Questions remain as graduation controversy rages

By Gracie Catchings

Due to past problems with crowd control and last semester’s ticket fiasco, spring 2001 commencement ceremonies will be held in Paul Snow Stadium. This decision came on the heels of student complaints at the reduced number of tickets issued for graduation in Pete Matthews Coliseum.

“I’m a 34-year-old student,” senior Rachel Hunter said. “I have a husband, two children, and a job. I couldn’t have gotten through college without the help of my family and friends.”

Suggestions were made to hold two ceremonies, but the quality of graduation would then come into question, said David Watts, vice president of administrative and business affairs.

“The quality of our graduation is not determined by the quality of the speaker,” Hunter said. “The students don’t care. They just hope they’re short, say their piece, and let us walk.”

JSU President Bill Meehan agreed that the student should be the focus of graduation.

“I think the most important thing is watching the students walk across the stage,” Meehan said. “I would not make the speaker the focus of the commencement.”

The speaker is not the only factor the administration believes would suffer from two ceremonies, Watts said. Faculty attendance, band performance, cleanup and student confusion as to which ceremony they have to attend is taken into account.

Senior Camilla Rashed campaigned with Hunter for two ceremonies, but the quality of the ceremonies to be held in the Coliseum. They wrote letters to both Watts and Meehan and expressed concern to the Student Government Association. Although there will not be two ceremonies, Rashed was pleased with the University’s decision.

Continued on page 3. Spring graduation

Many tax breaks are available for higher education

By Mark Schwanhausser

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

There’s no cure for the ulcer brought on by college-tuition bills. But there is a broad menu of tax breaks for higher education, whether you’re a parent with a kid on the path to college or one already chosing a diploma, a graduate whittling down student loans or an adult returning for an MBA.

The problem is, they sometimes overlap and negate one another. For instance, you generally must pick just one break per student among the Hope Credit, the Lifetime Credit or a withdrawal from an Education IRA. So, take care to craft the best deal in your case.

Here’s an overview:

Hope vs. Lifetime:

The Hope Credit is worth up to $1,500 per student, the Lifetime Learning Credit up to $1,000. But they use different formulas to get there. The Hope gives you a dollar-for-dollar refund on the first $1,000 you spend on qualifying expenses and 50 cents per dollar on the next $1,000. The Lifetime gives you a refund of only 20 cents on the dollar, but it covers the first $5,000 you spend. — Credit window: The Hope credit window is open for one academic year, the Lifetime credit for two.

One complication with the Hope is that a student who enters school in the fall will typically have qualifying expenses that can straddle three tax years, but you may claim it only twice. That forces you to either guess or amend in order to maximize the credits.

In some cases it might be better to take the Lifetime credit the first year, the Hope credit the second and third years, then go back to the Lifetime credit, said Kathy Burlison, a manager of tax operations training for H&R Block Tax Services Inc. in Kansas City, Mo.

“Go back to those old tax returns,” she said, “and ask, ‘Was there anyone in my family who had educational expenses, and did I miss it?’ ” — Qualifying expenses: Tuition and fees — but not room, board or books — at any college, university or trade school that’s eligible for federal student aid. — Who’s eligible: Both credits apply to you, your spouse or dependents. But for the Hope, the student must be in a degree program at least half-time. The Lifetime can apply to courses to improve or acquire job skills. — Tip: If your income is too high to claim the Hope or Lifetime credits...
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.

27-01: Charles R. Glover, 48, of Bessemer, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD for DUI on Fonley Ave. occurring on 2-7-01.

2-8-01: Andrew T. Mann, 20, of Caddo, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD for third degree assault occurring on 2-8-01.

2-8-01: Andrew T. Machen, 20, of Caddo, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD for DUI and resisting arrest on Pelham Rd. occurring on 2-8-01.

2-8-01: Jared W. Allen, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., reported burglary at Dixon Hall to JSUPD occurring on 2-6-01.

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2-9-01: Amanda M. Miller, of Jacksonville, Ala., reported third degree assault at the Delta Chi, Oak Village Apartments, to JSUPD occurring on 2-9-01.

2-12-01: Yashika T. Ball, 20, of Amston, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD for fraudulent use of a credit card at JSUPD occurring on 2-12-01.

2-12-01: Naressa N. Parker, 20, of Jacksonville, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD for fraudulant use of a credit card at Salls Hall occurring on 2-12-01.

2-12-01: Ashley B. Nelson, of Philadelphia, Ala., reported breaking and entering and attempting to break into a vehicle at Brewer Hall parking lot to JSUPD occurring on 2-12-01.

The African American Association will be having a meeting today at 4pm in the Multicultural Services Center on the 4th floor of the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB). Please bring your $5 membership dues.

For more information send email to cicelyh@hotmail.com.

The Phi Beta Lambda Business Club at JSU encourages everyone to come to their meeting today at 2:20 p.m. in Rm. 101 Merrill Building. Learn more about business careers, establish occupational goals and get on-the-job training in a wide variety of activities.

The Sociology Club will be sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Jerry Wilson today at 2:30 p.m. in Rm. 328, Beaver Hall. Wilson will speak on his experiences in the lunch counter demonstrations in November, which were significant events in the history of civil rights movements.

The Writers’ Club is seeking submissions for the 2000-2001 edition of “Something Else,” the literary magazine of JSU. All students are encouraged to submit poetry (maximum of 35 lines), short stories, essays, and drama (maximum of 10 pages), and original artwork and photographs (8 by 11 inches) to the Writers’ Club, JSU, Box 3083, or to Professors Jones, McCurdy-Jennings, or Hawley in the English Department, Stone Center. The deadline is Friday, 16 February 2001.

Approximately sixty-one $3,000 awards and twenty-seven $2,000 scholarships are available nationally to members of Phi Eta Sigma for undergraduate study. Five $2,000 scholarships are available nationally for the first year of graduate study. J.S.U. members of Phi Eta Sigma are invited to apply. For application forms see Mr. Kinney in Stone Center 105. Local deadline for applications is February 22.

What’s that girl?

A faculty member is on the quad, naked, with their face painted like a clown, singing “Peaceful Easy Feeling”.

New Criminal Justice seminar dealing with the dark side

By Information Services

The Jacksonville State University Criminal Justice Department is holding a seminar entitled “Chasing Shadows: Confronting Occult & Satanic Violence in America”. The seminar will be presented by Dr. Gordon A. Crews and will be held in Brewer Hall, Saturday, Feb. 17. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and the seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The seminar will offer an overview of the potential impacts alternative lifestyles, beliefs, and practices can have upon a juvenile’s behavior. With the recent increase in the amount of school violence and alternative belief system related violence, this topic has reemerged as an issue worthy of study.

