Preview Day fosters high turnout

By Alan Fram
Associated Press Writer

Saturday boasted the second largest turnout for Preview Day in the history of JSU, according to the Office of Admissions. Two-hundred eleven prospective students registered for the fall semester compared to last year's 299.

Preview Day is an opportunity for prospective JSU students to visit the campus and obtain information about departments, organizations, and housing.

“They have things set up well and everyone seems really easy to talk to,” said Preview Day attendee Brianna Burgess, a senior at Oxford High School. Burgess said she learned a lot during Preview Day even though she has already been attending events on campus like Writer’s Bowl and leadership conferences. Burgess plans to live in the International House when she enrolls at JSU.

After wandering through displays set up by campus organizations in the gym, prospective students and some parents joined guided tours that left Stephenson Hall every 15 minutes. Representatives from campus groups addressed the groups of prospective Gamecocks about the merits of coming to JSU.

Andrea Blackwell is already a JSU student but came to Preview Day with a friend. “I’ve been a student here for 5 years but I learned that you can just sign up for SGA,” Blackwell said. “It’s not just a popularity contest.”

Members of the Baptist Campus Ministry said that they had more people fill out interest cards than ever before; but representatives from Disability Support Services said that people seemed afraid to come to their display.

The Panhellenic Council encouraged prospective students to consider joining a sorority or fraternity.

The Drama department showed a movie of plays they had produced.

Chasity Dickerson, another prospective student who came out for Preview Day, wants to be a math major. After coming to Preview Day, she decided she wants to be involved in SGA, the math club, and the Ambassadors. She said that she wanted to go to JSU because she, “really liked the town and because JSU is a good school.”

Calhoun HIV, AIDS numbers reach 2,000

By Jennifer Bacchus
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

“Do you know how you can tell someone is lying to you about their sexual history?” asked Troy Wallace, Health Advisor for One Man, One Life, at the Feb. 15 seminar on HIV/AIDS awareness. “Their lips are moving.”

It is estimated that there are 2,000 cases of AIDS/HIV in Calhoun County.

“We know of about 253 and for every person we know about, there are 10 we don’t,” said Tom Robertson, an HIV/AIDS educator who spoke at the seminar sponsored by the JSU Peer Educators, Career and Counseling Services, and the Office of Multicultural Services. The other members of the panel came from Jefferson County AIDS in Minorities, Inc. and One Man, One Life.

“The reality is that the only way you’re not going to worry about HIV and AIDS in the state of Alabama is to never have sex for the rest of your life,” said Robertson.

Regina Brewster, an HIV Care Case Manager for AIM.
JSU NAACP holds Coffeehouse event

By Jennifer Bacchus
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

A thumping beat beckoned to students from within the Gamecock Center Tuesday night, marking the beginning of the NAACP coffeehouse for the semester.

“It’s a surprise every semester,” said Cory Bolier, president of the JSU NAACP, referring to the event line-up.

The event draws more than just JSU students. The NAACP president from Gadsden State University as well as members from the Talladega chapter also attended.

The coffeehouse featured poetry, songs and stories written and performed by students. Among the performers were Charday Olan, who performed “Communion,” a piece that has been published on poetry.com and Angela Frazier, who performed two poems about the things people say in relationships and what they really mean.

Among the more touching performances was a story told by Tommy “Peanut” Barnes that concerned a neighbor whose suicide was prevented when he received a call that he believed to be from God.

The coffee house was held Tuesday as a part of Black History Month, but the NAACP typically holds one each semester. Last semester over 50 people turned out for the coffee house, turning it into a standing-room only event, so the club decided to use the bigger Gamecock Center this semester.

The group is also making preparations to go to the regional conference in mid-April. There, they will learn ways to enhance their group’s membership and learn more about the organizing process.

Baxley commands slight lead in gubernatorial polls

Associated Press
MOBILE, Ala. (AP) - Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley fared well in a statewide poll of four potential gubernatorial candidates, but all four looked competitive, the survey’s director said.

The poll conducted by the Mobile Register and University of South Alabama matched Baxley and former Gov. Don Siegelman, both Democrats and both possible candidates for governor in 2006, against two possible Republican candidates, Gov. Bob Riley and former Chief Justice Roy Moore.

The survey, conducted Feb. 14-17, found Baxley with 39 percent and Riley with 35 percent in a head-to-head matchup, with the remaining 26 not answering or undecided.

When matched against Moore, Baxley had 44 percent to 38 percent, with 18 percent not answering or uncertain.

When Siegelman was paired against the Republicans, Riley led 43 percent to 34 percent, and Moore had 44 percent to 34 percent, with the remainder uncertain or not answering.

Keith Nicholls, a USA political scientist who directed the polls, said polls done more than a year before the June 2006 primary have sex for the rest of your life,” said Robertson.

Regina Brewster, an HIV Care Case Manager for AIM, spoke about the importance of getting tested and went over the proposal to the Board of Trustees for approval.

If approved by Trustees, JAX Cash will allow students to use their I.D. cards at local gas stations, grocery stores and fast food restaurants.

Senate members discussed Higher Education Day slated for March 3rd in Montgomery. This political rally is designed to better the Alabama educational system and push for lower college tuition.

The JSU Pep Band will be traveling with the students, and Dr. Meehan will be speaking. Representatives from 15

SGA elections will be held March 8-9 in the TMB Auditorium.

Check next week’s edition for in-depth candidate interviews.

JSU NAACP holds Coffeehouse event

By Paige Baker
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

A vote to amend JAX Cash, a plan that would enforce a mandatory higher amount of Flex dollars for incoming freshmen, passed at Monday’s SGA Senate meeting.

Senate members voted to lower the originally proposed amount of $150 to $50.

SGA President Emily Williams vetoed the original proposition two weeks ago, saying that $150 was too steep an amount to force students to pay.

Now that the JAX Cash resolution has been amended, Williams will present the amended plan to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Announcements, Crime .......... 2
Concert calendar ............ 6
Opinion .................. 4
Question of the Week ....... 4
Features .................. 5, 6
Sports .................. 7, 8, 9, 10

IFC shines in Atlanta

from Staff Reports
JSU’s Inter-Fraternity council picked up three awards and a lot of knowledge at the annual South-Eastern Inter-Fraternity Council meeting held in Atlanta Feb. 17-20.

Within the SEIFC captions there are two categories: IFC’s with nine or fewer fraternities and IFC’s with 10 or more. JSU falls within the nine or fewer with such large schools as the University of Miami Florida, also a favorite to win many of the awards presented.

