JSU to raise rent on residence halls

By Danni Lusk
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State University Housing has proposed raising private room rates in residence halls for the fall 2001.

“It is very important that we remain competitive with the private sector and with other universities,” said JSU Housing director Marie Humphrey.

JSU Housing is an auxiliary of the University, making it a revenue-generating department. The department must at least “break even” when renting rooms each semester, according to Humphrey.

This is a difficult task though. “Each time that I sell a private room at Sparkman, for example, the University loses $396 and that’s a problem,” said Humphrey.

With uncertainty about proration, the University cannot afford such a loss, according to Humphrey.

Compared to other universities in Alabama, JSU’s rental rates are at the bottom. For a double-occupancy room at Montevallo University, a student pays $1,072 per semester. At JSU, it is $575 for the same type of room in Fitzpatrick Hall. JSU’s most expensive private room rate rings up at $862. It is almost double that at the University of Montevallo. “When looking at our rental rates compared to other schools we do not even come close,” said Humphrey. “JSU is still one of the cheapest rental rates in the state.”

The proposal comes up for a vote at the end of this month. “We support the educational mission of the University,” said Humphrey. “But at the same time we must satisfy our customers.”

Other options were considered before deciding to raise private room rates. The department considered raising double room rates. “I did not want to increase double rates and I think that is fair to the students because a private room is an option,” said Humphrey.

The department hopes to be able to make lots of improvements in the future with revenue generated from the “modest increase,” according to Humphrey.

They look to put standard four-post beds in all the halls, which are typical in most other university residence halls now. Cable, microfridges and Internet access in each room and recreation equipment in halls are other improvements Humphrey hopes to achieve.

A few changes for the fall semester include sororities making their own room assignments and the Marching Southerners moving from Weatherly Hall to Dixon Hall. Humphrey also hopes for the creation of a student advisory council within the department. “I am an advocate for the students,” she said.

Re-application for housing in the fall begins next week. Humphrey plans to communicate “effectively” with students on potential changes. “Before students re-apply they will get a sheet saying how much the rental rates probably will be,” she said.

The proposal comes up for a vote at the end of this month. “We support the educational mission of the University,” said Humphrey. “But at the same time we must satisfy our customers.”

Students wait with excitement over renovated dining hall

By Stephanie Pendergrass
News Editor

Jacksonville State University is becoming a site for renovation. So far, Houston Cole Library and McGee Hall have been on the top of the list for remodeling or construction. The next big project the University will see is the renovation of the Jack Hopper Dining Hall.

Known by many as “the caf,” renovations to the dining hall began on April 3 and is expected to be completed by June 1 of this year. The project is being paid for by Sodexho Marriott Services and will cost $400,000.

The Jack Hopper Dining Hall is in need of construction, and Noah Rucker, manager of dining services at JSU, is excited about the transformation of the outdated cafeteria. “It’s been 15 or so years since [the dining hall has] even been painted, [had] new carpet, or anything else and it’s long overdue. [The cafeteria is] dated and worn out.”

While Jack Hopper Dining Hall is undergoing construction, Leone Cole Auditorium is keeping hungry students fed. The auditorium has been made available for students during the months of April, May and June and the Marriott has relocated there until the project is complete.

The new Jack Hopper Dining Hall will offer greater selection to its customers. According to Rucker, “Fresh and on time will be the concept.” Students will be able to watch their food being prepared. “A lot of food will be made in the students’ presence.”

While many new features are being added, Jack Hopper Dining Hall will keep most of its original services. “We’re keeping the basic aspects of the dining hall plus the [new] concepts we’re putting in.”

When “the caf” reopens it will have many new aspects. The new features include a pizza station and a sandwich station as well as “a bar [where] we can toss salads or make sandwiches in your presence, a grill and what we call the ‘Classics,’ where we present the basic meat and potato [meal]. It’s all going to be new and exciting,” said Rucker.

While prices may go up a fraction, the new Jack Hopper Dining Hall will keep the same basic hours of service and hopefully the renovation will add more nutrition and selection to the students of Jacksonville State University.
I know a good piece when I see it.
Campus bookstore promises to be “even better”

By Stephanie Pendergrass
News Editor

For any of those confused by the barrenness of the campus bookstore recently, it is not closing. Rumors of the closing of the bookstore have circulated, but with no truth behind them. The campus bookstore is, however, under a change of ownership, which began two weeks ago. This change could possibly enhance the store’s stock and selling capabilities.

According to Randall Stephens, manager of the campus bookstore, Wallace Bookstores Inc. has gone bankrupt. This company had a lease on JSU’s bookstore.

Wallace started an online bookstore approximately a year and a half ago, and like many dot-com companies, it has failed. Wallace Bookstores Inc. then had to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy due to the loss of money in their online investment.

University officials became concerned with the bankruptcy situation Wallace was facing and took action. JSU’s lease agreement with Wallace has been canceled, and with the cooperation of Wallace, “the change up went very smooth,” said Stephens.

