SGA elections begin, candidates speak on their qualifications

Of the four executive positions, only five current SGA members are contending for the 2004-2005 positions in March.

By Patrick McCreless
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Candidates running for office in the Student Government Association gave their first speeches at the Theron Montgomery Building after Monday night’s senate meeting.

Of the four positions to be filled, only five people announced that they were running.

Running for Vice President of Organizational Affairs was the first candidate of the night, Allison Crow. She said that her persistence to be involved on campus has increased due to her work in the SGA Senate and the JSU Ambassador Program. Crow said that is why she is running.

“I feel I’m very highly qualified for the position,” said Crow. As allocations committee head, Crow said that her persistence to be involved on campus has increased due to her work in the SGA Senate and the JSU Ambassador Program. Crow said that is why she is running.

The next position on the list was the Vice President of Student Activities. This is the only position to have more than one candidate running. Mardracus Russell, the current vice president, spoke first.

“I got the right stuff baby,” said Russell. “It doesn’t matter if you’re black or white, I’m here to serve you.”

Russell said that what students will get if he’s reelected is leadership, accountability, hard work, and ethics. He then gave a list of his accomplishments over the past year. Russell said that what students will get if he’s reelected is leadership, accountability, hard work, and ethics. He then gave a list of his accomplishments over the past year.

Cookout on the Quad, comedians, and casino night are a few of the events Russell said he was responsible for setting up.

If elected, “I’ll come back with bigger and better plans for you next year,” said Russell.

Russell’s only opposing candidate is Brian Sneed.

“My skills as a leader have been tremendously influenced by leadership roles I’ve had to play here at JSU,” said Sneed. One of those roles was co-heading the blood drive at JSU this year.

Sneed told the student audience that since his leadership, the blood donations have been greater than ever before. Another role Sneed talked about was his selection as a peer counselor. Sneed said that being select
Dean’s last stand

By Rosalind Moore
The Chanticleer News Editor

Tuesday was yet another day of garnering votes and making promises for the democratic nominees. John Kerry lead yet another victory in the state of Wisconsin raking in about 39 percent of the votes. However, John Edwards revalidated his staying power in the race by pulling a very close second with about 35 percent of the total votes.

Howard Dean, former Vermont governor, appeared to finish a distant third (18%), his 17th loss in a row, and went to his home in Vermont to try a reassess his campaign strategy. Dean’s performance in the democratic primaries has been a topic of debate since before a single vote was cast. Dean, being named as the inevitable front-runner before the primaries began, has now continued to struggle in the underdog slot as he continues to finish third by large margins of defeat.

The question that remains up in the air concerning Dean, which may be resolved today, is whether he should stay in the race or bow out gracefully?

Fifty-six year old Howard Dean was born in New York City and grew up in East Hampton, N.Y. He graduated from Yale University in 1971 and got a degree in medicine for Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1978. Dean’s major campaign focus has been on his dedication to the real democratic party. On Tues., Dean spoke with supporters and credited himself with “getting the democratic party back” to the core of their issues.

He was most noted as Gov. of Vermont for his controversial Act 60 education bill and support and in 2000 he signed civil unions, giving same-sex couples the rights and benefits of marriage. Issues concerning education and civil rights remain at the forefront of his message.

Currently, Dean advocates a plan to expand Medicaid, bring more jobs in the U.S., and work on security issues. Dean has ignored pleas to give up the fight. “We are not done,” he told his supporters, even as his own advisers were saying his campaign for the presidency was effectively over.

On his campaign Web site, www.deanforamerica.com, he wrote: “I want an America where we are more than cogs in a machine, where there is nourishment for our human souls. Where there is true community, and we recognize and affirm that we are all in this together.”

Although Dean’s supporters find his dream of the White House unattainable, Howard Dean continues to believe that he can make a difference.

More youth are heading to polls but apathy still dominates

By Lori Aratan
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

SAN FRANCISCO—Georgy Russell, 27, made headlines across the country in the fall for selling thong underwear to finance her campaign for governor in California’s recall contest. She persuaded 2,216 people to support her, but she still can’t persuade her younger sister, Sophie, to tune in to politics.

Such is the dilemma of the youth vote. While the potential payoff is immense—and 1 in 5 eligible voters is younger than 30, according to the University of Maryland’s Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement—getting those voters to turn out can be difficult, even when they’re related to the candidate.

Young voters are notoriously hard to turn out at the polls. In presidential election years from 1972 to 2000, the turnout rate declined by 13 percentage points among voters 18-24 years old, according to the University of Maryland. In 2000, 42 percent of voters 18-24 years old voted, while 70 percent of citizens 25 and older did.

By the numbers:

By the numbers:

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ed as a new peer counselor “shows that [he] has the enthusiasm and experience for the office of Student Activities.”

He also said that having a family history of running businesses and being majoring in marketing further adds to his ability to manage and lead an organization.

“The SGA is what I’m all about,” said Snead. “It’s what I do, its what I love.”

