Writers’ Club to sponsor spring poetry contest

By Jennifer Bacchus
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

The JSU Writers’ Club plans to honor former JSU English professor Susan Methvin by naming their spring poetry contest after her.

“It seems fitting to name the first poetry contest sponsored by students in honor of her years of service,” said Dr. Pitt Harding, faculty sponsor for the Writers’ Club.

Methvin retired from JSU in 2003 after serving 14 years teaching creative writing and poetry. She has published many poems, the most recent are “CT Scan in July”, “Privet”, “Breath” and “Mothering Self” which appears in We’Moon ’03: Gaia Rhythms For Women, a women’s almanac.

“She had a way of bringing personal experiences into the classroom in a way that was relevant,” said Dr. William Hug, a longtime friend and associate of Methvin.

“Associating the name of by the current Miss Alabama Shannon Camper. These categories represented 60 percent of each individual score. The other 40 percent of the score was for a backstage interview of each contestant by the judges.

Teresa Cheatham Stricklin, 1978 Miss Alabama, served as Mistress of the Ceremonies. Stricklin outlined the criteria for Miss JSU. “As a woman of today’s society, Miss JSU must be well devoted,” she said. “She has to be socially conscientious, dynamic, interested in society, and be a good representative of Jacksonville State University.”

Kristian Crowe was crowned Miss JSU 2005 during Saturday’s annual pageant at Leone Cole Auditorium.

A panel of five judges selected Crowe from a group of ten contestants that included Stacie Hill, Bryanna Nelms, Allison Land, Jennifer Gilbert, Rachel Hulsey, Candace Coleman, Amara Chekwa, Bethany Garrad, and Jessica Andrews.

As well as winning the grand prize, Crowe placed first in the talent category for singing “His Eye is on the Sparrow.”

She will receive a three-semester scholarship to JSU, a Book Scholarship from the JSU Campus Bookstore, $1000 cash award and numerous other awards. Crowe, a music education major, says she plans to represent JSU in many ways, including going to different schools to speak to children, faculty and parents about music education. Crowe also awaits the Miss Alabama Pageant, where she will compete for a spot in the Miss America pageant. “I can’t wait to do everything I can to represent this school,” she said. “I hope I make everybody proud.”

The First Runner-up was Jessica Andrews, who will receive a one-semester tuition scholarship to JSU, a gift from Griffin’s Jewelers, and one month free at Gold’s Gym.

Bethany Garrad won Second Runner-up and the swimsuit competition, and will receive $600 tuition scholarship to JSU, a gift from Griffin’s Jewelers, and a month free at Gold’s Gym.

The Pageant consisted of four on-stage categories for the competition, which included swimsuit, talent, evening gown competition, and a brief interview by the current Miss Alabama Shannon Camper. These categories represented 60 percent of each individual score. The other 40 percent of the score was for a backstage interview of each contestant by the judges.

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Moore ahead of Riley in polls

By Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) - A new poll shows Roy Moore with a lead over Gov. Bob Riley in the race for the 2006 Republican gubernatorial nomination, a potential boost for the former chief justice should he decide to run for the office.

A Mobile Register-University of South Alabama poll of likely Republican primary voters shows Moore with a lead of 8 percentage points over Riley in a hypothetical primary matchup. Moore drew support from 43 percent of respondents, while the governor garnered 35 percent.

The statewide survey, published Sunday and conducted last Monday through Thursday, included responses from 400 adults who identified themselves as likely voters in the GOP primary. The results are supposed to be accurate to within plus or minus 5 percentage points.

Ousted from the Alabama Supreme Court over his refusal to follow a federal match-up, Moore drew a lead of 8 points in the poll.

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Americans rally in memory of slain civil rights activist, celebrate legacy

By Louise Chu
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - Americans inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. took part in marches and rallies around the country Monday, drawing from the late civil rights leader's message to call for an end to the Iraq war, advocate affirmative action and speak out for gay rights.

In King's hometown, parade spectators lined the streets dancing to Stevie Wonder's "Happy Birthday" and listening to King's speeches blaring over the loudspeakers. Despite Monday's chilly temperatures, thousands of marchers then walked through the Atlanta district where King grew up and preached.

Joining high school marching bands, union workers and civil rights activists, a group of several hundred people came in support of gay rights, saying King's message was one of inclusion.

"Dr. King's dream is for everyone, not just one specific group of individuals," said Michelle Bruce, a Riverdale city councilwoman who marched with a transgender group called TransAction. "If you hate discrimination and racism, this is the place to come and march."

In a commemorative service marking the holiday at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Martin Luther King III asked the congregation to remember his father's legacy of peace as America wages war in Iraq, and to remember his message of compassion in light of the tsunami disaster.

"Let us respond to this challenge by reaching out to help our sisters and brothers who are suffering because of the tsunami," he said.

