April 5, 2007

Sara Evans performs at JSU

Night opened with Jimmy Wayne, featured surprise artist Brad Arnold from 3 Doors Down

By Laura Moormann
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

On Friday, March 30, around 6:30 p.m., the line for the Sara Evans concert stretched from the doors of the Pete Matthews Coliseum to Highway 204. Some audience members had arrived an hour earlier to get in the front of the line. A flurry of excitement ran through the crowd as they waited for the doors to open at 7 p.m. The local country music station, WQSB, had a vehicle with music playing, and about three or four police cars were in attendance. A police officer came around with a sign of items which were not allowed inside. This included the usual: knives, lighters, matches, firearms, etc.

As the audience came through the doors they first noticed boxes to put in contraband, and also they had the pleasure to be searched with wands all over. Any kind of bag was also searched.

Once inside the coliseum there was an area up top to sit, or you could stand on the floor that was covered by plastic. Students that got there early were close to the stage, but also got to stand up for an extra hour. The lights finally dimmed amongst cheers and applause. Opening the show was Jimmy Wayne. He played his acoustic guitar and sang some of his hits. The audience loved his energy and his music.

Sara Evans then took the stage. She opened with "Stay Gone," and was a crowd favorite. She played herself with an acoustic guitar, and had a very nice tenor voice, hitting those high notes with ease and grace. She thanked Jacksonville for being supportive, and announced that she was leaving to let Sara Evans' band set up. Everyone in the crowd was excited at the thought of Evans coming onstage soon.

Evans started her set around 9 p.m. and sang many of her popular songs, and had great stage presence and charisma. Some of the songs she sang included "You'll Always Be My Baby," "Coalmine," and "I Could Not Ask For More." She finished every song with an acoustic guitar solo, and the audience gave her loud cheers and applause. When she left the stage, the audience didn't want her to leave, and started chanting her name.

The question was answered by loud cheers and applause. She continued by saying that she has always loved them, and that she tried to talk them into coming with her that night. She went on to say that she was in and that Brad Arnold came to sing with her.

The spotlight came on to show Brad Arnold. He walked out with a guitar and started singing his hit song. The audience loved it, and started clapping and cheering. He sang his songs one by one, and added his own style to the music. The audience loved it, and gave him a standing ovation. He ended his set with "I'm Gonna Miss Her," and the audience gave him another round of applause.

The concert ended with Sara Evans singing her last song, and Brad Arnold singing with her. The audience gave them a huge round of applause, and the concert was over.

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, April 5, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Peacefest will be burning it up outside the TMB.

"Peacefest is nothing but a party for students," said Shannon Dawson, a member of All-Faith Student Alliance and one of the main organizers of the day. "It's the last big fun thing before finals start.

The half-day of events will feature rock bands Derek and Elvis and the Ben Nelson Band, as well as acoustic performers Judson Leonard and jazz musicians the Hodgygeorge Orchestra. Between band changes, The JSU Writer's Club will host open mic sessions for any student willing to share their work with the campus. Also, Women's Issues and Empowerment will be hosting a car maintenance workshop and another of their Clothesline Projects. Winding themselves amongst all the other events will be the Dramatic Fraternity, acting out quick skits and improvisation exercises. Amnesty International will also be making their presence felt.

"Last year, Peacefest was a test run and very rushed," said Dawson. "This year we branched out to include more student groups so they can share the exposure of Peacefest. We have groups that promote tolerance and open-mindedness, but we have no agenda -- we're not preaching an agenda -- we're just promoting an afternoon of fun. This is for everybody on campus who doesn't feel relaxed going to other university events."

As well as the six-hour festivities, there are other events connected to Peacefest as well on Thursday. The Sociology Club will be hosting it's monthly social (and Peacefest afterparty) at the Sports Nut at 6 p.m. At 7 p.m., JSU students and staff can catch a second helping of Derek and Elvis at Java Jolt.

Who knows? There might be some other events going on at Peacefest as well.

