A new queen for a new era

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

Jayme Johnson, a junior in communications from Auburn, was crowned the new Miss Jacksonville State University, Saturday, Jan. 13, at Leon Cole Auditorium.

"Before, I felt like I was anonymous when I went to class, and now definitely after today, everybody is congratulating me and saying 'hey.' It feels important," Johnson said.

Pre-pageant jitters were no problem for Johnson, who has been competing in pageants since she was 17. The interview process, which sometimes causes even veterans to sweat, was like a conversation between friends for Johnson.

"That's when you get the chance to know the judges as five individuals," Johnson said. "You're just having a conversation on current events, topics that deal with women in our society and your platform."

Johnson developed a platform she calls "You're GREAT" with GREAT standing for Gracefulness, Readiness, Enrichment, Attitude and Thoughtfulness. Through her efforts in these areas, Johnson hopes to teach children the difference between a positive role model and a "glamorized media figure."

Klose encounters: NPR chief lectures JSU

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

Kevin Klose, president of National Public Radio, was the speaker for the Ayers Lecture Series held Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Houston Cole Library. Klose stressed how important it is for NPR to reach new audiences in the growing age of digital technology.

"We are looking at the Internet as a place to create new kinds of content that will be connected to the values that created NPR in the first place," Klose said. "We have got to have editorial integrity which is wider and deeper and broader than it has been in the past. Otherwise, we're going to become simply a niche service to an elite and increasingly minority elite. We can't have that."

In a later interview, Klose encouraged students to take time to look at the Internet in order to become familiar with the technology. Determining what is a good site with accurate facts gives these students an advantage over those unfamiliar with the Internet.

With two-thirds of NPR licenses held by universities, Klose recognizes the importance of reaching younger audiences.

"The average age of an NPR listener is in the mid-40s which is older than we think it need be," Klose said.

Klose would like to encourage college students to take an interest in the Internet, and to attend programs on campus that require the use of the Internet.

Continued on page 3, Miss JSU

Graduation ticket shortage leaves some guests out in the cold

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

Some traveled long distances only to be left out in the cold at Jacksonville State University's December commencement exercises.

Gary and Linda Belknap journeyed from Tampa, Fla., to see their daughter Tina graduate, but they had to settle for watching the ceremony via local cable station TV 24 in the lobby of Pete Mathews Student Union.

"We were there 15 minutes before the beginning," Mr. Belknap said. "The place had already filled up. They said they couldn't let others in because of the fire code."

Despite the administration's issuance of 10 tickets per graduating senior, the coliseum quickly filled to capacity.

"When we actually got to the commencement, it was clear by 6:30 that evening we were going to have a problem," said Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs David Watts. "We very much regret that some people were disappointed. That's not at all what Jacksonville State wants to do, and we're working hard to try and find a better way to accommodate all of our students and as many guests as we can.

"In an effort to try and serve students in as timely a fashion as possible, we also, at the last minute, accommodated 80 students that had not applied for graduation in a timely fashion. This may have compounded the problem. We also anticipated and estimated a number of those people who had been issued tickets would not come."

Adding fuel to the fire, a few inventive students apparently printed counterfeit tickets in order to gain access to the ceremony.

"The ticket-takers were being given tickets that had a resemblance to the tickets that we had issued," Watts said, "and the student volunteers didn't feel they had the authority to question whether these were valid tickets."

Continued on page 3, Graduation fiasco
Congratulations to all our new officers and our new executive council:

SGA Movie Night on the third floor of the "Ceramics Embellished by Lynette Hesser in Jacksonville Burger King occur-
receiving stolen property at the

Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta wishes all JSU basketball teams good luck this week. We would also like to welcome all our new beautiful zeta members! Congrats to the mens basketball team for their 2 big wins last week!

Good Luck! Awards for this week go to Mandi McQueen Social Bunny, JessieWallth Spirt, Amber Reid Crown, Meredith Barnes Zeta Lady and last but not least Emily Williams Berry Special Leader. We hope you have a fun filled rest of the week!!

Alumni Chapter Convention is currently administering flu vaccinations for JSU students and employees. The cost
for the vaccination is $10. Appointments will be scheduled for Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please call 782-5310 for an appointment.

Hammond Hall will hold an exhibition featuring the works of Lynette Hesser and Steve Loucks from Jan. 16-26. Gallery hours are from 8:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibition is free and open for all to attend.

The CBASE Exam will be given on Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 1:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m and Thursday, Jan. 25 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m in Rm. 20, Ayers Hall. Registration information can be picked up in the Office of Assessment, Rm. 144 Ayers Hall.

Announcements

The Calhoun County Civic Chorale invites new and old members to join its spring season. Rehearsals begin Monday, January 22, 2001 from 7:15-9:15 and are held in the Performance Center of Mason Hall on the campus of Jacksonville State University. College credit is available. This spring the Chorale will perform the W.A. Mozart's Coronation Mass. The Chorale is under the direction of Dr. Patricia Corbin, JSU Director of Choral Activities. For more information, contact the JSU Choral Office at (256) 782-5544.

Free confidential HIV testing is available at the Nursing Center Clinic, at Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Please call 782-5432 to schedule an appointment. Office hours are from Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Student Health Center is currently administering flu vaccinations for JSU students and employees. The cost for the vaccination is $10. Appointments will be scheduled for Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please call 782-5310 for an appointment.

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Clubs and Organizations

Alpha Xi Delta

Alpha Xi Delta would like to welcome all students and faculty back from the holidays, and wish them a happy new year. Congratulations to the new panhellenic officers especially our Miranda Killingsworth-president, and Amber Burgess-treasurer. Congratulations to all our new officers and our new executive council: Tiffany Burnham-president, Kelli Patterson-chairman-fund raising, April whitmarsh-public relations vp, Lisa DiMartino-financial vp, Amy Johnson-membership vp, Heather Stedham-program vp, Bonnie Borden-panhellenic delegate, and Jennifer Freeman-recording secretary. We know you will do a great job! Congratulations to the men's basketball team on their victory against Troy! Good luck to the men's and women's basketball team on their games this week.

Congratulations to Amber Burgess and April Whitmarsh on being selected for Order of Omega. Congratulations to Lindsay Plasser and Tiffanie Bradford on their engagements! For anyone interested in seeing what our sorority is like, we will be having a dinner this Thursday night at Pizza Hut. Anyone who is interested may attend and we will meet at 6:45 PM on the 3rd floor of Sparkman Hall. We are excited about the new semester, and hope it will be a successful one.

Habitat for Humanity

JSU Habitat for Humanity will have its first meeting of the semester January 23rd at 4:30 p.m. in Stone Center. Signups will be posted to direct you to the room. We will have information on upcoming work dates, and will be discussing fundraising ideas to sponsor a house. For more information, contact Amy Phillips (782-6530) or Kim Weatherford (782-5762).