King preached at Ebenezer from 1960 until his assassination in 1968 at age 39. He would have turned 76 on Saturday.

At a King day breakfast in Boston, Sen. John Kerry made some of his strongest comments since Election Day about problems with voting in some states.

While reiterating that he did not contest the presidential election, Kerry said: "I nevertheless make it clear that thousands of people were suppressed in the effort to vote. Voting machines were distributed in uneven ways. In Democratic districts, it took people four, five, 11 hours to vote, while Republicans went..."


## Writers’ Club sets agenda

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Susan Methvin with our contest will add a great deal of prestige to it, as well as showing a small amount of the appreciation that we all have for her,” said Joshua “J.T.” Thoney, the club’s publicity officer.

The deadline for entries in the poetry contest is March 4 and the club plans to invite Mrs. Methvin to the awards ceremony March 30.

The contest this semester is not the first for the club. This past fall they held the first student-sponsored short-fiction writing contest at JSU. The club plans to make both of these contests into annual events and are currently seeking a namesake for the fall short-fiction contest.

“I have been impressed with the energy and enthusiasm that the club members have shown this year,” said Dr. Harding.

This semester the club will be very busy. In addition to the poetry contest at JSU, they are sponsoring a writing contest at Kitty Stone Elementary for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. This contest will be similar to the JSU contest held this past fall with the panel of judges consisting of club members. The club is even awarding a cash prize to the authors of the top three stories.

Each spring, The Writers’ Club also publishes a literary journal called *Something Else*. It is comprised of works by current JSU students. The pieces can range from poetry to fiction and non-fiction stories or essays. They are currently accepting submissions and the deadline is February 7.

The club will be hosting a sale of past issues today on the second floor of Stone Center. This fundraiser is to help defray the cost of their trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in April to see “As You Like It”.

The club meets every Thursday on the seventh floor of the library at 4:00 p.m. Any students interested in learning more about the Susan Methvin Poetry Contest or how to make a submission to *Something Else* should go to Dr. Harding’s office, 213 Stone Center.

### English Department boasts culturally diverse course offerings

By Angela Reid
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

Black writers are getting attention in classes like the English Department’s Survey of Black Literature. Department head and course instructor Dr. Robert Felgar encourages students to take the class so they can explore a different perspective of literature than what is typically covered in most English classes.

Because of Felgar’s cultural differences, he finds it challenging to teach the subject matter from a different perspective. “No matter how many movies I see about black people, how Emerson or Henry David Thoreau. He says their works have been taught and studied for many years so there is little left to discover, but the study of black writers such as W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Zora Neale Hurston, and Richard Wright is a constantly growing field.

Other literature classes, such as British and American literature, cover white male writers almost exclusively. However, the Survey of Black Literature provides an opportunity for the works of black writers, men and women, to be studied in their proper context. The class also includes an exploration of the intra-racial conflicts among black writers instead of the more common interracial questions.
King remembered nearly 40 years after
“I have a dream”

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through in 10 minutes - same voting machines, same process, our America.”

“Martin Luther King reminded us that yes, we have to accept finite disappointment, and I know how to do that,” Kerry said to chuckles from listeners. “But he said we must... never give up on infinite hope.”

In Montgomery, Ala., the city where King led the famous bus boycott, a crowd gathered at the steps of the state Capitol near where King spoke at the end of the Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march almost 40 years ago.

Speakers included Public Service Commissioner George Wallace Jr., whose father, former four-time Gov. George Wallace, once promised to preserve segregation in a fiery inauguration speech from the same steps.

Wallace said his father changed his views after he was left paralyzed by an assassination attempt and later visited the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where King once served as pastor, to ask for forgiveness.

“His journey from the Old South to Dr. King’s church was one that we all took. The pain my father suffered allowed him to understand the suffering of others,” Wallace said. “We have a unique opportunity in Alabama to demonstrate to the world that Dr. King’s dream is still alive.”

In Atlanta, Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss told the crowd at Ebenezer that King’s work is unfinished.

“The dream of Dr. King will not be fulfilled until everyone who is uneducated is educated, everyone who is homeless has a roof over their head, and all who hunger become fed,” Chambliss said.

In Ann Arbor, Mich., affirmative action supporters used the holiday to demonstrate against a proposed constitutional amendment aimed at banning racial preferences.

In Denver, tens of thousands walked two miles to remember King and honor his message of nonviolent change. Many walkers pushed toddlers in strollers or held a leash as a dog trotted alongside.

“Dr. King set the example and we all have the responsibility no matter who we are to pass it on,” said Darryl Searuggs, who brought his teenage daughter and son with him.

Thousands also marched in San Antonio, and in Philadelphia, 45,000 volunteers showed up for the 10th annual day of service named for the civil rights leader. The roughly 600 community projects included renovating area schools and churches and making care packages for troops overseas.