The underlying philosophical approach of the seminar is based on the premise that the vast majority of this type of juvenile involvement has a much smaller connection to the increase in juvenile violence than is generally believed. This premise also includes the position that this type of behavior exhibited by some juveniles is in reality just another avenue by which misguided youth can direct their anger and frustration.

This form of juvenile violence is discussed to understand it, and how promote appropriate responses from adults, educators, and parents. Primarily the seminar hopes to assist participants to better understand the nature of this commonly understood behavior, the many variations in practice, this complex subject, and the complex behaviors of youth who practice these activities.

Campus Crime

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Style and spirit are crucial in cars, say aspiring auto designers

By Lawrence Ulrich
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

As college-educated twentysomethings, they’re the next generation of new car buyers, their tastes and values relentlessly probed and analyzed by the industry.

By then, the students also are budding auto designers at the Center for Creative Studies in downtown Detroit. As both on-the-cusp auto consumers and potential leaders in automotive design, they were in a unique position to assess the offerings at the North American International Auto Show.

We spoke with car designer Carl Olsen, the retiring chairman of CCS’s transportation design program, whose students have gone on to design vehicles from the all-new Jeep Liberty to the concept Cadillac Vison.

“Most of these students already had been offered corporate jobs when they graduated,” Olsen said. “They were very popular.”

“The students look forward to auto- morphic careers,” says Przybycki, a senior, who has already been offered a job as a Ford interior designer following a recent internship with the automaker.

Hilts of Dearborn, Mich., took first place and a $4,000 scholarship in the 2001 New York Auto Show competition that pitted more than 40 projects from 12 of the nation’s most prestigious industrial design programs. (CCS students swept the first three places).

Their assessment: Minivans are passe. Wagons are in.

Wagons?

CCS students transformed a Ford Focus wagon into the splashy Ford Faze for their North American International Auto Show concept vehicle.

And the students like the new breed of wagons, which blend traditional wagon virtues with style that’s generations removed from the fake-wood-paneled wagons. Hilts said younger generations barely remember that wagons were once the epitome of suburban style.

“When I told my parents that I liked the Volvo V70 Cross Country, they said, “A wagon?” “Hilts says with a laugh. “But to me it’s cool; a minivan isn’t.”

Hilts also enjoyed the mechanical lines and almost lunar-lander look of Chrysler Group’s Jeep Willys concept vehicle. Among misses, he cites BMW’s X Coupe concept and the Toyota Matrix, a compact, wagon-like concept that’s a sister to the Pontiac Vibe.

Students also gave good marks to the all-new Jeep Liberty, positioned by DaimlerChrysler as a replacement for the affordable Cherokee. Affordability is a critical factor for many consumers, but especially younger buyers, Dixson says.

“You’d take a Porsche, but you’d rather have a house,” she says.

J Mays, Ford’s design chief, says that’s the attitude he looks for when he interviews for a staff that counts more than 1,000 designers between Ford’s eight brands. Ford’s production-ready Thunderbird and its Forty-Nine concept vehicle have been cited as among the show’s most evocative shapes.

“We have more than enough people who can sketch cars or come up with something flamboyant, but that’s not what being a designer is about,” Mays says. “A car has to tell a story, to connect emotionally and say something about our common values.”

“I’m satisfied that they did listen to our complaints and did take us into consideration and did think about the students,” Rashed said. “It is our day, and we worked hard for it. If it rains, you can’t help it.”

Each graduating senior will still be issued six tickets for Pete Mathews Coliseum in the event of bad weather, Watts said. With the capacity of Paul Snow Stadium at about 8,500 and that of the Coliseum at about 4,000, inclement weather could present the same crowd problems the administration is striving to avoid. Live television feeds of the ceremony via TV 24 will be set up once again in either the Theron Montgomery Building or Leone Cole Auditorium.

“This could be really bad if you invite 20 people to come see you graduate,” said Faculty Senate President Or. Kelly Gregg. “Who gets the tickets? What we really need to do is build a new, larger coliseum.”

The administration will reevaluate the plans for future commencements.

“We’ll have to look at that issue as we get closer to the December commencement,” Watts said.

“We’re very pleased with the suggestions and action people have taken.”

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With Purchase of Large 1 Pizza at Regular Price

New Hours:
Now Open Late!!!
Monday - Sunday
11 am - 1 am

Limit 6
New JSU production proves “Anything Goes” 

Separating this production from other JSU productions is the addition of a revolving stage which allows for more movement of the set. Taking place on and within a ship, the set consists of different cabins and other ship settings.

People coming to the show should expect a “devil may care, kind of silly, fun kind of show,” Claeren said. This play does not focus on the Depression aspect of the 30s, but is “sheer escapism, so it’s a lot of laughter and lot of wonderful music … and wonderful dancing. Tap-dancing for example,” said Claeren, “which you don’t really see a lot nowadays.”

Casey Cox, working on her senior practical, is the choreographer with John W. Dodson as her assistant, and Claeren said that they have done very well. Cox has taught dance to people of all ages, yet found this musical’s dance “really involved.” She has only been tapping for four years and said, “teaching is very exciting to me. People would be at rehearsal two hours early just working on the tap and it just made me feel really good that everybody wanted so much to be able to do it.”

Continued on page 9, “Anything Goes” 

Anniston museum giving public a chance to go wild into The Wild! 

Just down the highway from Jacksonville is a place gone wild: The Anniston Museum of Natural History has developed a program that involves the community with live animals. For those who have too much time on their hands and a reasonable budget, the museum is the place to go.

“Into the Wild” is a program that the Anniston Museum of Natural History has developed that takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month. This program takes the place of the “Saturday Alive” show that gave viewers the chance to view live animals. Susan Robertson, marketing director for the museum says, “The concept behind this program is to merge theater and natural history in a museum environment.”

“The initial process of this program began about five years ago. The project was put into motion in 2000, and the first show debuted in January of this year. This month the focus will be “Dance for Water.” The performance will be held in the Africa Exhibit Hall on Feb. 24 at 3:30 p.m.

In order to understand this story, imagine Brer Rabbit meeting “The Lion King” and you have the idea of “Dance for Water.” It is a folktale that merges oral tradition as it carries on the Gullah tradition, which sees Africa through African eyes, rather than European.

