SGA changes homecoming election rules

By Jamie M. Eubanks
The Chanticleer News Editor

In the wake of last month’s homecoming queen election controversy, the SGA Senate Monday night made some changes to election rules.

Ten of the 11 bills passed at Monday’s Senate session sought to change homecoming election rules. The reforms come after a great deal of debate over the homecoming election in November, where Alesha Ingram received the most votes, but was disqualified after campaign flyers were posted on her door in Fitzpatrick Hall in violation of election rules.

Jordan Brewer sponsored the first bill. It amended election rules which previously said, “All election regulations of Chapter 703 shall be observed for the Fall Homecoming Election.” The amendment added, “In addition to this chapter,” which would mean the regulations in Chapter 704, which pertain specifically to homecoming, will also be followed for fall homecoming elections.

Chapter 703 contains the rules for campaigning and campaign materials, filing a complaint against a candidate and ed in the SGA Code of Laws.”

“This is so the candidate can’t claim they didn’t know the rules,” according to Miller. “Once they sign the form they know the rules.”

Another bill added “unless in the event of disqualification” to “The Homecoming Queen shall be the finalist receiving the highest number of votes cast with the remainder of the finalists comprising her court.” Again, Brewer cited clarification as the reason for authoring the bill.

The following two bills removed amendments the Senate felt were unnecessary including the rule that “all campaign materials placed in a University building must be approved by the building administrators,” and two rules calling for immediate disqualification of candidates who improperly file a complaint.

As the semester comes to a close, theft will pick up rather than slow down. According to Coleman, compact disc players are the hottest items, but the thieves will try to steal anything that is visible.

“As the semester comes to a close, theft will pick up rather than slow down,” said University Police Chief Nelson Coleman.

As the number of automobile break-ins continues to rise some students and faculty still believe it will never happen to them. “Several cars were broken into a couple of days before mine was broken into,” said senior Elizabeth Ryan, “which should have given me more inclination to make sure my doors were locked and my purse was out of sight.”

Ryan reported the breaking and entering of her automobile to University Police on Nov. 20, after many other similar crimes had been reported just days before.

“The majority of those vehicle break-ins took place near Bibb Graves and Crow halls. The totals for each location only differed by a small margin, according to police records, so a criminal’s opportunity could arise almost anywhere.

“Usually if we have a high number (of vehicle break-ins), then the city will have a high number,” said Coleman. “It looks as if it’s restricted to the campus for the most part.”

According to Coleman, compact disc players are the hottest items, but the thieves will try to steal anything that is visible.

“I think it is just an opportunity crime,” Coleman said.

The campus is a place where vehicle owners are continuously running late for classes and meetings; therefore, criminals have a much easier job when they see that someone has forgotten to lock their car door or has failed to hide valuables.

“I had my purse between my two seats and my cell phone on top of my purse,” said Ryan. “I was late and had to run into class.”

Ryan, who has been at JSU for five years, said she has never seen so many vehicle break-ins in one place before. She also said that she did not realize that her car had been broken into until she drove her car home and could not find her phone.

“I know that the police are going to do what they can,” said Ryan. “They do their jobs.”

“We are going to have officers out in the areas where we have had the most cases,” Coleman said, “with more officers on foot and bicycles.”

The UPD said they need help in tracking down the criminals, so they ask that people call them at 782-5050 or log onto their Web site at http://www.jsu.edu/depart/udp and give information about any suspicious activity seen around campus. These calls can be placed anonymously.

Singing in the season
The previous rule required the tapes be held for one year.

Another bill allowed the Elections Committee and the Senate to use these audio recordings for election complaint hearings.

“That way somebody can’t say that they don’t want their complaint heard,” Brewer said.

The final bill requires a homecoming queen candidate to be a full-time student at JSU.

The only non-election bill passed on Monday appointed Alesha Ingram director of the Organizational Council for the 2002-03 academic year. The Organizational Council is a body consisting of representatives from all student organizations.

"We wanted to make that a little more specific," Brewer said. "so we also put ‘In addition to this chapter’ just so no candidate for homecoming queen could say that didn’t know they were supposed to read 704.”

Candidates must sign a consent form stating that they received and understand the election procedures and regulations as stated.

The Chanticleer News Editor

There are almost 9,000 student e-mail accounts on the Gamecock E-Mail (GEM) system, but less than 3,000 of them are being used, according to Neil Johnson of JSU’s Computer Center.

All JSU students automatically receive student e-mail accounts when they register, but only one-third of the student body is using the system. All a student must do is log on to www.jsu.edu and click on the GEM link to access the account. From there, students receive an address, such as jsu0000x@student-mail.jsu.edu.

