Commission on Education Spending makes recommendations

If implemented, out-of-state students could pay as much as three times in-state tuition costs

By Rosalind Moore
The Chanticleer News Editor

Amid the serious budget crunch and economic problems facing Alabama, the Riley administration continues to look for ways to cut back in areas. Alabama’s K-12 and higher education systems have led numerous debates concerning cutbacks since before the days of tax reform when Gov. Bob Riley and his administration assured Alabamians that at least $344 million would go to education alone.

Many of Riley’s opponents felt that a $344 million education promise was a senseless gamble. The majority of Alabamians agreed and voted 68 percent against the tax referendum. Finding money to improve education had not been an easy task, so Riley created the Commission on Education Spending in January of 2003 to make recommendations concerning the present state of education in Alabama.

According to Riley’s executive order, the commission was created because “many public schools across Alabama are unable to provide our children with a world-class education” and “Alabama and Alabamians deserve to benefit from the work of a bi-partisan coalition that is committed to bringing about real change in our schools.”

Riley’s order designated this commission with the task of examining how education dollars have been spent in Alabama during the past ten years. The commission made its initial recommendations in July of 2003.

At the first meeting, the Commission received its charge and purpose to “ensure that the state’s education system is accountable to taxpayers in terms of the way it operates and the way tax dollars are distributed.” The other role of the commission includes recommending changes where necessary to convince Alabamians that their tax dollars are being spent well.

In initial reports, the commission concluded that Alabama’s higher education system was “in need of redirection.” According to the commissions initial findings, Alabama ranks 30th among the 50 states in “educational and general” spending per student. The commission concluded that “Alabama has spread its higher education resources far too thinly.”

During December 2003, the commission met again to continue working on recommendations for the state of education of Alabama. According to reports released concerning the recent meeting, the commission met in working groups in Montgomery and at Samford University “to apportion potential cutbacks of about $285 million and $142.5 million among those who receive funding from the Education Trust Fund.”

The governor’s commission recommended that the “50-mile exception” to the payment of out-of-state tuition be changed and that universities charge out-of-state students three times the tuition rate of in-state students.

An increase of this kind would send Jacksonville State University’s current out-of-state tuition soaring from twice in-state tuition, $3540, to three times the current $1770 for in-state students to $5310.

According to JSU’s 2002-2003 Fact Book, in 2002 the university had almost 1700 students who were registered as being from areas outside of Alabama. This number includes international students that are required to pay out-of-state tuition. Although the entire 1700 students registered as residents of another state may

see Tuition, page 2
Bush discusses war on Iraq, college funding in Union address

By Constance Arnold Avila
The Chanticleer News Writer

President Bush began his yearly State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress, his cabinet, and several notable guests, including members of the military from all ranks, by talking about the War on Terror.

The president asked Congress to renew the Patriot Act, which is set to expire next year, stating that “the threat from terrorists is not on the same time table.”

President Bush spoke about the military action in Afghanistan and Iraq, stating that Afghanistan has made great strides toward democracy and that we had captured or killed 45 out of 55 top most wanted “thugs” in Iraq “just as surely as we dealt with Saddam’s evil regime.”

He stated that “because of American leaders and their resolve, the world is changing for the better.” Although there was no mention of last year’s “Axis of Evil,” President Bush did mention the countries he had referred to by saying that we would call upon North Korea to eliminate its nuclear program and Iran to keep commitments that they would not develop nuclear weapons.

The members of our military were mentioned several times throughout the speech, with the President promising them the resources needed to “fight and win the War on Terror.” Bush then turned to specifically addressing those who had opposed going to war with Iraq, recalling the World Trade Center bombing of 1993 and the fact that some of the conspirators had been indicted but that this had not prevented the 2001 attacks.

He stated that already “dozens

see Address, page 2

By Elbert Starks III
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

AKRON, Ohio — It’s easy to define literate as “able to read and write.” What happens, however, if the recognized tools for literacy such as books, pencils and paper give way to Internet chats with streaming video?

What if, in the age of text messaging and 250 TV channels, youths grow increasingly disconnected from the printed word and find other ways to process information and communicate?

Once upon a time, hieroglyphics were a standard for literacy. Now, the modifier for that standard is usually “ancient.” A concept being discussed in some quarters, and taught and implemented in others, is called New Literacy.

Dr. William Kist, a professor at Kent State University’s Stark Campus, is a proponent of it, has researched it extensively, written papers and an upcoming

see Literacy, page 3
Tuition: JSU could suffer if out-of-state tuition increases

Of WMD-related program activities have been identified, and stopped in Iraq and that without Saddam Hussein in power there, the world is a much safer place. Calling out a long list of countries who are now or have been working with us in Iraq, the President smiled as he addressed his critics who have been calling for more of an international approach there.

The President also addressed several other new programs and agenda items, including a new television service in the Middle East, doubled funding for the National Endowment for Democracy, to make permanent the tax cuts passed last year.