JSU took the Outstanding

By the numbers:

Number of Crayola crayons in existence: 170

Gamecock Scoreboard:

Feb. 24 Women’s BB vs. Longwood 8:00
Feb. 26 Women’s BB @ Tenn. St. 5:00
Men’s BB @ Tenn. St. 7:30
Feb. 25-27 Baseball vs. Marshall 3:00

Come support all of your Gamecock Sports!
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Alpha Omicron Pi:** We hope that everyone is having a fantastic week. Congratulations to all of our girls that made senate! Also, thank you Delta Chi for the awesome mixer at Step Africa. Contact: drina805@aol.com.

**Counseling and Career Services:** The Office of CCS will be hosting a “Stress Management 101” workshop on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the TMB, Rm. 303. Contact: Linda Shelton, 782-5475.

**Delta Zeta:** We hope everyone is having an awesome week! Unaffiliated women: Come to our recruitment event with ZTA tonight at 7:30 in the Alumni House and see what Greek life is all about. You won’t be sorry! Check out our web site, www.jaxstdeltazeta.org. Contact: Laura Buchanan, lauradzlj@yahoo.com.

**ISO:** International House invites you to attend the International Vibe (Dance Party) on March 2, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. We guarantee you a great time with top music from all over the world. Free food! Jacksonville...come party like the rest of the world! Everyone is invited. Contact: Zorka, 782-7654.

**JSU Ambassadors:** WANTED: Students needed to represent JSU at Preview Day, graduations, recruiting events and trustee meetings. Must have leadership qualities! Come by and pick up your ambassador application today at the Visitor Center. Applications are due March 1. Contact: Ashlie Holland, 782-5260.

**JSU Housing:** The Department of Housing and Residence Life are now accepting Resident Assistant applications for the Fall 2005 academic semester. Applications are available at Bibb Graves 117. Eligibility: 2.25 GPA, 32 credit hours, lived in an apartment/hall one semester prior to employment, submit a resume. Applications Deadline: March 1, 2005. More than 50 available positions, so apply now! Contact: Andrea Pruitt, 782-6112.

**Phi Mu:** Mark your calendars for the annual Phi Mu Golf Tournament, April 1, at Cane Creek. If you have any questions, contact any Phi Mu for more information. Congrats to Mary Blackwell on becoming Recruitment Chair, Rachel Cleveland on becoming Social Chair, and Elizabeth Herring on becoming Corresponding Secretary. Founder’s Day activities will be held on Saturday at Classic on Noble, 10:30-1:30 p.m. Lady of the Week: Mary Blackwell and Heather McCartney. Phi of the Week: Dawn Manning. Athlete of the Week: Rachel Townson. Sunshine: Somer Leathers. Contact: Rachel Cleveland, hevn928@aol.com.

**Society of Professional Journalists:** SPJ will hold a meeting Thursday, March 3 at 5 p.m. in Self Hall, Rm. 180. All communications students are encouraged to attend. Contact: Elizabeth Thurman, 782-8191.

**Sociology Club:** The Sociology and Social Work department, along with the departments of Criminal Justice and Psychology are holding a career fair on Wednesday, March 2 beginning at 1:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd floors of Brewer Hall. Contact: Dr. McCain, 782-5350.

**Zeta Tau Alpha:** Attention JSU Independent women: You are invited to attend our 2nd annual recruitment gathering with Delta Zeta which takes place tonight at 7:30 at the Alumni House. Don’t forget to vote for Jessica Firestone for VPOA on March 8-9. Interested contestants for the BMOC (March 16 at 8:00 p.m. at Leone Cole) may e-mail cambrey_jordan@yahoo.com. Have a great week JSU! ZTA loves you! Contact: Natalie Shearer, Natalie_shearer@hotmail.com.

---

**Zeta Tau Alpha Phi:** Phi Mu of the Week: Dawn Manning. Athlete of the Week: Rachel Leathers.

---

**International House:** Invites you to attend the International Vibe (Dance Party) on March 2, 8:00 p.m. We guarantee you a great time with top music from all over the world! Everyone is invited. Contact: Laura Buchanan, lauradzlj@yahoo.com.

**Pharmaceutical Society:** The halk of the Week: Mary Blackwell and Heather McCartney. Phi of the Week: Dawn Manning. Athlete of the Week: Rachel Townson. Sunshine: Somer Leathers. Contact: Rachel Cleveland, hevn928@aol.com.

**Society of Management:** The state organization establishes initiatives that the individual chapters are encouraged to follow in their programs.

---

**JSU Ambassadors:** WANTED: Students needed to represent JSU at Preview Day, graduations, recruiting events and trustee meetings. Must have leadership qualities! Come by and pick up your ambassador application today at the Visitor Center. Applications are due March 1. Contact: Ashlie Holland, 782-5260.

**Phi Mu:** Mark your calendars for the annual Phi Mu Golf Tournament, April 1, at Cane Creek. If you have any questions, contact any Phi Mu for more information. Congrats to Mary Blackwell on becoming Recruitment Chair, Rachel Cleveland on becoming Social Chair, and Elizabeth Herring on becoming Corresponding Secretary. Founder’s Day activities will be held on Saturday at Classic on Noble, 10:30-1:30 p.m. Lady of the Week: Mary Blackwell and Heather McCartney. Phi of the Week: Dawn Manning. Athlete of the Week: Rachel Townson. Sunshine: Somer Leathers. Contact: Rachel Cleveland, hevn928@aol.com.

**Society of Professional Journalists:** SPJ will hold a meeting Thursday, March 3 at 5 p.m. in Self Hall, Rm. 180. All communications students are encouraged to attend. Contact: Elizabeth Thurman, 782-8191.

**Sociology Club:** The Sociology and Social Work department, along with the departments of Criminal Justice and Psychology are holding a career fair on Wednesday, March 2 beginning at 1:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd floors of Brewer Hall. Contact: Dr. McCain, 782-5350.

**Zeta Tau Alpha:** Attention JSU Independent women: You are invited to attend our 2nd annual recruitment gathering with Delta Zeta which takes place tonight at 7:30 at the Alumni House. Don’t forget to vote for Jessica Firestone for VPOA on March 8-9. Interested contestants for the BMOC (March 16 at 8:00 p.m. at Leone Cole) may e-mail cambrey_jordan@yahoo.com. Have a great week JSU! ZTA loves you! Contact: Natalie Shearer, Natalie_shearer@hotmail.com.
testing procedure. Unlike previous AIDS tests, which required a blood sample, the current testing method, called OraSure, is non-invasive and tests the saliva from a person’s mouth. The test takes five minutes to complete and the kit is then mailed to a processing center to be checked.

Angela Dickson, Program Coordinator for One Man, One Life stressed that getting tested isn’t enough, however, because “testing isn’t a preventative.” She and the other panelists urged the use of condoms for any type of sexual activity.