Alison Pierce was the fourth candidate to speak on Monday night. She wants to hold the office of the next Vice President of the Student Senate. Pierce stated that the office requires full knowledge of parliamentary procedure, which she says she has become very familiar with.

She said there were many goals that she wanted to see accomplished for next year. This year, the senate began a program for interested students to learn about the SGA Senate.

“I would like to keep this program going,” said Pierce, “to encourage students to make a difference at JSU.” She also wants to see all organizations taking part in the senate.

Running for the office of President is Emily Williams, the final candidate of the night. Being an SGA officer, she said, has made her aware of the challenges that are faced by the executive officers.

She said that the SGA was something that meant a lot to her. “But you know what,” said Williams, “this isn’t about me, its about you.”

“Just remember that my name is on the ballot,” said Williams, “but your future is on my mind.”

Elections for the SGA are to be held March 2-3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the TMB.

from Riley, page 1

Other members include Nabers, acting state school Superintendent Joe Morton and state Treasurer Kay Ivey.

The rest of the $117 million Riley hadn’t planned to spend on benefits would go toward health insurance for other state employees.

The State Employees’ Insurance Board, which provides health insurance for about 51,000 state agency workers and retirees, has requested a $52.4 million increase in funding next year from $229.4 million in state funding to $281.8 million.

But Riley has proposed boosting the state’s payment by only $10.5 million. He wants to spend the other $41.9 million on Medicaid and other items.

Unlike the PEEHIP board, the State Employees’ Insurance Board has the authority to set and collect the amount it says it needs from the government each year. Board members include Nabers, Retirement Systems of Alabama chief executive David Bronner and five members of the state Personnel Board.

from Riley, page 1

Announcements

Baptist Campus Ministries: Hey Gamecocks come have fun with us! Kindergarten Game Night Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy some food, fun, and fellowship! For more information please contact us. Contact: Gary, 435-7020 or gbrittin@jsucc.jsu.edu.

Deta Zeta: Hope everyone had a great week. Thanks for a GREAT time at the movie night and the baseball game with ZTA. We are looking forward to the basketball game tonight. Go Gamecocks! 4 Sides + 5 Points........ Contact: Jessie, 435-4366.

Freshman Forum: The Freshman Forum would like to thank everyone for your telephone donations to help heart transplant patients. Your giving has influenced someone’s life! Contact: Robert Hayes, 782-5491.

Interfraternity Council: Congratulations to the IFC Fraternities! The IFC came home from the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference in Atlanta, GA with five awards, including the Fraternal Excellence Award and the Risk Management and Judicial Affairs Award. The IFC could not have accomplished this without the help of all fraternity men! Contact: Megan Radison, mradison@jsucc.jsu.edu.

International Student Organization: International Week will be held from Feb. 29 - Mar. 6. The events are as follows: Sun. - Soccer @ Germania Springs, 1 p.m., Mon. and Tue. - Silent Auction at the International House, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Wed. - International House Event at 9 p.m., Thursday - Pizza Party, Roundhouse, 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m., Friday - Game Night, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m., Patterson Hall, Sat. - International Taster’s Fair at Leone Cole, 6 p.m. Contact: Debbie Russell, 782-5674.

JSU Ambassadors: Looking for a great way to get involved on campus and recruit new students to JSU? If so, JSU Ambassadors is the program for you! Applications available at JSU Visitor Center and must be returned by March 1, 2004. Good luck and GO GAMECOCKS! Contact: Tracy Phillips, 782-5260 or phillips@jsucc.jsu.edu.

JSU Cheerleaders: Jacksonville State University cheerleading tryouts will be April 16-18. Tryout applications must be turned in by Feb. 27 in order to be eligible for tryouts. You can pick up an information sheet and application at the JSU Athletic Department. Contact: Brianna Ward, 782-5662.

Want to Work with Adolescents?

Outdoor Counselors Needed

Counselors needed to work with adolescents at our outdoor treatment program in North Alabama. Three Springs of Paint Rock Valley is located 35 miles East of Huntsville, Alabama. We provide treatment services for teenagers that are experiencing behavioral and emotional problems in an Outdoor Residential setting. The position is an entry level, live-in job, with 12 days off per month. Employment is full-time, with medical and dental benefits, fully paid...
JSU Cheerleaders: Jacksonville State University cheerleading tryouts will be April 16-18. Tryout applications must be turned in by Feb. 27 in order to be eligible for tryouts. You can pick up an information sheet and application at the JSU Athletic Department. Contact: Brittany Ishee, bishee@jsucc.jsu.edu.

JSU Library: Need something scanned? The Houston Cole Library is proud to offer free scanning services on the second floor at the reference desk. Items can be scanned for use in PowerPoint presentations, Web sites, and much more. Library staff can assist patrons in scanning documents and images to be printed, emailed, or saved to a disk. Contact: Houston Cole Library, 782-8034.