Meanwhile, in Washington, President Bush planned to attend an event honoring King at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a visionary American and a dedicated leader who believed deeply in liberty and dignity for every person,” Bush said in a holiday proclamation. “His faith and courage continue to inspire America and the world.”

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Bush prepares for Thursday’s inauguration, plans to announce second term agenda soon

By Nedra Pickler
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush said Monday he has "a big agenda in mind" for his second term that begins this week and that four years is going to be a short time to meet all his goals.

"We got to get moving and get some things done before - before people kind of write me off," Bush told CBS News in an interview.

He said he hopes that with his final election behind him, Republicans and Democrats in Congress will work together to pass his legislation. Unity will be the most important theme of his inaugural address on Thursday, he said as he taped separate interviews with CBS, ABC and NBC.

"I have a responsibility to try to unite this country to achieve big things for all Americans," Bush told ABC News. "I will say that in my inaugural address. I'm looking forward to the challenge." He said he'll announce his "big agenda" at the State of the Union address in two weeks, but it will reflect his campaign promises. Those include overhauling Social Security and the legal liability system; improving the tax code, school standards and the budget process; and making health care accessible to more Americans.

Before the State of the Union, Iraqis will hold the first elections for their new government. Although turnout is not expected to be high as voters face violence at the polls, Bush said the election itself is a success. "Having the vote is a victory for those of us who love freedom," Bush told "NBC Nightly News."

Besides Bush's swearing-in on Thursday, the inaugural week festivities include a salute to America's military and several lavish balls. Bush said he doesn't think all the pomp is excessive despite the war and last month's devastating tsunami.

Bush said it's important to celebrate a "peaceful transfer of power" and that he suspects inauguration guests have been generous in donating to tsunami victims. "You can be equally concerned about our troops in Iraq and those who suffered at the tsunami with celebrating democracy," he told CBS.

The president opened his inaugural week Monday with a salute to outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell and the late Martin Luther King Jr. on the official observance of the slain civil rights leader's birthday.

Bush presented Powell and his wife, Alma, with the John Thompson Legacy of a Dream Award during an afternoon ceremony at the Kennedy Center, calling Powell "one of the most effective and admired diplomats in America's history."

"More than four years ago when I needed a secretary of state, I knew what I was looking for," the president said. "I wanted someone who could bring out the best in people. I found all this and more in Colin Powell."

Powell was often seen as out of step ideologically with other senior officials in Bush's administration but has remained the most popular administration official in poll after poll. He announced his resignation after Bush was re-elected and the president nominated national security adviser Condoleezza Rice to take his place.

The award given to the Powells is named after the former head coach of the Georgetown University men's basketball team and is presented each year to a leader who represents King's ideals and commitment to community service.

Jesse Jackson, another civil rights leader who notes he was with King on his last birthday alive, said Bush has failed to live up to King's legacy on public policy or social justice. He criticized the president for cutting social services, failing to raise the minimum wage, leading a war with "no moral legitimacy" and refusing to meet with civil rights leaders.

"Extolling plaudits on an outstanding individual is no substitute for a commitment to enforcing civil rights laws," Jackson said in a telephone interview.

Dems propose $1 billion for stem research cause

By Karen Matthews
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Democratic lawmakers proposed a $1 billion stem cell research initiative on Sunday, saying New York could be left behind after California voters approved $3 billion for human embryonic stem cell research.

Senate Democratic leader David Paterson said the initiative would be financed through the sale of up to $1 billion in general obligation bonds, subject to voter approval, over 10 years.

"We want to create a statewide institute to keep the best minds in the state of New York to pursue stem cell research," said Andrew Conrad, the co-founder of the National Genetics Institute who joined Paterson and other legislators on the steps of City Hall, said the goal is to create research funding over a 10-year period.

"For those of us in the medical community, we know that this steady source of funding is incredibly important," Conrad said. "This is enough money to keep the best minds, in fact to recruit the best minds into the state of New York to pursue stem cell research."

Many scientists believe that stem cells, which can potentially grow into any type of tissue, may one day provide a cure for a range of diseases including diabetes and Parkinson's.

Fifty-nine percent of California voters approved that state's stem cell bond measure in November, rejecting Bush administration policy that has sharply restricted federal funding for research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

Paterson said his proposal would create a New York Stem Cell Research Institute to regulate stem cell research and provide funding through grants and loans. The institute would be subject to peer review and to oversight by the state attorney general, the comptroller and the state auditor.

"People believe the election of one who believed deeply in the values of our country and could share them with the world, a person of wisdom and decency, a leader who could bring out the best in people. I found all this and more in Colin Powell," Paterson said.

The bill had the support of the state's medical community, which has been left behind by California's lead in stem cell research. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine has been allowed to award grants to scientists in the state.