“Nobody deserves this disease,” said Connita Chisen, the Street and Community Outreach Educator for AIM. Chisen has suffered from AIDS for eleven years and she spoke with the group about her experiences since being diagnosed.

“It took me two years to come to grips with it. All I could think about was that I was going to die,” Chisen now spends her time going to schools to educate people about a disease she barely knew about 11 years ago because, as she puts it, “I wish I had someone to educate me about the virus when I was growing up.”

The panelists also stressed that behavior puts a person at risk. They urged the students present to get tested and to have their partners tested. They recommend condom usage to remain HIV negative.

The panelists underscored two main points during the talk: you can’t tell if someone has HIV or AIDS by looking at them and that a box of condoms can literally save your life.

**Attention Nursing Students!**

Are you looking for part-time employment? Do you enjoy interaction with senior citizens? Would you like to gain valuable work experience while attending school?

**Autumn Cove Assisted Living**
is seeking nursing students to fill weekend (Saturday & Sunday) positions as Resident Attendants. All shifts available.

Work one-on-one assisting the residents with their daily activities.

Must be dependable, dedicated, and willing to learn.

**Apply in person only:**

**Autumn Cove Assisted Living**
4425 Greenbrier Dear Road
Anniston, Alabama
Group pushes lottery in Alabama

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) - A public policy group warns of a new lottery campaign aimed at Alabamians.

It's an advertising drive in east Alabama thanking residents for driving to Georgia to buy lottery tickets, said Bill Ahern, spokesman for the Washington, D.C.-based Tax Foundation that recently studied state lotteries and their impact. The campaign will feature a clerk in a Georgia store who points out that Alabama money has help fund his children's college education.

"It's all going to be part of campaign to put the lottery in Alabama, which would be a big mistake," Ahern told The Anniston Star for a story Sunday.

The Tax Foundation, a non-partisan, non-profit policy watchdog group, decided to study lotteries after noting so many states appeared to increase reliance on lottery revenue. What the study found, Ahern said, amazed its sponsors.

The average American spent more on lottery tickets in 2002 than on reading materials or movies. During fiscal 2003, Americans spent roughly $45 billion - or $155 per person - to play lotteries nationwide. That's compared to the $32.08 each Americans spent in theater admissions and $140 on reading materials.

Not everyone agrees with the Tax Foundation's position that a lottery is another type of tax, one paid and played mostly by lower-income people. The foundation says that if a state decides something is important enough to fund with a lottery, it should be important enough to fund through property, income or sales taxes that are more transparent and equitable.

Rep. John Rogers, D-Birmingham, who has introduced a lottery bill in the Legislature for years, said he doesn't see how people can say a lottery wouldn't help. He disputes the argument that the lottery is a tax on low-income residents or that people rather would pay more taxes than have a lottery.

As for transparency, he said people understand that if they buy a ticket, they take a risk and that if they lose, their money goes to education or the winner's payout.

"How can it be good for Alabamians to be driving to Georgia to help pay for scholarships for children in another state?" he asked. "If you are raising millions of dollars a year through a lottery, there has got to be some rich people playing too.

UGA president awarded hefty pay increase in closed session, university workers laid off

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) - While the University of Georgia was laying off workers and limiting raises, the UGA Real Estate Foundation's president got a 40 percent raise.

In a deal approved by the real estate foundation's board in a closed meeting last year, Jo Ann Chitty's total compensation went from $218,000 to $304,595.

The package also includes a severance agreement that will give Chitty her base pay for a year if her job is terminated. The only other university employee with a severance agreement is UGA Vice President Eric Orbock, said UGA Senior Vice President of Finance Hank Huckaby.

Chitty's total annual compensation includes a $250,000 base salary, a $25,000 bonus, an $8,400 car allowance and $21,195 in fringe benefits that include country club dues and tickets to Georgia football and basketball games. State law allows discussions on pay to be held in closed session. But any action must be taken in public.

Attorney Mark Hodge, who represents the real estate foundation, said taking the vote in closed session last March was an "unintentional oversight." No deliberate effort was made to keep the raise secret, he said.

However, the minutes of the closed session, which were obtained by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution through an open records request, indicate that board members knew the raise could be controversial.

Huckaby, who attended the meeting, told the foundation board members the raise could draw negative reaction from university deans and administrators, most of whom make far less.

Huckaby said that only three UGA employees are paid more than Chitty: President Michael Adams, Provost Arnett Mace and Terry School of Business Dean George Benson.

"My concern was its relation to other salaries," Huckaby said. "I don't begrudge Jo Ann getting as good a compensation package as she can get."

Senate minutes, from SGA, page 1

other major universities will be present.

- Chief Justice Andy Green announced that Justice Applications went out on Monday and are due on March 11. The grade requirement to become a Justice is 2.3 on a 4.0 scale.
- Brian Snead announced that the SGA blood drive is scheduled for March 1-2. It will be held on the 3rd floor of the TMB. He also announced Blizzard Bucks, which is going to be held on March 10 in the TMB.
- Allison Crow announced that the Organizational Council will be meeting on March 6th in the Roundhouse.
- Drake Russell said thanks to all those who helped make Step Africa a success.
- President Williams read a letter from the BCM saying that thanked all everyone for all the help with the TSUNAMI relief fund.
- Freshman Forum will be ending their Project Valentine February 28th. If anyone has a used cell phone with a working battery and charger, you are encouraged to donate it to this cause.
- Transplant patients will receive these phones.
- Sigma Pi voiced a reminder that Sam Spady week is coming up March 7-12.

Baxley ahead in recent polls

from Baxley, page 1

mary election for governor are important in terms of public perception about competitiveness. "This indicates that all of the candidates are competitive," he said.

The survey of 452 registered voters asked if the state of Alabama is headed in the right direction. Forty percent said yes, 44 percent said no, and 16 percent didn't know or didn't answer.

Baxley told the Register that the poll results indicate Alabamians want a change in the governor's office.

"They've had Siegelman as governor for four years and Riley as governor for two years," she said.

The random telephone survey had sampling error margins of 4.5 percent.

IFC collects awards

from IFC, Page 1

Publication Award and the Outstanding Service Project award. The Publication award was for the recruitment book JSU's IFC publishes jointly with the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Panhellician council for incoming freshmen at orientation and for anyone interested in joining a Greek-letter social organization. The Service Project award was for JSU's first annual Greek Fair. This event kicked off Greek Week 2004 and brought a carnival-type atmosphere to the Jacksonville square. All of the money raised from the games went to help the Jacksonville Boys and Girls Club.