These addresses are unique and appear different from the normal address that appears in the text of the student's name. The addresses are always flagged for security, and when they are used, the password will be encrypted.

"It’s not the most robust address book, but it does what it’s supposed to do," Johnson said.

Students can send and receive mail, check their mail from any computer terminal and also send attachments.

GEM works through a browser and is compatible with all browsers like Netscape or Internet Explorer.

If you already have an e-mail account with another provider, GEM allows students to forward mail to that account. So, if you have an AOL account, GEM will send your JSU e-mail there as well.

Currently, approximately 1,500 of the 3,000 students who are using their GEM accounts are forwarding their mail to some outside e-mail provider.

Students receive e-mail from campus offices and organizations like the Student Government Association and Career Placement Services. These entities are trying to get the word out about events on campus that might benefit students.

GEM gives each student on campus an e-mail presence. "This is a fully functional e-mail account just like any Yahoo address or home account or AOL address," Johnson said. "There’s no functionality as far as sending and receiving communication difference.

“We just want all students to be able to communicate. The University does want to move into a direction that we use one system for more official things, but I don’t know what the first application of that will be.”

If you’re having trouble setting up your account you can visit the following help pages for student e-mail accounts, http://www.jsu.edu/depart/ascsv/gemstudent.htm; faculty, http://www.jsu.edu/depart/ascsv/gemfacstaff.html.
Computer stolen from International House

By Miranda Bryant
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Police are looking for suspects in the theft last month of University computer equipment from the International House.

On Nov. 21, Ena Aguilar reported theft of property to the University Police Department after a Dell Dimension computer, a 17-inch monitor and keyboard were missing from the first floor of the International House, according to police reports. Police reports estimated the stolen property is valued at $2,000.

No arrests have been made, nor have any suspects been named, according to University Police Chief Nelson Coleman.

“The International House is supposed to have dorm guards,” said Coleman, “but from time to time some of our dorm guards are students making minimum wages during odd hours.

“The students will either call in sick, simply not show up for work or even quit,” according to Coleman.

“When we are short of people, everything doesn’t get covered,” Coleman said, “and sometimes the smaller buildings can’t get anybody to cover them.”

Coleman said the police department tries to cover the larger residence halls first where there are more people and where a higher rate of criminal mischief occurs.

According to police reports, theft of property is reported to JSUPD on a regular basis, occurring almost twice a week.

“Officers are working on the case right now, trying to find suspects,” Coleman said.

Campus Crime

- Nov. 19—Lindsey Wren Hick reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring at Fitzpatrick Hall.
- Nov. 20—Elizabeth Ryan, 22, reported breaking and entering auto and theft of property to JSUPD at Pannell Hall parking lot.
- Nov. 20—James Wesley Braaschal, 21, reported harassment to JSUPD occurring at Jack Hopper Dining Hall.
- Nov. 21—Ena Aguilar reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring on the first floor of the International House. A Dell Dimension computer, with 17-inch monitor and keyboard were stolen, worth $2,000.
- Nov. 21—Wesley Stephens Gray reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring at Mason Hall. A trumpet case and four books were stolen.
- Nov. 21—Paige Denise Lilly reported burglary to JSUPD occurring at Sparkman Hall.
- Nov. 22—Keleena Nicole Hill was cited by JSUPD for an open container violation occurring near Mountain Street and Forney Avenue.
- Nov. 22—Katrina Lee Kulakowski was cited by JSUPD for an open container violation occurring near Mountain Street and Forney Avenue.
- Nov. 22—Vernard Jackson reported criminal mischief to JSUPD occurring at Pannell Hall parking lot.
- Nov. 25—Christiane G. Fisher reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring in Martin Hall lobby.
- Nov. 25—Harold K. Browning, 20, reported theft of property to JSUPD occurring in Crow Hall. A Playstation 2 and Sony Cam recorder were stolen.

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Jacksonville-1BR, 1BA apartment. 204 College Street SW. Furnished with appliances including washer and dryer. $300/mo includes water, garbage and sewer. Deck on back. Lease, references and $300 deposit required. Walking distance to JSU. Call 237-9533.

Communication

Student Groups

- Fraternities
- Sororities
- Clubs

Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Call Tricia today for details at (888) 923-3238 or visit www.campusfundraiser.com.