JSU Today Show: Watch JSU Today every Thursday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. on TV24. If any communication students would be interested in gaining TV production experience, please contact Stephanie Deese. Contact: Stephanie Deese, 782-6187 or stephddeese@aol.com.

Phi Eta Sigma: Eighty-eight $1,000 awards and thirty-one $2,000 scholarships are available nationally to members of Phi Eta Sigma for undergraduate study. Five scholarships of $5,000 each are available nationally for graduate study. JSU members of Phi Eta Sigma are invited to apply. Local deadline for applications is Feb. 23. Contact: Rufus Kinney, 782-5467. (for applications or questions)

Sigma Nu: Congrats to the Candidate EC. Candidate Commander “Footlong”, Candidate LC “Tater”, Candidate Treasurer Robert, and Candidate Recorder “CT”. Brother(s) of the week: All the brothers who showed up to the meeting. Saying of the week: “Man! There’s no holds barred at the Nail.” Contact: Dave Chambers, 525-6490.

Society of Professional Journalists: Congratulations to Dee Williams and Diane Kimberly for winning the Valentine’s Day Raffle baskets. Thank you to everyone who supported us through giving donations. Contact: Katja Sunnarborg, 782-8192.

Sociology Club: NEED A JOB? If so, come to Brewer Hall on Mar. 3 at 1:30 p.m. for our annual Career Fair. Everyone is invited. Graduating seniors, don’t forget your resumes. Contact: Dr. McCain, 782-5350 or hmccain@jsucc.jsu.edu.

Up ’Til Dawn: Up ’Til Dawn is a fundraiser project created to raise money for the St. Jude Children’s Hospital. Individuals or organizations are encouraged to form a fundraising team. It is a great service for anyone who wants to make a difference in a young child’s life! Contact: Angela Martin or Cambrey Jordan, 782-8054.

Virgin Scribe’s Guild: We are initiating our 2nd Annual VSG Writing Contest. There will be over $500 in prizes in categories including writing, photography, and art. Contact: Shawn Bailey, 237-9840 or jsull33k@jsu.edu.

Zeta Tau Alpha: Zeta Tau Alpha would like to wish the baseball team good luck as they begin their new season. Thanks to Sigma Phi Epsilon for a great social. Go Gamecocks! ...equals nine good reasons to go Greek... Contact: Heather Moore, Heathern16@hotmail.

Three Springs, Inc.
P.O. Box 20 • Trenton, AL 35774
Attn: Staff Development Office
Ph. (256) 776-2503 • Fax (256) 776-2561
Email: prvemployment@threesprings.com
Web page: www.threesprings.com

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.

There were incidents reported by JSUPD this week.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050.
Low number of black officers in Anniston

By The Associated Press

Anniston, Ala.— A federal court order 30 years ago required Anniston to better integrate the city’s police department. With about half its population black, Anniston now has eight black officers on a force of 99.

The lack of black officers has created a sense of distrust, a lack of cultural understanding and a shortage of role models within the black community, according to some black residents, city officials and police officers surveyed by The Anniston Star.

Officer Marlen Durrell Gladden, 31, who is black, said he grew up in a west Anniston neighborhood some called “crack city” for its drug activity.

Gladden, who credits his grandparents as his role models, didn’t grow up wanting to be a police officer. But, he joined the police department in 1995 as a way to give back to the community he grew up in.

It’s important, he said, to have black police officers in black communities, if for no other reason than to remind blacks they too can carry the authority and respect of a badge.

The lack of black officers doesn’t hinder police effectiveness or credibility, law enforcement officials said.

"An officer is an officer no matter what color he is," Anniston police Chief John Dryden told The Star. "The department doesn’t recruit minorities or specifically go after black applicants when job vacancies become available, Dryden said Race is considered in the hiring process, but ability, background and suitability for the job take priority, he said.

While the number of blacks in local police departments nationwide increased 35 percent between 1990 and 2000, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the number remained static or decreased in several cities near Anniston.

Jacksonville, a city where blacks make up 20 percent of the population, has one black officer on a force of 24. Oxford, a city that is 10 percent black, has no black officers on its force of 41.

Since June 2001, the number of whites eligible for consideration as Anniston police officers has outnumbered blacks by more than 11 to 1, according to Civil Service Board documents.

During that period, 137 of 180 whites and 12 of 45 blacks passed a required test for police officer applicants. Black applicants are in short supply because of cultural stigmas attached to the police, some in the black community said.

Being a police officer is a "conflict of interest," for some blacks, said Anniston police Sgt. Tony McConnell, the only ranking black officer in the department.

The police chief’s outlook ignores a legacy of racial inequalities that sometimes strains relations between blacks and white, said Ronald Hampton, director of the 20,000-member National Black Police Association.

"What (he) is talking about is a utopian situation that doesn’t exist in America," Hampton said.

While Dryden called diversity “an added bonus,” some in Anniston’s black community called it an essential part of effective policing and urged recruitment of black applicants.