There was also mention of a program to train middle and high school students for jobs in industry called Jobs for the 21st Century, Social Security personal retirement accounts, larger Pell Grants for college students, immigration law reform.

A few prisoner reentry assistance program was discussed for the more than 600,000 people who will be released from prison this year.

Not pay out-of-state tuition, in 2002, JSU received equally 37 percent: revenue from tuition and fees and state appropriations.

JSU president, Bill Meehan spoke with the Birmingham News earlier this week and stated that the changes in tuition would turn many students away from JSU. In his interview with the Birmingham News he said, “That would have a tremendous impact on our out-of-state students and our foreign students.”

He also presented the commission estimates on the impact a tuition-hike like the one proposed by the Education commission could have on not just tuition dollars but other revenue from spending on shopping, leisure and housing.

JSU could suffer greatly from such a large increase in out-of-state tuition. The school attracts a little over a thousand students from Georgia alone. The location of JSU increases the attractiveness to Georgia residents who consider an out-of-state education.

According to the Commission on Education Spending, the problems with tuition and Alabama institutions of higher education stem from various problems. In the commission’s initial report they stated that Alabama’s “in-state tuition now ranks second among ten southeastern states.”

The commission also reported that although Alabama has high graduation rates, the number of incoming freshmen attending universities does not compare. According to the commission, “to attract additional students, most Alabama universities keep non-resident tuition very low, and exemptions are granted for those living in other states but in a county that is within fifty miles of an Alabama campus, and policies for changing to in-state residency remain lax.”

As a result the commission found that 25 percent of the freshman class at Alabama universities are high school graduates from other states. Other universities such as the University of Alabama are leaning towards increasing their out-of-state tuition to three times that of in-state tuition. The Riley administration will take the commissions report into consideration and try to make changes that will better the education climate of Alabama. Riley stated to the commission that he would evaluate the recommendations and what would be “politically possible.”

Ten Commandments placed at North Carolina City Hall

By Aubrey Vines
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) - A city council member placed a granite block bearing the Ten Commandments on a walkway in front of a city hall deserted on Monday's Martin Luther King holiday.

Vernon Robinson, a black conservative who has been on the city council since 1998, said he and four helpers acted on the holiday because the barren adjoining parking lot allowed him to move in a truck and crane to position the one-ton block.

The monument, inscribed on one side with the Ten Commandments and on the other side with the Bill of Rights, was positioned on a landing of the stairway ascending to the 1930s city hall at dawn Monday, Robinson said.

Robinson said he had no permit or other authorization to place the monument on public property. The $2,000 cost of buying and moving the four-foot-tall, blue-granite block was entirely his own, said Robinson, who is running for a vacant U.S. House seat.

Mayor Allen Joines did not immediately return calls seeking comment on the city's response.

"This display is intended to acknowledge the undeniable role that the Ten Commandments and Bill of Rights have played in developing the American legal tradition," Robinson said in a telephone interview. "These are the ideas on which society has been built and these works encapsulate the belief system on which the republic was founded."

Robinson said he was inspired to act by former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, who ordered a 2 1/2-ton Ten Commandments monument placed in the rotunda of the Alabama Judicial Building in 2001.

A federal judge found the monument to be an unconstitutional promotion of religion by government in 2002. Moore was removed from office last year for violating ethics rules by not obeying the federal court order to remove the monument.

Robinson said the monument, was quarried and cut in Georgia and shipped from there.

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Up 'Til Dawn: "Up 'Til Dawn is a fundraiser project created to raise money for the St. Judes Children's Hospital. We are currently accepting applications for committee members. Interested in participating? Applications are due Mon. Jan. 26 by 4:30 p.m. Contact: Angela Martin or Cambrey Jordan at 782-8054.

Delta Sigma Theta: We would like to thank everyone for making Delta Week 2004 a success. We also wish everyone a good weekend and good luck to JSU Basketball. Contact: Marshontri Reid, dstkappabeta73@hotmail.com.

Sigma Nu: We would like to wish everyone good luck during Rush. Congratulations to King Trey, the wise and pious for being brother of the week. Contact: Brad Sparks, 362-2815.

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 I-shue, bishee@jsucc.jsu.edu.

JSU Ambassadors: We would like to wish everyone a great semester. The 2004-2005 Ambassador applications will be available starting on Jan. 26, 2004. If you love JSU, this job is for YOU! Good luck JSU Basketball. Contact: Tracy Phillips, 782-5260 or phillips@jsucc.jsu.edu.

JSU Anime Club: The JSU Anime Club will meet Mon. Jan. 26 at 6 p.m in Jacksonville, AL at Tomo Anime and Martial Arts. For more information, please call. Contact: Jeff, 256-255-5070.