Now the campus bookstore is operated by the University and is a state-run business. “It should be a lot better for everybody,” said Stephens regarding the change of ownership.

Stephens was happy with the bookstore’s performance this year. “We did well. Our sales were up [and] we were in stock.” The bookstore had no control over or connection with the lease problems, those problems were on a corporate level.

Stephens expects the bookstore to be better than ever with the change in owners. While Wallace Bookstores Inc. was not able to keep the bookstore stocked with all the supplies it needed, the University should be able to give the store more selection. “We should have everything everybody needs, at the right time,” said Stephens.

The same personnel will run the store next year, and the hours of the bookstore will remain the same. Hours of operation for the bookstore are:

- Monday-Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Stephens hopes the bookstore can continue its quality service in the next school year. “We want to give excellent customer service to the students and faculty. We’ve always tried to do that, but we want to do even better.”

Smoke-free dorms work, studies show

By Tim Higgin
Knight-Ridder Tribune

It’s ammunition for those pushing for smoke-free dorms: Students in smoke-free dorms are less likely to take up such tobacco habits.

Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health released a report yesterday that said nonsmoking incoming freshmen are 40 percent less likely to begin smoking if placed in a smoke-free environment, according to a prepared statement from the school.

In an additional report from those same researchers, a survey of 604 higher education institutions found that only 27 percent provided non-smoking dorms.

To Sharon Felton of Breathe Easy, an anti-smoking group, this is proof that her group’s efforts to combat smoking at the University of Missouri-Columbia are worthwhile.

“It seems that” the reports “do confirm that living in a smoke-free dormitory really helps change smokers’ behavior in college students,” she said.

In past months, Breathe Easy MU has pushed for a smoking ban in residence halls on the MU campus.

The Residence Hall Association’s legislative body voted in January to support such a plan. A survey later of slightly more than 6 percent of MU’s residence hall population indicated a majority of students supported tighter restrictions on smoking. Currently, students are allowed to smoke in their rooms.

University officials and students asked have been wary of such a ban.

In a prepared statement, Henry Wechsler, the main researcher in both studies, said, “These findings suggest that smoke-free dorms may help incoming college students who have not yet taken up smoking avoid tobacco addiction during college. ... While the difference in smoking rates may be, in part, due to self-selection by students into smoke-free housing, these residences appear to be protective. They also prevent nonsmokers from being exposed to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke and the risk of dormitory fires.”

The news came in two reports. The first appeared in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine and looked at the habits of 4,495 students at 101 schools in the spring of 1999.

That study found students were less likely to begin smoking if placed in more restrictive environments than their counterparts in unrestricted ones.

The second, which found few schools provide smoke-free residences, was published in Journal of American College Health and supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Felton hopes these reports will help in her group’s push for increased smoking scrutiny. “Things are moving in our direction,” she said.

JSU’s radio station ushers in digital age with new board, computers

By Danny Lusk
Staff Writer

With one semester of school closing, a new semester at WLJS opens with a new set of equipment.

92.7 has installed a new control board to update the station to today’s radio standards. The old board in the station was over 25 years old. The old system was analog, using tape cartridges called cassettes and CDs to play music, commercials and public service announcements. Carts are not very reliable recording devices. The tape sometimes drags and causes the sound to be distorted, according to student media director Mike Stedham.

The new board is digital, eliminating the use of cassettes and will enable the DJ to use computer software to program songs and produce commercials in the on-air studio. “We wanted to make WLJS as much a good training ground as possible for people who want to go to professional radio stations,” said Stedham. “[The students] needed to use the kind of equipment they would encounter when they went to professional radio stations.”

One of the advantages of having a digital board is music can be programmed in and played automatically, without having a DJ in the studio. Music can be cued with the touch of a button or played automatically at a specific time. “We used to play re-broadcasts of old shows between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m.,” said Jason Bozeman, director of 92.7. “Now we’re gonna be playing music that’s stored in the computer.”

During National Public Radio broadcasts, public announcements, commercials and local news can be played at a certain time automatically, said Stedham.

Although the new board could cut down on the number of DJs in the studio, 92.7 believes in having live DJs and taking requests, according to Bozeman. “That’s what makes us ... an original station in this area.”

92.7 is always looking for more volunteers to work at the station. Any student interested in radio can volunteer.

“We are always looking for people who want to be in radio to come do a shift or two for us a week,” said Stedham.

The new system is currently in use. “I think it’s great for the station,” said Bozeman. “I think it’s gonna be one of those things that helps keep us on the edge of college radio in this state.”

JSU’s radio station ushers in digital age with new board, computers
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Seniors pull out all the stops for new art show

By Joshua W. Bingham,
Features Editor

After months of sweating through creative endeavors, 10 Jacksonville State University art students are presenting their senior shows to the professors grading them and anybody else who would like to appreciate their talents.

"Overall," Marvin Shaw of the JSU art department said, "usually the spring show is the biggest - same case this year, so we had to split it into two shows." The show was divided into one for the B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) students, and one for the B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts) students.