Features of this “Into the Wild” performance include a storyteller named Adabesi and characters dressed as a baboon, zebra, cobra, lion and oryx.

Human behaviors are exhibited through the characters as they introduce the viewers to the harsh conditions of the African savannah. Cooperation and teamwork combine to create the theme of this unique tale. The story illustrates the concepts of the Museum’s Africa exhibit hall titled “Adaptation to the Environment.” This hall was one of the first completed in 1976, Jacksonville State University alumni Shay Mayo created the costumes after hearing the tale of “Dance for Water.” The heads for the costumes were made using animal heads provided by a local taxidermist then covered with animal print fabrics. Beadwork, weavings and makeup complete the costumes.

Each month the program presents with new characters and their take on a natural history concept. These performances will continue each month throughout the year.

A number of special events are also being planned for the adjacent Berman Museum of World History including a Historic Japanese Kite Exhibition in April that will include 14 kites with various images, a Black Heritage Trip May 18-21 going to historic Charleston, South Carolina and various Lecture/Lecture Talks continued on page 10, Into the Wild
Free your mind people!

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

A co-worker informed me that a man walked into 108 Self Hall to place an ad the other day and looked around. He stood there a few minutes with obvious disgust written all over his face. I suppose he didn't like seeing Bob Marley, Tupac, and Kiss staring back at him. He probably didn't like the Pink Floyd girls (of whom I'm not too fond myself), the "Give a ♥ ♥ ♥ jar" or our segregated trash cans. I'm beginning to wonder if he even took offense at my poster of Sting, my Far Side cartoon, and my poster of Sting staring back at him. He probably didn't like "Ohmigosh, would you look at this den of iniquity?" The Chanticleer is run by a bunch of pagan heathens!

Those of you who read my first editorial have an inkling about where I stand as far as religion is concerned. I feel that I am strong in most of my convictions, but there are some paths along which I stray from traditional conservative views.

This sort of thinking leads me to my pet peeve of choice for this week: closed-minded people. No matter what religion, nationality, party or creed you are, it never hurts to listen to "the other guy" and try to understand where he's coming from. It may even make a little sense (sometimes).

Here in the South, we are afraid of the things we don't know. Due largely in part to our conservative Christian upbringing, we tend to think anyone who listens to Tupac, I'm encouraging you to do your homework. We live in a small, small world. Perhaps it's wars within or between countries, wars in your office or wars in your home, it doesn't have to be that way. I just encourage you, the next time you want to judge someone, to listen. Whether it's wars within or between countries, wars in your office or wars in your home, it doesn't have to be that way. I just encourage you, the next time you want to judge someone, to listen. Whether it's wars within or between countries, wars in your office or wars in your home, it doesn't have to be that way. I just encourage you, the next time you want to judge someone, to listen.
"I'm not gonna vote. The SGA doesn't do anything for me."

Now wait. This SGA doesn't do anything for you. But what could an SGA, composed of the right students, do for you?

"Well, what do I want? What concerns me? What would I like to see on this campus?" And these are the questions you have to ask yourself. And then you have to vote for people who give a rat's ass, who are motivated, concerned and sincere.

So what could an SGA, composed of the right people, people with ideas, and people willing to get along and work together, do for lil' ol' me?

Well, let's say you're a student worker. You work for, and get paid by, Jacksonville State University. Now wouldn't that be cool if some one could give you, say, a temporary faculty parking decal, valid only when you're working? The SGA, composed of the right people, could probably look into that, and possibly even pull it off.

Let's say you think there should be some kind of spring gathering on the quad, with a band, and Coke and chicken. It could be called, "Spring Chicken Day on the Gamecock Quad!" The right SGA, composed of the right people, could probably orchestrate something like that.

(The current SGA is always bitchin' 'bout money. They could probably get a great rate on chicken from a nearby plant. The SGA, composed of the right people, could ask student actors, disc jockeys, writers, lab workers, and any other student who has stepped up and taken a bigger part in this University, to grill the chicken.)

Let's say you like water fountains. Every campus you go to has at least one water fountain. A fountain! Yeah! In the spring, all the girls could sun bathe in their bikinis next to the fountain! In the fall, when we come back to school, or when we won a football game, the fraternities could race to see who could food-color the fountain water Gamecock red first! Yeah! (A band that fre-

quents Brother's offered to do a fountain fundraiser.)

I think the right SGA, composed of the right, concerned, motivated, sincere, and non-self-serving students, could come up with ideas that are at least five times better than the previous. (Five times better, for there are five officers. The previous ideas are the unaided ideas of one bellyaching individual.)

Not only could they brainstorm together, but they could also work together, and see their ideas into fruition. Then everybody could see why I have such a big problem with karaoke night; that's the least they could do.

But those are just trivial things. What about if a teacher, God forbid, sexually harassed you? It might be easier to talk to a fellow student about it that another faculty member or a dean. The SGA should have the power to address issues such as these. The SGA should care. They should be concerned. They should serve and fight for you.

What about if you had a child, and she was sick, and you had to skip school and miss a test, and the teacher wanted to be a @#$ about letting you make it up? The SGA should be a good place to take a complaint like this. They should fight for you.

Let's run with the sick child scenario, because a lot of students at JSU are non-traditional, or have kids. So you need to run to school and drop a paper off at class and go back home. You park in faculty, for the first time in your life. Five minutes later, when you come back from your teacher's office, a cop is giving you a ticket. The SGA should be able to wave that ticket for you, or at least fight for you.

Just because the current SGA didn't/couldn't/don't/won't do anything for us, doesn't mean that the right SGA, composed of the right people, couldn't do great things for YOU—the students of this fine, fine institution.

These upcoming elections (March 6 and 7) should not be just another popularity contest. You need to vote for people who have ideas.

Government officials, of any government in this fair land, are public servants. We are the public. They serve us. No matter if you're traditional or non, Greek or independent, Baptist or pagan, man or woman, fat or skinny, inny or outty, the SGA, composed of the right people, can do something for you.

**Editor's Note:** We'd like to apologize for some faux pas that have appeared in our paper recently. In our Feb. 1 edition, we printed a story about a bicycle accident on campus, and ran a photo of a bicyclist riding on the Chief Ladiga trail. We apologize if we gave the impression that the trail is not safe. Also, there were some misspellings in the article on the Juried Art Show last week. The artist who won honorable mention for his piece "Azarel," is Nick Thomason. Also, Jason Boodoian's first prize piece is entitled "Garden of Unity." The name of Chritina West's piece is entitled "Blind Contour." Michael Ahlischwede's piece is entitled "Bug Calendar." Spencer Thurman's piece is entitled "Color Analysis of Les Demoiselles de Avignon." Charles Ahlischwede's piece is entitled "Dinner with Debuffet." We apologize for any inconveniences.