Black officers are more likely to be familiar with social issues and cultural customs in black neighborhoods, said Steven Folks, director of the Carver Community Center.

Some black people simply feel more comfortable dealing with black officers. Anniston police investigator Curtis McCants said.

More black police officers would be a boon to the department, Anniston Mayor Chip Howell said, but the present mix hasn’t proven to be a major problem.

"I don’t hear a rash of complaints or concerns," he said.

The issue is a matter of perception, Howell said.

If that’s the case, its importance shouldn’t be underestimated, said Randall Wood, an associate professor of criminal justice at Jacksonville State University.

As an example of perception’s role in police work, Wood pointed to nationwide racial tensions during the 1960s that were aggravated, he said, by the presence of largely white police forces in black neighborhoods.

"They were like an occupying force," Wood said of the police.

If recent surveys are any indication, however, 2004 could be the year that younger voters make an impact. More young people say they plan to vote in this year’s presidential contest than four years ago. And a new series of initiatives spearheaded by such diverse players as Hollywood producer Norman Lear to wrestling superstar Bret Hart are focused on making it happen.

A recent MTV poll conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that 4 out of 10 of the 18- to 24-year-olds surveyed said they will “definitely vote” in the next presidential election — up nearly 30 percent from 2000. A survey by Harvard University’s Institute of Politics found two-thirds of college students were registered to vote and 82 percent of those said they planned to vote this year.

"It’s clear that there’s a lot of young interest this year," said Ara Khachatourian, the media director for MTV’s Rock the Vote campaign, which is entering its 14th year. "The economy and, of course, 9-11 and war in Iraq have really engaged folks. This year they’re pausing and looking at issues outside of their immediate realm."

Early signs are promising: Exit polls taken during the Iowa caucuses in mid-January showed voter turnout among those younger than 30 almost doubled to 17 percent, from 9 percent in 2000. The number of voters younger than 30 was higher than that of the 30- to 44-year-old crowd.

Even so, young voters aren’t a sure bet. Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean was among the first of the 2004 field to use the Internet to reach college students and other young people.

His Web site includes a separate section targeted at younger voters, called Generation Dean. But the early buzz on college campuses hasn’t been enough to help him win a primary or caucus.

Four years ago, Nima Niakan, a 28-year-old Silicon Valley techie was like many young professionals with good civic intentions. He registered to vote and planned to support Al Gore. But when Election Day rolled around, he was busy and never made it to the polls. At the time it wasn’t a priority.

Four years later, things had changed. Niakan’s still busy — but he’s also grown increasingly disenchanted with the Bush administration.

"I don’t like the ‘We’re going to do it our way’ approach," he said. "I’m a person who’s traveled to 10 or 15 countries over the last three years, and I’ve found that that policy reflects back on me. I get subjected to questions about what Bush does."

This year he vowed to do more than just vote; he was going to participate. Niakan became the San Francisco coordinator for C Company, the Wesley Clark effort to attract young professionals. C Company campaigned for Clark through e-mail and the popular Craig’s List Web site. Gatherings were held at apartments or hip nightspots.

Other nonpartisan efforts are joining forces to reach out to younger voters in 2004. Producer Lear’s initiative, “Declare Yourself,” includes tours of 18 different college campuses. The group has also linked with Friends and the popular Web networking site to launch “voter parties” featuring cast members from MTV’s “The Real World."

“We’re really trying to reach young people where they live, work and play using popular culture,” said Declare Yourself spokeswoman Christy Salcido. "Research shows it’s important to get them early."

From professional wrestlers to spoken-word artists, many nonpartisan groups and celebrities have kicked off aggressive campaigns to reach out to young people this year.

from Vote, page 1
TRADE 6 DVDS
Now Accepting Cash, Credit Cards and DVDS

Available on DVD & VHS

BLOCKBUSTER
Can you hear me now? Fabulous.

There aren't many people or things in this world I will say “I love you” to. But there are some things I do love. I love my cats. I love my best friend, Janice. I love my family (well, some of them). I love my Xterra and I love my jobs that pay for the Xterra. But most of all I love my cell phone.

Life for me cannot be cell phone-free because my cell phone is my right hand. If you see me, my cell phone is in my right hand. It is my connection to every source I use for the newspaper, it keeps me in contact with my gymnastics parents and most importantly, it keeps me in touch with my friends. My favorite thing about my cell phone is text messaging. I don't even have to talk in the damn thing. I just send a one-sentence message and I'm done with the whole conversation without the “His” and “Byes”. Isn't that fabulous?

Cell phones are the modern-day calculators. Back when the calculator was first invented, teachers claimed they weren’t necessary in math classes. Math had always been done by hand and students didn’t need to use calculators. But now, calculators are required in almost every math course above an eighth-grade level. And eventually, cell phones will be thought of just as importantly as calculators.

It bothers me that there are states that have banned cell phone usage while driving. I can't drive without talking on my cell phone. Yes, I am that girl on the cell phone that you hate. But I swear — I'm a good driver. It also bothers me that there are people that want to ban cell phones in other public places like theaters, concerts, etc. I've been guilty of text messaging (while the phone is on silent of course) in the movie theatre.