"Step by step, from the beginning of the semester until the end," Shaw said, "they have progressively produced and directed this with faculty supervision." These shows are culminations of the students’ works in the art department. "Usually," Shaw said, "this will represent the best works of the students.

Keith Reason used his graphic design talents to put together "Schotzsky’s Deli Web Site." It’s an "all flash web site," Reason said. It took him two months to fully design.

Hope Brickhouse worked the entire semester to design a restaurant system finish his piece. Cynthia Castillo’s final project is called "Solamente Problemas." "Translated to mean a lot of problems, it is a pit-fired raku, hanging tile piece. It was nothing but problems," Castillo said. It took her about three weeks from start to finish.

Alexandria Satterlund worked the whole past semester to create, through the use of computer-generated images, her final project called "Physical Fitness." By working in collographs and an acrylic medium, Cynthia Baker’s "It’s About Life" took two semesters to create. "Life that grows, life that flies, life that swims and life that gets taken away," Baker said in describing her project.

Our senior shows are always the best prepared; the best explanation of what we do, the students do at JSU - Marvin Shaw
JSU Art Professor

Hall Art Gallery at 7 p.m.
"It took about three months to finish," Stephanie Runyans said of her graphic design project, "Personal Business System." It encompasses envelopes, letterheads and business cards. Runyans will also be presenting one print, one brochure and two watercolor paintings. The brochure is from independent study, which was the call-out brochure for the mini-show hosted by JSU, and both watercolors are of endangered frogs. "My dream," Runyans said, "is to work for "Southern Living Magazine."

Kayla Register’s final project in the graphic design field is an adventure game with a wooden board and ceramic landscape tiles that can be moved around to make different scenes. Register crafted each individual piece of the 11 by 11 inch game, including four figures. "It basically includes dice, cards, landscape and board," Register said. She will also include other works in the presentation. "I’m hoping a lot of my friends who have graduated come," Register said. "I’d like to see them.

"I can stay I’d really like to do packaging design for companies, for toys or cosmetics," Rachel Sellers said. And with that ambition, Seller’s final project in her graphic design field is "A Family Travel Set" which is a packaging design piece. Sellers created four different travel packs as a set. There is "one for boys, one for girls, one for ladies and one for men," Sellers said. The project took Sellers three months to complete. She is also including a needle-piece she made for the English department’s Kaleidoscope 2000 and some printmaking from her "Dragonfly Series," made from actual leaves and things from nature ran through the printmaking press.

Richard Ammons’ focus is in drawing. His final project, "Viewing the Body," is "kind of a collage of different materials and mediums," Ammons said. "It’s breaking the human body into different parts and perspectives - viewing the body in the literal sense, angles. Also viewing the bodies." Ammons said, "like at a funeral ... the different reactions and emotions. It’s not obvious though, it’s abstract."

One of the bodies in Ammons’ collage is a dead body. "Our senior shows are always the best prepared; the best explanation of what we do, the students do at JSU," Shaw said. "I would recommend to all students, faculty, everyone come and see it."
By Adam Smith
Editor

I sat in my living room the other night listening to Jackson Browne sing "Running on Empty." And I sat in a kind of trance with the realization that not only am I running on empty as the semester ends, but so are a lot of other students on campus.

I'm not proud to admit the fact that I've been here since 1995, nor should I be. My mother tells me I'm suffering from what is apparently known as senoritis. I'm not sure what it is, exactly, but in my case I guess it occurs when you're about three classes away from graduation, and you pretty much stop caring. That's what has happened to me.

Like other students I have come into contact with, I started this semester on an incredibly upbeat note. There was a swing in my step and a song in my heart. Three months later, I'm limping and Glen Danzig is in my heart scratching his fingernails over a chalkboard. Not to sound entirely overdramatic, but it's a pretty accurate description.

But I know I'm not the only one. Either of JSU is getting to be a tougher institution, or we're just all becoming a buncha punies. I've had at least two people who I work with on an almost daily basis run by me not unlike chickens with missing heads because they were in a rush to get last minute papers done, or presentations done or books read, etc., etc.

I'm not writing this to seek forgiveness from my teachers for whatever academic sins I have committed over the past year. All I'm asking is that teachers perhaps be a little more understanding of the stress I have been under. Are the students that really deserve a break and a round of applause at the same time.

But the school itself isn't helping the cause of the student much. First of all, we're just a day away from the student day of the last week of the tortuous/unfair/demonic attendance policy. It's a great concern on paper, and I do think it has its advantages. I realize that if you don't come to class, you can't successfully do the work that is supposed to be done. I have no problem with that concept, but I also understand that if students don't want to go or can't go to class, they're not going to class. Trust me, I know.

Look at it this way. We go to school for roughly eight straight months with only breaks being Labor Day, Christmas vacation, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Spring Break. Taking into account that we are allowed a certain amount of days we can miss class, we don't get many breaks from the worries and stress of school which we so desperately need.