The IFCs third and final award is the penacal for a council at the regional level. The Fraternal Excellence award recognizes IFCs who have garnered 85 percent of all areas in each of 11 capitious. These awards recognize IFCs who are not only helping their members recruit but also push them forward in areas of judicial management, finance, scholarship and community service.

"Success was its relation to governor administration," he said.
This event kicked off Greek Week 2004 and brought a carnival-type atmosphere, finance, scholarship and community Service. The random telephone survey had sampling error margins of 4.5 percent.
OPINION

Alabama, evolution and the sanctity of marriage

By Patrick McCreless
The Chanticleer
Managing Editor

Why does my state always have to be the one that does these things? Just once, I would like to see Alabama not delve into the realm of idiocy and ignorance. Just once I would like to see this state do something truly enlightened and forward thinking.

As I'm sure most of you already know, the Alabama legislature is considering a bill banning same-sex marriage. I will flat out tell you now that this is a complete waste of time. In fact, this bill should not even be on the agenda. This whole thing is nothing more than pathetic party politics, given the fact that the two parties are spending their time arguing over something truly enlightened and forward looking.

This is assuming that evolution is effectively taught in public schools to begin with, which I can assure you is not. I am just disgusted with people trying to dictate education based off their own personal ideologies.

Yes, evolution is a theory. But you know what, so is gravity. How about we offer some different ideas on what causes gravity. Instead of the idea that gravity is caused by the mass of objects, how about we just say that it's angels pulling us to the ground.

Now, my idea sounds ludicrous and has no actual scientific evidence, but if the legislature believes should be taught in our schools are just as nonsensical with no support in the scientific community. Therefore, my new angel-gravity theory should get equal time right alongside the theory of gravity. If that is what will be done to evolution, it is only fair.

Please people, we can not let this continue. This state's schools are already providing a sub-par education because of grossly inadequate funding. Do we now have to further compound the problem by teaching them the equivalent of the idea that the world is flat? I hope not.

Happy Valentine's
Happy Valentine's Day to me!!!

By Elisabeth Thurman
The Chanticleer
News Editor

This only served to nauseate me even more. Finally, my name was called and I could see strong prescription drugs in my immediate future. The nurse took my temperature (104, thank you very much) and then posed the question, "Why did you wait so long to do something about this fever?"

The hilarity of the situation immediately struck me, along with extreme annoyance at this woman who had the audacity to keep me waiting for hours and then dare to ask why I agreed to the wait.

I was given Tylenol and sent back to my throne in the waiting room.

Had I known what was to come, I would have headed straight out the door, but the fever was making me loopy, so I opted to stay. A new patient sat beside me, a cute little boy about six years old. He wasn't saying much; I thought I had found a kindred spirit.

Until he got hungry.

For the next 30 minutes, echoes of "Mama, all I want is a Popeyes chicken wang!" reverberated through my aching head. Silently, I wished this creature's mother to yank his butt up and haul him to Popeye's for the piece of meat.

You really start to put your life into perspective when you find yourself shooting a sick child dirty looks.

Finally, the mother relented, and off they went in search of the chicken "wang." Apparently, deep-fried poultry pacifies a sickly child.

My next tormentors came in the form of a 10-year-old girl (who I still maintain was in perfect health) and her toothless grandmother. For the next half-hour, I listened to three rounds of Green Eggs and Ham, as narrated by a pre-adolescent hypochondriac and illustrated only by the muddied lips of an 80-year-old woman.

Happy Valentine's Day to me.

Dave Chambers
I would like to see my extra tuition money go to buy mass amounts of valentine for the students to ease the pain of being "rouped" by the university.

Rebecca Kringold
A key party at President Meehan's house.

To borrow a masterfully turned phrase from my best friend, sometimes I feel like the world is playing a huge cosmic joke on me.

My latest brush with nonsense occurred on Valentine's Day. The mind reels that Valentine's Day could be anything less than wonderful, I know.

I found myself in a doctor's office first thing that morning. Since I had no Valentine to speak of, I really didn't mind putting in the quality time in the house o' sickness, to tell you the truth. My original plans for the day included class, work and the potential risk of a run-in with an ex around campus, so being sick wasn't so bad. Or so I thought.

I woke up with a fever, called in sick, and headed for the doc, where I hoped to be treated quickly and painlessly. It wasn't to be.

Everybody else in the tri-county area had apparently decided to become infected with the flu that fateful day, so a three-hour wait was in store for me.

While I sat elbow to elbow with coughing children, I could feel my fever heating up, so I suggested to the receptionist that perhaps I could be moved ahead in the line. She did not share my sentiments. Apparently, a 23-year-old girl in her pajamas doesn't receive much sympathy in the medical world, especially when her competition is 30 screaming kids.

Accepting my fate, I resigned myself to reading the March 2002 edition of Parenting magazine and tried to ignore the guy beside me who kept calling his girlfriend to tell her he loved her.

Finally, my name was called and I could see strong prescription drugs in my immediate future. The nurse took my temperature (104, thank you very much) and then posed the question, "Why did you wait so long to do something about this fever?"

The hilarity of the situation immediately struck me, along with extreme annoyance at this woman who had the audacity to keep me waiting for hours and then dare to ask why I agreed to the wait.

I was given Tylenol and sent back to my throne in the waiting room.

Had I known what was to come, I would have headed straight out the door, but the fever was making me loopy, so I opted to stay. A new patient sat beside me, a cute little boy about six years old. He wasn't saying much; I thought I had found a kindred spirit.

Until he got hungry.

For the next 30 minutes, echoes of "Mama, all I want is a Popeyes chicken wang!" reverberated through my aching head. Silently, I wished this creature's mother to yank his butt up and haul him to Popeye's for the piece of meat.

You really start to put your life into perspective when you find yourself shooting a sick child dirty looks.

Finally, the mother relented, and off they went in search of the chicken "wang." Apparently, deep-fried poultry pacifies a sickly child.

My next tormentors came in the form of a 10-year-old girl (who I still maintain was in perfect health) and her toothless grandmother. For the next half-hour, I listened to three rounds of Green Eggs and Ham, as narrated by a pre-adolescent hypochondriac and illustrated only by the muddied lips of an 80-year-old woman.

Happy Valentine's Day to me.
MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) _ Kayleen Pugh had a distinct disadvantage compared to other students when she was in high school and college, and it wasn’t because she is deaf.

It was because of academic rules that require learning a traditional, spoken foreign language, like Spanish or French, in order for students like her to receive some advanced academic degrees in high school and some college diplomas. The spoken requirements make it almost impossible for the deaf to pass these courses.

Unlike most other states, Alabama does not offer sign language as a foreign language to meet such diploma requirements.