ROLE MODELS NEEDED

Three Springs of Paint Rock Valley, an outdoor residential treatment program, is seeking individuals who are committed to helping teenagers discover lasting solutions. The Counselor/Role Model position is a full-time and permanent position. The position requires a Bachelor Degree in the Behavioral Science, Criminal Justice or Therapeutic Recreation; no experience needed. Applicants should be willing to participate in physical activities in an outdoor environment. Three Springs offers competitive benefits, good starting salary, paid training, staff housing, 2 weeks paid vacation, and room for advancement. Three Springs of PRV is located 30 miles east of Huntsville, AL. Visit www.3springsprv.com for more information. Call 256-277-5900.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Freshman Forum would like to say thank you to everyone who attended the mixer. It was a lot of fun. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break. Contact: Katie Scott, katiescott@hotmail.com

• The Student Health Center (located between Sparkman and Mason Halls) is still administrationg flu vaccinations by appointment for JSU faculty/staff and students. The first for the vaccinations is $15. Appointments are scheduled Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-5 p.m. and Fridays from 8-11 a.m. Contact: Nancy Edge-Schmitz, 782-3310.

• Zeta Tau Alpha: We had a great Christmas party Monday night. We love and will miss our Seniors. Thanks for everything you have done and we will be praying for all of you. Good luck to everyone on finals: study hard! Have a safe and happy holiday. See you next year! Contact: Angela Estes, www.zetapsi.org

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed, and must be limited to 50 words. Submissions must include a name and telephone number or e-mail address to contact for further information, but this information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall by 2 p.m. on the Monday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and clarity.

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Final Exam Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Exam Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 5</td>
<td>7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>10 a.m.-12 p.m.</td>
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<td>1 p.m.-3 p.m.</td>
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<td>7 p.m.-9 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, Dec. 6</td>
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<td>Saturday, Dec. 7</td>
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In Our View

Peace on Earth?

As the semester draws to a close most of us are heading home or elsewhere to spend time with family and friends over the holidays. That’s what this time of year is intended for, stopping at year’s end to appreciate the bonds that connect us to those we love.

This year, be sure to hug your loved ones extra close, especially those who wear military uniforms. If they’re not gone already, it appears they soon will be if U.S. President George Bush has his way.

Bush is bristling for war with Iraq, apparently regardless of what United Nations weapons inspectors now on the ground in that country eventually find. If they find that Iraq is hiding something, it appears our president will want to launch an attack to punish Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for violating the U.N. sanctions imposed after U.S. forces expelled his troops from Kuwait more than a decade ago.

And what if the inspectors find nothing? Bush has made it known loudly and often that he is certain Iraq has programs to produce weapons of mass destruction. If they find nothing, can we expect Bush to order attacks with the reasoning that Iraq was hiding those programs?

Bush has made the first moves in a delicate game with an experienced player. Hussein played the world public relations game through the entire Clinton administration, incurring massive U.S. air strikes in 1998. Saddam knew well how to get the sympathy of a war-wary world community, and knows well enough how to make the U.S. look like the aggressor in any instance. He’s got the perfect foil in the Bush administration.

The president and many of his advisors are chomping at the bit to get into a war. Why, you may ask? Look to the experiences of Bush’s father, the president who guided America through the 1991 Gulf War. The elder Bush had sky-high approval ratings while the war was on, which then plummeted as it ended and the country’s thoughts turned to the weak economy. The present President Bush is probably eager to avoid a repeat of his father’s political demise. He knows that a president fighting a war today has the nearly automatic support of the American people.

Expect to see U.S. troops in action in Afghanistan and the Middle East at least through November 2004. And in the meantime, celebrate Christmas this year, as ironic as it may seem, as the time of peace on Earth, and good will toward men.

Semester’s end is normally a happy occasion, a time of celebration, relaxation and recognition of achievement.

It’s no different here at The Chanticleer, where we’re all celebrating the opportunity to relax after publishing 14 newspapers this semester. For about a month we won’t have to look at the clock, feeling the pressure of deadline and the pull of that natural human urge for sleep that we’ve all learned to ignore.

We can sit back and be proud of what we’ve accomplished for a change, instead of moving on to the next paper as soon as we’re done with the current one.

Yes indeed, the end of a semester is a good time.

It’s also a somber time, though. The end of a semester often means having to say goodbye, and that’s also no different here at The Chanticleer.

We’re losing three of our best for various reasons, and as always, it’s hard to say goodbye. That’s especially true of these three, because of all they’ve done for us at the paper, and because of who they are as people.

Catrina Neely, our advertising director, is leaving to do the internship that communication majors must have to graduate. She came to us last year as a volunteer ad assistant, when she was primarily responsible for billing. The professionalism she showed then made it easy to select her to head up our ad department this year, even though we knew she’d only be with us for one more semester.