Zeta Tau Alpha

Zeta Tau Alpha wants to wish all the intramural basketball teams good luck this week. We would also like to welcome all our new beautiful zeta members! Congrats to the mens basketball team for their 2 big wins last week!

Good Luck! Awards for this week go to Mandi McQueen Social Bunny, JessieWallth Spirit, Amber Reid Crown, Meredith Barnes Zeta Lady and last but not least Emily Williams Berry Special Leader. We hope you have a fun filled rest of the week!!

Delta Zeta

Delta Zeta wishes all JSU basketball teams good luck this week! Good luck to all students who are participating in the college bowl next week! Thanks to the SGA for an awesome movie! Happy birthday to Becky Stone! Awards of the Week: Sister of the week-Rebekah Adams Positive Panda-Thereasa Baird Thoughtful Sister- Lori Guffey

The bell tower in Bibb Graves Hall at Jacksonville State University has long been silent with no "hunch-
back" to play its melodies. The most recent system had been installed over 20 years ago and had all but died. But since the Christmas holidays the bells have been ringing on schedule. There are still no bells and no real hunchback. The entire system is now run by a computer housed in the Phone Center in the basement of Bibb Graves. Evin Thompson, Manager of University Communications, programs the computer so it runs on schedule.

"The system is completely programmable," comments Thompson. "If we wanted it to ring at 3:02 in the afternoon, it would."

A microphone, which is on order, can also be added to make announcements. A 49-key keyboard accomp-
panied the computer. This would allow someone to perform special music through the system.

JSU bought the bell system from one of the few remaining bell companies in the U.S. Only one member of the company was present for installation, so much of the installa-
tion was performed by the phone center technicians. Several custom-
made mounts also had to be con-
bstructed by a local machine shop to support the speakers in the bell tower.

The selected tunes are stored in the computer's memory from Auto Bel Cards. These tunes range from the Star Wars Theme, Moon River, songs from Rodgers and Hammerstein and many more. On Sundays, the music takes a more somber tone with songs such as Amazing Grace.

Chiming can be heard at the top of every hour between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. At noon, the hour is chimed and three songs play imme-
diately after.

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Campus Crime

The Campus Crime Docket is never, and will never be, edited unless an incident report involves a minor. Items in the Campus Crime Docket are obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department.

JSU students have the right to view these public records.

If any information is incorrect, please contact us at 782-5701 or call the JSU Police Department at 782-5050.

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1-05-01: Christopher J. Gunter, 19, of Ft. Belvoir, Va., was arrested by JSUPD on charges of consump-
tion of alcohol by a minor at Dixon Hall occurring on 1-05-01.

1-05-01: Dwight D. Howland Jr., 20, of Birmingham, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD on charges of consump-
tion of alcohol by a minor at Dixon Hall occurring on 1-05-01.

1-05-01: Collin E.Whitlock, 18, of Douglasville, Ga., was arrested by JSUPD on charges of consump-
tion of alcohol by a minor at Dixon Hall occurring on 1-05-01.

1-05-01: Frank R. Dinwiddie, 29, of Anniston, Ala., was arrested by JSUPD on charges of DUI and receiving stolen property at the Jacksonville Burger King occurring on 1-05-01.

1-09-01: Cynthia D. Horton, of Jacksonville, Ala., reported criminal mischief at Weatherly Hall to JSUPD occurring on 1-09-01.

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Covering the places you do business.
Making a difference in a child’s life is incredibly fulfilling. Located in Memphis, Tenn., the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital does just that by helping families and their ill children. Most of the children who are treated at St. Jude have been diagnosed with childhood cancers and over 80 percent survive. Jacksonville State University will soon be taking part in helping to save the lives of the children of St. Jude, with the program “Up Til Dawn.” This project benefits the hospital and its patients by helping raise money to pay medical bills.

JSU will be the first university in Alabama to sponsor the occasion. The 24-hour event will be held on March 9 and 10 in Stephenson Hall. Randy Owen, lead singer of ALABAMA and member of JSU’s Board of Trustees, will be the spokesman for the event.

Comedians, bands, food and games, along with a variety of other amusements, will keep the audience entertained for 24 hours. Scholarships, bonus bucks from the Jack Hopper Dining Hall, JSU shirts, mugs, etc. will be some of the prizes. “Up Til Dawn” will give away throughout the event.

The theme for JSU’s “Up Til Dawn” is “With Each Season Comes Change.” As 5-10 children and their parents from the hospital take the stage, the closing of the event will feature the New Year and a ball being dropped with the total amount the program raised being announced.

“It is a student led, student run event,” stated Meredith Barnes, director of “Up Til Dawn.” “It unites the campus with the community and allows you to work together as a team for one common goal, which is to raise money for the children of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.”

Many sororities and fraternities, the Baptist Campus Ministry, local businesses and members of the community are preparing teams or offering sponsorships for “Up Til Dawn.”

“In the beginning we had a large screen monitor that people would be able to watch more easily, but we did not,” said Meehan. “So we have decided to do something that is a little more personal.”

The administration knew it would be difficult the first time tickets were issued, President William Meehan said, but he feels 10 tickets is a generous number.

“I talked with colleagues at other campuses, and they only give four or five,” Meehan said. “Some are fortunate to live in areas where they have large coliseums. I wish we had a large coliseum close by, but there’s nothing other than the football stadium.”

The utilization of Paul Snow Stadium for graduation exercises comes with risks and is not a favored venue, especially for spring commencement.

“April is our rainiest month in Alabama, so we must have a contingency plan,” Watts said. “The largest facility is Pete Mathews Coliseum, and we’re right back where we started.”

Acting Registrar Kathy Cambron serves as chairwoman of the commencement committee that is actively pursuing alternative ideas to better accommodate students and their families for graduation. If tickets are once again issued, they will be commercially printed in order to prevent counterfeiting, Cambron said. Another possibility is further limiting the number of tickets.

“We’re not doing this to in any way penalize the students,” Cambron said. “It’s purely a safety concern. We want to do this so the family members can enjoy graduation.”

Splitting graduation into two ceremonies was also considered but deemed impractical.

“If the speaker is someone like a United States senator or the governor of the state, the option of splitting the ceremony into two full commencements isn’t workable,” Watts said. “Our speaker or guest is only going to be able to give us so much of his or her time.”

“Right now, Watts and Cambron agree the best solution is to print as many tickets as there are seats in the coliseum and dole them out to graduates accordingly. However, they would like to eventually create a ceremony that does not require tickets. Commencement will also continue to be broadcast live on TV 24.