I love my cell phone so much, I cancelled my home telephone line and upgraded my cell's minutes package.

The point is, a cell phone is a necessary part of my life. You can use the schedule option to remind you when you have appointments or tests. You can search the Internet from anywhere for the answer to that question that no one can think of the answer to at the time. And then, if you can't find the answer on the Internet, you can call someone who does know.

Cell phones are a part of the rapidly progressing technology of today. Sure, it was possible for people in the 1980s to live without cell phones because they didn’t have them. And now, it is totally possible for people to live without cell phones. But why would you want to?
Fear not, life can be cell phone-free

By Karen Heller
Knight Ridder Newspapers

After the dot-com bust came the cell-phone boom, and it hasn’t stopped ringing. Cells are a mixed blessing, especially when that nifty $59-a-month plan mushroomed, unexpectedly, into a $159 bill. Certainly it says something about our culture and economy that cable TV and wireless phone companies are locked in a death match to see which can produce the highest monthly bill. The price of electricity and antiquated landlines is chump change by comparison.

Fear is the wireless provider’s greatest promotional tool, especially since Columbine and Sept. 11. It’s a gadget for the anxious.

Many users feel unmoored when they leave the house without one, despite having survived much of their life incommunicado as they strode the grocery or drove Main Street. It’s as if the chance of a flat tire, or worse, is increased exponentially by the phone’s absence. The underlying message is “no cell phone equals bad things.” It’s like going out without a wallet or pants. This is marketing at its most brilliantly devisive.

There are second-graders with cell phones, though the kids are virtually never without adult supervision. I know a 10-year-old with a cell phone and a Palm Pilot, the better to book play dates and bath time.

Teen-agers have become the greatest beneficiary of the fear industry. At the end of 2002, according to one major study, half were packing cells. I suspect that number is way higher now, considering the angst teen-agers inspire in many parents. For adolescent users, cell phones are both freedom and wireless umbilical cords. The technology has allowed them to be more mobile, though there’s no evidence they’ve become independent. On the contrary, it’s turned them into toddlers.

The chauffeur, that being a parent, is a speed-dial away. So is the chef, which would also be the parent, as well as the bank and that bounty-hunter for all things missing. Honestly, if you took all those cell phones away, teen-agers would have to do some things themselves. Like walk. Or show up when they said they would.

And woe to the parent foolish enough to believe that a cell helps her keep tabs on her offspring. When a child calls on his Nokia to tell you he’s arrived home from school, it’s time to place a discreet follow-up call on the house line.

Cell phones haven’t made people more efficient. They’ve increased tardiness and irresponsibility, according to another study. They’ve fostered selective information-sharing, bringing “I missed the last bus” stories into the 21st century.

Since the cell phone, people are ringing up the same individuals more frequently than ever, having less substantial conversations at a conspicuously higher cost. We’re reaching out to annoy someone.

In the last month, I’ve noticed people on the phone while exercising at the gym, taking a (supposedly) pastoral walk in the woods and, though I didn’t actually see it, in bathroom stalls. People either loathe downtime with no voice in their ear or they worry they’ll lose out if they’re not an annoying ring away.

That, or they simply can’t shut up.

So I tried an experiment. I went without a phone. Actually, the phone company did it for me. Due to a plan upgrade, the wireless folks insist I have to buy another phone - like a new pair of shoes except, honestly, the thrill can’t compare.

At first I felt nervous driving around wireless-less. I went shopping without discussing dinner two or three times as though we were formulating the Marshall Plan. The fear industry had triumphed: I felt cut off, as if I’d moved to Idaho and a blizzard was bearing down.

I tried deep breathing. At first, I couldn’t remember how. With the answer only six or seven calls away, the cell phone has encouraged me to forget almost everything I ever knew. Eventually, though, I felt great, like a rebel even, someone who had freed herself from the insistent anxiety of modern wireless life.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am pissed! The Anniston Army Depot incinerator had a leak last week that took three hours to report to the EMA. And I found out through CNN.com, not my local media. The ADD wanted to make sure it really constituted an emergency. Granted, the leak was reported as internal and supposedly non-toxic (which I don’t believe), I still feel they have an obligation to warn the surrounding communities not to cause panic, but to warn “in case” of emergency.

We have already been kept in the dark about so much with this thing. Most information has been given, not by our local government, but by individuals of the community and other outside organizations that want the community to be aware of what we are really facing with this.

Students: be aware of what’s going on. Get educated about the community you live in. Your health and life are at risk! You can find out more info at cwwg.org. If something like this is already being kept quiet, something is wrong.

Ann Taylor Webb
When thinking of "West Side Story," most of us remember the film version with Natalie Wood as Maria and Richard Beymer as Tony, who made it seem that love is possible through all the obstacles. Yet, there is also the theatre version that was born on Broadway, 1957, by the hands of Jerome Robbins, Leonard Bernstein and Arthur Laurents, and has ever since been played out in different stages all over the world. Tonight it will open at Jacksonville State University's Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.