In her time here Catrina has continued the work of previous ad directors in cleaning up the way we do business. She’s done a remarkable job expanding our customer base, improving billing processes and increasing ad space sold. Without her efforts every week, we wouldn’t be able to print a single page. And she’s done it all with a smile.

To say the least, Catrina will be missed. We wish her the best of luck.

Nicholas Thomason, our photography director, is graduating this semester. Nick’s a photo major, looking forward to a career with his camera. If the work he’s done for us is any indication, that career will be a good one.

Nick joined the staff last fall as a volunteer photographer, and ascended to his current post last spring. He’s spent countless hours prowling the sidelines of JSU athletic arenas and running all over campus to get our editors the shots they needed. We’ll miss Nick, his dedication and of course those great soccer photos.

Congratulations, Nick, and good luck.

Last spring I prepared a speech for the communications department’s annual banquet, and in it I recognized the staff members we were losing to graduation. I prepared special remarks and an award for one staff member who had served for four years, one who would be sorely missed.

Appropriately, my remarks had such a profound effect on sports editor Anthony Hill that he decided to stick around as a grad student for another semester. That delayed the task of finding someone to replace him, and kept his professionalism and his humor around for a while more.

Anthony’s finally moving on to a career in – what else? – sports writing. Because of the length of his service here, we decided to devote this issue’s “question of the week” section to our thoughts on him.

Anthony, you’ll be missed even more for having stayed a little longer. Good luck, and on behalf of all the editors in chief you’ve served with, thanks for all you’ve done.

For all of you at Jax State who are moving on to new things this month, may your futures be as bright as Catrina’s, Nick’s and Anthony’s are. Good luck to you, and may God bless you.
Is disestablishmentarianism dead in college newspapers these days?

By Jonathan Zimmerman

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Twenty years ago, I served as editor-in-chief of my college newspaper. My co-editors and I stayed up until six or seven in the morning, five nights a week. We drank stale coffee, smoked cheap cigarettes, and banged away on manual typewriters, trying to affect a grizzled, hard-boiled image.

Most of us were privileged kids from the suburbs, not working-class gunshoes. But the tough-guy image we cultivated included a deep skepticism of authority – especially of the authorities who ran our university.

So we made it our job to make them miserable. Every day, our newspaper attacked the university. It wasn’t providing enough financial aid; it wasn’t hiring enough minority professors; it wasn’t assisting the nearby community. Whatever the university did or didn’t do, we denounced it.

Open up a college paper today, and you’ll find a very different sensibility. Today’s editors embrace the cool vibe of popular culture. Their stories focus less on university politics and more on music, film, fashion and sex. Especially sex. College newspapers can’t get enough. Many papers now feature regular sex columnists, almost all of them female. At the University of California at Berkeley, Teresa Chin dispenses frank advice in her “Sex on Tuesdays” column; at my own institution, New York University, Yvonne Fulbright serves as our paper’s resident “Sexpert”; and at Yale, Natalie Krinsky authors the popular “Sex and the (Elm) City.”

Like the show whose name it borrows, Krinsky’s column combines snappy writing with a strong postfeminist slant. Rather than seeking to change the world, Krinsky urges girls – always “girls” – to, well, get theirs.

To be fair, some papers continue to criticize university policies. Over the last few years, for example, the Yale Daily News has blasted Yale’s efforts to block graduate students from unionizing. But generally, today’s student journalists give administrators a free pass – or, at the most, a light touch.

That’s why you rarely read a letter or comment from an irate school official condemning the school paper. Twenty years ago, administrators routinely called us to scream – yes, scream – about our attacks on skyrocketing tuition costs, school disciplinary procedures, or poor dormitory security. These folks must celebrate when the college daily turns to more urgent matters, like stress-induced impotence or the politics of lovemaking.

What’s going on here? Some papers might temper their coverage of university politics for fear of reprisals. Last year, officials at Governors State University in Illinois suspended publication of a student newspaper after it attacked the teaching performance of two professors. The editors sued the university, which has claimed the same powers to censor student papers as high school principals possess.

The Governors State case will be heard in January by a federal appeals court in Chicago. Even if the court rules in favor of students’ press freedom, though, the decision won’t do any good if students don’t take advantage of it.

Most of all, universities won’t be called to account without a strong and independent student paper. The only other campus news comes from “public information” offices, which put a cheery gloss on everything the school does. If student journalists don’t present another side of the story, nobody will.