The Editorial Staff

By Mike Pingece
TMS Campus

- **YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME: PLEASE SEND MONEY:** Cheryl Koniewicz wrote a love letter to a middle-aged pen pal she found through a lonely hearts ad, vowing to move in with him as soon as she gets out of prison, and urging him in the meantime to send her money to pay fines and various expenses, police say. She also wrote letters to at least 100 other men making the same pledge, asking for dough and enclosing pictures of other, more attractive, women. Cops say the scam netted Koniewicz, 38, about $57,000 from her love-starved suitors.

- **OH SURE, WE'VE GOT YOUR POCKETBOOK:** A 41-year-old woman shoplifted some goods from a Family Dollar store in Muskegon Heights, Mich., but the merchandise set off an alarm as she was leaving. She took off running with the manager in hot pursuit, but dropped her purse in the parking lot as she fled. It would have been easy enough for the cops to track her down from the IDs in her handbag, but she made it even easier by calling the police department to ask if they had found it and if she could get it back. The policeman said, "yes," and arrested her when she came in.

- **ABDUL: A MAN AMONG MEN:** Abdul Main Hamid, a van driver in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, embarked on simultaneous love affairs with Suhaida Saad and Rohaya Romli, two women he chauffeured to work each morning. Though the women were friends, neither knew that the other was involved with Abdul at first. When they did find out, Abdul came up with a unique solution: he married them both. (Islamic law allows for up to four wives.) Both women have quit their jobs to become full-time housewives, and Abdul has vowed to be fair with his attentions. "I have promised to be with them on alternate days," he said. "(And) ... to divide my love equally between them."

- **I'M BACK! PLEASE IGNORE MY ESCORT:** Jimmy Jones, 43, serving time on a drug conviction, escaped from the Northside Correctional Institution in Spartanburg, S.C., but was spotted the next day driving around town with his wife and two children. The cops chased him at high speed for about 20 miles, when Jones just decided to give up. With police hot on his tail, he drove back to the prison and turned himself in at the door.

- **A SENSE OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT:** When fire broke out in a high-rise building in Hong Kong, emergency workers ran through every floor to evacuate the people, but the women customers in the Fingertip nail salon refused to leave. They were having acrylic fingernails attached and did not want to interrupt the delicate procedure. They emerged an hour later, their nails perfect. By then, the fire was already out.

- **WINNIEPKEG, Manitoba — The local Shrine temple has disbanded a group of Shriners after newspaper reports that a men-only fundraising event for sick children involved nude dancers and public sex acts. About 300 people attended the dinner. A Shriners spokesman said the event was not a Shriners sponsored fundraiser.**

- **IOWA CITY, Iowa — The Hawkeye Marching Band will no longer be singing the words to their "In Heaven There Is No Beer" polka song because of a parent complaint. The parent wrote that the lyrics send a message of excessive drinking: "In heaven, there is no beer. That's why we drink it here. And when we're gone from here, all our friends will be drinkin' all the beer."**

- **ATHENS, Greece — The abbot who produced the platinum-selling Greek monks has resigned from the monastery due to a dispute with the Holy Synod. The abbot told Reuters that the Holy Synod wanted to control the group financially and that he would not betray his monks.**

**The Pulse**

By Crystal Pittman
Senior

- **"Chocolate lab puppies, because they're cute."**

By Matthew Norris Freshman

- **"Dogs, they get a lot of attention."**

By Emily Williams Sophomore

- **"Koalas, because they look cuddly.**"
The Donnas

By Keith Harrison
TMS Campus

Men are stupid, and the Donnas know it. So while their peers try to reason, cajole or harass men into realizing that women are more than the sum of their body parts, the four irreverent hellraisers in the Donnas just turn the tables on ‘em. “Turn 21” is one loud and often hilarious “et tu, doofus” fired off at Howard Stern. “The Man Show” and all the morons who are already beginning to obsess over those XFL cheerleaders. We’ve got a different boy in every town; they sneer, and there aren’t any cute boys around here, and we only want you for your body, and no, we don’t want to see you in the morning. Some sisters-in-arms might worry that the Donnas are inadvertently describing a no-strings-attached paradise for male piglets, but make no mistake: This isn’t some Woodstock-era declaration of free love. These women gleefully sing about using and abusing their hopeless male groupies - and yeah, they’re joking (kind of), but even the most dunderheaded oat is going to feel the sting of their bawdy derision sooner or later. And that’s the whole point. Oh yeah - the music. “Turn 21” moves from the Ramones wannabe-three-chord punky pop of the band’s early records to some trashy and ragged gutter rawk in the grand tradition of Kiss. Sure, no one’s going to be mis-taking them for Sleater-Kinney any-time soon, but the Donnas are at least as much fun. And by inverting rock’s most ridiculous and sexist clichés, they might just end up mak-ing more of a political impact.

“Gladiator” tops Oscar nominations

From TMS Campus

“Gladiator” emerged as the clear leader in this year’s race for Oscar gold Tuesday, with nominations in 12 categories, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.

Jockeying for second place in the nominations race is “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” with 10 nominations including Best Picture, Best Foreign Language Picture and Best Director.

“Traffic” and “Erin Brockovich” each had five nominations both for Best Picture and Best Director. Also included in the “Erin Brockovich” nominations were Best Actress for Julia Roberts and Best Supporting Actor for Albert Finney. Benicio Del Toro was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for “Traffic.”

Oscar nominations for films released in 2000 were read by actress Kathy Bates and Academy of Arts and Sciences President Robert Rehme on an unusually cold and rainy Los Angeles morning.

The wild-card surprise nomination of the day was Javier Bardem (“Before Night Falls”), causing a minor eruption from the crowd at the Academy’s theater in Beverly Hills. Steven Soderbergh’s double Best Director nomination also gave pause to the audience. That Michael Douglas was passed over for a nomination for his work in “Wonder Boys” also did not go unnoticed.

Nominees in the nine categories announced are:


Nominated in the category for Best Supporting Actress are Judi Dench (“Chocolat”), Marcia Gay Harden (“Pollock”), Kate Hudson (“Almost Famous”), Frances McDormand (“Almost Famous”) and Julie Walters (“Billy Elliot”).

Best Picture nominees include “Chocolat,” “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon,” “Erin Brockovich,” “Gladiator” and “Traffic.”