Baptist Campus Ministries: Hey Gamecocks! Come and join us every Tuesday night for Celebration at 8:00 p.m., AGAPE lunches held every Wednesday from 11:15 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. where your first time is absolutely FREE! We also have a Bible Study that meets every Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. Come and join the fun! Contact: Gary, 435-7020 or gbrittn@jsucc.jsu.edu.

Society of Professional Journalists: Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Rick Bragg of Jacksonville, will speak to the JSU Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists at its January meeting. Bragg will speak at 6 p.m. on Jan. 29 on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. The public is invited to attend. Contact: Katja Sunnarborg, 782-8192.

Sociology Club: The Sociology club will host the workshop, “Crime Near You! You can be a victim. How to protect yourself.” on Wed. Jan. 28 at 3 p.m in Brewer Hall, room 331. The speaker will be Cpl. Neil Fetner of the JSUPD. Contact: Dr. Hugh McCain, hmccain@jsucc.jsu.edu.

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 no incidents reported by JSUPD for this week.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Self 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.
Literacy: Wave of high-tech options for learning

book on the subject.

New Literacy has several definitions. The ability to process information and apply knowledge is as important, if not more vital, than the traditional teachings of reading, writing and math.

"I would say, in a nutshell, the theory is that we human beings are going to read in a different manner in the 21st century than we did in the 20th century," Kist said. "We are going to spend more time in front of a screen than we spent in front of a page."

"Now that doesn't mean that we're not going to need to have to know how to read print. That's absolutely imperative," Kist said. "However, this theory ... is saying that the way we read and write is going to be different. It's going to be nonlinear."

Nonlinear reading? New Literacy? Are these simply esoteric terms with vague meanings? If you use the Internet regularly, at work or at home, the answer is no. If you play video games online, where you interact with other players using created characters, you're already doing it.

Consider: You go online to look up the score from your favorite team's last game. While browsing, you check a link detailing Britney Spears' latest exploits, which leads you to a link about lifestyles, which prompts you to plan your next vacation using a travel-based Web site.

Oh, wait. Why did you get on the Internet in the first place? That is an example of nonlinear reading, where the path of the information search is determined by the seeker.

"Do you remember those books, 'Choose Your Own Adventures'?" Kist said. "That's what reading is going to be more like." When you read a book, most people are reading from left to right, start to finish.

"Whereas if you hit on a Web site, every person's experience with a Web site is going to be different. No one is going to click on the same links in exactly the same order," Kist stated.

A 2002 summit held in Berlin set out to define basic tenets for the 21st century, using New Literacy. There were five types of literacies promoted: technology, information, media creativity, global, and literacy with responsibility.

In essence, the contention was that reading and writing needed to be taught in conjunction with these new concepts, because the ability to find and then understand information, as well as being able to sift through and discard any unneeded excess, will begin to define how youths learn in the future.

But how will those students be taught, and by whom? Kist lectures people who are majoring in education about traditional methods of teaching.

However, Kist also explains to the prospective teachers how to use alternative methods of reaching students. Some of Kist's students are already trying some of these methods, using digital media such as MP3 files, the Internet, art and film to enhance learning.

A group of Kist's adult students agreed that children exposed to alternative methods of learning tended to be enthusiastic, as well, since not every youngster enjoys reading. Those are the students that New Literacy doesn't want to leave behind, because everyone learns at different rates and speeds.

from Domestic, page 1

body." Said Schneider, "We prefer that you tell the authorities, but tell somebody." After Schneider concluded his address, Fred Mays, a counselor with Counseling and Career Services and certified domestic violence leader, opened the business part of the meeting with a moment of silence and the invocation.

Mays, along with the Task Force's secretary, Pamela C. Key, who is retired from JSU, were instrumental in bringing the Task Force, which normally holds meetings on the second Wed. of every month at the La Bella Donna restaurant in Anniston, to JSU and Jacksonville.

The Task Force Chairperson, Chris McCary, led the meeting and discussed the committees and allowed new members and visitors to introduce themselves. The committees include court, medical, elder abuse, education/outreach, law enforcement, relations, awareness month, and faith-based committees.

The court committee has come up with ways to reform our current court system as it pertains to domestic violence and has provided training and support for court advocates in each of the municipal courts.

The medical committee conducted a seminar "From the Crime Scene to the E.R." in September and the medical committee is planning future seminars and training for medical personnel and first responders.

Another committee, which reported to the Task Force, was the education/outreach committee, which has led an effort to put contact information in ladies' restrooms on campus. They have also made contacts with local media and worked with the law enforcement rela-
SGA Movie Night Presents: "Radio"

Tuesday, January 27
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Everyone makes misteaks in life

When I woke up at 7 a.m. last Wednesday morning after having been in The Chanticleer office until much past midnight, I attempted to do a final copy edit of the newspaper before taking it to the press. However, it seems I made a few mistakes. Apparently, you aren’t supposed to put the “i” before the “e” after the letter “c.” Among a few smaller mistakes, that front-page blunder was the biggest one. And it was all my fault by default because I am the woman in charge.