Two decades ago, I’ll admit, we should have gathered more information – and done more thinking – before we embraced the other side. We were too quick to malign the university, too assured of our own moral righteousness. We were kids, after all.

But if kids must err, as apparently they must, let them err on the side of excessive criticism rather than of cool detachment. Sure, there’s a place for light entertainment – including sex columns – in the college press. When heavy breathing dominates school newspapers, however, school officials breathe a sigh of relief. And that’s bad news for all of us.

Jonathan Zimmerman

(jzimm@aol.com) teaches history at New York University and lives in Narberth. He was the editor-in-chief of the Columbia Daily Spectator in 1982.
JSU Drama’s got the ‘Ladyhouse Blues’

Review by Danni Lusk
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Moving beyond troubles is the focus of the Madden household in the JSU drama department’s latest production, Ladyhouse Blues by Kevin O’Morrison.

The play, set in 1919, reflects the complicated life of five women left behind by their men to go and fight in the war. The stage is centered in the kitchen area of their South St. Louis house, which is the heart of the home.

Each Madden woman brings a different look at life to the play.

Eylie, the youngest of the sisters at 16 years old, is preparing to leave the house and marry. Although the family, except for her sister Terry, heartily disapproves of the marriage, Eylie insists on it because she believes in following her heart.

Terry, 18 years old, is a worker’s union activist. She is getting ready to travel to Washington D.C., to serve as a representative of a women’s labor union. She and Eylie are best friends, as well as sisters, and support each other in their nonconformist views — for the times — on things from women working, to using their sexual appeal to get more tips as waitresses.

Dot, a former model, married model Dot.

Dani Proctor gave a pure performance as ‘Terry’... Helen (Danielle Schreiber) and Eylie (Heather Parks) work beyond their troubles in the play ‘Ladyhouse Blues.’

The Madden women, Dot (Jessica Sanborn), Terry (Dani Proctor), Liz (Chrysta Norred-Hample), Helen (Danielle Schreiber) and Eylie (Heather Parks) work beyond their troubles in the play "Ladyhouse Blues."

Shopping minus the stress

‘They’ simply stink

Quit your whining, nightlife in Jacksonville is hoppin’

Review by Roger Moore
The Chanticleer Features Editor

“‘They’ was directed by...”

There’s nothing to do in Jacksonville.”

“‘They’ is simply a failure.”

“‘They’ simply stink.”

“‘They’ simply stink.”

“‘They’ simply stink.”

Jacksonville is a breeding ground for many musical...”

By Danni Lusk
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Shopping tips from the FTC

Shopping minus the stress

‘They’ simply stink

Quit your whining, nightlife in Jacksonville is hoppin’
Hocus Pocus: Harry Potter befuddles James Bond again

By Danni Lusk
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Christmas is a time of expansion.

Every year department store lines get longer, credit card bills get bigger and your stress levels get higher. But there is something you can do about it.

The Federal Trade Commission and some other consumer organizations have a few simple tips and tricks to make your holiday shopping experience easier on your blood pressure.

Before making the trip to the mall, make a list of who you need to buy presents for and from which stores, or at least an idea of what you want to get them. Organization will save you time, money and stress. Also, set a certain amount of time you are going to spend shopping and stick to it. Often, shopping in the early morning and avoiding weekend shopping will yield less of a hassle with crowds.

The Consumers Union, a nonprofit publisher of the “Consumer Reports” magazine, warns shoppers using debit cards of the dangers.

“Carrying a debit card is something like carrying a pad of blank, signed checks,” reports the Union’s Web site. “If you lose your card, someone who finds it can make purchases up to the full purchase limit (which may be $5,000 per day) or the amount you have in your account, plus any overdraft protection.”

If traipsing through never-ending mazes of clothing racks and cosmetic counters isn’t your cup of tea, try shopping on the Internet. However, make sure that delivery by Christmas is still available this late in the game. The upside to shopping online is that many catalogue companies will wrap your gifts, include a personalized card and ship them directly to your recipient all for just a couple extra bucks.

With the extra convenience that shopping online carries, there are a few extra precautions:

- While online, order only on a secure server
- Guard your online password
- Check the refund and return policy
- Read the fine print
- Review warranties
- Compare prices
- Check shipping and handling fees
- Order early to allow plenty of time for shipment and delivery
- Track your purchases
- Keep receipts & Web site printouts

see Shopping, page 5

Shopping tips from the FTC

Review by Roger Moore
The Orlando Sentinel

“They” was directed by Robert Harmon, whose career never really recovered from the beating he took from Siskel and Ebert over his edgy-sick thriller “The Hitcher” way back in 1986. They all but sentenced Harmon to purgatory for that.