"The themes are still very current. You can look at these two gangs not only parallels as what gangs are today, but also other groups of people who just can't get along," said Claeren. "The play is that if you give love a chance it can overcome even the worst antagonism."

This enormous play, with about 35 cast members as well as numerous people working for the orchestra, scenery or as stage hands, is a modern day "Romeo and Juliet" by Shakespeare, where gangs are fighting for their places in this world. In the midst of it all Tony and Maria, played by Matt Thompson and Heather Norton, find themselves in love in an impossible situation.

Some of the most memorable songs of our time come from this play, including "Maria," "Tonight," "I Feel Pretty" and "America." Thinking of the era when the play came out, Claeren remembers being a kid who was very much aware of all that kind of potential gang violence. "If you give love a chance, you can deal with musical theatre," said Claeren. "I'm just a real fan."
Bayside
Sirens and Condolences

By Donnie Wells Jr.
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Course of Nature hits the stage

Jacksonville and the students of JSU will be able to
witness a big show in just
over a week when rock band
Course of Nature will hit
Brother's Bar on Friday,
March 5. They are gearing
up for a tour spanning the
Southeast and branching out
all the way to Hollywood,
CA.

Course Of Nature was
generated by Mark Wilkerson,
(lead vocals, guitar) and John
"Fish" Mildrum, (lead gui-
tar) and now includes bassist
Steve Cook and Shane
Lenzen. Their 2002 hit,
"Caught In The Sun," broke
the Top 20 on Billboard,
and locked up more than 250
shows for them; some of
which were played alongside
bands like Hoobastank,
Creed and Nickelback.

In addition to radio suc-
cess, their songs have been
featured in TV and video
games, but now their focus
is on the road ahead. "We
couldn't be more excited
about just getting back on
the road right now and getting
this new material out there," said Wilkerson.

Wilkerson isn't alone in
going for the tour however; he has
help from one of his newly
acquired family members,
his wife. Just last year,
Wilkerson married Melissa
Hart, better known to TV
fans as Sabrina. "She's the
best. She's been so ecstatic
about me going back on the
road, and she's doing a lot of
promotion for the band. I
love her."

The band overall has what
takes to put the show back
on the road. Cook's former
band, King Conga, was no
stranger to the live show. They
played over 200 shows
a year in the six years they
were together. "Yeah, we
played Woodstock '99; it
was the time of my life," said
Cook. One of their songs,
"Something Good," even had
the honor of cracking
Billboard's top 100.

Much is also to be said for
Lenzen's past musical
events, the most success-
ful of which was Cloud Ten,
from Atlanta. "Yeah, I was
registered for classes over in
Athens, at the University of
Georgia, when I got the call
on New Year's Eve to come
play with these guys," he said.

I can't even imagine life
without my special show every
Sunday. There will be nothing
to look forward to, nothing to
debate upon with my room-
mates anymore. There will be
no more of Miranda, Carrie,
Charlotte and Samantha hav-
ning discussions about their
relationships, men, sex and
New York. It just makes me
wonder who can I relate to
now?

It makes me think why
everything good in our lives
always has to come to an end?
Have you noticed when, once
you're happy you immediately
start wondering when will it
come to an end? Happiness
can't last forever, right? So,
why is it that we can't just
enjoy this moment and instead
find ourselves thinking about
the end of all things? I know
there are no questions to these
questions and they don't even
able to all of us, since some of
us know how to enjoy our
lives; I just don't happen to be
one.

To me it is sad that shows
like Friends and Sex and the
City will have their final
episodes airing this spring and
after that there will only be
runs. But at least we have the
re-runs. It is just that when
something becomes part of
your life (and I know this
might sound sad) it is hard to
let go without whining. But I
guess I just have to let go and
turn to other channels; I mean,
we do have all these new real-
ity shows and not much else
on TV. Maybe that only means I
have to start following the
Average Joe and be happy with
my life while that show lasts and
not think about the future
too much.
of Course of Nature’s first record “Superkala.”

“We’ve still basically got the same style, but it’s more aggressive. It’s got more continuity, I think,” said Wilkerson. “Right now, this tour is the main priority. We’re still going to be playing some of the ‘Superkala’ album stuff, but we’re really looking forward to putting out this new material.”

Before hitting the stage at Brother’s Bar, Course of Nature will be stopping by the 92j studio on “The Backstage Pass” between 5-7 p.m. for a live on-air interview.

Want To Know What This Is Going to Look Like in 25 Years?!?!

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OVC, as that is the transitional spot for the tournament, as only seven teams get in. JSU ends the regular season with a 2-11 road mark. JSU needs to win its home games, as they have three remaining, which will decide their post-season fate.