Sessions announces Iraqi improvements

By Jay Reeves
Associated Press Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - Competing his third trip to Iraq, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions said Monday conditions are improving in the country despite continuing violence, and the upcoming national election will be an important milestone as the nation gets past the era of Saddam Hussein.

Sessions, speaking with reporters in a conference call from Kuwait, said Iraqis' response to the vote on Jan. 30 will help determine how long U.S. troops must remain.

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Sessions, speaking with reporters in a conference call from Kuwait, said Iraqis' response to the vote on Jan. 30 will help determine how long U.S. troops must remain.

"A lot of it depends on how people react to the election, how the training continues, and how well an officer corps can be established," he said.

While in the Mideast, Sessions met with members of Alabama units including the 908th Airlift Wing from Montgomery; the 117th Air Refueling Wing from Montgomery; the 117th Air Refueling Wing from Montgomery; the 117th Air Refueling Wing from Montgomery; and the 908th Airlift Wing from Montgomery. Sessions also met with military personnel in Kuwait.
Paterson said the initiative would be financed through the sale of up to $1 billion in general obligation bonds, subject to voter approval, over 10 years. "Many, many jobs will be lost otherwise," he warned.

best minds into the state of New York to pursue stem cell research."

Many scientists believe that stem cells, which can potentially grow into any type of human tissue, could someday be used to repair spinal cord injuries and treat a and provide funding through grants and loans. The institute would be subject to peer review and to oversight by the state attorney general, the comptroller and the Public Authorities Control Board.

"People believe the election will be a turning point, that it will help establish the legitimacy of the government," said Sessions, R-Ala., who spent two days in Iraq but returned to Kuwait at night for security reasons.

Sessions said military leaders told him security is improving in Iraq, and he saw plenty of cars on roads. But electricity and water service are still problems, he said, and insurgents are "very determined" to intimidate people cooperating with U.S. forces or working with the new Iraqi government.

Sessions said he agreed with Alabama units including the 908th Airlift Wing from Montgomery; the 117th Air Refueling Wing from Birmingham; the 187th Tactical Fighter Wing of Montgomery; the 1206th Quartermaster Detachment from Wetumpka; and the 498th Transportation Company from Mobile. "This has been the best trip I've had since I've been in the Senate in terms of getting information and talking to the right people," said Sessions.

On the flight out of Baghdad, Sessions said the remains of two U.S. troops were on the aircraft with him. Soldiers met the flag-draped coffins when the flight arrived in Kuwait.

"It was a very moving moment," he said.

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Miss JSU named Saturday

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higher education, and physically fit—all at once."

When all the categories were completed, the university said farewell to Miss JSU 2004 Jennifer Curren. "If you keep a servant's heart and a humble spirit, you will succeed." Curren advised "I feel very honored to say that I have represented this university and community."
HARLOW, N.D. (AP) - Jean and Bernard Meyer have a celebrity on their Benson County farm. He doesn't have a name, but he's a heavyweight. The Meyers' hog weighs 1,300 pounds and measures 7 feet and 8 inches long. Bernard Meyer, who has raised hogs for more than 50 years, said the 2-year-old Yorkshire-Hampshire-Duroc cross weighed 200 pounds when purchased in Minnesota nearly two years ago.

"He usually gets corn in his rations," Meyer said. "He doesn't get a lot of feed. He just happened to be a fast grower. I tell my friends he just grew up."

Meyer said he did not know whether the pig might grow even heavier.

Hogs have been known to weigh 1,300 pounds, experts say, but market weight is usually a lot less.

"I thought that if I can get him to 1,500 pounds, I can take him to the State Fair," Meyer said. "We weighed him last summer and he was 1,200 pounds. By fall, he weighed 1,300 pounds."

SEATTLE (AP) - An art lover left his hometown about $1 million to buy a few minutes later and arrested him again.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - The principal of a California school may not invite a popular speaker back to an annual career day after he told teenage girls they could earn a good living as strippers.

Management consultant William Fried told eighth-graders - who are usually 13 or 14 years old - Tuesday that stripping and exotic dancing can pay $250,000 (euro189,000) or more per year, depending on their bust size.

"It's sick, but it's true," Fried said in an interview later. "The truth of the matter is you can earn a tremendous amount of money as an exotic dancer, if that's your desire."

Fried has given a popular 55-minute presentation, "The Secret of a Happy Life," on career day at Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School in Palo Alto for the past three years. He counsels students to experiment with a variety of interests until they discover something they love and excel in. But school principal Joseph Di Salvo said Fried may not be back next year. The principal said Fried's comments were 'deplorable.'
SEATTLE (AP) - An art lover left his hometown about $1 million to buy a new fountain, but with a stipulation. The late Stu Smiales made clear the work must include the figure of at least one life-size naked man.

