Spirit of giving alive among JSU education faculty

Dr. Judy McCrary, Mrs. Phyllis Taylor and Kappa Delta Epsilon raise $1,326 for orphanage

By Rosalind Moore
The Chanticleer News Editor

The whimsical imagination of the children can be seen in their depiction of blue snowmen and snow-capped houses.

The children living in Orphanage 2 in Bucharest, Romania do not live the lives that average children in countries like the United States do.

Dr. Judy McCrary, assistant professor of education at JSU, first came into contact with these children when she visited Bucharest last Christmas with a group and visited for almost two weeks.

After visiting Orphanage 2, the director, Dr. Linda Gigli, gave McCrary about 10-15 pictures.

"The pictures were all winter scenes, and they were painted by the children and the snow was put on with toothpaste," said Phyllis Taylor, a colleague of McCrary and faculty adviser for the Kappa Delta Epsilon education honor society.

When McCrary returned, she gave each of her colleagues one of the pictures, which they had matted and framed.

The pictures were received with delight, and that’s when it sparked McCrary’s idea.

"Dr. McCrary had the idea to turn the pictures into little note cards," said Taylor. “The orphanage director agreed to the idea, and then Dr. McCrary proceeded to have all the images put onto cards, and the back states that they are reproductions of artwork from children in Romanian Orphanage 2 and that all the proceeds will go to the orphanage.”

Dr. McCrary then partnered with Kappa Delta Epsilon to sell the note cards to JSU students, faculty and staff.

Each year Kappa Delta Epsilon participates in various fund-raisers and programs, but this has been their most far-reaching effort.

The efforts of McCrary, Taylor and the members of Kappa Delta Epsilon help Romanian Orphanage 2.

When McCrary returned, she gave each of her colleagues one of the pictures, which they had matted and framed.

The pictures were received with delight, and that’s when it sparked McCrary’s idea.

"Dr. McCrary had the idea to turn the pictures into little note cards," said Taylor. “The orphanage director agreed to the idea, and then Dr. McCrary proceeded to have all the images put onto cards, and the back states that they are reproductions of artwork from children in Romanian Orphanage 2 and that all the proceeds will go to the orphanage.”

Dr. McCrary then partnered with Kappa Delta Epsilon to sell the note cards to JSU students, faculty and staff.

Each year Kappa Delta Epsilon participates in various fund-raisers and programs, but this has been their most far-reaching effort.

The efforts of McCrary, Taylor and the members of Kappa Delta Epsilon help Romanian Orphanage 2.

When McCrary returned, she gave each of her colleagues one of the pictures, which they had matted and framed.

The pictures were received with delight, and that’s when it sparked McCrary’s idea.

"Dr. McCrary had the idea to turn the pictures into little note cards," said Taylor. “The orphanage director agreed to the idea, and then Dr. McCrary proceeded to have all the images put onto cards, and the back states that they are reproductions of artwork from children in Romanian Orphanage 2 and that all the proceeds will go to the orphanage.”

Dr. McCrary then partnered with Kappa Delta Epsilon to sell the note cards to JSU students, faculty and staff.

Each year Kappa Delta Epsilon participates in various fund-raisers and programs, but this has been their most far-reaching effort.

The efforts of McCrary, Taylor and the members of Kappa Delta Epsilon help Romanian Orphanage 2.

When McCrary returned, she gave each of her colleagues one of the pictures, which they had matted and framed.

The pictures were received with delight, and that’s when it sparked McCrary’s idea.

"Dr. McCrary had the idea to turn the pictures into little note cards," said Taylor. “The orphanage director agreed to the idea, and then Dr. McCrary proceeded to have all the images put onto cards, and the back states that they are reproductions of artwork from children in Romanian Orphanage 2 and that all the proceeds will go to the orphanage.”

Dr. McCrary then partnered with Kappa Delta Epsilon to sell the note cards to JSU students, faculty and staff.

Each year Kappa Delta Epsilon participates in various fund-raisers and programs, but this has been their most far-reaching effort.

The efforts of McCrary, Taylor and the members of Kappa Delta Epsilon help Romanian Orphanage 2.

When McCrary returned, she gave each of her colleagues one of the pictures, which they had matted and framed.

The pictures were received with delight, and that’s when it sparked McCrary’s idea.

"Dr. McCrary had the idea to turn the pictures into little note cards," said Taylor. “The orphanage director agreed to the idea, and then Dr. McCrary proceeded to have all the images put onto cards, and the back states that they are reproductions of artwork from children in Romanian Orphanage 2 and that all the proceeds will go to the orphanage.”

Dr. McCrary then partnered with Kappa Delta Epsilon to sell the note cards to JSU students, faculty and staff.

Each year Kappa Delta Epsilon participates in various fund-raisers and programs, but this has been their most far-reaching effort.