“They” manages a hair-raising moment or two, sometimes when a sad-faced child is about to be snatched by the spider-like crawlies who are the monsters in this piece.

“They” kind of steals the plot of Monsters, Inc., but doesn’t play it for laughs, wit or scares.

“They” opened Wednesday, so this review’s late. They were afraid to show this movie to reviewers before its opening, afraid of the bad reviews they thought they’d earn.

“They” were right.

Jacksonville is a breeding ground for many musical successes. Look at Marvelous 3, out of Atlanta who frequented Brother’s before they hit it big. What about Drivin’ N’ Cryin’? They didn’t play before they hit it big, but they’ve been here several times since. And just look at the bands on their way up.

The locals Ethan & the Ewox (now just Ethan) have recently signed with a label. The Wayne Mills Band is all over the place in the Southeast, as well as Snap 9A. All three of these, with great potential, play at Brother’s, Fuller’s and even Udders, formerly The Last Straw.

You also have cover bands like The Breakfast Club and Read My Lips featuring members of the former Members Only (who by the way is playing Brother’s Dec. 12).

Point is, there is plenty of local music for everyone to find something they like.

If live music isn’t your thing, fine. Jacksonville’s got you covered too. There’s a new club called Spinz that plays all “booy” music as well as the ever-famous karaoke at the Sports Nut.

So, before you go saying, “There’s nothing to do tonight in Jacksonville,” pass by a couple of the night spots and check out their entertainment and specials for the evening.

After all, if more than just “the same people” go out in the evening, it would be a larger and more diverse crowd for you to hang out with.

Hocus Pocus: Harry Potter befuddles James Bond again

Zap2It
Knight Ridder Tribune Services

Harry Potter cast a spell over James Bond to reclaim his rightful place at the top of the weekend box office. But don’t be fooled by all the hocus-pocus, it was a close race.

In the Friday-through-Sunday numbers, however, the spy outwitted the wizard; “Die Another Day” made $46.2 compared to “Harry Potter’s” $45.8 million.

In overall box office news, this weekend’s movies set some big numbers. “Die Another Day,” “8 Mile” and “Santa Clause 2” became the 19th through 21st films released in 2002 to cross $100 million. “Harry Potter” also shone, with its total grosses topping $200 million through-Sunday numbers, however, the spy outwitted the wizard; “Die Another Day” made $46.2 million compared to “Harry Potter’s” $45.8 million.

Two of the season’s big-ticket animated flicks went head to head by opening on the same weekend. And the winner was... Buena Vista’s “Treasure Planet,” which beat Sony’s “Adam Sandler’s 8 Crazy Nights” by $1.5 million. The two films opened in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

George Clooney’s bare butt convinced moviegoers to pony up to the tune of almost $10 million for “Solaris.” Steven Soderbergh’s thriller/science-fiction psychological drama opened in seventh place despite reviews that generally ranged from baffled to critical.

“Wes Craven Presents: They” did tolerably well, opening in ninth place and earning $8 million for the horror maven and distributor Miramax.

“The Ring,” “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” and “The Emperor’s Club” each dropped a few notches to round out the weekend box office. “Greek Wedding” has now earned more than $210 million, but this probably is the last we will see of it in the top 15 films.

Weekend studio estimates are generally based on actual numbers for Friday and Saturday and an extrapolation for Sunday. For the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the box office numbers are based on actual numbers for Wednesday through Saturday and an extrapolation for Sunday.

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The FTC advises when shopping online to “think ABC”:

• About me. What information does the company collect about me and is it secure?
• Benefits. How does the company use that information and what is the benefit to me?
• Choices. What choices do I have about the company’s use of information about me? Can I opt-out of information uses and how?

In addition, when shopping on auction Web sites such as eBay, there is a bit more homework to do before bidding. Make sure to check the seller’s feedback rating to ensure their reputation. Find out the relative value of what you’re bidding on and all terms and conditions of the sale. Review the seller’s return policies, if they are any, and determine who pays for shipping. Many times, this information is available in the product information section on the site.

Establish the top price you’re willing to pay and stick to it. And, if you win the auction, pay with a credit card, if possible, to ensure the most protections if something goes wrong.

No matter how you shop for the season, the FTC warns against careless shopping. Make sure you always check the refund and return policies of the store and read the fine print on your receipts. Review warranties that are available for your gifts and as a bonus, some credit card companies offer extended warranties on purchases you make on their card.