An underlying issue, Watts said, is there is no facility at JSU large enough to accommodate all of the students and their guests. Faculty Senate President Dr. Kelly Gregg agrees.

“The main thing we need to do is raise some funding to build a bigger facility,” Gregg said. “That facility, built in the 70s is just not adequate.”
A Special Feature
By Joshua W. Bingham
Staff Writer

Through the midst of daily scuttles from class to class, in cars and pick-ups big and small, there are inevitable traffic jams. The coachmen of these road-clogging machines of rubber and exhaust are Jacksonville State University students.

Why are they at this college? What do they do for fun? What do they want? What is their favorite drug? A survey was taken of 20 volunteering students, equal in the sexes, to answer these questions along with a few others.

One of the questions asked was why they were here at this particular college. Thirty-five percent responded that it was due to the close proximity. Twenty percent answered that it was because it was affordable. Twenty percent said that it was because they were on scholarship. Ten percent answered all of the above and 15 percent gave other reasons such as last minute decisions and family ties. When asked if they liked JSU, 85 percent said that it was because it was affordable. Twenty percent answered that it was because they were here at this particular college. Twenty-five percent said that it was at their own homes (dorms and Greek houses included). Fifteen percent responded that it was at local taverns. Fifteen percent said out of town, and five percent responded that they did not party.

Yet there are also some JSU-sponsored activities students can attend for entertainment purposes. When asked if they had attended any JSU-sponsored activities, 50 percent answered yes, 40 percent answered no, and 10 percent responded with a roundabout answer equivalent to "rarely." As Scott Chapman said, "Very seldom. They don't promote them very well."

With an air of nostalgia in his voice, Jeremy Hare said, "I'd like to be able to smoke in the dorms again." Scott Chapman, with a somber look on his face, offered, "They need to do something about the law, the law in general, the police. They go after college kids just because they're college kids and that's very wrong. They think every college kid's out to do wrong and they take people to jail nightly for nothing."

What about things that help students unwind and otherwise placate stress? All those surveyed were asked what their favorite drug was, and 15 percent answered Alcohol. Five percent answered Caffeine. Five percent answered XTC (Ecstasy). Five percent answered Coca-Cola. Five percent said none.

What about things that help students succeed, but the rest varied greatly. Five percent answered Tylenol, and 15 percent responded no.

What do Jacksonville State University students want? What do they do? Answers do differ, yet to be better understood, even in a small percentage, is surely enlightening. So, in the middle of the next JSU mixture of modern chariots, a.k.a. traffic jam, perhaps one can look out among the vehicles and pedestrians with a slightly more knowledgeable squint into a student's modus operandi, and thereby venture to understand and empathize with fellow classmates.

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Breakable art on display at JSU’s Hammond Hall

By Christina Morrison
Features Editor

Jacksonville State University’s Art Department is currently showing “Ceramics Embellished,” a new exhibit featuring the ceramic works of Lynnette Hesser in collaboration with her husband, JSU professor Steve Loucks.

The exhibit, which features approximately 30 ceramic works, opened on Jan. 16 and will run through Jan. 26. An opening reception was held on Jan. 16 at which Hesser and Loucks were present to answer questions about their works.

Each work on display has been uniquely carved and embellished by Hesser, who has a M.F.A. in ceramics. Most pieces were originally crafted by Loucks and then given to Hesser in order to have them carefully adorned with several designs. Pieces such as platters and dishes line the walls in certain areas of the gallery and several are seated on pedestals in the center of the room. Many are structured to serve as centerpieces and are covered in bright colors.

One piece in particular resembles a delicate flower and several others are covered with intricate carvings. Many works contain geometrical patterns which resemble the design of several quilts Hesser has made. Others reflect Hesser’s interest in flower gardening.

“One of the flowers I think she has invented a little bit, but a lot of them are influenced by the flowers she has grown, dahlias and such,” said Loucks.

Several pieces which are on display are for sale. Interested buyers would need to contact Loucks at his office in Hammond Hall for more information.

The collaboration between the husband and wife team began 12 years ago when due to a certain health precaution, Hesser wasn’t able to enter the ceramics studio at the couple’s home. In order to make up for this momentary inconvenience, Loucks decided to make the initial ceramic pieces in the studio and bring them out for her to carve. This circumstance allowed the Untitled work by Lynnette Hesser in collaboration with Steve Loucks

continued on page 11. Ceramics exhibit

Atlanta band back to please Jacksonville with a Cherry on top

By Adam Smith
Editor

Atlanta-based Heritage Cherry during a recent performance

Atlanta band back to please Jacksonville with a Cherry on top

Atlanta-based Heritage Cherry

Jacksonville is in for a rare treat Saturday night when Atlanta’s Heritage Cherry makes a return visit to Brothers. The band is touring in support of their new CD, “Waiting for the Wind to Blow,” which was recently released. The band, no stranger to the Jacksonville area, has made a handful of visits to Brothers over the last two years.

The five-piece band is comprised of multi-instrumentalists Adam Wright (vocals, keyboards, guitar, harmonica and tenor saxophone) and Shannon Tanner (guitar, keyboards), lead guitarist Alex McCullough, bassist David Van Drew and drummer Charles Lee.

According to Ms. Tanner in a September interview with The Chanticleer, the band initially started over two years ago when she met Wright and Van Drew. Tanner has described their music as being steeped in what she refers to as “Americana,” but anyone who listens closely will find every possible influence imaginable.

The jazz and blues of New Orleans are evident in the key-pounding talents of Wright, as well as the dirty blues and Nashville twang in the guitar work of McCullough.

“It’s all based on traditional elements,” said Tanner. “It’s blues, jazz and country elements but we also throw in this dreamy rock and roll.” Whatever category critics try to lump the band into, Heritage Cherry is just five people who love to play music. “We all love music so much,” said Tanner. “We’re all going to keep doing it, no matter what happens.”

To say that Heritage Cherry has become a well-traveled band would be an extreme understatement. Playing almost every club in Atlanta, they appear semi-regularly at Smith’s Olde Bar and other Atlanta venues like the Echo Lounge and the Star Bar. However, they’ve played gigs in Richmond, Va. and Charlotte, N.C. as well. The road experience really comes through during the band’s performance.

continued on page 10. Heritage Cherry

CD Releases

Allice Cooper-Mascara and Monsters
Alabama-When It All Goes South
Little Milton-Feel It
The Caussey Way-Caussey vs. Everything
Arlo-Up High in the Night
Acetone-York Blvd.
B.O.N.-No. 1

January 23

Jennifer Lopez-J. Lo
George Harrison-All Things Must Pass (remastered)
Godhead-2000 Years of Human
Error
Dolly Parton-Little Sparrow
Jerry Garcia Band-Don’t Let Go
To h-e-double hockey sticks with flamin’ liberals

By Gracie Catchings
News Editor

With the arrival of this new semes-
ter, a few changes are being imple-
mented in The Chanticleer. One of
them is that in an effort to voice
varying opinions and beliefs, our
illustrious editor in chief has deci-
ded to share editorial privileges with
the rest of us. Thank you Mr. Smith.
Contrary to popular belief, 108 Self
Hall is not completely overrun with
flamin’ liberals.

