California mudslide destroys homes, 12 residents still not found

By Jeff Wilson
Associated Press Writer

LA CONCHITA, Calif. (AP) - A huge mudslide crashed down on homes in a coastal hamlet with terrifying force Monday, killing at two people and leaving up to 12 missing as a Pacific storm hammered Southern California for a fourth straight day.

Ventura County Fire Department Chief Bob Roper said as many as a dozen residents were missing in the mudslide that pummeled a four-block area of homes in tiny La Conchita, about 70 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Nine people were injured, including a 60-year-old man who was buried for three hours.

"It lasted a long time. It was slow-moving. The roofs of the houses were crashing and creaking real loud and there was a huge rumble sound," said Robert Cardoza, a construction worker who was

...
UN to use accountants to keep track of tsunami relief funds

By Leyla Linton
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - In an unusual move, the United Nations said Monday it will use an outside accounting firm to help track the billions of dollars pledged to help the victims of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean.

Officials denied that the move was in response to allegations of corruption and mismanagement in Iraqi oil-for-food program for Iraq, which was administered by the United Nations.

Price-Waterhouse-Coopers has offered to help create a financial tracking system for the United Nations on a pro bono basis, said Kevin Kennedy, a senior official in the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

He told reporters the accounting firm would be able to investigate credible allegations of fraud, waste or abuse.

"In my experience of disasters it is the first time I can recall in the past 10 years that we have used an outside firm," Kennedy said.

Bush loses support in California; poll cites disapproval of Iraq War, economic policies

By Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A continued slide in support for the war in Iraq has kept President Bush's overall job approval rating in California at just 42 percent, a new survey found.

The poll released Monday by the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State University found that 60 percent of California adults disapprove of the president's handling of Iraq and do not believe the war in Iraq was worth fighting. In September, just 54 percent said the war was worth it.

California also continues to give Bush poor marks on his economic policies, with just 39 percent saying they approve of his handling of the economy. Also, 52 percent said they do not believe Bush tells the truth.

The president's best marks came in his handling of terrorism, with 43 percent of Californians saying they approved of his handling of the war on terror compared to 47 percent that disapproved.

Survey Director Phil Trounstine said Bush's ratings took a sharp dip in early 2004 but rebounded a bit in September, just weeks before his November re-election.

While his overall approval rating now is about the same as it was in September, most of the underlying numbers have eroded, especially with respect to Iraq.

"The president has a serious credibility problem in California, and his handling of the war in Iraq is undercutting his popularity even further," Trounstine said.

The poll showed that Bush remains relatively popular in the Central Valley and in Southern California counties outside Los Angeles. His weakest showings were in the San Francisco Bay area and in Los Angeles, the state's largest population centers.

Despite winning re-election comfortably, Bush lost California's 55 electoral votes to Democrat John Kerry by about 1.1 million votes.

The poll found that California's Republican governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, continues to enjoy broad popularity in the state. About 60 percent approve of the job he is doing, and just 26 percent disapprove.

The survey of 1,008 Californians was conducted from Jan. 3 to Jan. 7, and had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

By the numbers:

Gamecock Scoreboard:

Jan. 13 Basketball - JSU vs. UT Martin
Men - 4 p.m.
Women - 4 p.m.

Come support all of your Gamecock Sports!
United Nations calls in outsiders to track tsunami relief monies

from Tsunami, Page 1

Explaining the need for outside auditors, Kennedy said there is large interest in ensuring that money given to the United Nations and its humanitarian partners “is used efficiently and effectively and if this adds to the credibility and the transparency of the effort then so much the better.”

The United Nations already has a financial tracking system but Kennedy said the aim was to improve the way countries recorded their pledges.

Some $4 billion has already been pledged by governments, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for victims of the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean. That figure includes not only cash for the humanitarian relief effort but also aid and loans for long-term development and reconstruction.

JSU set to raise funds to aid Southeast Asia victims

from BCM, Page 1

Jacksonville about setting up donation boxes at local businesses, such as Struts. Litton expects negotiations for expanding the relief fund to begin soon.

On a broader scale, recent U.S. corporate donations for tsunami relief now reach $302 million, according to an Associated Press survey updated Monday. Johnson & Johnson contributed about $81.4 million dol-

The Chanticleer • January 13, 2005
Ily outing were reported missing Monday.