However, this spelling blunder makes me feel good. It actually shows me that people read the newspaper and notice the mistakes that we, as aspiring professional journalists, make. It proves to me that people really do read this rag that has been so fondly referred to as “The Shitaintclear” for as long as I can remember. And I really do appreciate you pointing out my mistakes. At the same time, I really love hearing what you like about the newspaper. I want to know what your favorite section is, what page you turn to first, and so forth. I’ve been editor here for 17 issues and not once have I received a letter or comment from someone outside the communication department of what my staff is doing right. It’s hard to make improvements to a newspaper when we don’t even know what you like best about it in the first place.

I didn’t want to become a journalist to write for myself. If I wanted to do that, I would have majored in English and write poetry for a living. I write for you, the reader. And so does my staff. We are here to keep you informed of what is going on around campus. We write from the student’s point of view and tell you things the JSU press releases sometimes don’t.

Help us down here in the Self Hall office we so fondly call the Chanty and tell us what you like and dislike about the newspaper. Write a letter to the editor, call the section editors’ desks, or e-mail us at jsu_chanticleer@hotmail.com and tell us what you think.
Good money for bad advice

By Melissa Pardue and Robert Rector
The Heritage Foundation

The dangers of early sexual activity are well documented. It leads to higher levels of child and maternal poverty, elevates the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, and often leaves teenage girls depressed, even suicidal. It contributes to marriage failure in adulthood. So why is the government spending 12 times more promoting so-called “safe sex” than it does encouraging people to wait?

That’s the finding of a new, in-depth survey of government spending by The Heritage Foundation. In 2002 (the most recent year for which complete information is available), the federal and state governments spent at least $1.73 billion on programs that, in various ways, encourage “safe sex.” At the same time, we invested only $144.1 million in programs that encourage people, primarily teens, to abstain.

Unfortunately, that won’t stop many lawmakers from ignoring the evidence and pushing for even more “safe sex” funding when Congress considers reauthorization of the 1996 welfare reform bill later this year. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., has already tried to abolish some $50 million in abstinence-education funding and replace it with sex-education money states could use for either safe sex or abstinence programs. Waxman’s bid failed, but others are in the works.

Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., wants $100 million per year for “comprehensive sexuality education.” Sens. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., and Tom Carper, D-Del., are pushing for $50 million more to fund states’ contraceptive programs. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is also pressing for $50 million in new “safe sex” funding.

Let’s not forget that all of this would come atop the $1.73 billion we’re already spending on this type of sex education.

Worse, all of these programs, and many others, play off the popularity of abstinence education by claiming to be “abstinence plus.” But in reality, they focus on the “plus” and almost entirely ignore abstinence. While more than 90 percent of parents want teens to wait until they are at least out of high school before having sex, safe sex or “abstinence plus” programs don’t give that message. Many contain sexually explicit material that shocks many parents.

For example, in the government-sponsored program “Focus on Kids,” middle- and high school students are told about the joys of bathing together, watching sexually explicit movies together and reading erotic books and magazines. The “Be Proud! Be Responsible!” program promoted by the Centers for Disease Control asks teens to “think up a fantasy using condoms,” then “use condoms as a method of foreplay.” Kids as young as 13 are taught to “act sexy/sensual” while putting on condoms.

“Becoming a Responsible Teen,” also pushed by the CDC, ironically gives students instructions that are likely to make them behave irresponsibly. The program has teens practice putting a condom on a plastic phallus and encourages them to scrounge around the house for a sexual lubricant. “B.A.R.T.” helpfully suggests grape jelly, maple syrup and honey.

Clearly, any abstinence message children might happen to hear in these programs is overwhelmed by their real message: “We expect you to have sex, but please use a condom when you do.”

We’re putting our money in the wrong place. Instead of investing heavily in contraception and sex education programs that send the wrong message to teens, we ought to spend more encouraging those teens to wait until they’re older to have sex. After all, when they do, the news is better for them, and for us.

ABOUT THE WRITERS
Melissa Pardue is Weinberg Fellow in social welfare policy and Robert Rector is a senior research fellow in domestic policy at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute. Readers may write to the authors in care of The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.
New vintage shop opens in Jacksonville

By Katja Sunnarborg
The Chanticleer Features Editor

During the Christmas break a new store was opened in Jacksonville by Nathan Siegal and Kristina Morgan, called the Denim Shop. Their target is to offer a shopping option to high-school and college students, a stop before or after going to bigger places.

“This is not meant to be a one-stop shop,” explains Siegal. “Sometimes you need a quick outfit for the evening, and there are people who come and like to be able to just drop off down the road, find something they like, and that’s it. They don’t want to drive 35 minutes to Oxford or Atlanta or wherever you have to go.”