"Should we have water balloons?" Dawson asked the Chanticleer staff as her interview concluded. "I think we should have water balloons."
Health screening promotes obesity awareness

By Tashara Childs
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

On Tuesday, April 3, The West Anniston Foundation For Your Life held a obesity and diabetes screening on the 3rd floor of the Theron Montgomery Building. Fred Smith, a Jacksonville State University Alumni, was the director of this screening. He partnered with the West Anniston Foundation and Linda Shelton, a guidance counselor here at JSU, hold this screening three times a year, once a semester and once in the summer.

Obesity and diabetes are two health conditions that go hand in hand. Because of the fast food society that we live in today, obesity is one of the leading conditions plaguing many Americans.

“We all have a tendency to eat unhealthy foods out of convenience,” said Shelton. Obesity should be stopped for health reasons before other conditions such as diabetes can form. These conditions do not target a certain age group, sex, or ethnicity. It is vital to have these screenings at universities where diversity is guaranteed. Organizations such as the West Anniston Foundation are helpful in informing people on ways to prevent these conditions.

Fast food restaurants, such as Wendy’s and McDonald’s, have also began to put healthier foods on their menus.

“It helps to be able to at least have the choice to eat healthy,” said Shelton.

The screening at the TMB gave an estimated body fat percentage as well as blood sugar levels. Individuals were also given tips on how to lead a healthier lifestyle. Through diet and exercise obesity and diabetes are serious conditions that can be controlled. Though these conditions are spreading worldwide, it is good to have a local organization willing to aid in the community.

Counseling and Career Services also sponsors a health fair held annually on the third Tuesday in September.
Silly Christians, Easter’s for rabbits

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Ah, Easter, the most sacred and celebrated Christian holiday. And being the most sacred holiday, it naturally comes with its own bag of cheeky characters and early morning magic to cheer the kiddies and fill our hearts with smiley cheer. There’s our old friend the Easter Bunny with his crazy colored Easter eggs, filling Easter baskets with chocolate and eggs and chocolate eggs and plastic eggs with chocolate inside them and chocolate eggs with money inside. Hooray!!

Wait a second -- rabbits don’t lay eggs, certainly not colored ones anyway. How did colored eggs become one of the first things people think of when referring to Easter? It all began a very long time ago, just as the Christian church was beginning to spread and gain a foothold in the world.

Like many things Christian, Easter as we know it is actually a compilation of pagan holidays and symbols that were absorbed into Christianity when the church was looking to expand in the early second century.

Let’s begin with the origins of the name, Easter.

The word Easter was derived from the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess Eostra, the goddess fertility and rebirth. In early Europe, tribes used to celebrate around the time of the resurrection. It must not have taken long to connect the dots; so Christian missionaries began to realize that people would be more reluctant to give up their holidays and festivals than they would their gods.

Using that knowledge, the Christian missionaries simply incorporated pagan rituals and practices fertility. While the exact history is unknown, eggs have been used as symbols of rebirth and fertility for thousands of years. It is thought

of Christ and the renewal of life. Eating of colored eggs during the spring festival where once considered a form of magic and a prayer for increased fertility and for a large harvest.

In case you’re wondering how the Easter bunny fits into all this, it’s nothing shocking.

If you follow the trend of this article and understand that eggs and the very name of Easter is based off paganism, then you can have two guesses as to where the Easter bunny fits in. That’s right, its another pagan symbol assimilated into Christianity. In the olden times, the rabbit was used to symbolize fertility, as rabbits are known for their promiscuous tendencies.

The notion of an egg laying rabbit first arrived in the United States during the 18th century. The German immigrants who lived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country brought stories of the “Osterhase” (hase meaning hare). In the stories, only the good children would receive a colored egg in nests that they made from their caps and bonnets, much like Santa Claus during Christmas.

The American tradition of the Easter bunny leaves baskets full of chocolate and plastic eggs with money. Easter egg hunts happen all across the nation.

So here it is, the whole history of Easter.

What’s that you will do this Easter?
Ashley Gray reported harassment at Fitzpatrick Hall.