Pugh, a math teacher at the Alabama School for the Deaf in Talladega, was among about 75 deaf Alabama residents who attempted to crowd into a small hearing room at the Alabama Statehouse Wednesday as the House Education Committee considered a bill to make American Sign Language an official foreign language in Alabama schools.

When the committee approved the bill, by voice vote, interpreters used sign language to convey the action to the deaf residents, some in the room and some in the hallway outside. When the vote was announced, most of those in the crowd threw their arms in the air, a way of applauding for the deaf.

"I felt like finally, yes, it’s going to happen," said Pugh, using sign language and speaking through an interpreter.

She said making sign language a foreign language will open up many academic fields now closed to deaf students and will also encourage hearing people to study sign language.

"There are limited social opportunities for people who are deaf. This means there will be more people who can communicate with me," Pugh said.

The sign language bill, sponsored by Rep. Craig Ford, D-Gadsden, now goes to the full House for debate.

Ford said he was encouraged to introduce the bill by his mother, Judy Ford, who teaches at Gadsden State Community College.

"She said deaf students had come to her and said they couldn’t fulfill the foreign language commitment for certain degrees," Ford said. He said American Sign Language is considered a foreign language in 39 states and that many deaf students are forced to leave Alabama to earn certain degrees.

Cynthia Frey, a sign language interpreter from Phenix City, said if the sign language bill becomes law, it will encourage more people to study sign language and become interpreters. She said there is currently a shortage of trained interpreters.

Judith Gilliam, the president of the Alabama Association for the Deaf, speaking through an interpreter, said making sign language a foreign language also would open up careers that are now mostly closed to the deaf.

"There’s a myriad of careers this would open up," she said.

WASHINGTON (AP) - As cleanup efforts continued, the fur was still flying Monday, with parents furious that a cat spay and neutering clinic was held in a Northwest Washington grade and secure environment.

But classes were eventually canceled after Superintendent Clifford B. Janey and other school officials consulted with parent groups and a school board member.

All city public schools were closed Monday for Presidents Day. But Dana Grasty said her daughter - a sixth grad-
WASHINGTON (AP) - As cleanup efforts continued, the fur was still flying Monday, with parents furious that a cat spay and neutering clinic was held in a Northwest Washington grade school. Officials decided to cancel Tuesday classes to finish cleaning the school.

The cafeteria and some classrooms and halls at John Eaton Elementary School were turned into feline operating rooms where about 500 cats were fixed. Organizers said most were stray cats that had trapped, but there were also some house cats.

After hearing concerns about student health, the school system canceled classes and scheduled a meeting for parents Tuesday evening in the school's library. School and health department officials will meet with parents to determine our course of action," principal Willie McElroy said in a statement. Parents said McElroy never told them about the weekend event.

"Why didn't he go and do some research in how many kids in this school have asthma and allergies?" demanded Dianna Waters, one of several angry parents gathered outside the school.

Early in the day school officials promised to open school Tuesday barring any glaring information that would come forth," said Dale Talbert, an assistant superintendent with the District of Columbia Public Schools. He promised a "safe

ings with the aim of reassessing and disclaiming the author of the mystical thriller, a mix of code-breaking, art history, secret societies, religion and lore.

Vezzosi said one example of the mistakes contained in the book is that the Mona Lisa was made in Leonardo's image.

"There's a very big difference between Mona Lisa's and Leonardo's noses, mouths, eyes and expressions," he said, adding that he will compare two portraits to prove it.

Brown in the past has not said much about the controversy surrounding the blockbuster book, but he told NEC's "Today" in June 2003 that while the novel's main character, Robert Langdon, is fictional, "all of the art, architecture, secret rituals, secret societies, all of that is historical fact."

Organizers said there would be nothing speaking in the book's defense and the "verdict" would be contained within the presentations of the speakers.

But that does not mean the book will be completely hung out to dry: Hundreds of fans were expected to attend the trial.

"This initiative has received a lot of interest with people calling to confirm their attendance," Vezzosi said.

"The Da Vinci Code" has sold more than 7.5 million copies worldwide and is expected to be made into a movie. Its success has inspired guided tours in Paris that take fans to sites described in the novel, and it also has spawned a cottage industry in books seeking to debunk it.

Davinci deciphered

By Marta Falconi
Associated Press Writer

ROME (AP) - Art experts and conservative clerics are holding an unusual "trial" in Leonardo da Vinci's hometown aimed at sorting out fact from fiction in the "The Da Vinci Code." After many readers took the smash hit novel as gospel truth.

The event in Vinci, just outside of Florence, began Friday with an opening statement by Alessandro Vezzosi, director of a Leonardo museum.

"Leonardo is misrepresented and belittled," Vezzosi said in a telephone interview hours before the event began. "His importance is misunderstood. He was a man full of fantasy, inventions and genius."

The novel's contentious allegations - namely, that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and sired a bloodline - have provoked unprecedented protest among Roman Catholic and Protestant conservatives, who claimed that Brown's characters inaccurately malign Christianity.

The book portrays Roman Catholic leaders as demonizing women for centuries and covering up the truth about the Holy Grail, which the novel says is Mary Magdalene herself.

Vezzosi said he will produce evidence through 120 photographs based on documents and paint-
North Indian Vegetarian
2 big carrot(s) chopped
1 cup(s) green peas shelled
6 tablespoons water
1 big onion(s) finely chopped
1 green chilli(es) minced and crushed with salt
a few mint leaves chopped.
salt, pepper and lemon juice to taste, fresh coriander or parsley
to garnish.

Add now the boiled potato cubes and tamarind paste.
Sprinkle some water and salt to taste. Mix well. Microwave
covered on 70% power for about 4 minutes.

TIPS:
Browned onion slices can be mixed in during standing time
for extra taste. When the
microwave cooking time for a step exceeds 2 minutes, it is
highly recommended the contents be checked and stirred at
regular intervals to avoid burning of food. Standing time is a
very important step as it completes the microwave cooking
process of a dish. Ideally, allow
the dish to stand for about 5
minutes before serving.

South Indian Vegetarian
(Konkani)
2 tablespoons oil
2 medium onion(s) sliced
finely
1 teaspoon(s) red chilli powder or as per taste
1 big tomato(es) chopped
finely
4 big potatoes boiled and cut into cubes
? teaspoon(s) tamarind paste
or as per taste
salt to taste

Heat oil and finely sliced
onions in a microwave-safe
bowl uncovered on high
Horoscopes

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)
Balance is really what works for you, so exercise moderation when dealing with your relatives and family members. Make your time count, especially when dealing with children. You seem to be taking a whole new look at yourself - rebuild your image in a positive way.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)
A smile will go a long way; so try to be tolerant of others, even if you strongly disagree with them. There are new doors of opportunity being thrown open for you, so be aware before the chance passes you by. Try to keep a low profile and you will be surprised at what gets accomplished.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)
Make changes now in your financial picture, and money matters will start to look better almost immediately. Try to go against your most extravagant nature and steer towards conservative thinking instead. There is a positive exchange of energy in a partnership.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)
Your partner or members of the family may be impatient, so you should be at your best to deal with them correctly. Clear up any misunderstandings as soon as possible. You seem to have plenty of mental energy this week, use it to your advantage in the workplace.

