. The Oakland, Calif., brd-smut rapper has been making the same record for 15 years now. Using what may be rap's most laconic voice, he espouses the virtues of drinking 40s, smoking marijuana, pimpin' hoes, playin' dice and gettin' bootie as much as one hoofer possibly can in the span of an hour. Suffice it to say that "You Nasty" does nothing to swerve from his ribald tradition.

Best I can figure, Too Short doesn't even try to make a radio-friendly song. "I know how to treat a b**ch" F&S all that nice-ass sweetheart sh*t? That's playboy! Now I'm about to fu** you on the floor on the doorway." the rapper says in the repugnant but hilarious "Anything is Possible." the album's leading track.

Too Short makes no bones about his hip-hop niche, but that doesn't mean he's just a novelty artist. One of the reason's he's managed to stick around for so long is that besides making dirty records, he also makes pretty good ones. The beats on "You Nasty," his 12th album, are laid-back, funky and deliciously groovy. On "Be My Dirty Love," the rapper teams with producer Eric Sermon to cook up a tight track.

The beat is a bona fide head shaker; a firecracker snare snaps as a church organ sounds off on the one-beat. And the husky-voiced woman who sings passionately on the chorus drives home the pornographic smirk. Too Short's cadence is also unmistakable: His voice remains calm and unshaken. It gives him an understated ruthlessness. He plots along like he just woke up from a nap. The deliberate pace is what drives the outrageousness home on tracks such as "Pimp Sh*t." And same can be said of "Just Like Dopin,'" on which he celebrates a certain part of a woman's anatomy as if it were a holiday.

This music is trash that screams to be hidden under the bed (and makes album art showing him as he cavorts with a naked woman to drive home that point). I say more power to Too Short; he's a throwback to the bad old rancher days of the past days of rap.

By Anthony Hill

What's your sign?

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (Oct. 26). Your plans could lead to success, but keep them private for a while. Let worries motivate you, not slow you down in November. You're lucky at flirting with others in December. Give a little at home in February, and you'll get more in return. You outweigh the competition in May. Don't pay too much, even for a good thing, in June. By July you should be ready for a cruise on the love boat. If you don't have a mate, you may find one there. You and a few good friends take new territory in September. 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 A team effort could run into difficulties, so try. You haven't budgeted enough for all the expenses. The good news is you and your buddies aren't cut out of ideas yet - far from it.
- Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 6 You may be carrying more than your share of the burden. That's what it feels like, anyway. Maybe you ought to release your iron grip on the job. Maybe somebody else could do it as well as you - almost. It's worth a try.
- Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 Your best time for romance today is early. As the day goes on, you get busier. Tonight may be a swan song. The good news is you'll get a lot done. The bad news is snuggles time's rare till next Sunday.
- Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 If you want to make a date for tonight, good luck. You may feel like you've run an obstacle course by the time you get there. It might be worth it, though. You choose.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 Home is where you'd like to be, snuggled up with a good book. Maybe you have other plans for your time. Your sweetie might have a surprise in store. Don't ignore a person who's close, or the surprise won't be a happy one.
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 Learning a new routine may make your life easier, eventually. Right now, it's just making things more complicated. Don't fight it; that'll just make the whole process take longer.
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 7 - If you can't decide what to buy, wait. It'll get easier. Somebody else might want to make the decision for you. Besides, you need to find out what your sweetheart thinks. That might not be what you expect. Don't rush into anything.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 A slight difference of opinion could escalate into an issue if you're not careful. Knowing what you want will make life easier. That should be clear by tonight. You may not get all of it, but you'll have a place to start negotiating from.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - You're about to be tested on something you're learning. Your doubts about your abilities don't help one bit. Instead of worrying, study. Get a good friend to be your coach.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - A friend's great scheme to make a million still has a few rough spots. You might not know about a few details, too. Better move slowly on that one if money's involved - especially if it's your money.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - Your dream and somebody else's reality are on a collision course. Don't try to explain; the other person is having trouble hearing you. Be patient. This may take a while. You come from two different worlds.
- Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - Travel's not a good idea, especially by water. Can you start your cruise later, say, next spring? Getting a package out might even be hard. Insure everything for twice its worth. That way if it doesn't get there, you make a profit.
Southwest Texas slips by the Gamecocks

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

Carlow James was the man last Saturday. James rushed for 114 yards on only five carries and a touchdown. Unfortunately, that wasn't enough for the Gamecocks to pull off a win as they lost 28-24 in a shoot-out.