The Denim Shop, located on Highway 21, a mile past the Jacksonville Hospital, across from the Shell Station, is a store with new, vintage, and used clothing on display, with the idea that even if people only come to look at the new clothing, they find themselves being able to see vintage clothing. “Most people are wearing vintage clothing, but say they have never worn any before and then they realize,” said Siegal.

Siegal himself likes the idea of vintage clothing. He has been wearing it ever since he was a junior in high-school, but he also likes new clothing, and the latest fashion. Siegal is a self-proclaimed shop-a-holic, just like anybody else.

“So many people separate vintage shopper and new line shopper, and what people won’t realize is that there is not that much of a difference,” Siegal explains. “Half of the stuff you’re buying is actually taken from the vintage. So if you put two and two together, the vintage clothing is little bit more appealing to you than you actually think.”

The merchandise comes from various places across United States. Most of the new merchandise comes from wholesale dealers and closeout dealers; some comes from various distribution centers. Vintage merchandise is bought in bulk from a vintage dealer and some hand picked by Siegal and Morgan out of Atlanta, New York and New Orleans.

Then there is the slightly used clothing that is bought from the people in the community. Each item is inspected, and they should be folded and laundered before they are brought to the Denim Shop. The used clothing should be the same brands as the new clothing in store, and Siegal and Morgan will pay up to 40 percent of what the clothing will be sold.

Siegal, who graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in fashion from the University of Southern Mississippi and has years of experience working for Abercrombie and Fitch, greets every customer and gives a specific rundown of what is in the store. It is this personal contact that ensures him the success of the store.

“I was convinced that when you put the clothing somewhere, make a clear representation of it, make sure you have knowledge of what you have in store and people will buy it, enjoy it and love it,” he said.

The store is a lifelong dream that Siegal and Morgan, who is a JSU fashion merchandising major, shared together and eventually decided to go for it. In the future what they both want is to see the store’s concept grow bigger and open stores in Tuscaloosa, Hattiesburg and Mississippi during the next six years.

“It is the kind of place that people actually come to hang out in and they like it,” Siegal explains. “The idea is that people like to come in here and when they like to come to that place, they like to buy something and it makes them feel good, because that is all part of the shopping experience.”

Curren crowned Miss JSU

By Katja Sunnarborg
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Miss Alabama in 1978 and businesses around the community support Curren’s crown.
By Katja Sunnarborg
The Chanticleer Features Editor

Jennifer Curren was chosen Saturday night as Miss JSU 2004 out of 11 contestants from various areas of Alabama, as well as Georgia and North Carolina.

Curren, 21, from Alexandria, Ala., is majoring in Communications. “This is so surreal right now. It’s incredible and completely unexpected,” she said right after the competition. “I was confident and excited of what I was doing, but I did not expect to win, so I feel excited and very honored.”

About 350 people were gathered to Leone Cole Auditorium to be part of a very entertaining show provided by Katie Clifton, Miss JSU 2003 and Robert Hayes, host entertainer. Both performed several songs and hosted parts of the program. The main Mistress of Ceremonies was Teresa Cheatham Stricklin, who won the title of Miss Alabama in 1978 and was the first runner-up in the 1979 Miss America competition.

During the evening the girls went through a swimsuit competition, talent competition and evening wear competition, during which they had to answer an unexpected question as well as questions about their platform.

Curren’s platform is mentoring and she has a very strong approach to it. “I work with Big Brothers Big Sisters organization and I’ve been working with the mentoring organization for about two and a half years now,” she said.

To Curren mentoring is a strong support system that encourages children academically as well as socially, improving their self-esteem at home, school and in the community.

As the 22nd Miss JSU, Curren will receive one-year paid tuition as well as $1,100 in cash awards, plus several gift certificates from businesses around the community. The first and second runners up, Allison Land and Emily Williams, will receive scholarship money, gifts from Griffin’s Jewelers and one week free from Gold’s Gym.

Curren said she intends to accomplish a lot during the next year as Miss JSU and be a good representative for the community and the University.

“My whole family has gone to JSU and ever since I found out about [the pageant] and that there was a representative for JSU, I thought how awesome would it be that I could represent it for [my family] also,” she said.

“Everybody has been so nice and giving and I really enjoyed being with the girls,” Curren said. “I feel so honored and so privileged being able to represent such a good university and now I’m excited about going to Miss America.”

Jennifer Curren was crowned Miss JSU 2004 last Saturday night in front of 350 people, at Leone Cole Auditorium.

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**R.E.M.**


Review by Nick Mackay
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

I was over at a friend’s house last night, playing pool. Now, we usually pool play pool but we don’t have a swimming pool. I played pool well and listened to some sort of adult music and listened to some sort of influential music and at the same time we discussed the songs and artist we are currently listening to.

It just so happened that my friend put on a “hits of the 90’s” CD that he had created. The songs he had on there were great. They were all really fun songs that reminded me of different parts of my teenage years. Most of the songs were kind of one hit wonders. You know, songs like “Mr. Jones” by Counting Crows and “To Be with You” by Mr. Big.