Looking at stats, individually Trent Eager is 14th in the OVC in scoring (13.4), 13th in rebounding (5.7), and 1st in free throw percentage (.833). Walker Russell leads the league and 16th in the NCAA in assists with 6.04 per game. He’s also tied with James Denson for 4th in the OVC in steals.

Abdou Diame is 5th in blocked shots (90), while Carl Brown, who did not play this weekend due to a badly sprained ankle, is 9th in blocked shots and 15th in rebounding.

As a team, JSU is 4th in the OVC in scoring (74.5), 4th in blocks (2.62), 1st in steals (8.6), and 4th in offensive rebounds. Many other categories see JSU trail in 8th or lower.

Jacksonville State only plays one game this week, which is tonight against Tennessee Tech. Tip is scheduled for 7:30.

The overall women’s championship should have been a sleeper too as the Juco’s had been beating everyone by the mercy rule. The Juco’s had already defeated Alpha Omicron Pi by 35 earlier in the season.

AOPi would not be denied early as Andrea Marting scored ten of AOPi’s first sixteen points.

The Juco’s only had six players and running the much larger Pete Mathews Coliseum floor found themselves down at the half 16-11 for the first time all year.

The Juco’s came out running in the second half as they began knocking down some shots that they were missing earlier. A huge three point shot by Celia Whitaker with 4:00 minutes left to play tied the score and gave the Juco’s a little momentum heading into the stretch of the game. AOPi had a chance to win at the end of the game down one with three seconds. AOPi coach Charles Ponder called a time-out and almost pulled off the upset as Kristen Rogers last second shot was no good as the crowd called foul. No foul was called and the Juco’s won the title by a final score of 26-25. For scores and pictures visit www.jsu.edu/depart/recsports/imsports/sports/bkball/index.html for more information.

Jacksonville State returns home tonight against the Golden Eagles of Tennessee Tech. Game time is 5pm. They will then host league leading Austin Peay on Saturday at 5pm in a single game only.

Women’s golf picks up third win at Birmingham Southern Shootout

Jacksonville State also won its own golf tournament, the Gamecock Fall Classic, last October at Silver Lakes on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Marilenn Fernandez-Ruiz shot a 76 on Tuesday to post a 36-hole total score of 156 to finish in second place, four shots behind medalist Caitlin Ogren (BSC) score of 152.

Senior Colette Murray tied for third after shooting a 76 on Tuesday for a tournament total of 158, while junior Florencia Moran finished tied for sixth after scoring a two-round total of 159.

Sophomores Shanelle Howell carded a total score of 163 to tie for 14th place, while Sara Gallagher finished tied for 16th with a two-day score of 164.

“We got consistent play in all five positions today,” said JSU head coach James Hobbs after four of his players scored in the 70’s on Tuesday. “Our 307 today, considering the damp conditions and the tough pin placement, is a really good score.”

First-round leader Birmingham-Southern shot a 317 on Tuesday to finish second at 642, followed by Mercer (646), New Orleans and fifth place Tennessee Tech (669). East Tennessee State was sixth (670), followed by Troy State (677), South Alabama (686) and Eastern Illinois was 10th after shooting a 695. Jackson State (698) was 11th, followed by Samford (712), Arkansas Tech (732), and Montevallo (753) was 14th, finishing ahead of Centenary College, who withdrew and did not finish the final round.

“This is a good start for us,” said Hobbs. “In reality, I wasn’t pleased with the way we played yesterday, but I’m really happy today. This was a really good win for us.”

Jacksonville State returns to action on Feb. 27-29 at the Pinehurst Challenge Classic in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

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Invitational last fall. Jax Howell carded a total score of 163 to tie for 14th place. State was sixth (670), followed by High Point (672), in Pinehurst, North Carolina.
The Daytona 500 and the A-Rod trade - what a week!

By Amado Ortiz
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Whew! That was a hell of a race Sunday wasn’t it? Especially since Junior won. Poor Tony Eury was crying. I felt for him.

But for Junior to do something like that; to win in five races what it took his father to reach in 20 tries, at the same track his father died at nonetheless. I was reading NASCAR.com shortly after the race and there was a column that made the statement the confetti from the celebration floated 1500 feet from victory row to turn four.

And he wasn’t joking either. Needless to say, I got goose bumps. You see, I cried when Dale Earnhardt passed. And I really don’t know why. I really didn’t like the man. But I did respect him as a race car driver. I think that everyone did.

Now for some reason I have always enjoyed watching Junior, but it was more for his youth and vitality, his balls-to-the-wall driving style. I mean Jeff Gordon had youth and vitality, but he can not be described as a balls-to-the-wall driver.

The Intramural basketball tournament madness ended this past week with the GDI’s in the Men’s Division and the Juco’s in the Women’s Division as the overall University Champions. Pi Kappa Phi won the Fraternity Championship and Alpha Omicron Pi won the Sorority Championship.

In the first game of the Basketball Playoffs the Cock’s showed why they dominated the entire red division as they defeated the white division runner-up Cornerstone Kool Kutters by a score of 53-47. The second game featured the white division champion the GDI’s vs. the red division runner up North North Worker’s.