Nominated for Best Director are Stephen Daldry (“Billy Elliot”), Ang Lee (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”), Steven Soderbergh (“Erin Brockovich and Traffic”) and Ridley Scott (“Gladiator”).

Nominated for Best Original Screenplay: “Billy Elliot,” “Almost Famous,” “Erin Brockovich,” “Gladiator” and “You Can Count on Me.”


What's your sign?

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today’s Birthday (Feb. 15). Your friends are your joy and inspiration. Together you accomplish the impossible, and it’s fun. Set an agenda in February, starting with an incomplete project. By April you know what you need to learn, so learning it is easy. To get the advantage, check the day’s rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 20) - Today is an 8 - This is a great day to travel, start a new class, hang out with friends, fall in love, or all of the above. It’s not a good day to work. You’ll be more in the mood for that over the weekend. Better yet, try to get the rest of the week and the weekend off. It can’t hurt to ask.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 5 - This is a pretty good day to ask for a raise, or to find out whether you qualify for additional benefits. You’re a pretty shrewd investor, so maybe you could get these rewards yourself. It’s OK to do that, you know.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - You’re lucky today, although others may appear to be in control. Actually, you’re letting them do that. They’re providing what you need, you’re steering, and they’re doing all the work. That’s how it should be.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You’re doing the work but never have a penny to spare. That’s because you keep shoving every extra penny into your savings account. There’s nothing nicer than a big fat IRA, is there? If you don’t have one yet, you soon will.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 9 - You’re in love, and you don’t care who knows it. You’re ready to make a commitment, and it’s a great day for that - but only if you’ve known this person for more than two weeks.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 4 - Things should finally be running smoothly at work. But you’re exhausted, so you should think about spending time at home. Ask for some time off.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 10 - You’re a great teacher, and several others are starting to realize this. Gracefully accept their compliments. You don’t have to demand respect; you’ve earned it.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 5 - You know that really neat thing you’ve wanted for your home but couldn’t afford? Count your pennies again. With a little wheeling and dealing, you can make it happen. It won’t be easy, but it’ll be worth the effort.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 9 - You’re so cute today, you’re sure to draw a lot of attention. You’re witty and have a great sense of humor. Where does this stuff come from, anyway? Make the most of it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - A household project you’ve been planning could finally come to fruition, whether it’s buying living-room furniture or buying a new house. It may require work, but you’re willing to do what it takes to get what you want.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is an 8 - You’re pretty smart, but you don’t have to figure everything out by yourself. Get your friends to help, and a project will begin to look like fun.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - You may have an opportunity for success, and you could reach the next level. Take on more responsibility and get more money. Your inner voice will tell you how to boldly move forward. Heal it.
Anything Goes: features “dancey-old-school-swing jazz”

These talented people sort of come together. It’s been a lot of fun meeting the new people and learning from each other.

Mark Fifer is the conductor of the on-stage band and talked of how the last couple of years he has had an orchestra of about 16 people in the pit, yet this year there are seven on stage. “So it really is truly the size of a jazz combo.” All the instruments are very jazz-oriented instruments and Fifer thought people would enjoy getting to watch the musicians. “It’s fun to watch somebody playing trumpet.”

Fifer explained the music as “dancey-old-school-swing jazz,” not really the type from the “roaring twenties, but it’s still kind of the jazz age.”

Though enjoying being out of the pit and on the stage, Fifer said it will be “a little bit more nerve-wracking.” Fifer and other members of the band will have small speaking parts in the play. “It’ll be fun with the nature of the show. It’s a very light-hearted show,” said Fifer.

Fifer has always enjoyed working with Claeren and the actors. “They’re always very, very receptive to us.” He also is thankful for Carrie Culver, the vocal director. Because of her “tremendous, tremendous job of coaching everybody on the vocals,” Fifer has an “easy time of it” because she’s done a lot of the really hard work with the actors herself.

Actor Jeremy West — not easily forgotten because of his tremendous talent — is playing a fairly straight-laced man who gets drunk toward the end of the show and is excited. “I’ve done roles where I’m comic relief and I’ve done roles where I’m the straight guy ... but putting it together has been a challenge. I’m having to do things I have never done before like tap, and then playing drunk on top of that.” West thinks it’s a nice contrast and the whole show a great success.

“Anything Goes” debuts tonight at 7 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center at JSU and runs through Feb. 25. Admission is $8 for students, $10 for adults and $9 for senior citizens and faculty. The JSU drama ticket office number is 782-5648.

A musical to see, “the most exciting thing about the show is the way it all fits together, the acting, and the singing, and the dancing and the music,” said Claeren.
"Survivor": to be or not to be a game show?

From TMS Campus

CBS is now asking: Does it have to be a game show to have a cash prize?

In a move similar to Bill Clinton’s calling into question the definition of sex, CBS is now addressing former “Survivor” castaway Stacey Stillman’s lawsuit against the network by saying that the reality show is not, as popularly reported in the press, a game show. Stillman’s lawyer alleges that the show’s producer, Mark Burnett, manipulated the outcome of the game by influencing the votes of certain contestants.

CBS’ senior vice president of communications, Chris Ender, was recently quoted by the New Jersey Star-Ledger as saying that the network does not consider “Survivor” a game show, though he couldn’t say what the network’s definition of the show is exactly.

Yet, in CBS’ own press releases, “Survivor” is described as a show that takes 16 “contestants,” strands them in a location for 92 days until only one “winner” remains. The “winner” gets to claim the “prize” worth $1 million. In addition, Richard Hatch, the winner was given a Pontiac Aztec. If it’s not a game show, why use the word “contestant” and “winner?”

Similarly, according to castaway Dirk Beers, Burnett has also refrained from calling the series a “game show.”

“Burnett himself doesn’t call it reality TV,” Dirk told the New York Times. “He calls it reality drama. You can take what you want from that.”

Yet, in a DVD on “Survivor” released last year, Burnett says the game is a game show, subject to FCC regulations.

So, what is the definition of a game show? According to The Communication Act, Title 47, Section 509, a game show is “a bona fide contest of intellectual knowledge, intellectual skill, or chance.”

“There is a game element within this reality show, but it doesn’t depend exclusively on intellectual knowledge or intellectual knowledge,” a CBS spokesperson told Zap2it.com. “If you look at the show, the selection of the winner clearly depends more on physical or athletic skills, group dynamics, interpersonal skills and a lot of other subjective factors, but not intellectual knowledge or intellectual skill.”