Southwest Texas also put on an unexpected rushing exhibition. Bobcat running backs Bronson Sanders and Lee Davis combined for 257 yards on 37 carries and two touchdowns.

"I don't have the answer right now," JSU head coach Jack Crowe said following the game. "I'm very surprised Southwest Texas was able to run the ball down our throat on that last drive for the win."

The Bobcat rushing attack had to be totally unexpected by the Gamecock defense. Southwest Texas could only muster a mere 51 yards in the previous game they played.

"That wasn't how the Bobcats play," SWT running back Bronson Sanders said. "We wanted to come out and make our mark on our home turf."

Southwest Texas built a 7-0 lead early in the first quarter after Jason Griffin lost a 39-yard pass to James Stewart at the 9:38 mark. Martinez added the extra point and it was the first touchdown the Gamecocks had allowed in the first quarter this season.

The Gamecocks answered late in the first quarter when Herman Bell caught a 29-yard touchdown pass from Reggie Stancil. Brad Hopkins' extra point capped a 96-yard, six play drive. The Bobcats fought back to take a 14-7 lead after going 80 yards in 14 plays. The touchdown came on a 15-yard pass from Griffen to Stewart with just :39 left in the half.

The Gamecocks tied the game up after Carlow James scammed for 46 yards on the third play of the second quarter. Hopkins' extra point capped an 80-yard, three play drive for the Gamecocks.

The Bobcats answered by returning the ensuing kick-off back to the Gamecocks' 14 yard line. On the first play, Lee Davis rambled for the touchdown to give them the lead. Martinez kicked the extra point as SWT built a 21-14 advantage.

The Gamecocks responded by scoring the next 10 points. Hopkins kicked a 29 yard field goal after the Gamecocks went 59 yards in 15 plays as they cut the lead to 21-17 with 6:21 remaining in the third quarter.

Then they took their first lead of the game when Rondy Rogers scored on a 10 yard run. Hopkins' extra point gave the Gamecocks a 24-21 lead at the end of the third quarter.

Gamecock wide receiver Cedric Allen catches Thrill's passes on this week's One on One

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

The Gamecocks could have very easily been 2-4 due to a few late scores by Sam Houston State and Southwest Texas.

"We're very comfortable going into the season. Our coaching staff has been working very hard with us," said Gamecock point guard Tim "Penny" Lindsey. "I know that I sound kind of funny by saying that I'm confident, but I really am."

The basketball team will play two exhibition games before they start regular season play. They will play against Team Georgia on Nov. 2 and The Basketball Travelers team on Nov. 9th.

The Gamecocks home and conference opener will be on Dec. 2, when they face Jacksonville University.

This season will definitely be a test for not only first year coach, Mike LaPlante, but the team in general.

"This is the type of schedule that our players want to compete against," said LaPlante. "It gives us an opportunity to compete against some of the best teams in the country."
One on with “Thrill”