And then, half way through the CD came a song based on a mandolin riff, which featured no real chorus. The song was “Losing my Religion” by R.E.M., and it stuck me as a strange track to have on such a compilation CD. For a band who is probably one of the most (if not the most) influential American band of the past two decades, they are still reduced to one hit wonder category by some. Weird huh?

Peter Buck himself said R.E.M.’s career could be divided into two segments: before “Losing my Religion,” and after “Losing my Religion.” That statement alone says a lot for the importance and influence of the song. It was the first time this small, extremely underground band from Athens, Ga. went out to the masses. It transformed the band from cult, Indie favorites, to one of the biggest artists in the world.

However, one spin of the bands latest Best of release and you realize the one hit wonder tag is grossly misplaced on this band. Any fan of music will recognize the songs; even if you don’t know the names you will recall songs like “Orange Crush,” “E-bow the Letter” (featuring Patti Smith!), “Imitation of Life” and “The Sidewinder Sleeps Tonight.” These songs are great, but the album is so tight the bands best work leaves them behind.

“On the Moon,” written about tragic-comic Andy Kaufman, became the title of a Jim Carrey movie, and it still stands as one of the best pop songs the band has written. “The Great Beyond,” written specifically for the same movie, is an excellent biography of Kaufman and his life’s philosophies. It would have been a grave injustice to put the responsibility of writing this song in the hands of any other band.

But R.E.M. is at their best when they slow down. The haunting majesty of “Everybody Hurts” should not be underestimated. Buck himself said this song no longer belongs to the band, that it now belongs to everybody who ever gained solace from it. It’s a brilliantly simple concept, and a brilliantly simple song. The album also features the juxtaposition of “Daysleeper” and “Nightswimming.” two gorgeous, lumbering songs for a rainy day. Even the new songs sound great. “Animal” is a spacey sing-along featuring a “creepy robot” doing backing vocals, while “Bad Day” is reminiscent of “It’s The End Of The World As We Know It (and I feel fine),” but without the incoherent rambling and Leonard Bernstein references.

But, somewhat ironically, I can’t get by the majesty that is “Losing my Religion.” The song is a perfect encapsulation of sorrow, happiness, loss and love all at the same time. As we sat around the pool table that night we concluded that, if a band had to be known for one song, this is a pretty darn good song to be known for. At least they aren’t known for “Shiny Happy People.”
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - The theft of nine hamsters led police to a gang of boys aged between seven and 11 who are believed responsible for a series of house and car break-ins in Malaysia's capital, police said.

Mohamed Khalil Kader Mohamed, the police chief of the administrative capital of Putrajaya, said police thought they were on the trail of grown up thieves until the hamsters were stolen from a pet store, the New Straits Times newspaper reported Friday.

"We feel pretty strongly that there needs to be a separation between the pornography and the fire service," said Capt. Herb Collier, who was among those who resigned.

Alexa Jones has a Web site that promotes her job as a firefighter. She stars in videos under a pseudonym.

"If they're going to be out there, I might as well be making money off them," she said. Her husband added: "It's called freedom of expression, and speech also. It's not illegal."
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Basketball Standings

MEN

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**Panthers go from losing season to Super Bowl**

By Jenna Fryer
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — His house and lawn were covered in toilet paper and congratulatory banners when Carolina coach John Fox returned home from the NFC championship game early Monday morning.

The drive home from the stadium took longer than usual because of the extra time it took to push through the thousands of fans who turned out to greet the Panthers following their 14-3 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Two years after the lowest point in Carolina history, Fox and the Panthers are headed to the Super Bowl for the first time in franchise history.

“We’ve got great fans and they were out at the airport and all along our trail to the stadium, and there were a number of people to greet us here at the stadium,” Fox said. “I had all kinds of things on my house and everybody was really excited.”

That’s because the Panthers’ turnaround has been nothing short of amazing.

A young franchise that had long been troubled by off-field problems, Carolina hit bottom on Jan. 6, 2002. The New England Patriots came to town for the regular season finale and humiliated the Panthers 38-6.

The game capped Carolina’s 1-15 season and was played in front of a half-empty stadium.

Of the franchise-low 21,070 in attendance, over half were New England fans. The Patriots, who went on to win the Super Bowl a month later, felt so at home that owner Bob Kraft was on the field shaking hands with their supporters after the game.

“The energy has been sucked out of our organization and our fan base,” Panthers owner Jerry Richardson said the next day in firing coach George Seifert.

So Richardson went after a high-energy coach full of enthusiasm. He found it on Fox, who immediately set out to turn around the franchise.

In two seasons, he’s done it, and Carolina’s opponent in the Super Bowl is none other than the Patriots.

“Of the first things I thought of is we played against New England in the final game of the 1-15 season,” general manager Marty Hurney said. “That was one of the low points, and now we are playing them in the Super Bowl two years later. It’s gratifying, we have one game to go to accomplish our goal.”