The average amount of winter rainfall in
week. Kraft Hill, where three skiers on a
including a Jan.
weather that blasted the state earlier last
The rain came on the heels of stormy
motorists.
National Weather Service meteorologist in the Rockies, where three skiers on a
huge gashes of raw earth on the bluff. and vegetation were carried away,
leaving huge gashes of raw earth on the bluff.

As rescuers combed the debris, geology
geology experts with air horns watched the hillside
between highway.

The hillside in La Conchita cascaded down
as authorities were evacuating about 200 residents from the area. Tress and vegetation were carried away, leaving huge gashes of raw earth on the bluff.

Some residents made their way from the
area clutching pets, luggage or clothing as the huge mass of mud bore down. Some huddled together or cried as they talked on cell phones. Fifteen to 20 houses were hit by the slide.

"You could hear people screaming and
crying out, people honking their horns you
know from on the highway and everybody
looking up and running as fast as they can to
got out," said Kathleen Wood, a resident of
La Conchita.

Rescuers dropped listening devices into
the rubble to try to locate victims before
another downpour of up to 2 inches of rain
was expected before dawn Tuesday.

La Conchita is a slip of a town pressed
between a highway and a towering coastal
bluff. Several houses were damaged by a
mudslide here during powerful storms in the
1990s. The destruction at La Conchita was
the worst disaster of the storms to date, but
mudslides and flooding were reported throughout
the region, blocking road and rail travel and
forcing a shutdown of interstate petroleum
supply lines.

California's death toll also includes a
2-year-old girl who slipped from her mother's
grip as rescuers tried to hoist them from a
car submerged on a road outside Los Angeles.

Elsewhere, avalanches killed two people in
Utah and one in Nevada - a 13-year-old
snowboarder who was swept off a ski lift to
his death.

From the start of the latest dose of violent
weather on Friday through Monday evening,
several mountainous areas in Southern California had recorded more than 20 inches
of rain, including more than 27 inches in the
San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

A sinkhole and rockslides on the tracks
forced Amtrak to suspend service between Paso Robles in central California
and Los Angeles.

The rain came on the heels of stormy
weather that blasted the state earlier last
week.

The average amount of winter rainfall in
downtown Los Angeles is 15 inches, but
nearly 22 inches had fallen as of Monday,
including a Jan. 9 record of 2.6 inches, said
National Weather Service meteorologist
Bruce Rockwell.

"I've never seen such a sustained event
like this," Rockwell said.

The heavy rainfall was being generated by
a sluggish low-pressure system rotating off
California and drawing a flow of moisture
known as a "Pineapple Express" up from
the subarctic Pacific near Hawaii.

To the north in the Sierra Nevada, the
storm produced heavy snow during the week-
end that stalled an Amtrak train, shut down
the airport at Reno, Nev., for the second time
in a week, and halted highway travel across
the mountain range.

Since Dec. 28, up to 19 feet of snow has
fallen at elevations above 7,000 feet in the
Sierra Nevada, with 61/2 feet at lower eleva-
tions in the Reno area. Meteorologists said it
was more snow than the Reno-Lake Tahoe area
has seen since 1916.

The commuter link between Reno and
Carson City was closed Sunday by whiteout
conditions as wind swept down from the
Sierra. With visibility sharply reduced, at
least 40 vehicles, including three Nevada
Highway Patrol cruisers, skidded into snow
drifts, ditches and each other. National
Guard members used Humvees to pick up the stuck
motorists.

"We're talking real ugly conditions. In 12
years with the NHP I've never seen
conditions that bad," Trooper Jeff Bowers said.

The train of storms that has slammed into
California also spread rain, snow and ice
eastward across the nation.

The storms have piled up 10 feet of snow in
the Rockies, where three skiers on a fami-
ly outing were reported missing Monday.
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NEW AND USED

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**OPINION**

**Yes, it’s another ticked-off editorial**

By J. Wilson Guthrie

The Chanticleer

Editor in Chief

Well as usual guys I am pretty ticked off. I usually am not a bitter person. I think that when Republican zealots are in office it messes with my bowels. It is either them or the Chinese food that I keep going back to over and over again. But I did narrow it down to those two choices.