Replying to CBS’s claim, Stillman told Newsweek that the contracts the contestants were asked to sign acknowledge that “Survivor” fell under federal regulations.

“Our contracts also said, “I acknowledge that it is a federal offense to in any way attempt to rig the outcome of the show, or part of the show,” she said. “So, if our contracts themselves acknowledge that it was a federal offense, I don’t see how they can backtrack now.”

In CBS’ favor, the similar reality series “Temption Island” is not considered a game show, although it is mainly due to the fact that it doesn’t offer a cash prize or call any of them a “contestant.” In “Temption Island,” four couples were stranded in a remote location for two weeks while attractive singles attempted to lure them away from their mate. Some critics of the show have argued, however, that Fox, which supplied free condoms and paid for the exotic getaway, may be in the shady business of prostitution, by setting up sexual partners for the not-so-committed couples.

Still, if “Survivor” isn’t a reality show, what is it? An adventure series? A reality show? An unscripted drama? Following Dick Wolf’s recent lead in naming his new reality series “Trial and Error,” a “dramamentary,” we at Zap2it.com submit that Burnett’s “Survivor” be dubbed a “gamedy.”

That should clear up the confusion, shouldn’t it?

beginning on March 15. The first talk will feature Yaling Huang of the Birmingham Museum of Art and will focus on the background of Asian export.

Other events taking place at the Anniston Museum of Natural History include 2001: A Spring Break Odyssey March 27-29, which is a hands on natural history experience, a Garden Tour of area gardens on May 11 and a Museum day on Aug. 11 with a Victorian fair and a chance to meet the characters of “Into the Wild.”

The Museum of Natural History and the Berman Museum will join together to present the 21st Annual Black Heritage Festival. The event will be Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10:00 a.m until 5:00 p.m. Events include a Children’s Workshop, Dr. Helen Caver, who will give a lecture on Amistad and a performance by the Georgia Sea Island Singers. “The Georgia Sea Island Singers carry on the Gullah tradition and came from Africa as slaves to settle on the islands of Georgia,” said Robertson. A highlight of the festival will be a youth oratory competition. School children from county and city schools recite prose, poetry and literature from African-American authors. Exhibit halls to both museums will be open the entire day and free to the public.

For more information on “Into the Wild” and other Anniston Museum of Natural History events call 256-237-6766 or visit www.annistonmuseum.org. Information for events at the Berman Museum of World History can be found at www.bermannmuseum.org or by calling 256-237-6261.

The Anniston Museum of Natural History provides the community with an exciting place to have fun and learn at all times. “Into the Wild” will astonish you with a theatrical production of natural history and detailed costumes. Admission to this event is $3.50 for adults and $2.50 for children 4 and up. If you have not been to a museum recently, take this opportunity to go and enjoy an elaborate show packed with fun and knowledge.
Lecter is back, and man is he hungry.

Anthony Hopkins, as Hannibal Lecter, prepares to cut his feast into tasty bite-sized morsels in "Hannibal," the sequel to "Silence of the Lambs."

By Joshua W. Bingham
Features Editor

"Hannibal" is not a movie for children to see. Many scenes are quite gruesome, often surprising, sometimes making the viewers want to turn their heads in repulsion.

As the sequel to "Silence of the Lambs," heroine and FBI special agent Clarice Starling (Julianna Moore) is taken off duty because of a botched sting/shoot-out in D.C. and starts looking for Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins) for redemption. Hannibal is in Florence, Italy where he has been hiding out for a while, yet all too ready to go back to America for a little cannibalistic "fun."

Before Hannibal leaves Florence, an Italian detective (Giancarlo Giannini) tries to catch him to collect a reward from a deformed Mason Verger (Gary Oldman), Hannibal's only surviving victim. Verger is an extremely rich and eccentric character who's only purpose seems to be enacting revenge on Lecter.

Towards the end of the movie, Starling's sexist FBI boss is involved in perhaps the most gruesome scene of the movie. The ending is surprising, and the actors all perform well.

"Hannibal" is not as good as its predecessor and most disappointing in the fact that Jodie Foster is not cast as Starling. The slight vulnerability Starling once had is gone. Moore performs well, but then again, she's not Foster.

Though slow in the beginning, there is still the intellectual flair of Hannibal Lecter, and Sir Anthony Hopkins delivers as much of a spectacular performance as ever. After picking up with quicker scenes and many beautiful views of Florence, attention is captured and surprises of plot and gore — perhaps a little too gratuitous — occur leaving the overall effect of the movie something to be seen. Many special effects of modern day Hollywood are employed and effective in seeming real.

Very bold in its wanting to shock, "Hannibal" is a thriller showing that perhaps humans are just animals. Graphic cannibalism occurs and some of the images are as gruesome as any top-rate horror movie. This is not an appropriate movie for young ones to watch. As a sequel it's good though, and if you enjoyed "Silence of the Lambs," it's worth watching.

Grade: B

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Q: How Can You Help Save a Child’s Life
A: Stay “Up ‘Til Dawn”

The Up ‘Til Dawn organization is sponsoring a 24-hour event to celebrate the lives of children who fight cancer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Here’s how you can become a part of this momentous occasion

1. Create a Team of 7 friends and work together to raise a minimum of $750. That’s approximately $107 per person. Or if you can not create a team please Participate as an Individual and raise a minimum of $150.

2. Attend the Up ‘Til Dawn Event Your team or individual contribution gets your team members into the event.

3. How we will help you: The Up ‘Til Dawn executive board will provide your team with fundraising information, ideas, and opportunities to raise your money.

Additional applications are available in the Office of Student Activities, TMB 4th floor. If you have any questions, or would like an Up ‘Til Dawn member to speak to your organization, please call 782-8054.
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you know that little voice
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By Staff Reports

The Gamecock baseball team has started the season off with a bang. After opening the season with three straight victories, the road got a little rough for Jax State.

The Gamecock baseball team took the road to face Charleston Southern in the first game of the Charleston Challenge.

Sophomore designated hitter Adrian Vanderburg delivered a solo home run in the bottom of the 11th inning to lift Charleston Southern (1-0) to 2-1 win over the Gamecocks last Saturday.

The solo blast ended what had been a pitching duel in a game that totaled just 11 hits. Senior right-hander Chad Humbert (1-0), who pitched five scoreless innings, picked up the victory for CSU. Josh Nix (0-1), who allowed only the home run in 5 2/3 innings, took the loss.

The Gamecocks took a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning after Andrew Tarver blasted his third home run of the season over the center field wall.