Come on Prof, what was life like when you were in college? Similar? Different? What? Times have changed, but I don't think they've changed that much. Students still struggle the same today with the pressures of school and college life as our professors did. We've actually got it easier.

But hopefully, like you did, we'll one day decide what we want to do with ourselves and go after it. But for now, all I ask is that you please be more understanding and patient with us. After all, we're just college students.

Thank you for reading
The Chanticleer.

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

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Hello? Do you have an opinion about anything?

Forum is our readers' column. Our policy for letters to the editor should be kept in mind when sending submissions to The Chanticleer:

1. The Chanticleer will not print letters which are unsigned, libelous or defamatory.

2. The Chanticleer reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity, as well as replacements.

3. 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 publication of the article, editorial or feature in question.

4. 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 the preceding Friday.

**SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT VIA E-MAIL TO jsu_chanticleer@hotmail.com**

All submissions must answer the following questions:

1. Are you a student at JSU?
2. If so, what is your major?
3. Are you a fraternity member or sorority member?
4. Are you a parent/guardian/friend?
5. How did you hear about The Chanticleer?

Thank you, The Editor and Staff.
If you had your own column in the student newspaper, what would you say? If there were 5,000 copies of that newspaper printed every week at an 8,000 student school, what would you say? If you knew that for every copy picked up, read and left behind, an estimated three more people came by, picked up, read and left behind that same copy of the newspaper, what would you say? You could hypothetically reach 20,000 people. What would you say?

I’ve said a lot. I am cashed. Spent. Exhausted. Depleted. Wasted. Lost. I took this gig last day. I read the final conclusion. What I have to say. If I said things were awful, it might just be unlawful. If I said things were offended. If I said things were unlawful. If you had your own column in the student newspaper, what would you say? If there were 5,000 copies of that newspaper printed every week at an 8,000 student school, what would you say? If you knew that for every copy picked up, read and left behind, an estimated three more people came by, picked up, read and left behind that same copy of the newspaper, what would you say? You could hypothetically reach 20,000 people. What would you say?

I’ll protect myself with my shotgun. Hunters are why we should keep our rifles and shotguns. Many hunters are like environmentalists with guns and I’m all about that. This town should cater to students. If we leave, how many jobs will be lost through the University? How many restaurants will shut down? How many gas stations will close? How many other businesses—tanning salons and Movie Gallery’s—will shut down? How many cops will be laid-off?

If the students leave the only places in business will be nursing homes. The students are the saving grace of this town, yet we have fear walking home from the bar. Jacksonville’s not a crime-ridden town so the cops have nothing better to do than harass students. I can walk drunk home without throwing rocks through windows or screaming at the top of my lungs. They taught me that in college.

JSU President Meehan said he wanted to increase enrollment in order to ease the pain of proration. I’d suggest making Jacksonville a little more hospitable to students, and yes, frat guys are included. Give the bars tax-cuts. It’s been said that I’m anti-Greek. That’s not true. My best friend’s a Delta Tau Delta at UK. But he did it for the status, the beer and the girls. His fraternity wanted me to join, but I thought it was superficial and petty. I wanted to attain the status, the beer and the girls on my own. I’m not anti-Greek. I’m just not Greek and here are my reasons. You join a fraternity, buy a label and stick it on everything you own. Then you expect people not to label you. Fraternities even admit to promoting an ideology, and each fraternity is a little bit different. I just thought this was the Age of Individualism.

What else? What other rock have I left unturned? Oh well, I’ve still got next week.
Today's Birthday (April 12). You may have thought you knew everything, but now you should know that you don't. This year, make it your great quest to learn more. Pick a topic you’re passionate about in April. Obtain a student loan in May. 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 9 - The world continues to be your oyster - for another day, anyway. If you ruled, what would you do? Better do it fast, because for you, the time for talking is over. Just do it!
- Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 4 - You may be feeling a little low, but that's OK. If you can spend the day going over the numbers, it'll be time well spent. Turn off the phone to cut down on distractions and minimize headaches.
- Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 7 - You could be the one with good judgment, objectivity and common sense. The others could get too hot under the collar. Offer your skills as an arbitrator, or your skills as a referee may be needed.
- Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 5 - The pace is quick, but with any luck at all, you can get the job done by tomorrow - or maybe even sooner. Plan to put most of the money you're making into savings, or use it to pay off a debt. It'll buy you more that way.
- Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 10 - Two days in a row? You are hot! Only Leos are this lucky. Nobody’s had a 10 for months. Everything is lined up in your favor right now, so don’t just sit there. Start something!
- Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Your frustration may be alleviated somewhat by getting rid of the clutter. You have stuff around that you haven’t used in years. Don’t throw away something that belongs to a loved one, though.
- Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is an 8 - They say that opposites attract. What do you think? Somebody who’s been driving you nuts may be hard to shake. You want to get in the last word, but that’s never going to happen.
- Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 4 - The more you can produce, the better you’ll do financially. Where are those energy reserves when you really need them? Luckily, you’re a long-distance runner. Just keep going, even if it’s a struggle. You’ll pass the others through sheer determination.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is an 8 - Your idea of a good time often involves getting away and exploring new horizons. But now, you may be more interested in staying close to home. It looks as if somebody there has your full attention.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - The information continues to pour in, and some of it is quite valuable. Sorting the wheat from the chaff is a challenge, but you’re up for it. Meanwhile, don’t jump to conclusions. Get the whole story before you take action.
- Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is 8 - Somebody’s liable to lead you into uncharted territory. You’re usually the one who needs a map. This time you may be drawing it as you go along. And why not? Cartography is one of your natural talents.
- Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 5 - Looks like fortune is smiling on you. There’s work to be done, but you don’t know where to start. Just take it slow and easy. You don’t get extra points for going faster - although it won’t be long before you do.
JSU: a view of our school from a wide-eyed and optimistic freshman class