Cedric: I’m pretty good. Just chillin.
Thrill: That was a tough defeat over the weekend. What is the mindset of the team after that loss?
Cedric: It’s like, unbelievable. We couldn’t believe that we had lost. Personally, I didn’t play that well. As a matter of fact, I played terrible. We still should have won the game. We just need to find a way to put things together and find a way to win.
Thrill: What type of player are you?
Cedric: A receiver, he just hasn’t had the chance to be an impact player. He has the style of offense and he has been here he has never competed. Unfortunately, during the four years he has been here he has never competed with the same style of offense and it has ultimately hurt his performance on the field. He is still a good wide receiver in this game.
Thrill: How’s it going Cedric?
Cedric: It’s like seven points and a couple plays in two games. It comes down to the fourth quarter. It seems like the other teams are simply making the plays.
Thrill: This is your senior season. Do you feel like it’s time for you to have a series of break-out games?
Cedric: Yes, I feel like it’s time. I just need to be more consistent and play within the offense. I just need to be more consistent.
Thrill: Do you feel like the style of offense is hurting your chances to make it to the next level?
Cedric: Um, no. We are working with the running game. That really helps because people are playing us with a lot of man coverage. It helps us get a lot more open and gain a lot more yards.
Thrill: The team is losing close games. Why are we not able to put out the games in the end?
Cedric: Some of the problems are with the young guys. We will be losing and they feel like, “here we go again,” since we had been losing. We just need to stick together and find a way to win.
Thrill: Who are the players that you respect more than anyone else in football?
Cedric: Jermaine Rice, Chris Carter, (pause.) and probably Randy Moss.
Thrill: I knew that you were going to say that.
Cedric: Raised by your mother-Ms. Sarah Allen. What was the most rewarding quality that she gave to you?
Cedric: She is behind me regardless of the situation. If I did something wrong, she’s still there for one. She taught me to always be there for the ones that you love.
Thrill: You are so cool and laid back. Do you ever get “crunk”?
Cedric: (laughs.) I get “crunk,” but I try to hold it down because if I get too excited I’ll get tired. I have a lot of intensity, but I don’t really show it.
Thrill: Do you like to talk trash?
Cedric: I like to talk a little. I talked a little more last year. You know, we were passing the ball a little more. I talk a little to the DB’s.
Thrill: You look like you play a little basketball. Does anyone ever come up to you and ask if you play basketball?
Cedric: Yeah, they ask me. Some people ask why I didn’t play. I get a lot of slack from some of my family for not playing. They felt like I should have been playing basketball. They used to tell me that I would never make it playing football. A lot of things went on that wasn’t so positive. That is why I can convert back to my mom. She told me to play whatever I wanted to play.
Thrill: Where would you probably be playing if you hadn’t signed with Jax State?
Cedric: More than likely, I would have went to Troy State.
Thrill: Who’s your favorite teammate?
Cedric: Favorite teammate? I would have to go back to when I was playing with my boy, Yesf (former JSU wideout).
Thrill: So, tell me what you listen to before the games.
Cedric: I listen to Pastor Troy, a little Mystikal. Just something to get me “crunk.”
Thrill: What’s up with the girls? Have you settled down yet?
Cedric: (laughs.) I’m trying. (laughs again.) I’m trying to settle down, but nothing really serious.
Cedric: Just a character. He’s going to be real with you.
Thrill: Jermaine Rice.
Cedric: Consistent. Great work ethic.
Thrill: Reggie Stancil.
Cedric: Great athlete. He’s a great player. He’s very smart. I would like for us to just turn him loose.
Thrill: Pastor Troy.
Cedric: (laughs.) Down south Georgia boy.
Thrill: Maxwell Thurmond.
Cedric: Character. Comedian, but he’s cool enough.
Thrill: What’s next after football if you don’t make it to the next level?
Cedric: I want to get a job in business management.
Thrill: Thank you for your time. Good luck tonight.
Cedric: I appreciate it.

Dolphins creep by Gamecocks

By Sports Information

It was a bittersweet farewell to the three Jacksonville State University seniors Saturday afternoon. The Lady Gamecocks lost their final home game of the season 2-1 to the Dolphins at the Tannehill State Park Stadium.

Jacksonville University’s Stine荧光素姐妹 and Trine Riis Groven each scored a goal in the win for the Dolphins. JSU goalkeeper Melissa Garcia had seven saves and allowed only one goal.

Sophomore Angela Tribble scored the lone goal for the Lady Gamecocks on an assist from senior Suzanne Bribrey, and goalkeeper Adriana Finelli finished with six saves.

“We’re disappointed with the loss, especially by giving up the winning goal so late,” said JSU head coach Lisa Howe. “I do think we put together one of our best games today.”

The Lady Gamecocks scored the first goal of the game at 22:56 mark and continued a consistent offensive strike, while maintaining their defensive strategy and keeping the Dolphins at bay. Throughout the first half, the Lady Gamecocks kept a tight lid on their 1-0 lead.
Lady Gamecocks golf team breaks record

By Sports Information

At The University Arkansas-Little Rock Lady Trojan Invitational, the Lady Gamecocks finished 11th out of 18 teams and shot a three-day record total of 916. The total is the third lowest total in Lady Gamecock history.