The Panthers are longshots to do that: The Las Vegas oddsmakers made New England a seven-point favorite to beat Carolina.

But that’s a huge improvement from how the Panthers were perceived last year. Just days after the last Super Bowl, Carolina was listed by oddsmakers as anywhere from 75-1 to 100-1 shots to win the NFL championship.

“America doesn’t want us, but it’s going to be a game,” defensive tackle Brentson Buckner said. “Ain’t nobody going to see the Panthers in the Super Bowl, but now you got to deal with it. Because right now in the NFC, we’re the best thing going.”

How they got here is a testament to Fox, who challenged their toughness in his first team meeting while laying out a blueprint for success. He wanted a hard-nosed defense, a run-first offense and to lift morale on a team that ranked last in the league in nearly every statistic.

And he planned to boost Carolina’s talent level with smart draft picks and a selective process in free agency.

It was a plan that was supposed to take several years—not two.

“I am not sure anybody expected it to happen in two years, to happen that fast,” Fox said. “But we’ve changed the attitude and taken the approach that the foundation and the cornerstone stones were enthusiasm and hard work.”

But Fox, who steadfastly maintained that very few things surprise him, admitted Monday he was taken aback by how willing the Panthers were to buy into his longterm plans.

“They were very willing to try anything,” Fox said. “When you lose 15 games in a row, you are pretty wide-eyed and bushy-tailed about what our approach is going to be. My biggest impression was ‘They fired the coaches, now it’s going to be your turn so you better step it up.’ They responded to it.”

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Four reasons that the Carolina Panthers will win the Super Bowl

By Michael Vaughan II
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Jacksonville State went back on the road this week seeking their first conference win. They would gain it at Tennessee-Martin before falling at Murray State. JSU then finished the week on Monday with a win over 1-19 Savannah State in the final non-OVC match of the year. The scores were 96-85 over UT-Martin, 89-94 to Murray State and 95-83 over Savannah State.

Jacksonville State forged ahead 50-40 at the intermission and used an 11-0 run to open the second half. Trailing 61-40, Tennessee rallied, unlike their past two games where they led at the break and let up in the second half.

UT-Martin used a 15-5 run to cut the Jax lead to one, 72-71, with 7:03 remaining to play. That was it though. Jacksonville State tossed in 12 unanswered points and never looked back.

Scott Watson led all scorers with 30 points. He canned six of his 10 attempted treys and was perfect on eight tosses from the charity stripe. Walker Russell added 18 points and 8 rebounds, while James Denson and Trent Eager both scored 17 points. Russell also added 11 assists for his first double double in conference play.

The Skyhawks won the battle of the boards, 42-40, but shot just 26.7 percent (4-for-15) from the three-point arch. Jacksonville State shot 54.5 percent from the curve and hit 12-of-22 three balls.

JSU then went east to face Murray State Saturday. The Racers gained early command of the game after earning their first lead of the night at 4-3 following a pair of free throws with 17:04 left in the first half. Murray State pushed the margin out to as much as seven on five different occasions in the opening 20:00 before settling for a 43-38 halftime lead.

The Gamecocks battled back in the second half and regained the lead at 60-59 with 10:17 to go on an Emerson Brown lay-up. Murray State responded with a 10-0 run over a 1:41 span to gain a 69-60 advantage.

Whelchel led the way for MSU with six points in the run, including a pair of free throws with 9:54 left to give the Racers the lead for good at 61-60. The Racers pushed the lead out to as much as 12 at 81-69 with 4:58 to go before JSU was able to close to within two at 86-84 with 1:13 left in the game.

MSU knocked down 6-of-8 free throws over the final 2:42 to hold on for the win. Overall, the Racers were 30-of-55 from the field for 54.5 percent, including an impressive 16-of-26 in the second half for 61.5 percent.

JSU was good as well, hitting 32-of-66 from the field for 48.5 percent. Watson again led the scoring with 22 points, followed by Denson with 19 and Josh Perry came off the bench to provide 17 points, a season high.

JSU then returned home Monday to host Savannah State. It was hard fought throughout, but JSU pulled away late for the 95-83 win.

After an early 20-20 tie, the Tigers went on a 7-0 run, as JSU wouldn’t hit another field goal until the 5:14 on a Watson three.

That would prove to be his final points, however, as soon after the shot, an elbow from Donald Carson decked Watson, who went down as if hit by Mike Tyson. Carson would be ejected from the game, as Watson would suffer a concussion, and finish with 13 points in only 4 minutes of playing time.

JSU got fired up after that, and ended the half on a 19-8 run to lead 50-42 at the intermission.

The second half saw JSU build a lead of 16 at 56:09 remaining for the 74-58 lead. The Gamecoocks wouldn’t hit another field goal until the 5:14 on a Watson three.