Also, after making your holiday purchases, save all your receipts and Web site ordering confirmation printouts in a folder or envelope for any future returns or exchanges.

Once you have made it through this season’s rush, stock up on basic items like wrapping paper, tape, bows, cards and tags after Christmas. Many stores put these small items on sale at greatly reduced prices in a rush to get rid of them.

Buying these small items will make next season’s shopping a little easier because you will avoid standing in line for a few small things.

During this time of expansion, instead of letting your blood pressure rise, let your enjoyment of the holiday itself and the preparation for it rise.

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Finally, I’m calling it quits ... really

By Anthony Hill
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

I’m not really calling it quits. I’m simply moving on to greener pastures in North Carolina. A student should really leave college after they graduate. I’ve spent this semester in graduate school, working with some great writers at The Chanticleer and Anniston Star — and trying to figure out where I wanted to spend the next couple of years of my life.

I’m very happy that I chose to stay this semester. I met a lot of cool athletes and people this season. I also had the pleasure of meeting the new volleyball coaches, Melissa Starck and Rick Nold. Nothing can take away the performances I was able to watch this semester either. There’s the incredible run of the soccer team and the massive improvement of the volleyball team, along with various other sporting events. Heck, I even enjoyed watching some of the Jax State intramural teams battle it out.

I also got an opportunity to meet some athletes that I didn’t know last year. Players like Matias Anselmo, Michelle Tippett, Steven Lee, Jane Little and Angela Tribble. Not to mention the athletes that I met and didn’t get an opportunity to interview.

Here’s a list of athletes you can try finding...
Six Gamecocks honored by Southland

From staff reports

The Gamecocks concluded the football season on a rough note, but still managed to find a positive note in the end. Six Gamecocks were named to the All-Southland Conference football team.

Two Jax State players received first and second team honors, while two others were honorable mention selections.

Senior offensive lineman Deon White, of Birmingham, and sophomore punter Richie Rhodes (Alexander City) were both first team selections for the team.

Rhodes, a two-time first-team selection, led the Southland Conference in punting for the second-straight year, with a 43 yard average and ranked No. 8 nationally, while White was the anchor of the Gamecock offensive line.

Senior Jermaine Hoyt (Gadsden) and Markee Coleman (Tuscaloosa) both earned second-team honors. Coleman finished with 53 tackles and a team-high five interceptions, while Hoyt was sixth on the team in tackles with 46 total stops.

Two other Gamecocks were just shy of all-conference selection. Randy Rogers and Jonathan Crutcher were both honorable mention selections. McNeese State's Hadley Prince was named the Southland Player-of-the-Year and was one of 16 Cowboys named to the All-Southland teams.

The Cowboys are ranked No. 1 with a 10-1 record and earned the top seed in this year's NCAA I-AA playoffs.

The coaches voted McNeese State's Nick King as Offensive Player-of-the-Year, Northwestern State's Roy Locks earned Defensive Player-of-the-Year and Stephen F. Austin's Tony Tompkins was tabbed as Freshman-of-the-Year.

McNeese State's Roderick Royal was named the Newcomer-of-the-Year, while Nicholls State's Daryl Daye was voted the Southland's Coach of the Year.

Jax State's Nold selected as A-Sun's best volleyball coach

From staff reports

Jacksonville State head volleyball coach Rick Nold was named the Atlantic Sun Coach-of-the-Year in his first season at the helm of the Gamecocks.

Nold is the only Jax State volleyball coach to ever earn Atlantic Sun Coach-of-the-Year honors. He was one of five head volleyball coaches in the league this season.

"It's a great honor to me and our team at JSU," Nold said. "This just shows how much we have improved throughout the year and that is what we have tried to do."

Nold, who coached Jax State to a 14-13 regular season finish and 7-4 in the conference, came to JSU from Louisville, where he was the assistant coach.

This season marks only the second of two years that Jax State has advanced to post-season play, since moving to Division I in 1995. The Gamecocks were preseason picked eighth in the Atlantic Sun and finished the year in a tie for fourth place.

"We have improved little by little and the reward was being able to compete in the conference tournament," said Nold.

The Gamecocks were defeated in the opening round of the Atlantic Sun tournament by Jacksonville University on Nov. 22. Jacksonville took the match 3-0 (30-22, 33-31, 36-34).

Freeman earns A-Sun honor

From staff reports

Jacksonville State's Shanika "Nip" Freeman posted a career-high 37 points against in-state foe, Alabama-Birmingham and was honored Atlantic Sun Women's Basketball Player-of-the-Week announced by the conference office on Monday afternoon.