Mar. 29
Jonathan Gasbarro reported unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle at Crow Hall.

Erin Gaines reported theft of property at Ayers Hall parking lot.

Mar. 30
Jennifer Simpson reported theft of property at Houston Cole Library.

Apr. 3
Central Beck was arrested for buying or receiving stolen property.

Signs, from page 1

just recently completed. Although it is up, it is not operational as of yet. The display features new LED technology, which enhances the color images. Organizations who were able to promote during Spring Fling week were able to see the effects of the updated technology.

“We want to get the attention of the people who pass by,” said Terry Casey, Director of Student Life. “It looks great, and we want our organizations to use this board to their advantage.”

There are many advantages to having the new video boards. With the eradication of the bulbs, it will cut down cost and increase the amount of advertising, especially with the new video board outside of Pete Mathews Coliseum.

“The old board was more than 20 years old,” said Seitz. “It was outdated and getting difficult to manage as far as trying to replace the bulbs. It was getting too expensive to operate.”

The bulbs had a substantial deficit as far as maintenance and financial constraints. Missing bulbs were noticeable in displays, which made the boards less attractive to some. With the new video boards on two of the busiest roads in Jacksonville, they are sure to keep the attention of drivers.

“The cost of these LED boards is substantially less than your normal bulbs that have been in place,” said Fuller. “We are able to utilize all of our campus events, and the location of these video boards is excellent.”

As the upcoming football season approaches, the construction is moving at a rapid pace in order to have everything set. The audience in the stands will see the benefit of the screen, and so will the players.

“It’s going to be an advantage for everyone in the stands, not just the players,” stated Seitz. “The players are extremely excited, especially when they play is going to be up on the screen. A big plus is we’re able to promote our other sports on campus during the games.”

“This is my wish that the video board will be ready by graduation,” said Fuller. “It’s more than just watching a throw or a block or a tackle. Parents get to see their kids walk across the stage on the screen and see their smiles as they receive their diplomas from Dr. Meehan.”
Ephron gains wisdom with age

By Courtney Birmingham
The Chanticleer Guest Reporter

Once you read her detailed work, I Feel Bad About My Neck: And Other Thoughts On Being A Woman, you will truly understand what Nora Ephron means by her title. This wonderful exposé she has written about the misfortunes of getting old is primarily geared towards middle-aged women. I would suggest that anyone approaching age fifty read this book. She gives us insight into what she regrets from her own life that will help you live your own life to its utmost potential. However, reading it from a young adult’s point of view, as I have, is especially enlightening.

Ephron, a triple nominee for the Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay, has a dry sense of humor as she describes what she has learned through the process of aging.

She covers an array of topics throughout her book: everything from cooking, to relationships, to growing old, to menopause to empty-nest syndrome. Growing old, through the eyes of Nora Ephron, does not seem to be something to look forward to. Her thought provoking narrative vividly evokes feelings of contingency.

As years pass by so do cherished moments in our lives. Ephron shares with us one of her most missed memories of cabbage strudel. She deliciously describes this delectable treat in such a way that leaves your mouth watering from the thought of it touching your tongue.

It is especially interesting to read what Ephron has to say in her chapter titled, On Maintenance. This chapter reviews the effects of age her body has fallen victim to and the maintenance needed to keep her looking young. Although I have not yet experienced any of these tribulations, it does not mean that I do not appreciate the imagery used.

Ephron shares with us one of her most cherished moments in our lives. She tells the good, the bad and the ugly.

I learned that she does not feel that it is better to be older than to be younger. Your metabolism is slower than ever, your memory is shot, and friends are dying all around you. Now that she is sixty-five, she regrets not experiencing life to its fullest. She can no longer do some of the things she passed up the chance to do when she was younger. Discover for yourself what Nora Ephron has to say in I Feel Bad About My Neck as she takes us back to her childhood, to the years when she raised children of her own, and to her current state of mind.