Jon Hannah got the start for the Gamecocks and allowed four hits in four innings. C.R. Palmer pitched the fifth inning, before JSU head coach Rudy Abbott brought in Nix. Nix finished with five strike-outs and just one hit.

The Gamecocks faced the College of Charleston next and dropped their second straight road game, 2-1.

Matt Rackers struck out 12 batters and Jasha Balcom hit the first Cougar home run at Patriots Point to lead College of Charleston to the victory last Saturday night.

The Gamecocks struck first when Carlos Delgado doubled to lead off the third inning. After stealing third, Delgado scored on Bobby Crompton's sacrifice fly to right field.

The Cougars answered in the bottom of the fourth when Balcom homered to right field with one out. In the fifth, Kevin Morris was hit by a pitch and advanced to second on Micaiah Smith's single into right field. After Brett Spivey sacrificed, Morris scored the Cougars' second run on a passed ball.

Andy Hutchings replaced Rackers in the ninth and shut the Gamecocks down, recording his first save of the season.

Steve Shippey recorded the loss for the Gamecocks, surrendering two runs on three hits in six innings of work.

The Gamecocks edged out the College of Charleston (1-3), 6-5, in the final game of the Charleston Challenge last Sunday with the Gamecocks taking on Alabama A&M on Saturday afternoon.

By Staff Reports

The Jackson State women's tennis team continued to roll as they defeated Samford to gain their second straight victory of the season.

Sally Pearson led the Gamecock tennis team in its first home match of the season, Wednesday as the women defeated Samford, 6-1. The win also marked JSU's second Trans America Athletic Conference win in a row.

After sweeping the doubles point, the Gamecocks (2-0, 2-0) won every position except at number four.

Pearson won at the number one slot (6-1, 6-1), while doubles partner Sophie Desmet won at number two (6-1, 6-2). Vanessa Gomez, Manda Martin and Gabriela Bacca also tallied a singles win.

The men's team lost by a slim margin to the Bulldogs, 4-3. The men's team started the day by winning the doubles point, but Ruben Herrera and Larry Lombardo were the only Gamecocks to come away with a singles victory.

Things didn't get too much better for the men's team as they traveled to Mobile last Saturday and were swept by the University of South Alabama.

The tennis team will play their next home game on Saturday. The men's game will begin at noon.

Basketball team drops two in Florida

By Staff Reports

Will Roberts tossed in 21 points, while Ravil Davish finished with 19, including 17 in the second half, to lead Stetson (14-8, 9-5 TAAC) in front of 1,682 at the Edmunds Center last Thursday.

“We came out early and got the lead,” said JSU head coach Mike LaPlant. “But, we’ve got to learn how to hold on to a lead.”

“You’ve got to give credit to Stetson. They came from 18 points down at Troy State in their game. They never gave up and kept fighting,” said LaPlant.

Leading 15-14 with 10:09 left, the Gamecocks scored the next 13 points to build a 28-17 lead after Earl Bullock scored on a lay-up with 3:23 remaining in the half. Jax State shot 51.7 percent in the opening half to take a 35-25 lead at the intermission.

Jax State pushed the lead to 37-25 on the opening possession of the second half after Brant Harriman scored inside, but then the Hatters went on a 20-2 run.

“We had a 10 point lead, but they erased it quickly,” LaPlant said. “We just never scored any points. We missed some shots, missed some lay-ups and we just couldn’t get any momentum going.”

Santos Hampton scored on a lay-up with 18:20 left following a Gamecocks missed lay-up. Back-to-back 3-pointers by the Hatters on consecutive turnovers cut the lead to 37-33 and Stetson was gaining momentum.

“We missed a lay-up, they come down and hit a three, we turn it over and they hit another three,” instead of us being up by 14, we’re just up by six and they have the momentum,” said LaPlant. “We just quit scoring.”

The Hatters took their first lead of the game, 40-39, after Hampton scored on a lay-up with 14:12 remaining. Stetson forced seven turnovers during the run and took advantage of an 0-5 shooting performance during the span.

Stetson, which led by 14, hit 15-of-20 from the free throw line over the final 2:31 to seal the win. Santos Hampton and Eugene Ambrose each scored 10 Stetson, which finished with four players in double-figures.

The Gamecocks were led by Mike McDaniel, who finished with 15 points, Joshua Perry tossed in a career-high nine points off the bench.

The road woes continued for the Gamecocks as they took a trip to Jacksonville University to face the Dolphins.

Kevin Sheppard scored 13 points, while Brandon Williams added 11 and Shawn Platts finished with 10 to lead Jacksonville University (17-7, 10-5 TAAC) to a 64-59 win over the Gamecocks (7-15, 4-9 TAAC) last Saturday.

“I think defensively, we’ve been involved in a lot of games,” said JSU head coach Mike LaPlant. “In the first half, we gave up just 20 points, then we gave up 44 points in the second half.”

The Gamecocks, which dropped their last nine road games, jumped out and built a 23-20 lead at the half behind 10 points in the first 20 minutes by Emerson Brown. He finished the night with 12 points.

The Dolphins then went on a 16-5 run to take the lead for good. A pair of free throws by Kevin Shepard tied the score at 38-38 with 11:01 left and back-to-back 3-pointers gave JU a 46-41 lead with 9:31 remaining.

A pair of Shepard free throws with 3:41 left gave the Dolphins the lead for good. The Gamecocks made one final run to cut the lead 60-56 with 42 seconds remaining in the contest, but could get no closer.

“We had a defensive lapse and Jacksonville scored a couple of big baskets there in the second half,” said LaPlant. “We just gave up too many easy shots.”

The Gamecocks will host Florida Atlantic tonight in a Trans America Athletic Conference showdown. Tip-off is set for seven o’clock at Pete Mathews Coliseum.
One on One with “Thrill”

“Thrill” Hill

Tim: I fell this isn’t the way you imagine your senior season turning out. Is it too late to have a successful year?

Thrill: I bet this isn’t the way you imagine your senior season turning out. Is it too late to have a successful year?

Tim: Tell me what—if we can go into the tournament in a positive way, I think that we can go to the NCAA tournament. That’s my dream and I honestly believe that it can happen.

Thrill: If the team were to make it to “the Big Dance,” do you think that you could hold your own and not be sent home during the first round?

Tim: If you have heart and believe, anything could happen. If we go out on the court and put tremendous effort into the games, we could accomplish anything.

Thrill: What is the team lacking right now?