LEO: (July 24- August 23)
Avoid any impulsive spending, or it will put you more in the hole than you can imagine. But do follow your hunches in money matters, especially those in which you do not have much experience. Be candid in your communications and it will smooth out any snags.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)
You are in tune with the feelings of someone you love, making it easy to do just the right thing - how nice. If you are feeling a bit depressed and out of sorts, don’t sit around and mope, start making new friends instead. The truth is hard to get at this week.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)
Anything that you have previously started needs to be pushed to the next level now, so get on with it. Your personal life takes precedence this week, so don’t hesitate resolving any troubling situations. Keep your energies focused, your goal is at hand.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)
You have a very sensible and practical philosophy on life, as long as you can avoid getting into a rut. Take a few chances. With just a little extra effort, you can charm most of the people around you to your way of thinking, so put on a big smile.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)
Your feelings towards those you love are deep, but you don’t always agree with their ideas and actions. Having the tendency to go to extremes will cause some friction at home - let moderation be the key to keeping everyone and everything on an even keel.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)
It’s time to let go of some of your past problems, which will bring a soothing influence on your present thinking. It may be best to modify your behavior in the workplace before problems arise. Having such a strong ego will get you in trouble over and over again.

pisces: (February 20 - March 20)
There may be conflict with someone you love, but it can be avoided if you listen before you speak. While you are practical by nature, you would never know it this week, since you seem to be spending money everywhere you go. Some quiet time will be good for you.

If this week is your birthday: You don’t like to be taken unaware by emotions, so be prepared. There is much about you that is never revealed, and you prefer it this way, your privacy is extremely important. Others may see you as being too picky. Welcome change in your life.

Heat oil and finely sliced onions in a microwave-safe bowl uncovered on high (100%) power for about 4 minutes (stirring mid-way) or till the onions are lightly browned.

Now add the red chilli powder and mix well. Microwave uncovered on high (100%) power for about 2 minutes(s) or till it gives out a nice roasted aroma.

Add chopped tomatoes and mix well. Microwave uncovered on high (100%) power for about 4 minutes or till the tomatoes are tender and the oil has left the
Rifle guns down OVC title

Jacksonville State won the 2005 O'Reilly Ohio Valley Conference Rifle Championship on Sunday after shooting an aggregate of 4656 to take home its first ever OVC rifle crown.

The Gamecocks, who won the smallbore title on Saturday, finished first in the air rifle, shooting a 2326. Tennessee Tech was second (2310) with Murray State in third (2299).

Tennessee-Martin's women followed in fourth with a 2275, while the Skyhawk men took fifth (2240). Rounding out the field were Austin Peay on the Lady Smallbore and Regions on the Smallbore Air Rifle.

Top 10 Individuals - Smallbore

James Hall (JSU) - 590
Joseph Hall (JSU) - 587
Ryan Headlee (TTU) - 583
Chris Dautel (TTU) - 581
Cameron Hicks (MUR) - 580
Alex Culbertson (MUR) - 580
Kari Baldwin (JSU) - 580
Emily Yocum (UTM-W) - 574
Dan Belluzzo (MUR) - 574
Andy Leydig (TTU) - 573

Top 10 Individuals - Air Rifle

Joseph Hall (JSU) - 593
Kari Baldwin (JSU) - 586
Jaymi Collar (UTM) - 586
Chris Dautel (TTU) - 585
Robert Purdy (MUR) - 584
James Hall (JSU) - 578
Andrew Tucker (TTU) - 577
Ryan Headlee (TTU) - 577
Cameron Hicks (MUR) - 576
Alex Culbertson (MUR) - 574

This just in at press time! I'd like to remind everyone that press-time is on Tuesday night somewhere between the hours of midnight and 4 a.m.

I caught some comments from last week's headline about the basketball team still in the playoff hunt. The paper came out on Thursday and the story was run on Tuesday and the Gamecocks were eliminated late Tuesday night.

So a deadline is a deadline and I don't have a teacher I can con into giving me an extra day because of some relative that is terminally ill in my family or some excuse that totally comes out of nowhere.

A deadline is a deadline and if you don't make the line, (guess what?) you're dead.

So here is a fax I have just received. So much love goes out to the rifle team. They're good. I mean they're really good and the funny is, nobody knows. Well it's not really funny in a comical way but funny in a way that you probably catch yourself saying, "Who are these guys?"

The NCAA Men's and Women's Rifle Committee announced today the team and individual qualifiers for the 2005 National Collegiate Rifle.

From Staff Reports

The JSU Athletic Department is 90% sure they will host a home playoff game. The game is slated for Tuesday, March 1 at 7 p.m. The first 200 students will get free and seating will be on a first-come first-serve basis. There will be a deck for each and a half.

Jacksonville State fell to Austin Peay on the Lady Govs Senior Night at Dave Aaron Arena Saturday, 78-66.

"They (APSU) shot very well tonight," said JSU head coach Dave Dagostino. "They made contested shots and perimeter shots with a hand in their face."

Govs nailed six consecutive three-point baskets to go ahead of the Gamecocks. APSU went on a 17-3 run, as freshman Ashley Hardaway hit five three-pointers in the first half.

JSU attempted a comeback in the second half, led by junior Cobie Carlisle, who had 12 points in the half and 14 points on the night.

The Gamecocks came to the game without a key shot or capitalize on free throws.

"We didn't handle the ball well in the first half, but we did better in the second," said Dagostino.

"We missed the front end of a pair of free throws four times in the second half when we could have made the game a seven or an eight point game."

APSU (8-17, 4-10) had 16. Kera Bergerson added 13 points and Ashley Haynes had 12.

For the Gamecocks, Freddricka Embry tallied a 21 point season high and grabbed seven rebounds. Carlisle added 14 points, while Ann-Marie Healy recorded 11.

JSU (12-12, 8-6) will take on Longwood Saturday night at 8pm.
Men reach elimination on the road

From Staff Reports

Willie Jenkins scored 31 points and joined the 1,000-point club in just two years after Tennessee Tech (14-10, 9-4 OVC) cruised to a 71-56 win over Jacksonville State (7-20, 2-12) in front of 4,107 fans at the Eblin Center Thursday night.