Eighty-one percent liked the social scene around JSU. “Yeah man, it’s pretty cool,” Joseph Holler said. On the other hand, three didn’t. “I think there could be more,” Trace Fleming said.

How is the student body of JSU perceived? All but one saw their fellow students in a favorable light. “Everybody’s pretty friendly … nobody’s stuck up or anything. Everybody talks to each other – get along,” Tim King said. “Most of them are stuck up,” said the disserter, Teresa Ross.

On being asked what they thought of JSU’s professors, 31 percent liked them, 6 percent didn’t and 63 percent thought they were in the middle. “They’re ridiculous,” Brandi Watson said. “Professors can be — whenever you ask them a question, they won’t answer ‘em directly. They give you off the wall answers, so you have to figure out their answers, then figure out the question.”

Along similar lines, two students thought classes were easy, three thought they were hard and the rest thought they were average and what they expected. “Some of the classes have been kinda hard,” Kelsie Wadsworth said. “It’s just getting used to having to do the work on your own.”


Figuring out what one’s major in college is can often take a semester or two, but only 19 percent of those surveyed were undecided. The rest varied in many subjects, with a split majority of two majors in business and nursing.

College students are a crazy bunch. From such movies as “Animal House,” expectations are perhaps set. Eighty-one percent of the first-year students surveyed had done or seen some interesting/crazy things at JSU. “Had to be going to see that Rickey Smiley show,” Antoin Stockdale said. “Getting drunk for the first time,” Brandi Watson said with a laugh. “Someone had Saran-Wrapped someone else’s car. I thought that was great. … I wouldn’t have thought of that,” Trace Fleming said. “Um, we went to the square, a couple a buddies of mine — we flashed people all night,” Brandon White said. “We got caught by the cops. …”

Sixty-three percent of the freshmen thought that they were going to leave attendance policies at high school as they began to pay for college and work on becoming adults, yet six students understood and liked regimented attendance. “I think that it’s good — that they should have it like that because it keeps people in class,” Taleah Collum said. “I think we’re old enough to figure it out ourselves, if we want to go to class or we don’t. I mean, we’re paying for it.”

All the freshmen did enjoy their first year at JSU, and a few had some closing comments. “It’s been fun, kinda hard, but not too hard,” Joseph Holler said. “It’s been all right, you know, it’s not the greatest place in the world. It’s a commuter college, but you know, that’s it,” Tyler Stenmoe said. “Well, I couldn’t have made it through all that I have without help from Sue, the secretary of DSS (Disabled Student Services),” Jenny Lux said. “She’s a wonderful person. She’s a godsend.”

According to Jacksonville State University’s 2000-01 freshmen, JSU’s not so bad.
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JSU CAMPUS BOOKSTORE
Morgan Freeman plays a familiar character in "Spider"

By Joshua W. Bingham
Features Editor

Old Alex Cross sat on his taffeta, thinking of his detective ways. Along came a spider, which really was a surpise, and missed Morgan Freeman to play.

The opening scene is of a car racing down a road with a serial killer in the driver's seat. Detective Alex Cross, played by Freeman, makes his man and tells the task force to make the arrest. In an awesome computer-enhanced scene, the shiny red car that the suspect is driving hits the side of a bridge and spins over the edge. The car hangs as a beautiful agent screams to Detective Cross.

Thus the movie begins by taking the viewer straight into the action, and the rest of the movie is just as fast paced.

A congressman's daughter, played brilliantly by young Mika Boorem, under Secret Service protection is kidnapped from a private school by an insider who wants to go down in history as one of the criminal greats. To do this, he draws Detective Cross in, even though Cross is recovering from the loss of a partner due to a messed-up-lying operation. Cross takes the bait, and the main cat-and-mouse plot starts.

Freeman's acting is as fabulous as always, with his cool, subtle control of the screen. Through facial expressions and relaxed movements, Freeman definitely adds to the suspense of the movie.

Monica Potter, playing Special Agent Jazie Flannigan who is responsible for the Secret Service's mistake, is at first very reminiscent of Julia Roberts with her nose flares and pronunciation of words. Yet as the movie progresses, Potter's talents shine through.