Leading the charge for the Lady Gamecocks was Marie Eve Dion, who shot a record individual low of 69 in third round of competition. It was the lowest individual round by a Lady Gamecock since Marie Mattfolk shot a 71 last season. Individually, Dion finished tied for 13th.

Angie Green also shot the course well. Her three-round totals were 74, 79 and 74. Green finished tied for 29th.

“Our team is very young. We have three sophomores, one freshman and one senior,” said head coach James Hobbs. “We played well for two rounds and had one poor one, but we played against a very good field. Oklahoma is in the top 20 in the nation.”

Where’s the sportsmanship?

A sports editorial

By Anthony Hill

I can’t help but to talk about what all of the other journalist across the country have been talking about for the past week. That is the Roger Clemens and Mike Piazza situation that happened last Sunday. For the unfamiliar, Mike Piazza broke his bat on a pitch by Clemens in the first inning of the game. Clemens took half of the bat that had flew into the infield and flung it back towards the dugout. The only problem with that is that Piazza was in the area and it almost hit him. He got mad and almost charged Clemens.

There is hardly a day that goes by without a disgusting display of poor sportsmanship and childish machismo that results in a huge fight or all-out brawl. Toughness and heart is one thing; but it’s beyond that now. There is an underlying fear among league officials of amateur and pro sports that this spreading disease is incurable. Fines and suspensions are equivalent to putting a band aid on a gaping wound. They will hold it for now, but it will eventually fall off and the wound will show again.

College and pro football players stand over the prone body of an opponent, wagging their fingers down or shaking their head at him. Baseball players going to court for maliciously clobbering another player in the face. The crazy part about that is that the particular player that I’m talking about said that was part of the game. Useless trash talking and taunting after nearly every foul and basket in the NBA. I am all for celebration. I love a little taunting after nearly every dunk and to watch the rest of the game.

I think that it’s time for the leagues, NCAA and even the athletic directors at high schools everywhere to step up and get control of the bad sportsmanship. At some point, before it’s too late. Any player leaving the bench must be penalized, not just with a huge fine, but a lengthy suspension and a warning of expulsion. Nobody wants to lose a job, or scholarship, or current standing on the team.

It’s a violent world in which we live in, and the world of sports sometimes reflects it all too clearly. It’s a frightening picture coming into focus. Sports has always been about toughness and heart. Being tough and being stupid is the difference here. Too many athletes are letting stupidity stand in the place of toughness.
By Sports Information

Macon, Ga.—Trans America Athletic Conference Commissioner Bill Bibb announced today the addition of Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee, effective July 1, 2001.

“Belmont University is an excellent institution with a tradition of athletic and academic achievement,” Bibb stated. “We are extremely pleased to add a school which fits so well into the growing success the TAAC has enjoyed in recent years.”

Belmont, founded in 1951 and located at the top of Music Row in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, currently lists an enrollment of 2,976 students. Listed among the top 20 Southern Regional Universities in U.S. News and World Report, Belmont is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is affiliated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention. The school offers undergraduate degrees in 57 major areas of study and offers master’s degrees in eight different areas.

“We are ecstatic that we have been invited to join the Trans America Athletic Conference,” Belmont President Dr. Robert C. Fisher stated. “The TAAC is a conference that understands the meaning of the phrase “Scholar athlete” — a phrase that defines Belmont University’s aspirations. This membership is a great gift to our student-athletes as it gives them the opportunity to compete for NCAA Division I Championships and aligns them in a competitive environment where they can be successful,” Dr. Fisher added.

“The TAAC is a great fit for our athletic program,” Belmont Athletics Director Mike Strickland stated. “We are committed to developing the whole person and hold academics among our student-athletes in very high regard. I think these values and attributes are shared by the other members of the TAAC. I could not be happier for our coaches and student-athletes as this is a moment that they have been anticipating for a long time.”

Belmont, which will begin competition in the TAAC in 2001-02, fields teams in each of the TAAC’s 15 Championship sports. "The membership is excited about entering the Nashville market and we feel that Belmont will immediately add competitive and spirited competition to the TAAC," Bibb said. "The support from the local community is exceptional and the area offers a great environment and arena for our student-athletes to visit and compete in."
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