Jacksonville State was led by Anthony Wilson with 19 points, while Walker Russell finished with 13 and Brandon Davis scored 12 points for the Gamecocks.

“Our first 10 possessions resulted in six turnovers, two poor shots and two missed shots and we just struggled from the start,” said JSU head coach Mike LaPlante. “We then settled down and started running our offense and were able to fight back.”

Tennessee Tech scored the first 11 points of the game to jump out the quick lead, but Jax State answered by scoring the next 14 points to build a 14-11 lead after Russell sank a free throw with 10:14 left in the half.

The rest of the first half saw three ties and nine lead changes, but the Gamecocks did well until the second half, where the Golden Eagles moved back into a tie for first place in the Ohio Valley Conference. Jenkins tossed in 21 points over the final 20 minutes.

Tennessee Tech held a 41-34 advantage on the boards, including 12 offensive rebounds, and finished the game shooting 42.9 percent. The Gamecocks shot 30.6 percent for the game and hit just 1-of-7 from behind the arc in the second half.

Anthony Davis scored 16 and Maurice Hampton added 15 points as Austin Peay rallied from a second half 11-point deficit to claim a 73-65 win over Jacksonville State Tuesday night.

William Durden and Derek Wright each added 12 points as four players scored in double figures for the Governors.

Jacksonville State was led by B.J. Spencer with 25 points, while Anthony Wilson finished with 14, Brandon Davis scored 12 and Walker Russell had 10 points and six assists.

“This is the third straight conference road game where we had the lead in the second half and let it get away. Jacksonville State held its largest lead of the night after Davis scored on a lay-up with 17:11 left to give JSU a 46-35 lead, but the Governors cut the lead to 48-44 after Davis scored a pair of free throws with 14:10 left.

Spencer answered with his sixth straight 3-pointer from the left side to push the lead back to 51-44 with 12:56 remaining in the game.

Jax State held the lead until 6:36 left in the game and Hampton sank a 3-pointer from the left side to give APSU a 59-58 advantage. The Gamecocks held their final lead of the night after Davis scored inside with 6:10 left to give JSU a 60-59 lead.

Austin Peay scored nine straight points to control the final five minutes and hold on for the win. JSU takes on Tennessee St in Saturday at 7:30pm.

Again??

From Staff Reports

For the second straight week, Jacksonville State’s Brandon Davis has been named the Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Week, the league office announced on Monday.

Davis, a product of West End High School in Birmingham, averaged 12.0 points and 7.0 rebounds in an average of 34.5 minutes for the Gamecocks.

He posted identical games of 12 points and seven rebounds at Austin Peay and Tennessee Tech.

It marks the third time in four weeks that Davis has garnered OVC Freshman of the Week honors.

From Staff Reports

Jacksonville State won its first Ohio Valley Conference match of the season at Austin Peay State (1-5, 0-1), Saturday, 6-1.

After Arturo Nieto and Matt Davis sealed the doubles point at number two, 6-6, Vedran Sirola won at number one singles 6-3, 6-4, while Nieto won after a super tie breaker at number two, 6-7, 6-0, 10-4.

Rodney Rapson won at number three singles 6-4, 6-1 and Andres Amores won at number four 6-1, 6-4 and Joey Unkenholz won at number five 6-1, 7-6.

Jacksonville State senior Robin Gorman swept Jessica Hawk in number one singles to help the Gamecocks over their first Ohio Valley Conference opponent Austin Peay State (0-3, 0-1), Saturday, 7-0.

Gorman teamed up with Layla Abby to win at number two doubles 8-1 and then defeated Hawk, 6-0, 6-0.

After JSU won the double point, Zeynep Gurkaynak won at number one singles, 6-0, 6-1, while Michelle Dushner won at number three, 6-1, 6-4.

Erin Higgs defeated Alana Care at number four 6-2, 6-1, Abby won at number five over Jenica Proctor, 6-0, 6-1 and Babette Lombardo won at number six, 6-1, 6-0.

The Gamecocks are 3-2 overall and 1-0 in the league. JSU will travel to Mercer Wednesday.
The sun is staying out later, the grass is getting greener and the aluminum bats are sounding in the air. Aluminum bats are in the air? Yes sir, aluminum bats are definitely in the air.

The 2005 season has kicked off and the defending Ohio Valley Conference Champions are ready to put their title on the line.

The Gamecocks return 16 players from a year ago and are introducing a fabulous freshman group that will provide some needed depth.

Joining him is a group of pitchers who have a lot of talent and are poised to be one of the strengths of the team. Danny Andres and Tony Drinkard both look good early on and will compliment Forrest in the rotation.

Pitcher John Clements, a sophomore from Jemison, Al., has a year of experience under his belt and has everyone around him excited about his pitching.

Another sophomore that will compliment the bullpen is Brian Booth. Booth has worked hard in the off-season and is looking to continue the momentum he started in his freshman year.

The infield looks solid all the way around the horn as Jake Ball has moved from short to third.

Ball has emerged as a leader in the infield and should have an outstanding year on the offensive side of the ball.

Brett Pettus will start the season at short and is a serious candidate for most improved on the team. Second base took a setback with freshman Matt Helland going down with a leg injury against Southeastern Louisiana but Cory Tucker should be up to the task after making a great run last year.

Richard Turner is back under the plate and is a serious contender for most valuable player honors. Turner has started the year on fire offensively and promises to improve everyday.

The co-captains on the team will be battling it out for first base all year in Brian Haskins and Clint Carroll. Both are leaders on and off the field and should bring along the new freshmen nicely.

Jason Horn, a junior from Montgomery, is arguably the fastest guy on the team with his 6.3 60 yard dash and gives the team alot of speed on defense and at the top of the order. Austin Stein and Winston Pearson are back and ready to build on last years success.

The freshmen to look for this year are Brian Piazza and Donovan Hand. Piazza led the team in hitting in the fall and adds serious depth to the outfield. Hand should add another solid arm to the pitching staff and should come along fast.

The schedule is strong this year in the OVC and the Gamecocks travel out of conference to play SEC powers Alabama and Vanderbilt. The season is underway and Marshall comes to town this weekend for a three game set. First pitch will be on Friday at 3. A 2 p.m. start is slated for Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday.

 TURNER BACK FROM TOMMY JOHN AND BACK UNDER PLATE

"He's a great catch and throw guy," said Case. "He does a great job of handling the pitching staff."
Coach Case plays to win, and it doesn’t stop on the field. One of his team’s principles is to study hard and go to class. While at Mississippi State, the Bulldogs led the SEC with 37 Academic Honor Roll recipients. Under his leadership at JSU, the baseball team has achieved an impressive increase in GPA and 39 team members have earned Academic All-Conference honors over the last three years.