This is a re-match of last year’s Independent Championship in which North North Worker’s pulled off the upset of defending champs GDI’s. However, this year was a different game with PJ Winston transferring to Cumberland College; it looked prime for the GDI’s to gain a little revenge and revenge they did get with a 48-46 come from behind victory when Jeremy Law hit a shot with: 07 seconds left to go up. The third game of the night pit-

ted Sigma Phi Epsilon vs. Kappa Alpha. Sig Ep defeated Towson didn’t get to the game until the 5:00 minute mark and Phi Mu down ten. Lyndsi Eubanks picked up some slack and scored ten but Alpha Z held on to the ten point lead. Ashley Scott was the leading scorer for Alpha Z with ten points.

The second round might as well have been rivalry week on ESPN. The GDI’s faced up against the Cocks for the Men’s Independent Championship. The GDI’s were very much out-sized by the Cocks as 6’7 260 lbs. Seante Williams and 6’2 300lbs. Rod Oids muscle underneath and Quarterback Maurice Mullins led the breaks for the Cocks the whole game. However, the GDI’s hung in the game and began to pull away at the end with Jeremy Law, Dennis Mack, and Chris Smith hitting some clutch three pointers. GDI’s came away with the win 45-27.

The fraternity championship had a high school atmosphere to the game as many of the seats were full for the game. Pi Kappa Phi and Kappa Alpha split during the year but Pi Kapp had a conditioning advantage as KA was playing their third game in as many nights. Pi Kapp took advantage by running a press the entire game. The endurance combined with the size down low of Bo Cashio and Ross Nelson pulled Pi Kapp away late in the game to win 33-25.

Alpha Omicron Pi went into the Sorority Championship as the #1 seed as they did in the Flag Football Championship but was knocked off in a big upset by #3 Alpha Xi Delta. AOPi would not let history repeat itself as they won 29-23. Ashley Scott kept Alpha Z in the game scoring sixteen of her team’s twenty-three points but AOPi had too much redemption on their mind.

The overall championship featured Fraternity Champions Pi Kappa Phi vs. Independent Champion GDI’s.

Pi Kapp had some huge match-up problems in the game and the GDI’s had too much talent as they won 60-47. The game looked more like an And 1 commercial as both squads displayed more individual talent with the GDI’s displaying the

Women try to recover after difficult week | Men still trying to salvage season
Jacksonville state's women took to the road and went North to pay a couple of crucial road games, hoping to bounce back from a rough week last week. They managed to beat Morehead State 7-68, but fell to Eastern Kentucky 85-80. JSU has now lost 3 of its last 4 games, and sit in third in the OVC standings.

JSU would lead in the Thursday game against Morehead by seven to nine for most of the contest. A pair of runs could only cut the lead to three.

JSU took its largest lead at 4:00. The Gamecocks, who have had problems at times, hit 13-of-17 free throws in the second period to seal the win.

Shanika Freeman led the Gamecocks with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Kat Fueess had 13 points, sophomore Cobie Carlisle scored 12, while Freddrika Embry added 11 points and six rebounds. Freshman Ashley Clay continued her improvement by collecting a career high eight rebounds.

"I'm pleased with the game Ashley had tonight," said Coach Dave Dagostino. "As a freshman, she is progressing faster than I had hoped. Shanika started off slow, but she gained her composure and helped move the ball. Players like Freddrika and Kat saw the benefits from that and got shots."

The Saturday tilt with Eastern Kentucky was a comedy of errors for JSU as a season high 36 turnovers led to numerous Colonels opportunities.

EKU took an early 9-1 run to build a 30-14 lead. JSU would trim that lead after an 11-1 run to close the gap to 31-25. The Colonels stretched the gap back out to 12 at the half, 45-33.

JSU drained three three-pointers in the second half as the continued to claw back into the game. The rally continued as JSU trailed 81-77 with 1:14 left in the game. Freeman then drained a three to narrow the gap to one, but a foul was deemed intentional by the home court referees, and EKU would hit four free throws in the next :02 to take the 85-80 victory.

Freeman led the charge with 21 points and 10 rebounds, her 13th double double of the year and her 38th career. Courtney Slaughter had a career high 19 points, while Embry scored 16 and Fueess added ten points and a career high nine rebounds.

JSU, who is the only OVC team to be undefeated at home at 9-0, is finished with road games in the conference. The Gamecocks still have one road game against Savannah State, but the main games are at Pete Matthews.

In the stats, Freeman is the workhorse, as she is 1st in scoring (20.9) and rebounds (10.4) both overall and in OVC games only (22.1 and 10.9). She's also 3rd in field goal percentage, 4th in free throw percentage, and second in steals. Kelly Nye is 9th in three pointers made per game with 1.77, while Ashley Clay is 12th in blocked shots with 77.

In OVC play only, Nye is the only other Gamecock to aver