Sound Boys will Off: be boys

All my life I have been consistently exposed to sports. Football, basketball, baseball - you name it and my father loves anything about it. I feel that it is safe to say the same about almost every man. It’s an obsession. I honestly believe that just like drugs and alcohol can control a life, so can sports.

Sports are everywhere! If men are not watching it on television, they are watching it live, listening to it on the radio, or reading about it in the newspaper. Not a day goes by when sports are ignored. Twenty-four/seven coverage can even be ordered off the Internet, and I dare say my boyfriend is one of its many subscribers.

I tried to live a life that didn’t revolve game occasionally, but please do not ask me to watch it on TV. Even worse than watching a game on TV is watching someone talking about the game on TV.

If someone were to ask me what the highlights of a game were, I honestly would not be able to tell them. I am more interested in watching the people at the game. If a man were asked the same question, they would not only be able to tell you the highlights of that game, they could tell you the highlights of the game before and the game before that and so on. But don’t expect him to remember his own wedding anniversary!

Thank you,
Courtney Birmingham
JSU Junior

Editor’s note: Sound Off is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion.
I must admit that, although I was raised by a man who could not live a day without knowing the latest sports news, I do not particularly care for them. Of course it is fun to go to a ball game and scream and yell for your favorite team, but it is not something I would do frequently. I have not even mentioned the “less-popular-yet-still-equally-as-important-to-him” sports. These are the sports that I probably wouldn't even know existed if it weren't for the men in my family. After all, they are the ones who introduced me to the joys of baseball and football.

I have some subscribers. Only a handful, I must admit. But I have found that these subscribers are the ones who keep me motivated to continue publishing. I have been told by many of my subscribers that they appreciate the unique perspective that I bring to my writing. They enjoy reading about the things that matter to them, and they appreciate the fact that I am not afraid to express my opinions. I have been told by many of my subscribers that they appreciate the unique perspective that I bring to my writing. They enjoy reading about the things that matter to them, and they appreciate the fact that I am not afraid to express my opinions.

As for the Modest Mouse album, I must admit that I was not a big fan of their previous work. However, I have to say that this album is a definite improvement. The band has obviously put a lot of thought and effort into this album, and it shows. The music is catchy and the lyrics are thought-provoking. Overall, I would definitely recommend this album to anyone who enjoys alternative rock.
**Bitter is the New Black:**

Confessions of a Condescending, Egomaniacal, Self-Centered, Smart-Ass or Why You Should Never Carry a Prada Bag to the Unemployment Office

By Jessica Summe  
The Chanticleer  
Editor-in-Chief

Jen Lancaster's book, *Bitter is the New Black*, treads a fine line between fiction and non-fiction, chick lit and biography, humor and blog. Unlike fellow "author" James Frey, Lancaster takes the genre of creative nonfiction and makes it respectable and entertaining again.

After being laid off from her high-status high-paying job after 9/11, Lancaster takes us on a journey from Saks Fifth Avenue to Kmart, constantly re-working her and husband Fletch's life to jive with their shrinking income. Along the way, Lancaster also pulls us along on an internal journey as well, as she morphs from self-centered high-end businesswoman to someone...well, normal.

Lancaster’s writing is sharp, funny, and to-the-point. She outlines her adventures at the temp office, the apartment, and Vegas so clearly that it’s probably better (and indefinitely funnier) to read her version of events than to be there in person. The confrontations with co-workers, her husband, and her dogs are the same way.

In the beginning, Lancaster’s priorities concern-

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There's no real danger or disappointment, even though both Lancaster and the patient Fletch both lose their jobs and their apartment, and only avoid moving back in with Lancaster’s parents by the skin of their teeth.

But except for the fact that *Bitter is the New Black* might get shelved in fiction instead of non-fiction, this book has almost no fault. And when you’re lying on the beach, sipping your mai tai and thumbing through the work, you can haughtily reply “It’s a biography, thank you very much” when some plebian passerby comments on your choice of chick lit.

While one is reminded of the Shopoholic novels (by Sophie Kinsella) at some points, Lancaster's situation, unlike the irrepressible Becky’s, happens to be real.