The efforts of McCrary, Taylor and the members of Kappa Delta Epsilon help Romanian Orphanage 2.
By Patrick McCrillis
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State University Police Department recently made its first arrest using a drug-sniffing dog.

The arrest, which took place on Nov. 16 at the Pete Mathews Coliseum parking lot, was for a charge of marijuana possession.

"The dog hit on the car," said JSUPD officer Neil Fetner, "and the officers made contact with the owner. She allowed them to do a search, and the controlled substance was found at that time."

The dog, a yellow labrador retriever named Tigger, is trained to alert an officer when he detects the presence of a controlled substance such as marijuana, cocaine or heroin. When Tigger smells a controlled substance, he alerts the officers by sitting down.

The night of the arrest, Tigger was on loan to JSUPD. "He belongs to the Jacksonville City Police Department," said Fetner, explaining that since Scott Hodges, the JPD officer who handles Tigger, is also a part-time reserve police officer for the University, JSUPD is able to make use of the dog.

"We can use him pretty much at our leisure, if we're having a special activity or something," said Fetner.

According to mapinc.org, a website dedicated to drug policy reform, the dog was obtained a few months ago by JPD from the Canine Detection Training Center at Auburn University at McClellan.

see K-9, page 3

Father and daughter reunite in homeless shelter

By The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — David Smith was looking for a meal at a Birmingham homeless shelter, but instead found a daughter he had been separated from for eight months.

Smith, 49, battling alcoholism, had separated from his wife in Odenville and moved into an abandoned coal mine in Walker County. He said he'd lived like a hermit, eating wild game for five months.

"I was ashamed to show my face to anybody," Smith told The Birmingham News for a story Sunday.

He had no contact with his family and missed his 25-year-old daughter's wedding.

see Reunion, page 2

JSU sets winning precedent in OVC

Gamecocks win conference in first year; lose in playoffs

By J. Wilson Guthrie
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

After the crowd settled and the cheers had been quieted, Darrell Prater, one of Jacksonville State's senior team captains, walked confidently to the bus. Under his arm were a bag of football equipment and the fruits of JSU's 2003 season.

"Let me have that so I can wrap it up," said a coach. Prater just smiled, "I'm not letting go of this."

What Prater didn't want to give up was the Ohio Valley Conference championship trophy.

On the strength of its defense, JSU downed Southeast Missouri in the final game of the regular season, securing the conference title and the OVC's automatic bid to the NCAA I-AA playoffs.

"We were playing a little too hard," said Crowe. "We have to be smart about what we are doing."

JSU's offense was quieter than usual, but it was just good enough to win, with just under 68 yards passing. The running game was better, with 250 on the ground on 57 carries.

Maurice Mullins was 4-of-12 on the pass, completing several events to improve relations, such as passing out inspirational thank-you notes to faculty and staff at President William Meehan's convocation speech, encouraging staff and faculty participation at events such as "midnight snack" and sending encouraging notes throughout the semester.

Cook hopes to continue to work to improve student and faculty relations in the spring semester.

"We discussed several goals which we wanted to accomplish for the school year as an executive board," said Cook. "One of these goals was to improve faculty and student relations."

The current executive board and SGA members implemented several events to improve relations, such as passing out inspirational thank-you notes to faculty and staff at President William Meehan's convocation speech, encouraging staff and faculty participation at events such as "midnight snack" and sending encouraging notes throughout the semester.

The SGA worked to make that possible by hosting spirit competitions at home football games and giving away awards and incentives.

see SGA, page 3

By the numbers:

Gamecock Scoreboard:

Football:
Nov. 29 Western Kentucky 45, JSU 7
Men's basketball:
Nov. 29 Miss. Valley St. 84, JSU 59
Dec. 1 JSU 71, Jackson State 63

Index:
Announcements, Crime ... 2
Opinion ......... 4
Features ... 5
Sports .......... 7

Question of the Week ........ 4
Concert calendar .......... 6

Amount a full-time, in-state, undergraduate student pays per day for JSU tuition:
$24.93
Kappa Delta Epsilon have helped to raise a total amount of $1,326. "The orphanage doesn't have any idea that we have raised that much money for their orphanage," said Taylor. "To give you an idea, a surgeon in Romania makes about $150 a month, and you can buy a brand new car for $4,000." The amount raised through the collaborative effort of several education department resources has proved very beneficial to the orphanage. "I'm ecstatic. I couldn't have imagined that we could do anything more worthy," said Taylor of her involvement with Kappa Delta Epsilon and the project.

McCrary and Taylor will be on TV24, Dec. 4 at 6:30 a.m., and they plan to continue selling the note cards throughout the spring semester. The note cards come in a set of eight with four different images. They are $10, and 100 percent of the proceeds go to Orphanage 2 in Bucharest, Romania. McCrary hopes to send the first portion of the money in time for Christmas.