So, meet me: Gracie Catchings,
news editor, conservative Christian,
or “party pooper” as one of my
favorite staff members has dubbed
me, but I love him anyway.

In a world where most college stu-
dents and journalists are liberals,
here I sit, glad that Bush was finally
elected president. Hopefully
respectability will be restored to the
White House.

What does it mean to be conser-
vative, anyway? To me I suppose it
means holding stock in traditional
values. I don’t have a problem with
prayer in schools. I don’t think gun
control is the answer to problems
that obviously start in the home.
People who want guns bad enough
are going to find a way to get them
regardless of restrictions. I’ve come
to the conclusion that abortion is
murder, and I’ve done a lot of think-
ing about this one. Regardless of the
circumstances of conception, it was
not the child’s fault, and that child
deserves a chance to live.

I certainly do not advocate need-
lessly destroying the environment or
the habitat of animals, but I do
believe that man has dominion over
the animals and should utilize them
and nature for justifiable purposes.
And another thing, I just realized I
used the word “man” to mean all
people in general. This may bother
some women and/or feminists. To
them I just say, “Get over it.”

Besides, all women know that we
really run things and just let the men
think they know what they’re doing
most of the time.

Also, since I am the daughter of a
retired colonel of the US Army
Reserves, I take great pride in our
country’s military. The armed forces
are some of the noblest professions.
I truly admire those who are willing
to fight for our country. The United
States needs a strong military. Some
would argue that it causes other
countries to build up their forces and
thus incite war. I disagree. I think
any country needs to be ready to
defend itself at all times.

I have become disgusted with the
American people though. It’s all
going downhill: commericalism,
consumerism, promiscuity, obesity,
selfishness, laziness, vices, habits
and immorality. I could go on and
on. Don’t get me wrong. I’m not
claiming to be perfect myself, but I
truly think this whole country needs
a good dose of God and church.
I won’t go into that now and
should probably now shove my
soapbox back up under my comput-
er table.

These are just some of the issues I
feel strongly about. There are many
more, some too personal to ever
mention in this editorial, but if you’re
a conservative Christian, you
probably understand where I’m
coming from. If you’re a flamin’ lib-
ereal, you’re probably going to write
me a nasty letter telling me I’m
wrong.

What is a girl like me doing
working for the college newspaper,
you ask? Well, I like to write. I’ve been
told I’m a good writer. I express
myself well through the written
word. What you read here are things
that obviously start in the home.
I could go on and on about politics,
religion and life in general and
what he or she believes.

Nobody tries to force anything on
anyone, and the only time we get in
serious arguments over who’s
wrong and who’s right is when it’s
about a day or two on a Tuesday
night and we’re not sure if “affect” or
“effect” should be used in a sen-
tence.

So I hope you either enjoyed or got
really riled up over this new view-
point expressed in The Chanticleer.
I personally think it’s a nice contrast
to my favorite staff member’s col-
umn and adds some balance to the
paper. If you have an opinion, let us
know!
Dear Editor,

I would like to begin by saying that I think that it is pointless to beat a dead horse (the ECE matter), but I will take exception to Mr. Wisdom's comments of last issue. I don't know what hallways you have been standing in when you hear what it takes to get through JSU, but they aren't the same ones that I stand in, Mr. Wisdom. Being such a recent graduate (1981), I'm sure your remarks are more than qualified though aren't they? It is sad to see a graduate of JSU tearing down the academic reputation of what I view as an exceedingly excellent university. Don't view one person's performance as the rule for a university. So Mr. Wisdom, to you I say, "Just Shut Up." Secondly, Mr. Smith, PRESIDENT ELECT George W. Bush hasn't even sworn in yet, so let's not let good ol' Slick Willie escape taking credit for starting the country on that slippery slope towards recession. And as far as "W" having never been to Europe, perhaps you should be reminded that he was elected President of the United States and not Europe and certainly not the world. It's also funny that you should mention the Beatles (the original boy band) and that carpenter, John Lennon. It could not have been to Europe, but it was okay for Lennon to come over here and tell us how to run things. No wonder the FBI kept a file on him. Apparently you are much more enlightened than the rest of us because you have been to Europe haven't you? Finally, after reading your dismal musings about the University time after time, I must say, it's time to give it up. People such as yourself offer nothing but bitching and whining and precious little of true relevance or value. So, long live JSU, and here's to a bright future.

Bleeding red and white,
Clay Sparks

Okay Chanticlear,

You people need to chill out for just a minute. I'm sick of people complaining about things around here and making me feel bad about choosing JSU as my college of choice. You want to bash JSU fine, just keep it out of the school paper! You want bigger turn out for sporting events and more support for SGA things? Then start advertising it!

Another thing is, Adam Smith needs to keep his mouth shut about the predictions for the year 2001. I know he's entitled to his opinion but using profanity is uncalled for! Why not use your college education and write some-thing intellectually stimulating...not something a redneck would write.

Oh and going with student body support of the SGA and athletics. We'll come to the games if you actually give us some winning teams to cheer for! That's the philosophy behind sports! Win and the fans will come...lose and you've got the exact same situation that JSU is in.

Bryant Minton
Neil Young is one of the few artists who manages to stay active despite having a 35-plus year music career.

His latest offering, "Road Rock: Friends and Relatives" is a hodgepodge of Young's legendary solo career through the years.

Young isn't a stranger to live albums, having released several over the span of his career. Two of which, "Live Rust" and "Year of the Horse," were collaborations with Young's occasional powerhouse backing band, Crazy Horse. The former was a near-perfect set of songs released in 1979 and still comprises one of the best Young introductions. However, if "Road Rock" is an attempt at a follow-up, it falls flat just a couple of miles before the finish.

Young has always been an eclectic fellow and the band assembled on "Road Rock" is quite the eclectic bunch indeed.

Pooling together the same band he used on his last studio release, "Silver & Gold," Young attempts to lead his band made up of two Memphis soul vets, Donald "Duck" Dunn (bass), Spooner Oldham (keyboards), plus Jim Keltner (drums) and Ben Keith (guitar) through a set of mostly older material. The good news is, Young chooses some great songs from albums like his 1978 folk masterpiece "Comes a Time" as well as a selection from his 1995 collaboration with Pearl Jam.