Smailies, a retired computer analyst, died in 2002 at the age of 69. He was an only child, with no immediate family. His attorney, Tim Bradbury, said Smiales was a great fan of the arts.

"He was a very funny man," Bradbury said, with a "very strong sense of humor." According to court documents, the fountain bequest is to include one or more unclothed, life-size male figures designed in the classical style, i.e., realistic," said Karen Bystrom at the City's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Bystrom said somebody in her office has suggested the naked-man fountain be part of the Seattle Art Museum's new Olympic Sculpture Park, now a work in progress at the north end of the downtown waterfront.

The agreement is still being negotiated.

CLEARFIELD, Pa. (AP) - Kate Stelnick may weigh only 100 pounds, but her appetite is remarkable. The college student from Princeton, N.J., is the first to meet a restaurant's challenge by downing its six-pound hamburger - and five pounds of fixings - within three hours.

Stelnick didn't eat for two days to prepare for the challenge. "I felt very full, but I was too excited that I actually ate it to notice," Stelnick said.

Stelnick, 19, made the five-hour drive to Denny's Beer Barrel Pub with two friends from The College of New Jersey on Wednesday, after they saw pictures of the monster burger, dubbed "a beast" on the chain's website.

But school Principal Joseph Di Salvo said Fried may not be back next year. The principal said Fried's comments to the class came after some of them asked him to expand on why he included "exotic dancing" on his list of 140 potential careers.

Fried spent about a minute answering questions, defining strippers and exotic dancers synonymously. According to Jason Garcia, 14, he told students: "For every 2 inches up there, you should get another $50,000 (euro38,000) on your salary.

"A couple of students egg him and he took it, and I really like it," said Di Salvo, who also said the students took advantage of a substitute teacher overseeing the session.

"It's totally inappropriate," Di Salvo said. "It's not OK by me. I would want my presenters to kind of understand that they are coming into a career day for eighth-graders."

That stripping advice wasn't the only thing that riled parents. Di Salvo said one mother said she was outraged when her son announced that he was forsaking college for a field he loves: fishing.

"He really focused on finding what you really love to do," said Mariah Cannon, 13.

Fried, 64, said he does not think he offended any of the students: "Eight-grade kids are not dumb," he said. "They are pretty worldly."

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) - Noisy love making is no cause for eviction so long as it's done in the daytime, a Swedish landlord said Thursday. The Tunabyggen housing company in Borlaeng, 220 kilometers (137 miles) northwest of Stockholm, made the decision after the neighbors of one amorous couple complained about their afternoon delights.
Music, romance, death, destruction and the “figure of a monkey in Persian robes playing the cymbals.” What more could you ask for on a Friday night? Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “The Phantom of the Opera,” which is released nationwide tomorrow, is just the movie.

The story of “The Phantom of the Opera” begins with Christine Daae, an orphan that has been taken to the Paris Opera House to become a chorus girl. Christine believes that her deceased father has sent an “Angel of Music” to give her voice lessons.

The “Angel of Music” is really the Phantom and Christine goes on stage to upstage Paris’ most famous opera singer, Carlotta. Christine soon bats her lashes at one Raoul, who was a childhood friend and has become a patron of the Paris Opera House. The Phantom’s obsession and jealousy for Christine brings on mysterious deaths, famed musical numbers and the crashing sound of a broken chandelier.

The best love scenes in the movie take place not between Christine and Raoul, but between Christine and the Phantom. When the Phantom kidnaps Christine and takes her on a boat ride through the catacombs under the Opera House while singing to her, one might wonder why she doesn’t get over her silly romance with Raoul and float away with the ingenious, charismatic man who haunts her dreams and wears a mysterious mask.

Joel Schumacher, who was the director of “Phonebooth” and “Batman Forever,” was personally picked by Lloyd Webber to bring this musical masterpiece to the big screen after 15 years in the making. With the film set in 1870 and having flash forwards to 1917, the sets and costumes are amazing and adequately depict the time period of the height of the Paris Opera House. With Oscar season lulling in the air, this movie is up for best musical or comedy, best costume design, best score and best set design.

Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical genius was released in 1987 through “The Phantom of the Opera,” and since then, has been one of the largest selling musicals in history. For Phantom “fans” you will not be disappointed by the film. Except for small details, the film is in every way an exact representation of the musical.

Gaston Leroux wrote the book “The Phantom of the Opera” in 1911, after visiting the Paris Opera House and hearing the stories of a dark figure who haunted the lower levels of the theater and had been responsible for many mysterious deaths. From this book, Universal studio’s began looking for their next silent film to go along with “Frankenstein” and “Dracula.”

In 1925, the first film of “The Phantom of the Opera” appeared. In Gaston Leroux’s book, the phantom is described as “a genius with a half deformed face”. Recent critics of the new film have declared that the phantom has been too romanticized. However, Webber and Shumacher’s adaptation is as the Phantom was originally portrayed.