The serial-killer-crazy-man has been portrayed by many actors in many films, but Jay O. Sanders delivers a fine performance as kidnapper Gary Soneji. One of Soneji's memorable lines is "I'm living proof that a mind is a terrible thing."

The title for the movie makes sense when Detective Cross says about Soneji, "he's like a spider - and I happen to like spiders."

All the actors perform their parts well, and the plot of the movie takes some truly surprising twists toward the end. The trick is perhaps that the plot seems to fall into a familiar crazy-man does, thoughtful detective follows, almost Columbo kind of scenario, and then very unexpectedly jumps up a couple levels.

As far as detective/suspense movies go, "Along Came A Spider" is a fine example. Full of 21st-century movie effects and cinematography.

Grade: B-

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Lady Gamecocks split with Stetson

By Staff Reports

After dropping two straight games to Tennessee-Chattanooga last Wednesday night, 2-0 and 4-0, the Lady Gamecocks were looking to get back to their winning ways in a showdown at University Field with the Stetson Hatters. Despite a home run by sophomore Allie Simmons to score the Lady Gamecock’s first run in 21 innings, the softball team couldn’t hold off Trans America Athletic Conference foe Stetson in the opening game last Saturday night.

The Hatters (20-19, 5-3) took the first game 3-1, while the Lady Gamecocks(16-20, 3-3) came back with a shutout win in the second half of the double-header, 2-0.

On the first at-bat of the day for JSU in the third, when Leah Wilbanks recorded a single to start the inning. With runners on second and third and one out, Emily Harris singled up the middle to score Wilbanks. Alison Parker got the second RBI of the inning to make the score 2-1 going into the fourth.

The softball team wouldn’t score again until the second game and Stetson would score three more runs in the top of the seventh inning to pull away from the Lady Gamecocks in the first game.

Senior Jill Wilcoxson (7-11) took the loss and Lightner was the winning pitcher for the Hatters. Stetson out hit the Lady Gamecocks 10-3, as JSU only had one hit in the game after the first inning.

“I challenged the seniors in the second game,” said head coach Jan McGinnis. “The first game was pitiful. A home run like that should give you a spark, but we sat back and relaxed.”

The fantastic freshman, Renee Hasan recorded the first RBI in the third inning with a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Stacey Smith, who was pinch running for Simons.

Stetson took the lead away from JSU in the third, when LeAnn Wilbanks recorded a single to start the inning. With runners on second and third and one out, Emily Harris singled up the middle to score Wilbanks. Alison Parker got the second RBI of the inning to make the score 2-1 going into the fourth.

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The Gamecock football team is getting geared for J-Day

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

The Gamecock football team is only a few days shy of their annual J-Day game. That scrimmage game is usually played as a celebration of a hard working spring training. The football team definitely looks to be improving by the day and looked impressive last Saturday in the pre-J-Day scrimmage.

Head football coach Jack Crowe. “I think purpose-wise we gave up more plays today than I’m comfortable with. (Collectively) We’ve gotten better every time we go out as a team.”

Sure, you had the offensive heroics of quarterback Reggie Stanell who had our touchdown passes and another on the ground. However, this season, an area of concern for JSU is the establishment of other playmakers to help take some of the load off of Stanell.

“Reggie’s pretty consistent in what he does around here. The thing we went into the spring trying to accomplish was to make sure we had a receiving corps that could make plays,” Crowe said. “What we had today was a couple of receivers step up and make plays,” Crowe said.

Rennie’s spreading the ball around pretty well. Lorenzo (Banks) and Delmon (Jenkins) made a few plays.”

Banks took two of Stancil’s touchdown throws and tight end Jenkins hauled in a 35-yarder for a score. Tight end Drickie Dinkmeyer, a newcomer this season, snugged another Stancil pass for 30 yards and a score.

Other newcomers on offense are tailbacks Jody Wright and the electrifying, Darrell Pratts. Prater definitely looks to be the playmaker of the future for the Gamecocks. He scored the Gamecocks’ first touchdown on a yard scamper and Wright had the Gamecocks’ fifth touchdown with a six-yard score.

Of course, the success of the offense brings questions on how good the defense may be. The defensive unit was the football teams’ strongest asset last season. But, with the departure of Delvin Hight, Cornell Buford, Erilles McCollough and “Tot-tot” James, the Gamecocks are concerned with the defensive backfield. There are some bright spots in the secondary with the emergence of Neika Taylor, and big Jermaine Hoyt.

“Coach (McGinnis) challenged us,” said Crowe. “I pitched to not allow solid hits, because they have some great lefty slap hitters. We just shut them down and our defense played great.”

The Lady Gamecocks will host the Florida State Seminoles on Saturday. The first pitch of the double-header will be at 1 p.m.
Thrill: How are you doing Andrea? Andrea: Good. Thrill: How do you feel about the big game against Florida State on Saturday? Andrea: They’re not a conference game. So, I’m not really worried about them. It’s a big game for us and everything, but our conference games are what’s important.