Young also has his wife Pegi, and his sister Astrid Young singing backing vocals making it a family affair all the way around. Pretender Chrissie Hynde also turns up on an excellent take on Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower."

Overall, the album has a warm and fuzzy feeling all over. Unfortunately, that doesn't cater to Young's gloom and doom sound. Young's sound is based off his terse, edgy guitar played over ominous, plodding mid-tempo rhythms. Young's guitar sounds great, but the joyful feeling over the disc kills the normally somber, melancholy feel of some of Young's best songs.

Starting off with an 18-minute rendition of Young's opus "Cowgirl in the Sand," the band sounds like they're playing in wet clothes. Keltner's tight drumming and Dunn's overly melodic bass work isn't sloppy enough to help the Young sound, and fits about as well as Young's disastrous pairing with Phish at 1999's Farm Aid.

However, worth checking out are the tighter, trimmer versions of Young classics "Tonight's the Night" and "Walk On." Young also manages to slow things down nicely on "Fool for Your Love" and "Motorcycle Mama." Young's in fine singing voice on both selections.

Although Neil Young is more of an acquired taste, this would have been a great live document had Young had the foresight to use another backing band. Hey, Neil, your Crazy Horse brothers are waiting patiently for your call. He may be getting older, but don't count him out yet. Young may still have a rocking trick or two up his sleeve.

My advice: This is an album for serious Neil fans only. If you're just curious about this influential artist, "Live Rust" has all the bells and whistles and then some.

By Adam Smith

Neil Young

Road Rock: Friends & Relatives

By Ed Bark
Knight-Rider Newspapers

"Do you think Richard Hatch kicking off would be too much?" asked CBS president Leslie Moonves.

"Maybe. But perhaps he could run naked reverse."

"Survivor" hype resumed in earnest Tuesday, with Moonves developed while he headed Knight-Ridder Newspapers.

As previously reported, CBS has scheduled the "Australian Outback" edition on Thursdays at 8 p.m. ET after the post-Super Bowl launch. Its principal competition will be NBC's "Friends," which Moonves developed while he headed Warner Bros. Television.

Now CBS has further upped the stakes by moving its first-year drama "C.S.I." from Fridays at 9 p.m. ET to Thursdays at the same hour, following "Survivor." That combination, and ABC's continuing Thursday edition of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," could bring a quick end to NBC's long-standing dominance of the night.

Nothing personal, though.

"Well, since the day I walked into CBS I've been dreaming of blowing 'Friends' off the air," said Moonves, again kidding. "The move was not an anti-NBC or anti-'Friends' move. It's the night we're weakest. We haven't been competitive (on Thursdays) since 'Knots Landing' was on the air. So if not now, when? I don't expect 'Friends' to suddenly fall off the air. I think it's still going to do well."

None of the contestants was present at Tuesday's "Survivor" press conference, which also included "Friends" star Jeff Probst.

CBS contractually prohibits any of the 16 newcomers from commenting on the show until or when they're voted off. Average age of the second group on Jan. 28 is 33, compared to 35 for the original 16.

"Maybe a little more sex appeal, but we think it's a great group just like the first one was," Moonves said. "The first group was full of surprises, and we think the second is as well."

Probst later made a more descriptive comparison.

"Whereas the first group were virgins, everyone here came to play," he said. "Richard Hatch would be eaten alive by this group."
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.
Just what He wanted: The three wives of Lebanese farmer Ghassan Abdel-Al are tired — very tired. Between them, they have given birth to 42 children, and judging by Ghassan’s insatiable appetite for “love,” things aren’t about to let up any time soon. He is only 47 years old. So, to take the pressure off themselves, the three gave Abdel-Al what they consider the perfect gift — a fourth wife. He is very happy about it. “I can’t live without love, or at least without women,” he said. “That is the way Allah created me.”

Oh look, a Kitty, a Big Kitty, AIEEE! After his tenant suddenly vacated a rented Omaha, Neb., home due to his arrest for bank robbery, landlord Ray Besore went in to inspect the place and get it ready for a new renter. He opened the door and was met by a lunging six-month-old mountain lion, a pet of the former tenant. Besore immediately retreated. He was unharmed.

What’s wrong with that deal? Eileen Mayfield, a 42-year-old guard at the Montgomery County prison in Pennsylvania, made five male inmates who wanted candy or snacks have sex with her in exchange, police said. She reportedly told one of them “if you don’t do what I want I can write you up and you will get another six to nine months added to your time.” Prisoner complaints sparked an investigation. She is facing charges.

Honey, you are driving me nuts. John Turner of Middlesbrough, England, took his wife, Pauline, to divorce court, because she rearranged the furniture in their home every single day of their 38-year marriage. Every single day. John cited grounds of unreasonable behavior. Pauline admits that her habit is, indeed, odd, but explained, “Everybody has their little obsession.” The divorce was granted.

A shocking display of modesty. David Joyner, who is serving 14 years in a Texas prison for robbery and assault, was extremely disappointed at the nude pictures of Paula Jones in December’s “Penthouse,” because they were not revealing enough. He is suing the magazine for $500,000 for robbery and assault, was extremely disappointed at the nude pictures of Paula Jones in December’s “Penthouse,” because they were not revealing enough. He is suing the magazine for $500,000.

Perhaps to make his complaint seem more substantial, he identified himself as the Minister of Law of the Mandingo Warriors prison gang. It didn’t work. The suit was summarily dismissed, and His Ministanship was fined $250 for filing a frivolous legal motion.

Officer, I think he’s the one: Police in California put a robber suspect in a lineup with a group of other men and instructed them all to say, “Hand over the money or I’ll shoot.” To the astonishment of witnesses on the other side of the glass partition, the robber exclaimed defiantly, “Hey, that’s not what I said.”

A wild ride: But a brief one: As a driver was gassing up his green Lincoln Continental at a filling station in Pittsburgh, two teenagers jumped in and drove it off at high speed. They were going so fast that they failed to negotiate a 90-degree turn and rolled the car over onto its roof and right onto the railroad tracks. They crawled out and were trying to roll the car back onto its wheels when a freight train came through, demolishing the vehicle. The youths fled but were soon apprehended in a nearby wooded area.

Are you talking to me? Ka-blam! The state of North Dakota has issued a gun permit to Carey McWilliams. He is blind.

Sacrifice me, will you? Waheed Hamouda kept a sheep in a cage on top of his three-story apartment building in Alexandria, Egypt, for six weeks, and was fattening the animal for sacrificial slaughter as part of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha in early March. It is not known whether the sheep was aware of his ultimate fate, but, one day when Waheed came to feed him, the animal charged and butted him off the roof to his death.