First off, these “faith-based” initiatives don’t need to go, they have to go. This strikes a personal accord with me and I will tell you why. I am aware of the fact that I talk about being overseas a lot, and since I was in the middle of it with a lot of my close personal friends, the War on Terror hit me at home. But I want people to realize a few things about the way this country is headed.

We went to get those bastards that took America’s innocence that fateful September morning. We also went to liberate a country that was under the strong-armed religious-based government that was oppressing the freedom of their people. These people controlled the clothes that women wore, how men could wear their facial hair and killed adulterers. Basic freedoms that we take for granted, and yes you do.

So if we would travel half the way around the globe to fight religious terrorism why would we elect a president who pushes, promotes and propagandizes his religion to and on the nation known as the land of the free?

President Bush either does not realize or is to caught up in doing what he thinks is best for the nation to see that he is no better than the Taliban. There is a reason that the founding fathers left so much room to interpret the Constitution. I feel that they did this so that people like Bush would be kept under control. But he is basically wiping his rear-end with our divine-sent document. And since Congress is stuck so far up his rear end and caught up in riding this wave of flaming-conservative-ism that they are frightened to do anything about it.

So leave it to the “flaming liberal” media to be the scapegoat for the conservative backlash. And you know for once, I don’t mind being that, so that I can say in eight or 10 years, I told you so.

And I will. I promise that I will not let the Uber-right forget how they screwed up the country. The last time we started banning things with the ultra-conservatives we couldn’t drink beer for a few years. So put that in your pipe and smoke it, right beside your Ten Commandments Monument while you are protesting abortion, just don’t do it where anyone can see you or in a public place.

Yes that was a shot at anti-smokers. These people I just can’t get along with either. It brings me back to a bumper sticker that I saw a few years ago that read along the lines of “If you don’t want to smell my smoke, don’t breathe.”

Now I am not that much of a jock when it comes to smoking. I do not smoke near my mother. Not ever. She is allergic to it. When I am smoking I make it a point to watch where my smoke is blowing, even when I am outside. I guess I am a conscientious smoker.

But I can’t stand anything being banned by the government. Let the stores or restaurants ban it if they don’t want it. Within limits the government should not be able to tell you what you can and can’t do in an establishment that you own or operate.

Which brings me to another thing. Why, oh why, is it such a crime to CELEBRATE Southern history? This one of the VERY few things that I side with conservatives on. Everyone should be able to celebrate his or her own history. It should not matter the color of their skin, what country they are from or any other demographic factor. I support Black History month, which is coming up here soon. And I am not so far to the right that I support a White History month. But what I do support is the embracing of all things southern, whether it is black, white, Native American, or anyone else who had a hand in our history.

I love to hear “Dirty South” rap, and think that Outkast is one of the most innovative and eclectic groups ever. But on the same MP3 player I have Ralph Stanley and Flatt and Scruggs.

I love Southern rock and country. I am a southerner. That does not make me a racist, a bigot or a backward person. What it makes me is proud to be what I am and proud of where I came from.

So now we have come full circle. I am what I am and I am proud of what I am. I am a flaming-liberal cigarette-smoking Southern-loving man. If you don’t like it, then that is the beauty of our great country. For now.

---

**Stupid things people do that we find amusing**

Dirty Dancing

*LEMOORE, Calif. (AP) -* Fed up with students’ racy moves, a principal has taken the unusual step of canceling the rest of this year’s school dances.

Principal Jim Bennett of Lemoore Union High School said he warned students at a winter formal dance last month to either quit dirty dancing or face the possibility of not dancing at all.

But he said the students continued “freak dancing,” a form of sexually suggestive dancing that involves grinding the hips and pelvic area.

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“"We need to get the artifacts out of his barn and into a container, and we need to catalog everything so we know what we have,” Thomson said.

"This collection is a real jewel, and it’s worth a great deal of money," Thomson said. "New Hampshire is lucky to have it."

Stewart spent years going to auctions and visiting antique stores to build the collection. "He's got over 200 sap yokes of every different size," Thomson said. The yokes, which were used to strong-arm religious-based government, that was oppressing the freedom of their people. These people controlled the clothes that women wore, how men could wear their facial hair and killed adulterers. Basic freedoms that we take for granted, and yes you do.