Emmy Rossum, from “The Day After Tomorrow,” plays Christine Daae and is a perfect fit with her fabulous singing voice and elegant looks. Rossum, at age 18, has been a student at the Metropolitan Opera since she was seven. She is gorgeous enough to keep any warm-blooded male in his seat for the entire two hours and twenty-three minutes of the film.

Gerard Butler, from “Dracula 2000” and “Reign of Fire,” plays the Phantom. Being from Scotland and in a garage rock band, he brings a rock star quality to the Phantom and his voice. Butler also brings a sensuality to the Phantom that women only dream of in a mysterious man, hidden beneath a mask.

From duels and love scenes, there is enough in “The Phantom of the Opera” to fulfill everyone’s needs. This film is as wonderful to watch as it is to listen to. There need to be more movie musicals that are entrancing and entertaining as “The Phantom of the Opera.”

Last Thursday I went to the basketball game at the coliseum. This evening was deemed “Paint Pete Red,” however the only thing I saw was a “Poor Pitiful Parade” of spectators coming and going. Instead of painting the place red, it was more like dotted red, and little red bumps can never be a good sign for anything.

It does not go without saying that many of you came out to support the men’s and women’s basketball teams with a valiant effort. I won’t try and identify all the groups that were present and deserving of a spirit medal, but who could miss the band? Not only was the bottom half of the coliseum filled with the ever-present Hardcorps Pep Band including the Go-go girls shaking it on the line, but the top half was filled with even more players.

If you have never been to a basketball game to hear and see the Hardcorps ensemble, you’re missing out. With some of the best musicians at JSU behind those horns, the sound they produce pushes against each wall of the coliseum. Plus, they have a lot of energy in the stands, so if you were worried about being the only Screamer in the crowd, you have some competition.

The cheerleaders were also present as usual, cheering to the fans, but Cocks made his first appearance for the year.

I also saw some fraternities and sororities come in with either matching shirts or matching red stomachs. However, if someone were to compare the
What divides two rental stores in town?

Story and Photos: Erin Chupp
Chanticleer Features Editor

The temperature digitally flashed on the Amsouth sign is dropping. Once you are inside and the sun falls behind the mountains, it is hard to get back out. That’s why you tip the pizza guy, right? And what better entertainment than a movie?

Whether you watch horror flicks such as “The Ring” alone with eyes feebly squinting or movies like “Napoleonic Dynamite” with a group of friends, laughing at the amount of quotable phrases, there is something for everyone at the movie store.

Here, in Jacksonville, there are two movie rental stores from which to choose. Their locations are within less than one minute of each other. Which one receives your membership?

Employees at both Blockbuster and Movie Gallery claim no drop in customers this year. They each have characteristics that entice a constant clientele.

Recently, Blockbuster has released its new advertising push: no more late fees. “It’s like a rent to buy,” said Claire Kaleopa, manager of the Jacksonville Blockbuster franchise. Of course they would always appreciate it if people brought their movies back in a timely fashion, however after the usual three days for a new release, a seven day grace period is given.

After the seven days, about $19.00 is charged to your personal account to cover the cost of the movie. The movie now belongs to you. However, if it takes you three weeks to finish something such as “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy you can still return them and get the charge taken off your account. Kaleopa said no matter when you return a movie after the seven days, the movie purchase charge will be erased and you will only have to pay a $1.25 re-stocking fee.

For a while, Kaleopa said “Without a Paddle” was a difficult movie to find. Purchase at Wal-Mart even ran out of copies. She had some people come in and ask for the cover when they “rented” the movie because they simply said they would not be returning it. The customer was shocked to find this was not a problem with the store.

Under the red and white lights of Jacksonville’s Movie Gallery, late fees still remain. However, instead of a three night rental, all movies at Movie Gallery are rented for seven nights. If on the seventh night the movie is not returned, your account will be charged another $2.79 (including tax), the price of a rental. This acts as a renewal, giving you seven more days, so do not rush your guilty self to the store the day after your movie is due--you pay automatically pay for another week.

Movie Gallery employee and JSU Elementary Education major Amy Moore said due to sales and location, the Jacksonville store has more movies in stock than any other Movie Gallery in the country. “We have 409 DVD copies of Troy in stock,” said Moore. “I can never udder the word, ’I’m bored,’ at this store.” For big new releases, the store receives at least 200 copies to shelf.

The shelving units at Movie Gallery are tall and wooden. They can hold seven to eight copies deep of DVDs behind the empty front box, however employees usually stock five deep so the movies are easy to move and grab.

Blockbuster’s movies rest on black wall racks and floor displays. Kaleopa said she believes Blockbuster has more in stock than Movie Gallery. Blockbuster has a range of titles to offer, but they only receive about 30 copies for new release DVDs.