"These kids don't have what we have and have not grown up like we grew up, and what may seem like a small gift to us is huge to them," said Taylor. "I think that it will be cool for the children to know that some college students in Alabama worked to help them, and of course, Dr. McCrary's work." For more information, contact Dr. Judy McCrary at 782-5167, or Mrs. Phyllis Taylor at 782-8058.

Artwork by the children of Orphanage 2 in Romania.

On Thanksgiving morning, Smith heard that the Birmingham Baptist Association was handing out food and clothing at the old Farmers Market location downtown.

While eating bacon, eggs, grits, biscuits, cereal, milk, fruit and coffee, Smith shared his story with volunteer Henry Capillary of The Church At Cahaba Ridge in Clay. "That's more or less the reason I went," Smith said. "I wanted to talk to somebody. There's a lot of pain in me ... Sometimes you feel like nobody cares, but I know it's not true."

Smith told Capillary he couldn't bear to see his family. "I felt like they were better off without me," he said. But Smith asked Capillary to tell his wife he was alive. Smith's wife told their daughter, Christy Williamson, about it Thanksgiving night. On Saturday morning, Williamson and her husband, Jordan, traveled from their Pell City home to Birmingham to look for her father, who had missed her wedding in May.

"I just wondered how he was, where he was, if he was OK, if he had food," she said. They arrived at the Baptist outdoor kitchen at 6 a.m. but couldn't find him. After her husband left to get a picture of her father, she turned around about 7:20 and there was Smith, lined up to get food.

"I just walked up to him and threw my arms around him," Williamson said. "We just stood there hugging each other for what seemed to be five minutes." Ricky Creech, director of the Birmingham Baptist Association, heard Williamson cry out when she saw her father.

"She ran right into his arms, and they embraced. It was full of emotion, full of tears, and so we were all of us," Creech said. "We were dieing over here. For the longest time, they couldn't let go. They were just paralyzed in one another's arms."

Smith said seeing his daughter's face meant the world to him. "There aren't enough words to describe it," he said. "I could see the love and the hurt and a little bit of relief." Williamson and her husband took Smith to their home Saturday for a long talk and an overnight stay.

Andrews, 38, said he planned to get into an alcoholic recovery program for the first time. "I've always wanted help but would never let anybody help me," he said.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jefferson's
Wings • Oysters • Burgers

Happy Holidays!

DAILY SPECIALS...

MONDAY
KARAOKE
ANY BURGER AND FRIES $4.25
DOMESTIC LONGNECK BOTTLES $1.50

TUESDAY
ANY SALAD $4.75/OYSTERS 33c

Wednesday
ROTC: Good job to the Gamecock Battalion for another great semester! If you are interested in joining ROTC and/or are interested in Army scholarship opportunities and benefits contact Cpt. Shackleford at dshackleford@jsucc.jsu.edu. Contact: Jenny Wentworth at 435-5152.

Delta Sigma Theta: Congratulations to our graduates Rikisha, and Jahanna. Also congrats to Sharree for getting accepted into the nursing program. Good Luck to everyone on their final exams and have a safe and happy holidays. Contact: Marshonntri Reid, dst_kappabetu73@hotmail.com.

National Pan-Hellenic Council: The National Pan-Hellenic Council would like to congratulate its 2004 Executive Council Officers: President Marshonntri Reid, Vice President Joee Joseph and Secretary-Treasurer Marcus Shephard. Here is to a great year ahead! Contact: Megan Radison, mradison@jsucc.jsu.edu.

Alpha Xi Delta: Congrats to our new executive officers! (Katie Green - president, Lindsey Spurlock - chapter life, Jenny Wentworth - public relations, Emily Randles - recruitment, Andrea Palacios - financial, Casey Cheek - programs, Bonnie Head - Panhellenic delegate and Ashley Scott - recording secretary). Have a safe and happy winter break! Contact: Jenny Wentworth at 435-5152.

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 offices in Room 180, Self Hall by 5 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.

CAMPUS CRIME

- Nov. 15 - Richard Blake Clawson, 20, was arrested for DUI occurring on 5th Street, Jacksonville.
- Nov. 13 - JSU reported theft of various chemicals occurring at Martin and McGee Hall.
- Nov. 20 - Reed Dowlen of Tampa, Fla., 18, was arrested for minor consumption of alcohol occurring at Brother’s Bar, Jacksonville.
- Nov. 20 - Joseph Bill Enochs of Springville, Ala., 24, was arrested for open container violation occurring on Highway 21 at Mountain Street.
- Nov. 20 - Wesley Rodick, 23, of Douglasville, Ga., was arrested for DUI occurring at Brother’s Bar, Jacksonville.
- Nov. 20 - Matthew Bart Cornelius, 21, was arrested for public lewdness occurring at Brother’s Bar, Jacksonville.
- Nov. 21 - Christopher Les Tucker of Collinsville, 19, was arrested for minor in possession of alcohol occurring on Forney Ave.
- Nov. 30 - Jeremy Lamar Norman, 22, reported burglary occurring at Penn House Apartments. A Sony Playstation 2 and Playstation games were stolen.
- Dec. 1 - Kimberly Matthews Womack reported identity theft occurring on March 18 of JSU letterhead requesting prescriptions to Dr. Norrell.
K-9 (from page 1): JSUPD considers drug dog, Tigger, a great asset