Circumstantial evidence. Police in Van Buren, Ark., searching for a vandal who had sprayed threatening and obscene messages in blue paint on a house and restaurant, stopped a car being driven by 18-year-old Austin Roberson. He said he had nothing to do with it. The officers were skeptical, however, because they noticed the blue paint on his hands and blue fingerprints on the bill of his cap. He was arrested.

It seems Mother knew best: Steven Zea, 26, had a very upsetting argument with his mother while they were riding in the car along Interstate 95 in Florida. He was so angry that he decided then and there to start a new life without mom and that he would rob a bank to accomplish this. When she slowed down, he hopped out and went to the Bank of America branch in Oakland Park and committed the robbery. He later repented and turned himself in. Interestingly, when he was having the fight with his mother, she was driving him to an anger management class.
Writer gets his shot at academia with hybrid comic book

By Robert K. Elder
Chicago Tribune

Imagine you were wronged, had your life stolen from you. Maybe some loved ones were killed. Maybe you even spent some time in jail. Then, when you’re at rock bottom, a silver-haired gentleman hands you an attaché case containing irrefutable evidence that fingers the person responsible for your plight and torment. Also in the case is an untraceable gun with 100 bullets carte blanche to commit murder and get away with it. What would you do?

That’s the premise of Chicagoan Brian Azzarello’s “100 Bullets,” an urban noir/spionage hybrid comic book published by DC Comics. It’s also part of a course at Northwestern University, “The American Novel: Crime and Punishment in American Fiction” taught by Bill Savage.

“100 Bullets: First Shot, Last Call,” which collects the first five issues of the series in graphic novel form, will be taught alongside Mark Twain’s “Pudd’nhead Wilson,” Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Scarlet Letter,” and Nelson Algren’s “The Man with the Golden Arm.”

For Savage, who first met fellow baseball fanatic Azzarello in a North Side Chicago bar, “100 Bullets” was a perfect fit for his class. “I was absolutely floored with how sophisticated the narrative is and how ambiguous the characters are,” says Savage.

The story is told all: flawed protagonists, dirty cops, conspiracy, guns and that a big mistake that makes it all go wrong. “100 Bullets” also serves an example of what Savage calls, “the dual nature of crime and punishment.”

“There’s the surface infraction of the law...but the character who commits this crime is usually always punished for something else,” Savage says. “In the ‘Scarlet Letter,’ the depicted crime is adultery, but the real crime is being female, sexual and not cooperating with patriarchy.”

Savage previously used “Uncle Sam,” a graphic novel written and painted by Chicagoans Steve Darnall and Alex Ross, in his class. An avid reader of comic book anthologies, Savage doesn’t discriminate between graphic novels and other types of literature.

“It’s not about the medium, it’s about content,” Savage says. “What I want to convince my students of is (that) any medium is capable of greatness.”

Sitting in his favorite bar, The Half Shell, Azzarello agrees. A fan of hard-boiled crime fiction by authors such as Jim Thompson and Raymond Chandler (whose novels are also taught in Savage’s class), he believes that neither genre nor medium dictates value.

“I know ‘100 Bullets’ is not what traditionally people think of as comics. No one flies unless they are flying out of a window and they are going to hit the pavement,” he says, laughing. “That’s one of the strengths of this book. It appeals to people who don’t normally read comics.”

A Cleveland native, the 37-year-old Azzarello has called Chicago home for the past 12 years. Bouncing from job to job, even restoring antique furniture at one time, Azzarello didn’t start writing comics until four years ago. Although he read comics at different times in his life — DC’s war comics and Marvel Comic’s monster stories as a kid and mature titles like “Love and Rockets” and “Eightball” as an adult — he began writing comics after he married Jill Thompson, the local artist/writer best known for “Scary Godmother” and her work on “The Sandman: Brief Lives” graphic novel.

She works at her studio during the day, while Azzarello works at home. Thompson’s playfully spooky style, which is aimed at a younger audience, is a stark contrast to her husband’s gritty tales of urban noir and government conspiracy. As in “The X-Files,” in Azzarello’s work there’s a larger back-story at work; the “mythology” in “100 Bullets” concerns the mysterious Agent Graves, the deliverer of these attaché cases, which is interwoven with story arcs about the individuals who are given the license to kill.

“Near deals with the disenfranchised, people who can’t catch a break under normal circumstances,” Azzarello says. “In noir books, you root for these people, but you know they are going to fail. That’s what makes them so compellingly human. I can relate to that kind of stuff.”

So much so, that when Savage approached Azzarello with the syllabus, the writer asked if he could audit the class — before he saw his own name on the list of assigned writers. When he saw that, he shouted an expletive that cannot be printed in a family newspaper.

“In noir, the reader is put on notice: don’t get attached to these characters,” he says. “But if they are written well, the reader gets attached and they guy still gets iced!”

But every once in awhile, the hero catches a break. His work gets published, and he ends up being taught with Twain and Hawthorne.

American novelists and painters, Steve Loucks and Bill Savage, have combined their skills as artisans. Several beautiful works of art have come from this alliance.

“Before that incident we both worked separately. Our work has just progressed since then. And it’s been kind of fun,” Loucks said.

“In this collaboration we just work off of each others skills. And it is just a trial and error process. We work on it until we get it right, and it’s very rewarding,” said Hesser.

Besides doing ceramic work, Hesser teaches second grade at Alexandria Elementary School. She has also worked as an adjunct JSU faculty member and taught the Art Appreciation class off and on for about 8 years.

Although this is Hesser’s first collaborative exhibit with Loucks, it isn’t Hesser’s first show at JSU’s Gallery; she has complemented several previous faculty showings with her work.

Hesser also designs and constructs quilts, which aren’t exactly traditional, said Loucks. She makes clothes for herself and Loucks sometimes as well.

Loucks hopes that this exhibit will inspire students to try their hand at pottery and perhaps take a course to receive instruction on the craft.

Just a few examples of the ceramics exhibit by works by Lynnette Hesser in collaboration with Steve Loucks now on display in JSU’s Hammond Hall atrium.
Web music still a free-for-all, users vow

By his own account, 20-year-old Bradley Coleman, a junior at Rutgers University in New Jersey, is a clean-cut college kid. “I’m a very moral person,” he said. “I never steal, I don’t gossip. However...”

Napster founder Shawn Fanning

By Leo Carlizzo
Chicago Tribune

While Napster is the most prominent target of the record industry’s anti-piracy efforts on the Internet (and, indeed, the subject of a pending merger with a record company), it is but one of many places where people can go for free music.