Tim: I really can’t say. I feel like it might be togetherness. I think that the team will be a lot better next year because all of the younger guys will pretty much know each other. There is a lack of chemistry at times.

Thrill: You come off the bench and contribute a great deal to the team. Didn’t you feel that after Rashard transferred the team was going to be your team?

Tim: No doubt. It shocked me, but I had to take it game by game and take everything in stride.

Thrill: You are such an exceptional athlete. You were selected to the All-State team in high school.

Tim: Nothing really. Just chilling.

By Anthony “Thrill” Hill

Sports Editor

Tim: “Pinny” Smith-Linsey and I sat down at his apartment and just shot the breeze for about an hour before we ever got started on “One on One.” We talked about everything from his son to the players that he plays with that are either playing for major colleges or getting ready for the professional ranks. Tim has other plans with his life. He is good enough to play on any level, but he wants to make his mark as an engineer. That’s pretty much how he lives his life. He is good enough to do a lot of things, but chooses to do what he enjoys above all. He’s one of those people that you know is going to work hard enough to get whatever he wants out of life.

Thrill: What’s going on Tim?

Tim: Nothing really. Just chilling. I classified myself as being a hard worker in everything that I do.”

Lady Gamecocks drop two straight conference games

By Jay Pace

Staff Writer

The Lady Gamecocks pulled, tugged, and jerked on Coach Dana Austin’s lucky red and black sweater last Thursday night in hopes of getting a win. This time it was too late. As the Georgia State Panthers stormed into Pete Mathews Coliseum and claimed a 69-58 victory over Jax State.

Georgia State standout Leslie McElrath had 15 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Panthers in the victory.

The Panthers thoroughly whipped the Lady Gamecocks. They out rebounded JSU 27 to 13 and held them to a dismal 24 percent field goal percentage in the first half. The Lady Gamecocks went eight minutes without a field goal and were just 1-of-18 from the field during that span.

“They’re just so strong,” said Austin of Georgia State’s performance in the first half. “I think we handled us.”

After being down by 17 at the half, an inspired JSU came out of the locker room roaring in the second half.

The Lady Gamecocks went on a 12-2 run to start the second half of play. The Gamecocks continued to pound away on the Panther’s lead.

“We are not going to be a team that gives up,” said Austin. “And we played to win tonight in the second half, but we just didn’t get it done.”

Georgia State’s strength showed on the boards as the Panthers out rebounded JSU 50 to 26, but JSU’s defense seemed to shake up GSU’s McElrath. She had 12 turnovers, alone.

Sophomore Tiara Early led the Lady Gamecocks with 12 points and seven rebounds. Junior Laura Baswell had 11 points and seven rebounds and point guard Nekell Copeland added 11 points and four assists.

The Lady Gamecocks didn’t have too much time to get ready for the top ranked team in the TAAC, Campbell.

Apri. Cremarite posted 28 points and pulled down ten rebounds to lead the fighting Camels over Jacksonville State, 79-60 last Saturday. With the win, Campbell (16-4, 13-0) remain unbeaten in the conference.

“We lacked basic mentality and fundamental defense today,” said Austin. “But I have to give Campbell all of the credit. They have a tremendous inside game.”

Freshman Kelly Nye led the Gamecocks with 17 points and four assists, while sophomore Nekell Copeland added 12 points.

The Lady Gamecocks (7-14, 4-8) will travel to Jacksonville University tonight. Tip-off is set for six o’clock.
College athletes are taking a stand

A Sports Editorial
By Anthony “Thrill” Hill

Don’t expect some player from Arizona to carry a bullhorn amid a chaotic strike scene at the Final Four, yelling, “It’s time to take a stand for ourselves!”

They’re asking for more insurance, more money for room and board. So it’s a long way from an International Brotherhood of college loopers.

But recent news that the United Steelworkers Union has joined with current and former UCLA football players to organize the Collegiate Athletes Coalition should have college sports administrators and highly paid coaches shaking in their boots.

Laugh if want, but it is believed to be the first time a major union has tried to organize college athletes. Does anyone think NCAA president Cedric Dempsey wants these guys sticking their hardhats into his business?

Be assured the union has a different idea than the NCAA for student input in the system. This is not some powerless NCAA committee of athletes from all sports and divisions discussing peripheral issues and waiting for a pat on the head. This isn’t a toothless committee of major-college basketball players funded by the coaches’ association either. This is the United Steelworkers Union.

I know it sounds funny, but it’s true.

The only change that has occurred with the NCAA rules that benefit the player is that they can work to earn money now, but no more than $2,000, and that isn’t a viable option for many athletes during the season.

Then there is the question of whether they should even have to work for routine spending money. Football and basketball players know they foot the bill for the whole athletic department, and that a small fraction of the money they generate is returned to them in the form of scholarships.

The players also know that the NCAA men’s basketball tournament brings in billions. They can see the roughly 20 football coaches make $1 million or more per season. In the case of Florida’s coach Steve Spurrier, the coach makes more than the value of all 85 scholarships combined, according to Lee Corso of ESPN.

The scholarships are not even given to the student-athletes in cash form. It is merely a trade off. Economist say that scholarships are mere “payments of kind.”

I am friends with Troy State linebacker Nick Colbert. He told me that college economics are “shady.” He also expressed his feelings on how much he thought that there needed to be a change.

“Something’s got to change when you see guys out on the field on Saturdays and they’re on top of the world, and then you see them during the week, and they’re like, ‘Hey man, you got some money I can borrow for lunch?’ Colbert said in disgust.

The NCAA needs to realize that every school is not breaking the rules and paying players under the table. Student-athletes are regular students as well. They just have a lot less time and a lot more responsibilities as a student.

This is not the first time somebody has tried to organize college athletes. In the mid-1990s, former Duke basketball player Dick DeVenzio sent videotapes to college players carrying a label that said “Do Something.” The label also had a toll-free phone number. He tried to get the players to think big, comparing them to people in other unions, including those in pro sports.

Would players ever go on strike?

It isn’t unthinkable. The Black Coaches Association almost shut down men’s basketball games in 1995 to protest what it considered unfair initial eligibility requirements.

If players refused to show up for some games, would the schools kick them out? What kind of public relations mess could that create?

Several factors make the time for this kind of thing. Players and their would-be union representatives see increased television money, growing coaches’ contracts, the NCAA’s bad record in court, the Olympics having shed amateurism rules, and undergraduates leaving school earlier and more often.

The NCAA needs to simply realize that some rules need to be changed.

The Constitution has even been changed within reasoning.

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