Professors at JSU also find that Blockbuster has more titles, though. On one occasion, a professor warned Kaleopa he told 248 students to rent a certain movie for a class assignment. Kaleopa has also noticed a lot of college students coming to Blockbuster to find foreign films and other customers come seeking older movies. “We have a huge selection,” Kaleopa said. “We don’t throw away any movies, we just sell them.”

Each company also has its own benefits programs. Blockbuster has a reward membership. For $9.99 a year, for each new release rental, you can rent an older movie for free. Also, there is a free rental with your purchase of the membership, one free rental a month and one free rental for every five movies rented at regular price.

Blockbuster also sells a Movie Pass for $14.99 for the first month and $24.99 each month after. “I probably have half of my customers that have it,” Kaleopa said. With the pass, you can rent two movies at a time and rent as many movies in the month as you want.

Movie Gallery sells discount rental cards four times a year. The cards sell for $20 and have a value of $27. There is no tax on rentals or late fees. The next chance to purchase one of these cards will be coming up in March. These cards, as well as the $5 gift certificate you receive after becoming a Movie Gallery member, do not expire.

The Real Players Club is also at Movie Gallery. Every customer starts with 12 points and one point is taken away for every movie rented. As soon as you get down to one point, a free movie rental coupon is printed on your receipt.

“From a work stance, both companies focus on customer service. When you hear the door ding in either store, there is a Pavlov dog response to greet the customer,” said Moore, who has worked at both Movie Gallery and Blockbuster. “They have their differences, but they are both great.”
Horoscopes

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Your intuition accelerates this month, allowing you to make decisions with logic and much will be accomplished to your satisfaction. Make sure not to hassle with authority, for manipulation will not be tolerated. A real eye-opener. Try to avoid being caught in the middle of another’s quarrels.

Microwave Lasagna

Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 15 1/2 ounce jar spaghetti sauce
- 1 8 ounce can tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon oregano leaves
- 1 16 ounce canon cottage cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon basil leaves
- 8 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 3 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup water, rinse sauce jar with this

Directions

Crumble beef into 1 1/2 quart casserole. Cover loosely and microwave on high for 3 minutes; break up and stir. Cover and microwave until very little pink remains; 2 to 3 minutes longer; drain. Stir in spaghetti sauce, tomato sauce, 1 tablespoon parsley flakes and oregano. Cover tightly and microwave on high to boiling, 3 to 4 minutes. Mix cottage cheese, 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese, egg, 1 tablespoon parsley flakes and the basil in a small bowl. Spread 1 1/2 cup meat sauce in a 12 x 7 1/2 x 2 inch baking dish. Overlap 4 lasagna noodles on sauce. Add 1 cup cheese filling and 1 cup Mozzarella cheese; reserve 1 cup

Microwave Brownies

Ingredients

- 1/2 c margarine
- 1/4 t baking powder
- 1 c sugar
- 3/4 c GF baking mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c chopped walnuts (optional)
- 1 t GF vanilla
- 1/4 c GF cocoa

Directions

Microwave margarine (in a large glass bowl) on HIGH power for 45 seconds to melt. Add eggs, sugar and vanilla. Beat until creamy. Mix in dry ingredients just until blended.

Spread evenly into 8-inch square baking dish. Microwave on MEDIUM for 8 to 10 minutes until the top appears dry and springs back when lightly touched. Turn dish a half turn about halfway through cooking. Cool and cut into bars.
Your intuition accelerates this week, just when a new love may be entering the picture. Remember that this is not the time to let your emotions overrule your mind. It seems as if you’re on a seesaw, with ups and downs in home life, romance and finances.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

It pays to listen to your inner voice regarding any financial dealings during the week. This is not the time to compromise. Try to tone down any arguments with others; the point will become moot by the end of the day. Accomplish chores at home first, before worrying about elsewhere.

GEMINI: (May 21 - June 21)

It’s time to forge ahead with your career and gain foothold. Diverse trends will definitely favor your financial activities this week. Don’t give in to the temptations to throw away your advantages to gain instant profits. You may be a bit overly optimistic.

CANCER: (June 21 - July 23)

Try to complete unfinished tasks this week in your usual low-key way. Cooperation at work is scarce, so no matter what you do, there will probably be trouble. Mixed trends may bring good fortune to your career and financial potential, plus rewarding personal relationships.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

Your attractiveness and pleasing manner can make you quite a social asset this week. Your intuition works well with your

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

Different opportunities will arise this week, so tighten up your mood and take advantage of whatever comes your way. You seem to achieve the greatest success by clearing away debts and balancing your account, plus displaying resourcefulness and being thrifty. Conserve both energy and monies.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

Your spirit of independence and adventure is strong this week. Answers to long-asked questions may be found far from the home place. Broaden your perspective on just what you want to end up accomplishing in this lifetime. Avoid any quick fixes to job matters. Avoid routine.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)