Tigger cost the department $6,000. The site also reported that Hodges, who was chosen for his background in handling dogs in the military, had to go to the orientation at Auburn's McClellan outpost and spend a month there training. The dog is now cared for by Hodges and lives with him and his family.

The city of Auburn's Canine Detection Center Web site says that the center was established in response to the recognized shortage of high quality detection dogs and detection team training.

The center offers state-of-the-art instruction to train dogs, handlers, trainers, and program managers in all facets of canine detection work. It blends professional canine training with the most recent technological advances. The center includes a performance based selective breeding program of detector dogs as well.

Although Tigger was used for the first time during the Step Show at the Coliseum, Fetner said that the department's choice to debut Tigger then was not planned for that event specifically. "That just happened to be the first event that came on the schedule," said Fetner.

"I'm sure we'll have Tigger on campus in the future for football games and things of that nature," he said. JSUPD is also working on showing their gratitude to Tigger for his help.

"We are in the process of trying to get Tigger his own badge and his own coat," said Fetner. "That's a big thing, so we want to do that for him," said Fetner, "because he is an asset to the JSUPD."

from SGA, page 1

to participating organizations on campus. This worked in conjunction with their goal to develop a more student-friendly student section and increase student participation at athletic events.

Jennifer Mince, SGA director of publicity, stated that her major semester goal was to make SGA publicity more interactive. "By interactive publicity, we're meaning something that catches the eye," said Mince.

Mince went on to say that, "It's publicity that people can relate to, and it's taking the normal and making it irregular." Mince and her committee tried different approaches with flyers like the eye charts that would be more appealing and draw people to stop and read the information whether it was something they wanted to know about or not.

One of the major collaborative goals of the publicity committee and the Student Activities Council is to provide JSU students with a bigger and better spring concert.

About two weeks ago the SGA and members of the S.A.C. conducted a concert survey to poll the student body's preferences. "The concert and boosting participation are going to be our major concerns for the spring," said Mardracus Russell, SGA vice president of Student Activities.

"For the concert we will probably order key chains, cups, whistles or some other type of cool souvenirs to help publicize and get the students excited about the concert," said Mince about her committee's plans concerning the concert.

Other goals of interest include getting students involved in the positive and helpful aspects of college life.

"We really want to make sure that we are giving students what they want."

SGA president

"Student participation was really good this semester, and one of the goals of the S.A.C. is already in the making because movie night is back," Russell stated.

Russell stated that they already have a full selection of movies lined up for the spring semester and that they plan to show them at least once a month. This is one of the ideas for continuing to help increase student body participation.

During the fall semester, the SGA hosted several movie nights that were well attended by students.

Another branch of the SGA was also hard at work this semester. "The Organizational Council has been working hard this semester to increase attendance at our meetings and also to produce programs and provide unity between our organizations," said Alesha Ingram, SGA vice president of the Organizational Council.

"This semester there has been an average of about 50 organizations present and there used to be only about four or five," said Ingram.

The council helped boost attendance by passing bills making it mandatory for organizations to have good attendance to receive SGA allocation funds. According to Ingram, attendance was also better because of frequent communication and developing programs like motivational speaker, Joe Martin, which were beneficial to the organizations.

The SGA executive members are geared up for the spring semester and are ready to accomplish bigger and better things.

Some of the major events include publicizing SGA elections and senator vacancies in the spring and once again focusing on the spring concert.

"I am really excited about the spring," said Cook, "because we are getting an SGA Web site."

Cook hopes to use the Web site to keep students more up-to-date about events and things of importance.

"There's a lot of options and potential to make our Web site really great and beneficial to the students," Cook stated.

The SGA hopes that one day students will be able to vote for bills and things such as Homecoming Queen by accessing the Web site.

The SGA is also planning some form of recognition for those organizations which have participated in the newly structured Organizational Council.

The SGA would like to encourage students to stay informed and get involved in the many events and committees they have to offer.

"We are progressing well with every goal we have and we really want to make sure that we are giving students what they want," said Cook.
Available on DVD & VHS

Rent it TODAY!
With this, I leave you, but I’m taking my towel

By Gary Lewis
The Chanticleer Managing Editor

This issue marks my last as a member of The Chanticleer editorial staff. It’s been a great 2 1/2 years, and I don’t think I could’ve asked for a better group of people to work with.