Thrill: The softball team is 16-20 overall and 3-3 in the TAAC. Where’s the team’s confidence level going into this weekend? Andrea: I feel like our confidence is up especially with our recent win. Our main problem right now is our hitting. If we can keep that up, we’ll be all right. We should’ve swept teams in our conference game, except for FAU. We proved that we can beat them.

Thrill: You were an outstanding athlete in high school, where you lettered in three sports. You had an even better career in junior college, where you were named Athlete of the Year and received the Golden Bat Award. What’s been the highlight of your career? Andrea: I think winning Athlete of the Year in junior college was my highlight.

Thrill: How do you feel about the way this season’s going? Andrea: It’s not the way we had looked at it in the beginning. I thought that we would do a lot better, but we played a lot of good teams. I think that what matters is how we end up in the conference. Thrill: What’s the team lacking? Andrea: Pretty much just confidence at bat. Our defense is solid and our pitching is really solid.

Thrill: Characterize your relationship with pitcher Meadow McWhorter. Andrea: Meadow is my closest friend down here. We went to junior college together and she’s the main reason I still write or think so I’m not going to do that. (laugh.) Thrill: Do you use that as an intimidation factor? Andrea: Yeah, kind of. But it is really the way I am. I’m just a quiet person. I just look mean sometimes. (laugh.)

Thrill: How do you feel about the Atlantic Coast Athletic Conference? Andrea: It’s really hard. It’s gotten easier because of the friends that I’ve made this year and having Meadow here for me. It’s been hard for me because growing up, my dad coached me and he was at every single game. He’ll be here next week though.

Thrill: What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now? Andrea: I want to be teaching and coaching softball in Oregon. Thrill: Why did you choose to play for Jax State? Andrea: When I came here I loved the coaches. The other coaches that I met just didn’t have what coach McGinnis had.

Thrill: Do you have a favorite music group or singer? Andrea: I like the Dixie Chicks. I like country. Thrill: What type of guys do you like to date? Andrea: Athletic guys. I have a lot in common with them.

Thrill: You mentioned that you wanted to be a teacher someday. How do you feel about the recent grade school shootings? Andrea: The first one actually started in Oregon. It just doesn’t seem like it could happen where I’m from, but I guess it could happen anywhere. I feel like teachers play a big part in a kids life and I want to be a part of that.

Thrill: Free Association. Coach Jana McGinnis. (Softball coach) Andrea: Probably one of the best coaches I’ve played for. She was a great athlete, so she knows what it takes to win.

Thrill: TAAC tournament. Andrea: Want to finish first there. Thrill: Mount Hood Community College. Andrea: The place where I got my most experience and had two of my best years of softball there. I met Meadow there. (Both laugh.)

Thrill: Yep, you met Meadow there. The Dixie Chicks. Andrea: I love ’em.

Thrill: Renee Hasan. (Freshman infielder) Andrea: Great second baseman and she’s a southern California girl. Thrill: How far do you see this team’s year going? Andrea: I see us winning the TAAC. We beat FAU once and that’s the team to beat to win the conference. I think that we can do it.

Thrill: That’s it Andrea. See ya later.

Andrea: Okay. Thanks.

The owner of the Washington Wizards said he has a “gut feeling” that Michael Jordan will return to the NBA next season.

In a story running on the front page of Tuesday’s Washington Post, Wizards majority owner Abe Pollin said he believes the odds are that

Jordan will play for the Wizards next season. Pollin stressed that he did not know if Jordan has made up his mind yet.

“The odds are that he’s going to come back,” Pollin said. “I think he’s going to decide whether he’s going to be able to play at the level that is satisfying to him.” Jordan, a part owner and president of basketball operations for Washington, has consistently said that he’s 99.9 percent sure he’ll never play again. He was unavailable for comment Monday night.

Pollin stressed to the Post that he was simply stating his opinion. “What I said was my gut feeling,” Pollin said. “It’s his decision. I didn’t think he’d come back when I first heard the talk. But when Mario Lemieux came back to the Penguins, it stirred something in Michael.”

Lemieux, one of the owners of the Pittsburgh Penguins, returned to the ice in December after retiring at the end of the 1997 season and led the Penguins into the playoffs.

Pollin said he thinks Jordan, who won six NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls, is going through a self-examination of sorts. Jordan has been working out recently, including practices with the Wizards.

“He’s certainly working at seeing if he feels like he can,” Pollin said. “He’s told me when he has something to say about it, he’ll tell me. ‘We’d welcome him with open arms,’ said Pollin, whose team’s 49-9 record is third worst in the NBA.

“It’s his decision. It would have to be in his interest to come back and he would not do it unless he could perform at the standard he set for himself.” But it would be very exciting for everyone.

In order for Jordan to play again under NBA rules, he would have to divest his ownership interest in the Wizards — although he could find a caretaker to purchase his stake sell it back to him when he stops playing.