INapster founder Shawn Fanning

By Leo Carlizzo
Chicago Tribune

Greene acknowledges that the record industry has created a lot of ill will over the last two decades by overcharging consumers for mediocre CDs—and that free music sites, legal or no, are likely here to stay.

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Mention the Internet-music in

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From Jacksonville State take Hwy 21 South to Branscomb Drive, SW 435-0673
Gamecocks get “crunk” on Troy State

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

Tigers became the first JSU player to be selected to the Major League All-Star game last summer.

Head baseball coach Rudy Abbott announced last week that he will retire at the end of the 2001 baseball season. The announcement was no surprise to most of the players and supporters of the team.

“A lot of guys hear rumors. You never know what to expect, but when you hear it come from his mouth, you know what’s going on,” said catcher Joey Foster.

“We all knew it was coming,” said pitcher Steve Shippey, a junior-college transfer from Michigan. “It’s been the talk of the year.”

Abbott, who begins his 32nd season this year, has 994 career wins and will become the first coach in Alabama collegiate sports history to win 1,000 games.

Abbott is ranked seventh in the Division I among active coaches by winning percentage and his 994 career wins is 15th all-time among active coaches. Over 75 of his players have gone on to the professional ranks.

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Abbott has earned many honors for himself through the years, including being named National Coach-of-the-Year on two different occasions and he earned conference Coach-of-the-Year honors seven different seasons. He is also the all-time winningest coach in Alabama collegiate sports history.

Abbott has also led the Gamecocks to the 1990 and 1991 NCAA Division II National Championship game.

Even though everyone knows the future of Coach Abbott, the team insist that the mission of the remains the same.

“That doesn’t change anything,” said pitcher Joey Shiflett. “I think everybody is real excited about getting his 1,000th win and we’re looking to do that. We just want to help him out a whole lot.”

The Gamecocks only need to win six games to give Coach Abbott his 1,000th victory. The team is looking at the big picture. They want to give Coach Abbott more than his 1,000th victory, they want to send him off a winner on his final season. “We don’t want him to remember, ‘Yeah, I won 1,000 games, but we didn’t have a good year.’ We want him to go out with a good year and remember his last year,” said Shiflett. Last fall, the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees named the baseball field “Rudy Abbott Field” in his honor.

The 2001 Gamecock baseball season opens on February 3rd.

Lady Gamecocks get back on track

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

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I met Brant Harriman in a theater history class that we took together. He and I didn’t say much to each other during that period. Although, we did agree that both of us received grades that we probably didn’t deserve. Brant is quite removed from everything that we think athletes are attached to. Things like trash talking, flashiness, and fame. Harriman could very well be the best player on the basketball team and only a handful of people outside of the sports world know who he is. I found Brant to be very candid, refreshing and mature. He won’t talk to just anybody, so I felt privileged to have the opportunity to sit him down and have a conversation.

**Thrift:** What’s up, Brant?
**Brant:** Nothing much. We’re just trying to keep on track and continue to play good basketball.

**Thrift:** What are your feelings of the season thus far?
**Brant:** We got off to a slow start, but everything seems to be working out for us right now. I think that we will have a good season.

**Thrift:** You’ve got to be on a slim list of centers across the country that have the “green light” to shoot from 3-point range. I guess that really isn’t a major deal to you because you hold your high school’s record for field goal percentage. You also hold the record for most rebounds and block shots. Is that something you really worked on growing up?
**Brant:** Yeah, it was. That was basically how I practiced when I was a kid, by shooting jump shots.

**Thrift:** Many people didn’t know that you transferred from Nebraska. Tell me what made you decide to leave a school that is closer to your hometown to come all the way to Jax State?
**Brant:** Well, the coach that was there my first two years had left. So, I didn’t really see myself in the new system and I came here.

**Thrift:** What is your most memorable moment as a Gamecock?
**Brant:** Coming to JSU is probably my most memorable moment.

**Thrift:** Really?
**Brant:** Yes.

**Thrift:** What’s Mason City, Iowa like?
**Brant:** Well, it is kind of like Jacksonville. It is a small town where everybody pretty much knows everyone else. Basketball is big in my hometown. Football is popular, but not like basketball.

**Thrift:** Do you feel like transferring to JSU has hurt your draft chances any?
**Brant:** No, not really. I am playing the same way that I would be playing somewhere else. No, I really don’t feel like transferring has hurt me at all.

**Thrift:** I know that a lot of people have asked you about your 11 tattoos. Where does a boy from Iowa come up with a feath for body art?
**Brant:** I have always liked tattoos. I couldn’t get any when I lived back then. The only thing I really haven’t stopped getting them since. It’s just a unique thing about me, I guess.

**Thrift:** I heard that Dennis Rodman was the athlete that you most admired. How can a player that is so opposite of you be the one that you like the most?
**Brant:** I just like the way he plays. I like how he just doesn’t care about what people think. Yeah, I guess we are total opposites, but I like him.

**Thrift:** Is there a single player that you model your game after?
**Brant:** No, not really. I just play hard, physical basketball. I’m not that athletic. I just play hard and stay consistent.

**Thrift:** What is the funniest thing that you have seen since you became a Gamecock?
**Brant:** (Pause) I would have to say an incident that happened during halftime of a game that we were losing pretty bad last year.

**Thrift:** What happened?
**Brant:** One of the coaches from last year started banging his hand up against the chalkboard while he was yelling at us. That was pretty funny. The coaches may not be aware of it, but they are very funny sometimes.

**Thrift:** Are there any sports that you like besides basketball?
**Brant:** Like a sport that I’m not very good at, golf.

**Thrift:** You play golf?
**Brant:** Not too well, but I like golf.

**Thrift:** Do you believe that you are the best center in the TAAC? Tell me the truth.
**Brant:** (Pause.) Yes, I do.

**Thrift:** Why?
**Brant:** I just think that I am more consistent than any of the other centers in the conference.

**Thrift:** Would you rather play another position sometimes?
**Brant:** Sometimes. I would not mind playing shooting guard. (Both laugh.) I could do that.

**Thrift:** Free Association. Mike LaPlante.
**Brant:** Good coach.

**Thrift:** Iowa Hawkeyes.
**Brant:** My team.

**Thrift:** Music.
**Brant:** Top 40. (2 Pac.)

**Thrift:** Jason Taylor. (JSU guard.)
**Brant:** My twin. (Both laugh.)

**Thrift:** Al Muskewitz. (Anniston Star sports writer.)
**Brant:** (Long Pause.) Man, I don’t know what to say about that guy. He is something else.

**Thrift:** What is the toughest thing that you’ve dealt with as a player or a person?
**Brant:** Probably the start of this season. We have just had such a bad start, but things seem to be going well now.