“**I believe that these accomplishments say more than anything else the kinds of athletes and the commitment to excellence that we have here,**” said Case.

Leading up to his first head coaching position at JSU, Case served as assistant coach at UAB under Pete Rancon and at Mississippi State University under Pat McMahone.

During his stints at MSU, Case coached in six NCAA Regional tournaments, two Super-Regionals, and made two College World Series appearances.

Jim and Jan Case have been married for 22 years and have two daughters, Catherine and Elizabeth.

**From Staff reports**

**Special to The Chanticleer**

Jim Case enters his fourth season as head coach of the Gamecocks with a continuing commitment to excellence.

Building upon last season’s conference championship and JSU’s first ever appearance at an NCAA Division I Regional, Case is confident that his team will work toward establishing the Gamecocks as a perennial Ohio Valley Conference power.

The 2004 season...

**From Canada to the Bay, here are the Gamecocks**

7. Clint Carroll 3B 6-2 185 Sr. Tuscaloosa, Ala.
12. Brian Piazza OF 5-10 175 Fr. Town Creek, Ala.
18. Tony Drinkle RHP 6-1 185 Fr. Jemison, Ala.
23. Austin Steven OF 6-0 215 Jr. LaPlace, La.
24. Preston Kelly C 5-9 201 Fr. Trussville, Ala.
25. Lee Drinkle RHP 6-0 165 Fr. Eva, Ala.
27. Matthew Darwin RHP 6-2 175 Fr. Pisgah, Ala.
29. J.T. Wright RHP 6-2 165 Fr. Southside, Ala.
30. Danny Andrus RHP 6-8 220 Jr. San Clara, Canada
32. Jason Horn OF 6-4 205 Fr. Jackson, Miss.

**Arguably the fastest player on the team. Runs a 6.3 60 and was a 2004 OVC all tournament team member.**

**Josh Forrest**

**Leader of the pitching staff and should have an outstanding year on the mound.**

**Brian Piazza**

Outstanding freshman who led the team in hitting in the fall. Adds depth to outfield and has some needed speed.
The Chanticleer • February 24, 2005

SPORTS

Gamecocks ready for emotional season

JSU set to retire #31 Tera Ross on Saturday

Whit McGhee
The Chanticleer Sports Writer

The 2005 JSU Softball season is already underway and has already shown signs of being an exciting year. JSU has already taken down the #7 ranked Georgia Bulldogs and has started the season 4-1.

The Gamecocks finished the 2004 season with a 41-21 record, good enough for third place in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The team is already showing signs of improvement in several areas after building on last year’s momentum. Head coach Jana McGinnis says she sees the most improvement in the pitching rotation and team depth.

“We’ve got three new pitchers, and Kelly Raw is returning this season,” said McGinnis.

“I also feel good about the freshmen we’ve signed and the newcomers we’ve got. We have a lot of players who aren’t starting, but who could easily start for us. It’s a good problem to have.”

One of the team's top acquisitions this season is junior pitcher Carly Kellam. Kellam was an All-American in junior college and has already pitched a 16-strikeout game against Appalachian State this season.

Kellam also recorded a win over the seventh-ranked Georgia Bulldogs on February 12.

Look for the team to explode on their offensive game early. In the 2004 season, the Gamecocks outscored opponents an average of 5-2 through the first four innings of play, while their solid defense only allowed an average of 1.66 runs through the final three innings.

JSU was also the top team in the country in runs scored last season. Coach McGinnis says she’s expecting to see a lot of offense out of the girls.

“We try to approach every game with an offensive mindset, and I expect us to be a top-hitting team with timely running and scoring.”

JSU’s first home game will begin with a special ceremony to retire former pitcher Tera Ross’ number 31 jersey. Ross was killed in a car accident in December 2003.

“It’s only fitting that our university honors her – not only as an athlete, but as a person,” said McGinnis. “She was a great representative of JSU.”

The Gamecocks have been picked second in the OVC preseason poll, behind Eastern Kentucky.

But as any Auburn fan will tell you, it’s not the preseason polls that count; it’s how you play the season itself that matters – and at press time, the Gamecocks already had a 4-1 record.

The girls will kick off a six-game home stand on Saturday, February 26 against Lipscomb University, so make plans now to attend a great season of JSU softball.

Raw part of new and improved pitching staff
The Chanticleer recently caught up with Kelly to see how her injury is holding up and see how she feels about the season.

CS: What exactly did you injure in the accident?
Kelly: My femur bone, the hardest bone to break in your body.
CS: How is the injury now?
Kelly: It's great now, back to 100%.
CS: What kind of rehabilitation did you have to do to get it back to normal?
Kelly: We go into every game competing 110% no matter who we play. Playing the bigger schools drives you to want to beat them even more.
CS: Do you feel any pressure on being picked to finish second in the OVC?
Kelly: No, I feel it's better to not be picked first, that way it gives us something to prove. It gives us more of a challenge.

CS: What is your favorite quote?
Kelly: Live everyday as if it's your last.
CS: Who is your favorite athlete?
Kelly: Rachel Countryman because she plays with more faith and compassion then anyone I have ever played with.
CS: What is something The Chanticleer readers must know about you?
Kelly: Well I have a titanium rod from my knee to my hip inside my bone.

The softball team plays Saturday against Lipscomb at home, so come watch Kelly and the rest of the JSU softball team.

From Staff Reports

Jana McGinnis has developed a softball program that is second to none at Jacksonville State University. Integrity, success and tradition, has been placed at the heart of each player coached by McGinnis and it doesn't stop there.

In her 12th season at the helm of the Gamecocks, McGinnis has accumulated an overall record of 353-215 (.621). Her accomplishments range from a Conference tournament title and a berth in the NCAA Regional Tournament in 1996 to back-to-back Western Division Conference titles in 1996 and 1997.

She, with the help of longtime assistant coach Mark Wisener, has led the Gamecocks to eight consecutive trips to the Conference Tournament, dating back to 1996.

McGinnis has coached 41 All-Conference and All-Freshman team members and one Player of the Year in Ann Shelton in 1996. She also coached three All-American Academic team members and was named coach of the year during 1996.

McGinnis is a 1991 graduate of JSU. She was a two-time All-Gulf South Conference star in basketball.

She helped the team to a 98-22 record during her four year playing career, and in 1991, she played a key role leading the Gamecocks to a GSC Championship, as well as the NCAA Division II South Region title.

McGinnis still holds the JSU career record for assists with 603, as well as the single season record with 204.

After her bright career as a player, McGinnis began her career in coaching, as a graduate assistant under women's basketball coach Tony Mabry during the 1991-92 season.

McGinnis is married to Russ McGinnis and has two daughters Kinsey and Payton.