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But he said the students continued "freak dancing," a form of sexually suggestive dancing that involves grinding the hips and pelvic area.

The ban on dances includes the school's Sadie Hawkins dance in February and the junior and senior proms in the spring, but Bennett said they could be rescheduled if students modify their behavior.

"It's really up to the kids at this point. They have to take some responsibility," Bennett said. Organizers of the Sadie Hawkins dance, a fundraiser for the school's FFA Organization branch, formerly Future Farmers of America, are working with Bennett to come up with a series of regulations, which could allow that dance to go on.

One idea is to let students sign a form stating that raunchy dancing will get them kicked out.

"It's a scary feeling when someone you don't know calls you and knows your name and number," said student body president Zohra Lakhan, a 17-year-old senior. "To crush everyone's dreams, it's not fair."

Sugar museum

ORFORD, N.H. (AP) - The group that represents New Hampshire maple syrup producers is making plans for the mother of all sap houses - a maple sugar museum.

The New Hampshire Maple Producers Association has received a gift of the largest collection of antique sugaring tools and equipment in North America, and is trying to find a place to put it.

Its vice president, Peter Thomson, says money is being raised to provide a fire-safe building to temporarily store the artifacts while the group plans a permanent museum.

The collection is a gift from Charlie Stewart, of Sugar Hill, who has been collecting the artifacts for many years, Thomson said.

Thomson said. The yokes, which were used to carry buckets of sap, would sell in antique stores for $300 to $400, depending on the size.

It's me again Margaret

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn. (AP) - A man was arrested on charges he made dozens of obscene phone calls from an unexpected place - a hospital intensive care waiting room.

Hank Steve Williams, 38, was charged Thursday with 38 counts of telephone harassment.

Officials said the suspect, who is not an employee of Sycamore Shoals Hospital, made the calls to at least five different women he didn't know over the past two months.

"He really had reached a comfort zone," said Elizabethton Police Capt. Mike Peters. "He knew the calls wouldn't be traced back to his number and he developed a pattern of making calls between 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. on weekdays and noon and 2 p.m. on weekends."

Investigators arrested Williams after a surveillance camera allegedly caught him using the waiting room phone. Other evidence indicates such calls had been coming from the hospital since 2002, they said.

Peters said the investigation still has not revealed how Williams got his information about the names and numbers of the victims he called.

Sheriff John Henson sympathized with the victims. "It's a scary feeling when someone you don't know calls you and knows your name and number."

And the winner is...

DETROIT (AP) - The sign on the toilet brush says it best: "Do not use for personal hygiene."

That admonition was the winner of an anti-lawsuit group's contest for the wackiest consumer warning label of the year.

The sponsor, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, says the goal is "to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products."

The $500 first prize went to Ed Gyetvai, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A $250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter that said, "This product moves when used."

A $100 third prize went to Ann Marie Taylor, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A $250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter that said, "This product moves when used."

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This year's contest coincides with a drive by President Bush and congressional Republicans to put caps and other limits on jury awards in liability cases.

"Warning labels are a sign of our lawsuit-plagued times," said group President Robert Dorigo Jones. "From the moment we raise our head in the morning off pillows that bear those famous Do Not Remove warnings, to when we drop back in bed at night, we are overwhelmed with warnings."
How many times have you gone out of the house at night to meet friends at a bar or a house down the road to have a couple of drinks? The bass is turned up and the music starts bumping. Poker chips scatter across the table. The hot blonde girl you met last week is standing in the corner wearing tight black pants. Everyone is laughing and having a great time and you end up staying longer than you expected.

You also drank a little more than you thought you would, but the bright yellow Waffle House sign is in sight, so you head in to sober up with a few cups of hot coffee because you have an exam in the morning. Unfortunately, this won't help get rid of the alcohol in your system.

"All coffee does is make you a wide awake drunk," said Robert Mills, registered nurse at the Student Health Services of Jacksonville State University. The myth that coffee sobers people up may have only come from the fact that the caffeine will keep you up till you do actually become sober.

To counteract the effects of alcohol in your body, you should drink at least two to three large glasses of water before drifting off to sleep (or passing out). Sports drinks can also be good because they are high in electrolytes, which will help replenish what your kidneys excreted during drinking. The headaches which occur after drinking stem from dehydration.