**Thrift:** Some of the ladies are wanting to know if you are in a relationship or not.
**Brant:** No. I am always looking through.

**Thrift:** That’s it, Brant. Thanks for your time.
**Brant:** No problem. See ya later.

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**Gamecocks out shoot Mercer**

By Anthony Hill
Sports Editor

The Gamecocks’ match against Mercer was delayed for an hour and a half due to a few late finishes in the Calhoun County Tournament last Saturday night. But, they were still ready to ball.

Freshmen Earl Bullock came off the bench to score 14 points, including four 3-pointers, to lead the Gamecocks (6-9, 3-4 TAAC) to a 71-64 win over Mercer (6-9, 3-3 TAAC) in Jax State’s second home game of the new year.

Brant Harriman finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds to record his 15th career double-double, while Ryan Chambliss tossed in 12 and Johnny Kilpatrick added 11 points to lead the Gamecocks to a second straight conference victory.

“Every game is going to be a hard-fought, down-to-the-wire, gut-check type of game,” said head coach Mike LaPlante. “We’re kind of getting used to it.”

The Gamecocks did not seem too fatigued or even reflective of the enormous victory they had over Troy State. They looked to carry the attitude of “who’s next” as they took the floor for its,” said center Brant Harriman.

In the second half to build a 44-32 lead after Kilpatrick hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 12:04 left.

Bullock’s trey from the left corner gave JSU a 54-39 lead with 9:08 remaining in the game to give the Gamecocks their largest lead of the night.

Mercer wasn’t quite ready to throw in the towel and cut the lead all the way to four points, 68-64 with 28 seconds remaining in the game. A pair of free throws by Harriman and Scott Watson sealed the win for the Gamecocks.

The TAAC’s pre-season top rated center, Scott Emerson, finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds for the Bears, while Rodney Kirtz finished with 12 points.

The next game for the Gamecocks was this past Tuesday night against the Birmingham Southern Panthers.

The Gamecocks rallied from 21 points down to cut the lead to three points with 12 seconds remaining, but Adrian Pryor hit a pair of free throws to seal the win for the Panthers.

Joe Ransom scored 26 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead Birmingham Southern (10-6) to a 68-63 win over Jax State (6-10) in front of 2,655 fans at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

“We just didn’t play with any intensity for the first 20 minutes of the game,” said head coach Mike LaPlante. “We started playing with some fire in the second half, but we had dug ourselves in too big of a hole.”
Basketball needs reconstruction

A Sports Editorial
By Anthony Hill

Another basketball season is well under way and the babble has started again.

In the NBA there has already been a lot of stories on the “new” Allen Iverson, the evidence being the great start by the Philadelphia 76ers and Iverson making it to practice on time every day for (gasp!) a quarter of the season. Patrick Ewing is in Seattle and his teammate, Gary Payton, is laughing at his now-fired coach, Paul Westphal, during time outs. Grant Hill is still injured and Vince Carter is still on SportsCenter every night. The Western Conference continues to be a lot better than the Eastern Conference. And then there are the colleges.

Stanford, Duke, Michigan State, North Carolina, Kansas, and Arizona are still very good. There are some changes. Bob Knight no longer coaches Indiana. Notre Dame, which last appeared in the NCAA tournament in 1990, is very good as well. There have already been upsets that will keep teams scratching their heads. Cal-State Northridge beat UCLA, Oakland (not the Raiders) has beaten Michigan and Mercer beat Auburn. Yes, I said Mercer. The team that the Gamecocks spanked last Saturday night beat an SEC team.

ESPN and CBS will tell us about a billion times how great college basketball is, especially when March rolls around. It goes on and on. The Toronto Raptors score 64 points one night, then score 79 on another night and win both games. But, NBA Commissioner David Stern will tell us there’s nothing wrong with the game. Remember the games that would end with both teams scoring a 100 or more? Remember keeping up with your favorite college player once he made it to the NBA? Do you remember the last time you watched an entire basketball game? Stern can spin all he wants, Vitale can pump and stomp for the game he loves and coaches can talk forever about how tough it is dealing with the pressures of playing college ball while trying to be a “student-athlete,” but here’s a simple fact: basketball is not the same. The game needs reconstruction.

The NBA game is boring and stagnant and with Michael Jordan running a bad team rather than playing for a great one, and more and more people are noticing every day. Major college basketball is so full of corruption that the solution discussed most often is to throw in the towel completely. A college basketball player can not live a decent life without breaking an NCAA rule. Just take a look at the kid from Arizona that got in trouble for excusing tickets from Bill Walton, who’s son also plays for the Wildcats. The rules of the college game makes it to where if someone wants to do something decent for you, they will probably be breaking the rules.

Duke’s head basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said, “There’s no big-time program in the country that could withstand this sort of NCAA scrutiny.” I look from that statement from “Coach K” that big-time schools must break the rules to win. He’s saying that they must play around with grades, they must recruit and coddle players who have absolutely no business being enrolled in their school.

That’s the multibillion dollar industry that college basketball has become. Every school that has a player on the national level is working at the rules or shutting their eyes completely-because if they don’t, they would not be able to compete. Some do it more blatantly than others, but all of the “Big Dogs” are doing it.

Consider the national graduation rate for Division I college basketball players over the past 10 years: A little bit more than 40 percent.

That’s with academic fraud going on, that’s with players being steered into courses with friendly professors, that’s with unlimited tutoring and academic counseling and unlimited summer school. Forty percent. Imagine if the NCAA ever can-vassed the graduation rate for STARTERS; the numbers would be a lot lower than that.

What’s more, the game itself, isn’t nearly as good as it once was. It isn’t as bad as the NBA game though. The NBA is full of huge guys standing around looking at each other, but college ball isn’t as good as it once was, REALLY. I remember when everybody knew the starting line-ups for every top ten school. Now, we’d be lucky if we knew the roster of our favorite top ten school.

It’s becoming evident that the best players leave school too soon. Some players are gifted enough to go straight from high school to the pros. They are going to an environment where very few players listen to their coaches. Who do you think the younger generation is emulating right now? Those knuckle heads in the NBA.

Basketball is a wonderful game. It can be breathtaking. Just watch a few Gamecock basketball games to prove it.

There are some extraordinary people coaching and playing the game. But they are becoming less evident with each year passing. The great games are outnumbered and so are the great people.

I believe the game is worth saving. The question is, when will those running it wake up and realize that, at the very least, it needs major reconstruction. The players need to realize that they need to have a college education to succeed after basketball. When will the NCAA realize that SOME of the rules are just too ridiculous to abide by. Sadly, the answer appears to be, not very soon.
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