Tradition dictates that a farewell column should be filled with thanks and well wishes. I guess I’ll get around to that.

But first, I just want to send a heartfelt thanks to whoever it was that decided that JSU should have a normal mascot. Kind of like purgatory.

“Cocky, ya big ol’ bird, I love ya.” I must admit, it took a visit to beautiful Bowling Green for me to truly appreciate the serene normality of seeing a 6-foot chicken walk around at JSU sporting events.

Please don’t misunderstand. The people up at Western Kentucky are wonderful, friendly, helpful and deservedly proud. Apart from their athletic success, WKU boasts one of the finest journalism schools in the nation. Far be it from me to question anything that goes on up there.

I mean no disrespect when I say this, but honestly, the Hilltopper mascot scares the hell out of me.

It’s not so much Big Red himself. ESPN certainly loves the thing. Major cool points for that.

After all, when it comes to knowing where one’s towel is, a Hilltopper is hard to beat.

Adams, in his epic “Hitchhiker” series, discussed at length the usefulness of the common towel for interstellar travelers. So important were towels, in fact, that one of the finest compliments one could pay a person was to say something like, “There’s a guy who really knows where his towel is.”

Having a towel at the ready means that a person was prepared for anything life threw his way. Only an amazingly with-it, together guy would be worthy of such high praise.

Which is why I say, from the heart, that Ben Cunningham, my former editor-in-chief, is a guy who really knows where his towel is.

Thank you, Ben, for everything. You’ve been a friend; you’ve been a brother. It’s scary how much you know about the newspaper business. Thanks for convincing me to come work for you back in 2001.

Thanks also to my two former managing editors. First, to Joshua Bingham, for teaching me more about copyediting than I could’ve ever learned in any class. Second, to Stephanie Pendergrass, for serving as a wonderful arch-enemy, at least until she got all uppity and went into broadcasting. Boo, Pendergrass! Boo!

Thanks and best of luck to everyone on the current staff. Danni, Jeremy, Roz, Katja and Erin have made all those late deadline nights worth every hour of missed sleep. I’ll truly miss each of you, and I promise I’ll visit.

I’m sorry I won’t be around in the spring, but the real world is calling my name.

“Gary ... Gaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr...
Learning from voter anger: California, Alabama and American Democracy

By Glen Browder
Special to The Chanticleer

Editor’s note: This column has been edited for length. Readers may view it in its entirety at www.thechanticleeronline.com.

As California’s gubernatorial recall and Alabama’s anti-tax referendum fade into history, perhaps Americans should focus on a valuable civics lesson to be learned from these experiences: America is changing in ways that are important for the future of American democracy.

Centrifugal Democracy. The critical lesson is the changing nature of the American political system. In transformational terminology, California and Alabama evidence the cumulative forces and disruptive pressures of centrifugal democracy. Energy, power and influence are spinning outward (away from traditional, centralized, governmental leaders and political institutions) to “the people” wherever and however they choose to aggregate and conduct their daily lives. This centrifugal phenomenon generally exerts itself most prominently as neopopulism (in the form of aggressive direct democracy initiatives newly enhanced through the politics of modern technology).

Democratic Dysfunction. Particularly in large, diverse California, but also in smaller, more homogeneous states like Alabama, the centrifugal forces of neopopulism can wreak havoc; and much of those states’ contemporary dysfunction – not just the recall and anti-tax backlash – can be traced to raw conflict between an established system of representational government and the public’s increasing penchant for direct democracy.

In both states, decisions historically have been made by politicians and interest groups in the cozy, insider confines of the state capitals. More specifically, Californians felt that problems like the energy/budget crisis were being addressed on a “pay-to-play” basis among Sacramento politicians; and Alabamians saw the state’s revenue crisis as a trumped-up excuse for huge tax increases designed behind closed doors by Montgomery politicians, powerful lobbyists and progressive leaders. Unfortunately for the elitist establishment in both states, the people got a chance to exercise final judgment – and people’s anger prevailed overwhelmingly, almost wrathfully.

The practical lesson is that society increasingly augments historic republican government with direct democracy plebiscites, thus the public policy-making process must be attempted, from the beginning, in open, constructive fashion involving real public participation rather than elitist rule; ignoring this reality invites a series of rogue democratic attacks – in the form of recalls, initiatives and referenda – on stubborn, resistant, professional politicians.

Perhaps the most immediate, challenging item atop the agenda for new Governor Schwarzenegger and chastened Governor Riley thus should be statewide discussion about the future of California and Alabama. Particularly as these leaders search for budgetary solutions, they must bring their “people” to the discussion table from the beginning, ahead of professional politicians, special interests and progressive elites, in efforts toward establishing public priorities, assessing the real fiscal situation, cutting fat from the budget, consolidated useful programs and then, and only then, considering possible tax options.