“I am working out because I got up to 240 pounds and I’m trying to lose weight,” Jordan said last month. “People are taking this stuff way too far, but I can’t control what people write or think so I’m not going to address this any more.”

Some of the speculation about Jordan’s return has been fueled by Jordan’s close friend, Charles Barkley, who has said he would like to play with Jordan in Washington next season.

Jordan retired in 1993 after winning three NBA titles and tried to make a career in professional baseball. But he returned for the NBA playoffs in 1995 and played through 1998, winning three more titles.

Michael Jordan. Photo courtesy of www.multania.com

The Associated Press

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Thrill: That’s it Andrea. See ya later.

Andrea: Okay. Thanks.
Should JSU move down a division?

A Sports Editorial
By Anthony, “Thril” Hill

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” That was a verse from an old Billy Ocean song. Every time I hear that song I think about how tough the goings are getting here at JSU. It really doesn’t look as if the tough is going anywhere soon enough.

Every since the BOARD OF TRUSTEES took it upon themselves to make the leap from Division II to Division I-AA, the school has been struggling to compile a winning record in many of the popular sports.

Most of the students that attend JSU have done nothing but hear people talk about how great we used to be and stories about the national championships that we used to win.

My question is: “Why don’t we move BACK down to the Division II level? Okay, there’s the idea that moving to another conference would be a better alternative. It might be for a while, but we can’t run from the tougher teams forever. If we do skip conferences we will still have to play against the tougher schools once we made it to post season play. And then what’s going to happened? The best choice for this university and the athletics is to simply move back to the division that showed us so much love, Division II. It doesn’t make us any weaker to be in a division or two lower than Troy State. After all, it seems like the only reason we moved up in the first place was because the Board of Trustees wanted to be where Troy State was. The funny thing about that is, most of the people that were instrumental in the transition are no longer a part of this university. But we are.

We, the students, the fans, the supporters, and the players of the Gamecock athletics are here to take all of the criticism of not being at the top of our game in sports. That’s not fair. All we want to do is have something to rally around. A good athletic program. That’s what we need and deserve. No one brags about how we graduate more teachers and police officers than any other school in the South. Nor do people care too much about how friendly this campus is. We talk about how great our President is. He is a great person, don’t get me wrong. But, I’d much rather brag about how good our teams are in sports. Maybe people would stay in town over the weekend if we had a dynasty being developed.

We have some great athletes who are a part of our athletic program that are not getting a fair shot at being the best. Other schools are ready to move up when they make that change. The schools that have been on this level only regroup and get better, while we’re just trying to keep up.

We don’t have the facilities or the money to make a transition like the one we’ve made. I’m tired of opponents coming to JS State and treating our team like we’re simply a scrimmage before their next game. We’re better than that.

Sure, we could beat a few Division I-AA schools every now and then. But I’d much rather beat a lot of Division II schools and play a few Division I-AA teams during a season. It would all equal out then.

Jacksonville State has too many schools to compete with for players. We basically get the players that don’t go to Auburn, Alabama, UAB, Troy State and occasionally, Georgia Southern and other Georgia schools. We are located in the middle of the football capital, the South. Something has got to give.

Campbell sweeps the baseball team

By Staff Reports

The baseball team have been bouncing off of the ropes for the passed couple of games, just trying to bounce forward to get on some kind of positive streak. Matters got a little rougher for them when they played Campbell in a three-game series last weekend.

Jeff Huff hit a two-run home run in the first contest to lift Campbell University to a comeback win, then Wes Hepler swept the Gamecocks in the second game last Friday night at Taylor Field. They followed those two losses with a 4-2 defeat last Saturday.

Huff’s two-run blast help the Camels erase a 2-1 deficit in the opener and the Camels went on to win 4-2. In the second game, CU scored to improve to 8-1 on the year.

Campbell clinched it fourth-straight Trans America Athletic Conference series in as many attempts this year while improving to 22-11 overall, 9-3 in the league. The Gamecocks dropped to 10-22, 2-10 in the TAAC.

Matt Kleweno (3-2) scattered four hits over six innings with one walk and three strikeouts to earn the victory.

Kleweno had a 4-0 lead entering the seventh before the Gamecocks loaded the bases with no outs on a hit batter, error and a bunt single. Joel Stapleton then broke up the shutout with an RBI single to end the day for Kleweno.

Cameleen reliever Andy Wade came on and gave up a bloop RBI hit to Michael Helms. Wade then snared a line drive off the bat of Ben Phillips and doubled up Carlos Delgado at third base. Wade then caught Ralph Courrt looking at third strike to end the threat.

Wade tossed three scoreless frames of two-hit ball with no walks on three strikeouts to earn his first save. Gamecock starter Jesse Corn (2-2) allowed four runs, three earned, on eight hits with one walk and seven strikeouts in six innings.

Della Costa, Michael Wineka and Huff each finished with two hits to lead the Camel attack. Bobby Crompton had two hits to lead the Gamecocks in the loss.

The baseball team will travel to play Mercer for three more games tomorrow and Saturday.

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