Cold showers, vomiting and Advil will not work either. "Time is the only sobering agent," said the American College Health Association. "To become sober your body must metabolize the alcohol, and this is a slow process."

It may take longer to drink a glass of wine or a bottle of beer than to throw back a shot of liquor, but the effects are the same. Those three things all contain the same amount of pure alcohol, a little more than one-half ounce. The alcohol in wine and beer is diluted.

As a general rule, it will take you one hour per drink for your body to metabolize the alcohol. Mills said people cannot raise their tolerance to alcohol. This is just another myth.

Drinking a beer every day or drinking more beer each weekend will not give you a higher tolerance. It does not chemically allow your body to accept more and more alcohol without gaining more and more of the effects.

Every person's body has a different response to alcohol. Some people can drink a lot more than others without showing any signs of intoxication. However, Mills said it is impossible to become immune to the effects of alcohol.

It is very possible to be an alcoholic and only has a drink every day. An alcoholic is someone who starts and can't stop," Mills said.

Another myth about drinking is that an alcoholic is someone who drinks alone and during the daylight hours. However, Mills said an alcoholic can easily be described as an individual who goes out and drinks to get drunk.

Ladies especially have to be careful while out at a Thursday night party. Mills said ecstasy is a large problem on our campus, as well as most other college campuses. If a girl leaves her drink unattended, she has no idea what will be slipped into the liquid before." Most of the time, these students are seeking a doctor's note to excuse them from class because they have a hangover, or will.

If you have never played a gift giving game such as this, it can make for an amusing event. However, there are some ground rules to add to the fun. Numbers are drawn at the beginning of the game. The first player chooses a gift from under the tree and unwraps it and so on.

Sometimes you luck out because as the old cliché might go today, "One man's white elephant is another man's gray one." This year I opened a stainless steel travel mug, perfect for my taste as a coffee lover on the go. I dared to question why this was a bad gift and brought to the event, but I soon found out. It was a Christmas present to a guy who hates coffee and other warm beverages.
College Concoctions

**Exported from MasterCook II**

**Italian Vegetable Toss**

Recipe By: Cutrite® Wax Paper Insert

Serving Size: 4
Preparation Time: 0:20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Measure</th>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Preparation Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Med</td>
<td>Zucchini — sliced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Med</td>
<td>Yellow Squash — sliced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Med</td>
<td>Mushrooms — quartered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tbsp</td>
<td>Margarine — melted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Tbsp</td>
<td>Fresh Basil Leaves — snipped</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 Tsp</td>
<td>Cracked Black Pepper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Med</td>
<td>Tomatoes — cut in 8 wedges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 C</td>
<td>Parmesan Cheese — shredded</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cover with a sheet of wax paper. Microwave on HIGH until squash is crisp-tender, 8 to 10 minutes, rotating halfway through cooking time. Add tomato wedges and sprinkle with cheese. Microwave on HIGH 2 to 3 minutes.

Makes 4 servings.

**Exported from MasterCook**

**CHOCOLATE-PEANUT BROWNIE CUP**

Serving Size: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount Measure</th>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Preparation Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 c</td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tbsp</td>
<td>Cocoa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 tsp</td>
<td>Baking soda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Tbsp</td>
<td>Peanut butter — creamy or cr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Tbsp</td>
<td>Milk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Egg, large</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2 c</td>
<td>Chocolate chips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 1/2 c</td>
<td>Marshmallows, miniature</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combine flour, sugar, cocoa, and soda. Stir in butter, milk, and egg. Mix until well blended. Stir in chocolate chips and marshmallows. Divide between buttered custard cups. Space evenly in circle in the Microwave. Cook uncovered at full power for 3 minutes, rotating each one half way through. Let stand for 3 mins before serving. Warm or cold.

In a shallow 2-quart microwave-safe casserole, place...
Do you have a beef with something at this university??

Get it off your chest!!

wilsonphoto80@yahoo.com
UPCOMING SGA EVENTS

Paint Pete Red!
on January 13, 2005

JACKSONVILLE STATE
GAMECOCKS

VS.