As for the rest of us, these California and Alabama developments certainly merit close attention. Numerous other locales already are facing comparable situations, with similar forces likely impacting the rest of the country in the foreseeable future; and the lesson thus far is that the historical experiment fares poorly when traditional leaders ignore fundamentally changing American democracy.

Considering the surge of centrifugal democracy throughout the American system, it is possible that in the next few decades, the American people will rethink various aspects of their public life. Conducting future policy-making in politics-as-usual manner is a recipe for democratic dysfunction because raucous direct democracy inevitably will confront and confound stubborn, old-style government.

Voter anger has trumped traditional politics in California and Alabama, providing useful points of caution and guidance about important trends in broader American society. Despite unsettling possibilities of the recall/initiative/referendum movement for traditional elites, public plebiscites are part of America’s future. Maybe it’s time to consider how we might – no, how we must – expand our Great Experiment, within an appropriate framework of constructive civic deliberation, to include greater public participation in American democracy.

ABOUT THE WRITER
Give the gift of time during holidays

By Katja Sunnarborg
The Chanticleer Features Editor

A gift doesn’t have to be something material. Sometimes the most meaningful gifts come in the least expected forms.

“There are many ways to help those in need. Some just need a friend to spend time with, some local agencies need help with their clients and the service they offer, some people need help filling out the proper paper work so they can get the help they need,” said Stacey Wilkins, Volunteer Center Coordinator at United Way of East Central Alabama.

“An hour of your time can mean a lifetime of feeling cared about to someone else.”

There are many volunteer opportunities in the community, both this holiday season and after. Second Chance is a shelter for abused women and their children, and they need volunteers for their gift-wrapping booth at the Quintard Mall. There are a variety of hours to volunteer for this event, from a whole day to one hour.

Second Chance also has an Adopt-A-Family program in which a business, church, or individual can adopt a family for the Christmas holidays. “There is always a need for volunteers, and it seems this time of year people want to volunteer because they know there are people out there who are less fortunate than others,” said Wilkins. “Still there are volunteers needed year round for different reasons.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America is an organization that seeks to provide positive, caring adults for children and youth, ages 6 to 15, in a one-to-one mentoring program. The agency will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year. It has been in Calhoun County since 1996.

“At the moment we have 20 students from JSU volunteering, but we would like very much to have 50 to 100 volunteers from JSU,” said Sue Gajda, Outreach Coordinator of Big Brothers Big Sisters in Anniston.

Volunteers meet once a week with the children at the school, and it is up to the volunteers and children to decide how to spend their time. They can sing, have fun or take the child to lunch – the important thing is to make that child know that there is someone who cares, according to Gajda.

“A lot of these kids come from dysfunctional families. Some of them might be those quiet kids in the corner that nobody likes,” she said. “It helps them with their self esteem, and the mentor can help to motivate them both socially and academically. Now they know somebody cares.”

Representatives from the agency are more than happy to come and give a presentation to any club, group, or organization at campus to let them know more about Big Brothers Big Sisters. This mentoring program does not require someone to be “perfect” to positively touch the life of a child or youth, but to simply be a dedicated, caring individual, Gajda said.

SGA President Chris Cook recently volunteered as a Big Brother to a boy in a local school. “I thought it was going to be a whole lot of work. I thought I was going to have to teach them how to spell, or how to read. But really all they want is to somebody to talk to, a role model,” he said. “I was really surprised how easy it was.”

“I just started meeting with my little boy about a week ago, and it was fun. It is weird to think that those problems he has, in my mind were so small, but to him they were so big,” Cook said. “He was worried about his sweatshirt his mom made him wear, and I just tried to make him feel better. You just got to be there to be their friend.”

To volunteer for the Big Brother Big Sister program or learn more about it, contact Sue Gajda at (256) 238-9622 or (256) 240-7391.

To learn more about other opportunities to volunteer during Christmas and after, contact Stacey Wilkins at the United Way Volunteer Center at (256) 236-8220.

“I really would encourage people to do this. If you think about it, it is about an hour a week, which is really not a whole lot,” Cook said. “You’re really helping that kid a lot if you just spend time with him and listen.”

We have finally come to the end of the semester with only a few days left. To me it has felt longer than usual, maybe because I have missed Finland more than before, but also because of the many new things that were my responsibility this semester.

As a new features editor and president of the Society of Professional Journalists, I have felt more pressure to do my work as well as I can, and even better, but also lot of stress of handling all the different things going on in my life.

In the end I have to say it has all gone well, and I am proud of myself. At some point I thought the day I would get to go home for Christmas would never come, but now I’m finally three days away from flying to Helsinki. I can hardly wait, which makes the time go even slower.