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Women suffer first loss; still ranked No. 2 in OVC

Freeman picks up 31st career double-double; Gamecocks take Murray to OT for a thriller win

By Michael Vaughan II
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Jacksonville State suffered their first OVC loss of the season this week at UT-Martin, but bounced back with a win over Murray State on Saturday to up their Ohio Valley Conference mark to 3-1 and 8-5 overall. The loss to UT-Martin was by a 79-70 score, the victory over Murray State coming in an 85-83 overtime thriller.

The Thursday game against Tennessee-Martin saw JSU come in full of confidence, and playing against a team that had yet to win an OVC game this season. That would all change after the 79-70 Skyhawk victory dropped JSU to 2-1 in the conference and raised UT-Martin to 3-1 and 8-5 overall. The loss to UT-Martin was by a 79-70 score, the victory over Murray State coming in an 85-83 overtime thriller.

The early going was close. The teams tied twice more, the final ties and 13 lead changes in the 85-83 overtime thriller.

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Again, Freeman led the way with 18 points and 16 rebounds, for her 31st career double-double. She also led the team in assists with six and in steals with six. Carlisle netted 16 points and Nye came up with 15 points and four assists on 6-of-10 from the floor and 3-of-6 from three.

Murray State would open the game on a 15-9 run, but JSU would quickly knot it at 15 on the way to a 13-4 run of their own. The rest of the half featured four ties and two lead changes, as the Racers took a slim one point advantage at the break, 38-37. JSU made their hay in the paint in the half, outscoring Murray State 16-2 in there during the opening 20:00.

Murray opened the second half with guns blazing, as they quickly jumped up to a six point lead, but again JSU knotted the score at 49 with 13:22 remaining off of a Nye three. The next 6:00 would see the Racers race out to an eight point advantage following a 15-7 run of -8 shots.

JSU found the basket in a hurry after that, scoring nine points in 1:31 of playing time to retake the lead. Murray retook a three point lead with only :10 left after two free throws, but Nye found an open Carlisle beside the lane, and she would hit the three to tie the game at 76-76 and send it to overtime.

Carlisle would hit the first shot in overtime, to be quickly matched by Murray State. Fredrikka Embry hit a jumper to put JSU up by two again, but MSU’s Jenny Bowden hit a three to give the home team the lead again.

A Nye lay-up again gave the Gamecocks a three point lead, but the Racers sped down to tie the game with :54 left. The same combo that sent the game to OT would win it for JSU, however, as Nye again assisted Carlisle, this time on a lay-up with :02 remaining as JSU escaped with the win.

JSU returns to the hardwood tonight as they play host to Eastern Kentucky, and Saturday as they host Morehead State. Both games start at 5pm.

Track and field team set multiple new JSU time records

From staff reports

CARBONDALE, III.—Jacksonville State's track and field team had a record setting weekend at the Saluki Booster Track and Field meet hosted by Southern Illinois University at the SIU Student Recreation Center in Carbondale, Ill.

"What a great way to start the season," said JSU head coach Heath Dudley. "We broke nine school records this weekend and that just shows this program is heading in the right direction."

The meet started with the 55 meter dash and Bernice Ellis smashing the school record in 7.26 seconds, followed by Matthews at 7.42 second and freshmen Andrea Arnaud with 7.50 seconds.

Also competing in the 55 meter dash was Armstrong (7.69), Shakeia Gooden (7.79) and Amber Hardy in (7.84).

In the 55 hurdles where Hardy and Armstrong took turns in the prelims and finals breaking each others record. In the first heat, Armstrong broke her own school record in 9.11 seconds with Hardy coming back in the second prelim and running 8.73 seconds. Both advanced to the finals Armstrong broke her personal best and putting her name second in the record books by running 8.99 seconds, while Hardy came back and broke her own school record in 8.68 seconds. Gooden also had a great race running a personal best in 9.71 sec.

In the 400, freshmen Stephanie Jones recorded the second fastest time in school history by running 61.23 seconds.

With the 200 up next, Matthews ran the second fastest time in school history, while fellow Brown race by running 26.27 the second fastest time indoors in school history.

In the long jump, Armstrong continued a good performance by breaking her own school record with 17.8.

The 4 by 400 team consisting of Brown, Jones, Hardy and Armstrong ran 4:11.66 breaking a JSU record as well.

"This team still has a lot of room for improvement and will only get better as the season goes along, but it is wonderful to see the enjoyment of these upperclassmen as they see this program finally have some success," said Dudley.

Rifle takes first win of new year

Cookeville, Tenn.—James Hall posted his highest air rifle score of the year to lead Jacksonville State over Tennessee Tech in its' first rifle match of the new year. Hall, who led both JSU and Tech in air rifle, shot a 397.

Kari Baldwin shot an 1171 smallbore score to lead JSU. The Gamecocks won the shoulder-to-shoulder match 6176-6118. JSU won the smallbore competition 4641-4586 and air gun, 1535-1532.