Freeman, a sophomore from Chattanooga, Tenn., scored in double figures in each of the four games she's played so far this year, including the last three of which she scored over 20 points. She posted 24 points against Alabama A&M to lead the Gamecocks to the JSU Thanksgiving Classic title and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Since the season opened, Freeman is averaging 23.5 points per game and 9.0 rebounds per game. She has scored 95 points so far this season and has racked up 36 boards. She is shooting 600% from the field having made 36-50 shots and .783 from the free throw line.

Freeman will lead the Gamecocks against Hampton University at 7 p.m. on Monday.
No. 1 McNeese advances in playoffs, as Northwestern State gets thrashed

McNeese State 21, Montana State. 14

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP) — Scott Pendarvis threw for two touchdowns and ran for another as McNeese State beat Montana State 21-14 in the first round of the Division I-AA playoffs Saturday night.

Travis Lulay threw for 220 yards and two touchdowns for Montana State (7-6), but the McNeese defense held the Bobcats to minus-3 yards rushing.

McNeese (11-1), the No. 1 seed in 16-team playoffs, will meet defending champion Montana (11-2) in the second round next Saturday. Montana beat Northwestern State 45-14 a week after a 10-7 home loss to Montana State.

Pendarvis’ touchdown passes went for 9 yards to Vick King and 8 yards to Marcus Trahan. Pendarvis also had a 1-yard TD run that capped a 10-play, 66-yard drive early in the fourth quarter.

Jacob Prim ran for 61 yards to lead a McNeese running game that compiled 110 yards total, or about 115 yards short of its average for the regular season.

Pendarvis did his damage with short passes. The longest of his 12 completions was a 19-yarder to Jermaine Martin, who finished as the Cowboys’ leading receiver with 43 yards on three catches.

Lulay’s first TD pass went for 36 yards to Aaron Hill in the second quarter to tie the score at 7. The freshman quarterback hit Junior Adams with an 8-yard pass to finish off a seven-play 73-yard drive that tied the score at 14 with 14:16 left in the game.

Lulay’s top target was Scott Turnquist, who caught five passes for 118 yards, including one for 41 yards.

Montana 45, Northwestern St. 14

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — The University of Montana football team regrouped after a two-game losing streak and overcame continuing injuries to beat Northwestern State 45-14 Saturday in the first round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs.

Herb Fernandez returned an interception for a touchdown and Jefferson Heidelberger returned both a punt and a kickoff for a score.

Montana (11-2), co-champion of the Big Sky Conference, plays at McNeese State in next weekend’s quarterfinal, after the top-seeded Cowboys downed Montana State 21-14.

Fernandez, a senior defensive end making just his third start, played in place of Tim Bush, who was out with a concussion.

Fernandez tipped a pass by Kevin Magee and returned it 16 yards for a 21-0 lead with 7:06 left in the second quarter, forcing Northwestern State (9-4) out of its running game.

Montana took a 35-0 lead with 7:47 left in the third quarter on a 68-yard punt return by Jefferson Heidelberger, who subbing after Levander Segars left with a shoulder injury.

Northwestern State, of the Southland Conference, got its first touchdown on an 8-yard run by Derric Johnese with 1:24 left in the third quarter.

Montana went up 38-7 with 14:18 remaining on a 29-yard field goal by Chris Snyder, who missed earlier attempts from 47 and 39 yards and had a 42-yarder blocked by Terrence McGee, who also had three pass deflections, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery before leaving with a concussion.

Fred Harrison rounded out Northwestern State’s scoring on a 40-yard pass from Ben Beach with 11:51 remaining.

Heidelberger returned the ensuing kickoff 96 yards for Montana’s final score.

JR Waller rushed for 81 yards and a third-quarter touchdown, while David Gober rushed for 45 yards, including Montana’s first score, a 26-yard run with 12:25 left in the first quarter.

UM backup quarterback Brandon Neill completed all four passes on his first-quarter drive, hitting Tate Hancock on a 23-yard scoring pass with three seconds left in the first quarter to put Montana up 14-0.

Glenn said he was surprised when Neill came in for a series in the first quarter, but

John Edwards knew the offensive coaches were going to give his fellow senior a shot in what could have been his last game at Montana.

Edwards completed 17 of 30 passes for 152 yards and Neill was 6-of-8 for 87 yards for Montana, while Magee was 10-of-18 for 105 yards and Beach was 8-of-15 for 132 yards for the Demons.

Montana held Northwestern State to just 65 yards rushing, 127 below its season average.

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