Christmas is the best time of the year, especially when I am able to spend it with my family. I love the warm, fuzzy feeling it gives me each year, the anticipation of Christmas Eve, that almost always goes by too fast. Every December I light more candles than usual, listen to Christmas music, and
Red Hot Chili Peppers

Greatest Hits

Review by Nick Mackay

The Chronicle Staff Writer

Few bands have gone through as much turmoil, heartache, success and drugs as the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Surfing out of L.A. in the mid ’80s on a heroin-fueled funk train, the Chili Peppers have come to be a defining band for a generation. They were and are a group of testosterone boosting, socks-on-cocks partiers who eventually grew up and created some of the most startlingly special albums of the last 15 years. But that doesn’t mean they have to keep their shirts on.

Not many bands were more deserving of a “Behind the Music.” Now, almost 20 years after they began their career, a definitive Greatest Hits album has been compiled to tell the story of a band who are hard to define, but easy to love.

The album features a number of classic Chili Pepper cuts, and none stands out more than the opener, “Under the Bridge.” Released on “BSSM” the song was a dramatic shift for the band at the time; however its soft melodies and charming chord progression vaulted the band into the Top 40 and into mainstream airplay.

Aside from Pearl Jam’s “Jeremy” and Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” few songs were heard more often in the last 10 years. The album also features funk specials “Give It Away,” “Suck My Kiss” and “Breaking the Girl” all of which came from “BSSM.”

Several defining tracks from the band’s other commercially successful albums are also featured. As expected, Greatest Hits features Chili Pepper standards “Californication,” “Parallel Universe,” “Scar Tissue” and one new classic “By the Way.”

What is surprising is the inclusion of the song “My Friends” from “One Hot Minute.” The chili Peppers have always said the album was their low point creatively, and they have even gone as far as to not play any tracks from the album when in concert.

But this song had to be included in some form or another. It’s the only song on the “One Hot Minute” album that actually sounds like a Chili Peppers ballad. It’s clear that the turning point for the band came when singer Anthony Kiedis quit trying to rap and found he could actually carry a tune (when he tries that is).

But the highlight of Greatest Hits never actually appeared on an album. Lifted from “The Comeback” soundtrack, “Soul To Squeeze” is a perfect mix of Kiedis’ charisma, Flea’s funkiness and Fruscienne’s sublime brilliance. Smith is also a standout, even when he’s playing his softest drums ever.

Two new songs are also included in the package, but they don’t really add anything to the overall picture. They’re prototypical Chili Peppers songs, full of flavor and melody, but they’ll be better served on the next album.

The Red Hot Chili Peppers have finally come full circle. Their success and staying power comes from a unique, creative earnestness and an unwillingness to give up in the face of challenges. For now they’re one of the biggest bands on the planet, in time they may be remembered for being much more than that.

Like few bands before them they continue to accumulate fans even as they approach the second decade of their existence. They may not rock the socks anymore, but by God, they still rock. Now if we could just get Flea to put a damn shirt on...

Billy Bob Thornton as “Bad Santa,” in theatres since Nov. 26. This story of an alcoholic, womanizing con man posing as a department store Santa, is an R-rated movie, not intended for children.

There’s no way to illustrate the raunchy nature of the humor in “Bad Santa” in the pages of a family newspaper. It’s enough to say that no matter how jaded you might think you are, the movie’s streak of cruelty and cynicism will make you gasp as often as it makes you laugh.

The R-rated “Bad Santa” doesn’t only set a new record for the number of four-letter words in a Christmas-themed film. It also takes the entire idea of a Christmas-themed film and stomps on it, tears it apart and balls it up into a lump of scalding-hot satire.

Usually those loved ones have relatives I hardly remember, but this year one among many will be my grandmother, who passed away last December. I got her the most special gift of all, a wooden angel of remembrance, to make sure she will never be forgotten.

These traditions, and all of the other ones our family has, I'm sure I will continue when I have my own family some day. They represent history and respect for my parents and grandparents, who started all the traditions we follow today.

When the world is changing every day, some things in my mind should always stay the same.

After the holidays we will start a new semester, which will be my last as well. I have to keep reminding myself that I am really coming to an end of something that started as a plan to stay here for only a year.

Now I have been here three- and-a-half years, and as I said to my mom on the phone the other day, I feel like one of my dreams is literally coming true.

But I still have so many dreams that are waiting to be made true, and soon it will be time for me to go after those, which might mean leaving the United States behind at least for a while. (You should never say never.)

Still I have one more semester to enjoy here, and I will do just that. I hope whoever reads this will truly enjoy their holidays and will have a very Merry Christmas.
Tired of getting paid minimum wage? Write for The Chanticleer and get paid less! (But it looks good on a résumé.)

Call 782-5701
Have a Happy and Safe Holiday!!!

Good luck on Finals!!!