Avoid taking any foolish risks with your money during the week. Look for opportunities in other areas to expand your horizons. Take some extra time with your mate this week, and no doubt a warm tenderness will encompass you both. Your practical attitude wins approval.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

An agreement with a friend may unleash new potential this week, whether a creative or business venture. Be extra careful to not take too much for granted - reality will be a

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Stick with routine tasks during the week and get as much accomplished as you can with the minimal fuss. People around you will appreciate it if you just work and don’t waste time talking about it. Mind your own business, and don’t react to others’ flaws.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

Your heightened creativity and awareness will add a pleasant new dimension to your work this week. Family members or neighbors may try to get the best of you, so stick to truly important matters and skip the idle chatter. In the weeks ahead, domestic matters will be important.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Money seems to be the issue throughout the entire week. Your financial security should be first and foremost on your mind. A money fund or other conservative type investment may be your best bet. Taking slight risks may turn out best in the long run, if you know all the facts.

IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:

Love and money are the themes of the month for you, and you feel right at home on this turf. A passionate relationship is always worth experiencing, even if rediscovering the charms of your mate. Plan ahead with investments.
SPORTS

Who do you love? The dirty birds or the eagles?

By Kenneth Bryant
The Chanticleer Sports Writer

The top two seeds in the NFC and AFC are in the final four of the playoffs. Why that hasn’t happened since, well you know, a really long time.

In the AFC we have the 16-1 Steelers, the top seed, against the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. Both are outstanding on defense and both can run the football.

In the NFC, we have the top-seeded Philadelphia Eagles against the second-seeded Atlanta Falcons and Vick. The Eagles play a nasty brand of blitzing, attacking defense, while the Falcons led the league in rushing during the season and ran for 327 against the St. Louis Rams in their divisional playoff victory. Of the four teams, the Eagles are the only one without a dominant running game, but they counter with a physical defense.

Once again, as usual, we have defense and the running game stepping into the spotlight.

What happened to the supposed playoff “hot” teams that would emerge? Well the only thing that has emerged is an upset destined for this weekend, I think.

Another thing that is certain is the winner of the Super Bowl will be from the NFC. I think.

So what I am saying is that the

book, different chapter for the Eagles.

With every player pouring there all into every second of the game makes the loss more heart breaking.

Jax state jumped out to an early lead with a massive dunk by Wilson on an alley form Russell to ignite the crowd.

This was followed by two more consecutive scores on beautifully strategized plays but coach Laplant seemed to run out of tricks as Murray state would leave Laplant and the Gamecocks scratching their heads going into the half with a score of 30-44.

A ray of hope would come in the second half from Tim Lewis as he caught on fire to post 19 points hitting 6-7 from behind the arc and 50 percent overall.

With Lewis and the hustle of Brad Peters energizing the crowd the tempo of the game was turned up.

The pressure defense would cause key turnovers but the Gamecocks just couldn’t capitalize. The result was another loss for the home team.

JSU downs Sky-Hawks but gets out-played by Murray

Gamecocks couldn’t hold on to early leads against Murray St. and Tennessee Martin as the team drops ten straight

By Amedo Ortiz
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Walker Russell drives for a basket and a score. JSU travels to take on Eastern Kentucky tonight with tip-off set for 6:30p.m.
is the winner of the Super Bowl will be from the NFC, I think.
So what I am saying is that the Eagles and the Falcons are playing the Super Bowl a week early, I think.

“You could see it in guys’ eyes. They weren’t satisfied with just reaching the NFC championship game, said injured Philadelphia receiver Terrell Owens. “Like I said, it’s going down. Philadelphia, don’t you doubt this for one second.” What about the Falcons?
Well you are not hearing a lot of newspaper quotes from the dirty birds so give them an edge there.

What is the Atlanta Journal saying?
“The Eagles beat the Falcons two years ago in the divisional round of the playoffs, but this is a different Atlanta team. For one, Vick is now a better player. And this team can control the ball on the ground better than that one did. The Eagles come in off a dominating defensive performance against the Vikings. But this will present a much different type of test, mainly because of Vick’s wonderful athletic skills. The pressure will be firmly on the Eagles in this game because of their recent failures in the title game. It will be interesting to watch what happens if the Eagles fall behind early at home to bring back the memories of the past three years. Will the crowd turn or will they try and rally the team?”

Give Philadelphia an edge there because the home city paper isn’t even giving them a chance.

Philadelphia star running back Brian Westbrook did not play in last year’s NFC title game, so he should give them the extra nudge that puts them over the top, I think.

Can dirty birds fly when the high temperature is 24 degrees?
I know!

The last time the dirty birds played in below-freezing temperatures was in Green Bay and they got Vick-timised just like the Eagles will on Sunday.
And you can quote that. I think.

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