UT MARTIN

• Wear Red!
• Organization Spirit Competition
  “$100.00 Prize”
• Televised Game “Fox Sports”
• Free Admission for JSU Students

GO GAMECOCKS

Women's Game @ 4:00
Men's Game @ 7:00
Pete Mathews Coliseum

Miss JSU Pageant 2005
Saturday
January 15, 2005
7:00 pm
Leone Cole Auditorium

SGA Movie Night

Jacksonville State University
Student Government Association
Presents:
COLLATERAL
Tuesday, January 18
7:00pm & 9:30pm @ TMB

Sponsored by the Student Government Association
Sports

Come and Paint Pete Red!

By Amado Ortiz
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Chanticleer office phone lines have been ringing off the hook all week long.

For a couple of days the sports department just let the phone ring considering it was probably some "know it all English major" with nothing else to do but to correct our spelling mistakes.

The e-mails have been pouring in so much that our mailbox is full.

We can hear them now! "Hey come on guys, let's correct the paper for grammatical errors and run-on sentences," said an English major. "Come on, it will be fun. The first one that finds a misspelled word is a rotten egg."

Well, if that is not your idea of fun and trust us, it is quite alright if it is, then come out and Paint Pete Red.

We can hear them now! "Hey that isn't fair to do that to little Pete," said a concerned sorority member. "He sits next to me in class and is very nice, Why, he even complemented my new purse I got for Christmas."

Well, if that is not your idea of fun, and trust us, it is quite alright if it is, then come out and Paint Pete Red.

We can hear them now! "Hey, well we have already done our service project for the semester," said a humble fraternity member. "We would love too but our national office has us on a strict schedule."

Well if that is not your idea of fun and trust us, it is quite alright if it is, then come and Paint Pete Red.

We can hear them now! "We can't believe they are spending more money on upgrades," said a university professor. "That money can be going to our salaries. That is what they should be spending money on instead of these silly upgrades."

Everybody calm down and take a deep breath before jumping to conclusions. Paint Pete Red is an event sponsored by the JSU Athletic Department and the Student Government Association.

The Pete stands for Pete Matthews Coliseum and the event will be tonight. The women will play at 4 p.m. and the men at 7 p.m. The game will be televised by Fox Sports and is free to JSU students.

It sure would look pretty nice if the gym was packed like the picture below. To top it off, the organization with the most Spirit will win a $100 bucks.

If you don’t like basketball, then the football team will be recognized at halftime for their outstanding season. So, everyone wear red and come Paint Pete Red against UT Martin.

JSU gives SEC all it can handle

From Staff Reports

The Jacksonville State basketball team win over Jax State in front of 15,924 fans at Bud Walton Arena Wednesday night. Anthony Wilson scored 15 points and...
Oklahoma lost in the Big 12 Championship game to Kansas State and still got to play for a national title. LSU beat Oklahoma in the title game and had to share the title with Southern California.

Ask yourself this question. Does a team deserve to play for the national championship if it doesn’t win its own conference?

Why should they? If they’re not the best in their conference, how are they going to win the national title? The same scenario happened with Nebraska in 2001. Both teams got beat in the title game.

Controversy happened at the end of this football season when three undefeated major colleges finished the regular season undefeated. Auburn, USC and Oklahoma all deserved a shot but only two got in. It is just hard picking between two year in and year out.

The only real solution is the plus-one format. Every year there can be an argument for four teams to have a legitimate case of playing for it all.

One plays four and two plays three, and they play for it all. Sure the argument moves to teams five and six screaming they should be number four but that is a better argument.

Then ask yourself this. What if Auburn plays USC for the outright championship and all the money goes to the Tsunami aid effort? In 2001, it could have gone to 9/11 families.

You see, just about every year there is a natural disaster—just like every year there is a disaster in the BCS. So why not make everyone happy?

Can you imagine how great that would be? The people would get the game. The teams would really know who is number one. Television would still get to sell ads (last time I checked, Super Bowl 30 second ads were going for $1.6 million) and most of all the relief efforts get some well needed funds. But hey, what do I know? I’m just a college student.

From Staff Reports

The Jacksonville State basketball teams had some tough road games over the break but the women came up with a strong win at home. Both teams made a lasting impression on the SEC.

Shaniqa Freeman scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as Jacksonville State knocked off Auburn 71-66 in women’s basketball action at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

The Gamecocks handed Auburn its second straight loss and claimed its first win over a Southeastern Conference opponent.