That’s the one downfall of this book, if any. Lancaster’s novel reads too much like fiction at some points, but that’s inherent in the writing, not the events themselves. (Lancaster prefaces her work with “although this memoir is based on real events in my life, I’ve taken a few liberties for..."

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**Letter to the editor: What happened to the promised extra events?**

Just about one year ago, JSU students, the faculty senate, and the JSU board of trustees were told that spending approximately one million dollars on artificial turf would enable the university to schedule “extra” events in the stadium which would generate income for the university. These events were to be other events than those which have traditionally been at the stadium: i.e., the SGA concert and high school marching band contests held during the spring, etc....

So, now that we have the new turf with a lifespan of 7(?) years, how many of these extra events have taken place and how many more are booked? Also, how much income have the extra events generated for the university? In light of the secrecy surrounding the salary of the JSU football coach, perhaps a spokesperson from the university would provide the Chanticleer with the facts and figures about the stadium in lieu of the amount of Mr. Crowe’s salary. Certainly, the stadium figures would not be a personal matter.

Thank you.

Larry Welch  
JSU Junior

Editor's note: Please see letters to the editor policies at the bottom of page 3 if you have any questions. The Chanticleer does not support nor is responsible for any opinions expressed in a letter to the editor.
Let's not hang out

By Daniel Ufford
The Chanticleer Guest Reporter

New York comedian Demetri Martin once said, "A lot of people don't like bumper stickers. I don't mind bumper stickers. To me a bumper sticker is a shortcut. It's like a little sign that says, 'Hey, let's never hang out.'" I was reminded of his quirky quote one day while driving downtown.

As I headed through the burgeoning town of Oxford, well within the speed limit, that all too familiar driver pulled out directly in front of me without even glancing in my direction. At 20 mph, I still had to bear down on my brakes to avoid a collision.

Of course, this little incident focused all of my attention on the new leader of the pack in front of me. It was an older, small pickup with a worn paint job and dents and dings abounding. I noticed that on the well-blemished bumper there was a sticker that read, "Hang up the phone and DRIVE!!"

I instantly thought, "He may have pulled out in front of me, but at least we agree about cell phones."

I'm sure we have all experienced those situations where the driver talking on the phone invariably pulls some insane maneuver that endangers themselves and others on the road. In such situations, we always immediately recognize that had their phone not distracted them, they would most definitely have avoided any such abhorrent action.

Those of you that have been there probably find my initial response to the sticker too mild, and I'm sure we have all experienced those situations, we always immediately recognize that had their phone not distracted them, they would most definitely have avoided any such abhorrent action.

But, right now, this guy is still in front of me, and I've got eight more miles on this street. His driving skills continue to violate my initial response to the sticker. On this narrow, now residential, street he weaves between the lines and into the other lane. Several cars are spooked by this erratic driving, and swerve or slow to be sure they aren't too close for comfort. I observe that his dangerous maneuvers seem to correlate with the vitality of his conversation. As my travel continues, he also seems to answer other calls as he takes the phone away from his ear, and his gaze from the road, to look at the screen and push buttons.

All this from the driver with the "Hang up the phone and DRIVE!!" sticker. Demetri, in some senses you are my hero. To my arrogant driver, "Let's never hang out." To Demetri, "I'll catch you on the flip side!"

I had gotten my hopes up and even excused a blatant foul. Yet, I was misled by an absolutely contradictory statement. Being on the road, I swallowed my astonishment to contemplate it at a later time. Such drastic irony requires contemplation.

As my gaze travels from the bumper, over the tailgate, past the empty beer cans and free floating random tools bouncing around the bed, and through the rear windshield into the cab, I observe my enlightened driver holding a cell phone to his ear and yapping away, somewhat vigorously, at the person on the other end. I am astonished. Hypocrisy is a part of everyone's life, but this is just way over the top!
J-Day shows off quarterbacks, depth for 2007

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

In a losing effort, White team honorary head coach Rusty Fuller still felt good about the game. More importantly, he felt great about the players.