-SGA
JSU wins OVC title

Gamecocks win over SEMO; lose big in playoffs to defending national champions

from JSU, page 1

Well, boys and girls, it's the final column of the year for me. And boy do we have a lot to talk about. So let's get right to it.

First of all I would like to express my disappointment about the game this past Saturday. I had fought and stood up for my beloved Gamecocks, believing that, no matter what the conference, they still would have fared well. That got shot to hell in just under 5 minutes.

You all did a great job, and you have those conference rings. I expect we'll see a whole lot more of JSU in conference tournaments and conference finals for a long time to come.

And I want to congratulate the volleyball team and the soccer team for their respective sports.

I was undefeated this year in calling the JSU football games. And yes, I know that it was not a Boston-Chicago Series, but hey, one can dream, right?

And Alabama got beat ... by a lot of people. So what. Auburn doesn't want their coach, and he wins. If I were Tuberville I would sue.

But the man of the hour for JSU was Dexter Sistrunk. The junior out of Opelika, Ala. had two key defensive plays in the first half that assured JSU the win. Sistrunk picked up a fumble on a pitch from SEMO quarterback Andrew Goodenough to Brandon Amick and rumbled 42 yards for the score.

Later SEMO was threatening to put together a drive that could have cut the JSU lead to three. Jenkins then scored on a reverse from 10 yards out with a huge block from Levet Jones that allowed Jenkins to turn the corner.

JSU, page 1
Brown, Eager lead men's Gamecock hoops to wins

By Mike Vaughan II
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

The men's basketball program at Jacksonville State has a decidedly two-way style this season. They live by the motto "win 'em at home" as they are 3-0 on campus and 0-2 off of it. The home victims have been Alabama A&M, 74-68, NAIA's Shorter College, 97-90, and Jackson State, 71-63. The road contests have been gruesome, as JSU has fallen to Southern Illinois, 84-49, and Mississippi Valley State, 84-59.

The season opened at home for the Gamecocks, as they hosted Alabama A&M. Carl Brown scored 14 points as JSU took out the Bulldogs, 74-68. Abdou Diame scored 10 points and had two blocked shots in his much-anticipated JSU debut. A&M led at the half 36-35, but JSU responded by hitting 10 of their first 12 attempts in the second half to pull away. Trent Eager recorded a career-high 18 points in the contest, while JSU hit 63.2 percent from the floor in the second half.

JSU stayed at home to host Shorter College of the NAIA ranks in game two. This wasn't your average group of runners, as Shorter led for most of the game before JSU pulled out a 97-90 win. Trent Eager had another career high, as he scored 30 points, the first time a Gamecock has reached 30 since 1908. Also recording a career high was Carl Brown, as he poured in 23. Shorter held a 46-38 halftime lead, but JSU broke out early in the second half with a 9-0 run to cut Shorter's lead to 53-52. SU upped the lead to 60-54 before JSU hit four-straight 3-pointers to take the lead for good. Scott Watson hit two of those to finish with 15 points, 12 of which came on 3s.

The Gamecocks then ventured out on the road for the first time in the season, visiting Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois wasn't very hospitable, as JSU jumped on the homestanders to gain its second win of the season. As they trailed 40-21 at the half, Eager led at the half with a 9-0 run to cut the Gamecock lead to 53-52. SU upped the lead to 60-54 before JSU hit four-straight 3-pointers to take the lead for good. Scott Watson hit two of those to finish with 15 points, 12 of which came on 3s.

The Gamecocks then ventured out on the road for the first time in the season, visiting Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois wasn't very hospitable, as JSU jumped on the homestanders to gain its second win of the season. As they trailed 40-21 at the half, Eager led at the half with a 9-0 run to cut the Gamecock lead to 53-52. SU upped the lead to 60-54 before JSU hit four-straight 3-pointers to take the lead for good. Scott Watson hit two of those to finish with 15 points, 12 of which came on 3s.

The Gamecocks then ventured out on the road for the first time in the season, visiting Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois wasn't very hospitable, as JSU jumped on the homestanders to gain its second win of the season. As they trailed 40-21 at the half, Eager led at the half with a 9-0 run to cut the Gamecock lead to 53-52. SU upped the lead to 60-54 before JSU hit four-straight 3-pointers to take the lead for good. Scott Watson hit two of those to finish with 15 points, 12 of which came on 3s.

The Gamecocks then ventured out on the road for the first time in the season, visiting Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois wasn't very hospitable, as JSU jumped on the homestanders to gain its second win of the season. As they trailed 40-21 at the half, Eager led at the half with a 9-0 run to cut the Gamecock lead to 53-52. SU upped the lead to 60-54 before JSU hit four-straight 3-pointers to take the lead for good. Scott Watson hit two of those to finish with 15 points, 12 of which came on 3s.
DURING FINALS WEEK
Call us for more information
SAVE $$$$$$ ON JSU TEXTBOOKS!
NEW AND USED
435-7407