“I’m very proud of how my kids came out and played,” said Jacksonville State coach Dave Dagostino. “We’ve been waiting to have a healthy group and through out the first seven or eight games we didn’t have that.

“It’s been tough trying to get a cohesive unit, but when we’re healthy we’re tough.”

Jacksonville State jumped out early and led by as many as eight before Natasha Brackett’s 3 tied the game at 21. The Gamecocks answered with a 18-6 run and led 39-27 at halftime.

Auburn shot just 36 percent in the first half and committed seven turnovers while the Gamecocks hit 61.5 percent including five 3-pointers.

“This is one of the games, besides Duke, that we’ve been waiting for and we knew coming in that we would have to win,” said Freeman, who picked up her fifth double-double of the season. “One of our main goals is to win at home no matter who we play.”

When Auburn got within two early in the second half, Freeman scored nine of the next 11 points as the Gamecocks took a demanding 51-40 lead and never looked back.

Also for the Gamecocks, Fredricka Embry had 10 points and seven rebounds. Katja Fuess had 13 points and five rebounds. Ann-Marie Healy had eight points and six rebounds. Heather Shepard had eight points. Cobic Carlisle had seven points and six rebounds.

Auburn was led by Brackett’s 16 points, while Nicole Louden added 15 points.

Men’s Action

Jacksonville State’s Walker D. Russell scored 24 points and dished out six assists as the Gamecocks led until late in the game before Arkansas rallied for a 73-67 win over Jax State in front of 15,924 fans at Bud Walton Arena Wednesday night.

Anthony Wilson scored 15 points and Dorian Brown finished with 10 points for the Gamecocks, which finished the game shooting a season-high 54.2 percent from the field.

Arkansas was led by Ronnie Brewer with 17 points and 13 rebounds, followed by Eric Ferguson with 13 points and Darian Townes finished with 11 for the Razorbacks, which improved to 11-1 on the season.

“This was a hard fought game,” said JSU head coach Mike LaPlante. “We came into the one of the toughest environments in the country and had the lead with seven minutes to play.”

Jax State held a 33-31 lead at the half after shooting its second-best half of the season, hitting 13-of-22 (59.1) from the field. It was just the second time all season the Razorbacks trailed at the half, with the other game at No. 1 Illinois.

Arkansas came out in the second half and built a 41-35 lead on a Brewer 3-pointer from the right side, but the Gamecocks used a 13-1 run to take their largest lead of the night.

During the run, Wilson sank a 3-pointer. Russell scored eight points and Brandon Davis added a jumper as the Gamecocks took a 48-42 lead with 10:32 left.

Arkansas battled back to take a 49-48 lead on a lay-up by Jonathon Modica with 9:01 remaining, but JSU’s Brown scored on a dunk on a putback with 7:13 left for a 52-51 JSU advantage.

The Razorbacks then scored nine straight points, building a 60-52 lead with 5:45 left, but the Gamecocks sliced the lead to 60-57 after Wilson sank this third trey of the night from the left corner with 3:48 remaining, but the Gamecocks could get no closer.

The first half saw five lead changes and two ties as neither team led by more than five points, a 16-11 advantage by JSU with 13:26 left on a Russell lay-up. Russell, who led all scorers with 12 points in the first half, gave the Gamecocks a 33-31 lead after hitting a 5-foot jumper in the paint with 59.1 seconds left in the opening half.

Arkansas finished with a 33-22 advantage on the boards and the Razorbacks finished with 18 offensive rebounds for 20 points.

“We definitely something to build on as we prepare for league play,” said LaPlante.

A quick recap on the Gamecocks

Men

12/15/2004 at Coastal Carolina L 78-88
12/20/2004 at Delaware State L 64-66
12/22/2004 at Mississippi State L 93-53
12/29/2004 at Arkansas L 67-73
1/4/2005 vs Samford L 64-68
1/6/2005 vs Tennessee State L 69-93

Women

12/12/2004 vs UNC-Wilmington W 66-58
12/15/2004 at Duke L 36-99
12/19/2004 vs Carson-Newman W 86-79
12/20/2004 vs Alcorn State L 58-61
1/2/2005 vs Auburn W 71-66
1/4/2005 vs Samford W 66-59
1/6/2005 vs Tennessee State L 74-77
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