"I am amazed at their attitude," said Fuller. "They've got some playmakers on this team, especially at quarterback."

Cedric Johnson and Matt Hardin stole the show during the annual J-Day game, which showcased a skilled precision passer and a scrambler making plays with his legs.

The first quarter set the tone for the rest of the game. With the Red team taking the first offensive possession, it was a chance for transfer quarterback Cedric Johnson to showcase his talent and prove why he became a Gamecock. On his first drive, Johnson did just that, finding wide receiver Taurean Rhetta in the end zone for an early 7-0 lead. Kicker Gavin Halford hit all of his attempted tries, kicking for both teams during the J-Day game.

Last year's starting quarterback Matt Hardin came out ready to defend his starting spot, and did so skillfully. From midfield, Hardin found receiver Derrick Harris, who took the catch all the way to the end zone to tie the game. Later in the second quarter, running back Shawn Green opened the gap for the Red team with a 19-yard touchdown run to put 21-7. The Red team would take their run and add another touchdown before the half when Johnson connected with Maurice Dupree in the back of the end zone for a safety. The Red team's

The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Matt didn't, they were still impressive. If anybody else has any questions, they can buy a ticket.

things are going to be changing soon in the Ohio Valley Conference. To steal a line from an old pal, in case you've been hiding under a rock for the past few weeks, the Samford Bulldogs have signed a contract with the Southern Conference to begin full conference play in 2008.

With Samford leaving the OVC, that leaves Jacksonville State without a travel partner within a reasonable distance, with Tennessee State in Nashville

the larger schools in the conference, right now they aren't up to the smaller schools in the state.

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the larger schools in the conference, right now they aren't up to the smaller schools in the state.

However, it would not take long for JSU to start getting the athletes and coaches to bring the program up.

I hate to continue throwing Troy in as an example, but their program has been very successful in their move up.

With Mississippi State being the largest school in the state, Troy
The Gamecocks (17-12, 5-4 OVC) rode another three-hit gem by junior ace Karla Pitman to a 3-2 win in a battle between two of the league’s top pitchers the opener, before a pair of home runs lifted the Golden Eagles (30-12, 8-2 OVC) to a 3-2 win in the second game.

Pitman (10-6) went toe-to-toe with reigning OVC Pitcher of the Year Bonnie Bynum and bested her, allowing two unearned runs in the seventh inning of her 14th complete game in 16 starts this season. The North Canton, Ohio, native allowed three balls out of the infield to the OVC’s top home run hitter making her changeup work and dropped her league-leading earned run average to 0.83.

Junior Alana Hicks had two of the Gamecocks’ five hits in three at bats, including a solo home run in the fourth inning that broke a scoreless tie and was JSU’s first hit of the seventh inning. She drove in a pair, thanks to an RBI single in the sixth inning.

Hicks’ blast, her fifth of the season, put JSU on the board first, before a two-run sixth had the Gamecocks’ just enough runs to pull out the win. Sophomore Jackie Jarman drove in the game’s other run with a single in the sixth. Bynum (18-8) took the loss, despite striking out nine JSU batters. She surrendered three runs on five hits in six innings of work.

TTU was able to take advantage of some Gamecock errors in the top of the seventh to plate a pair of unearned runs, but the Golden Eagles’ rally fell just short when Katie Speiser was retired on a ground out with two outs and two runners on.

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The second game of the twinbill, TTU took a 1-0 lead in the second on a solo home run from Ashley Potts. Speiser extended the lead to 3-0 in the fifth, when her two-run homer cleared the wall in center.

The Gamecocks scored one in the bottom of the fifth after a TTU fielding miscue allowed junior Rachel Fleming, who led off the inning with a walk, to advance to third after a single by freshman Crissy O’Neal. Fleming would score on a fielder’s choice by junior Nikki Prier.

Jax State threatened in the bottom of the seventh, scoring a run on an RBI single from Prier, but Hicks fouled out to third with two outs and two outs to end the rally.
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