The Inaugural Ball

A gala of all sorts

By Jaclyn Cosper
The Chanticleer Ad Director

I have to say that even politicians know how to have a good time. Over a two-day inaugural period, the Governor and his crew threw some good events.

The inauguration celebrations started with a prayer breakfast in Montgomery on Sunday morning. My father and I considered it a real treat. The breakfast began a hearty and enthusiastic welcome followed by the pledge of allegiance.

John Ed Mathison, a friend of the Rileys', followed the pledge with an invocation. He pointed out how great our beloved state was and mentioned many great accomplishments that have occurred in Alabama, such as Huntsville being the rocket capital, how the marble in the Lincoln memorial came from Sylacauga. Also, the youngest person ever to graduate from college did so at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, and Martin Luther King led the campaign for civil rights right there in Montgomery. It reminded me that despite our setbacks and downfalls, Alabama is a great state after all.

Governor Bob Riley spoke next. He listed his plans for the future, but since the next day started with the Inaugural Parade. As thousands of people lined the streets of Montgomery, the governor and his wife rode down the street, waving and smiling.

A popular event, the parade included bands from all over the state - including our own Marching Southerners. The parade also featured all other elected dignitaries.

The day continued with the actual inauguration itself. Riley gave a simple speech before his own son Rob swore his father in for his second term to office.

The day ended with the most glamorous event of them all, the Inaugural Ball.

Traditionally held in Montgomery, the event was moved to Birmingham's convention center due to renovation of the regular site. As hundreds of people filed in with their gorgeous dresses and tuxes, my brother and I felt very important. After all, it isn't every day that we get to go to something like this.

The ball had the most amazing food ever, including multiple fondue pots with dark and white chocolate, something my brother and I enjoyed greatly.

Mike Hubbard, Riley's friend and the head of his campaign, introduced the governor. Riley thanked everyone those for helping him get re-

Jessica Andrews is Miss JSU 2007

Pageant celebrates its 25th year at Jacksonville State

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Andrews was named Miss JSU 2007 at the 25th Miss JSU Pageant on Friday, Jan. 12. Held at the Leon Cole Auditorium, the pageant featured six accomplished JSU women competing for the crown. The contestants participated in several events, such as talent, evening wear, swimsuit and on-stage interview. The regular interview event, where the contestants display their knowledge of current events and individual platform issues, was held the afternoon before the pageant.

In honor of the pageant's 25th anniversary at Jacksonville State, the pageant also honored past Miss JSU titleholders. Acting as Mistresses of Ceremonies were Miss JSU 2002 Amber Reid and Miss JSU 2001 Jayme Johnson. The scholarship competition also showcased the vocal talents of Jamie Langley, Miss JSU 2005.

Both Nanci Morales and Jessica Andrews performed jazz routines. Emily Sheffield sang "The Power of Love," and Olivia Fadul deviated from the normal pageant talents and recited an original poem.

Langley sang "If My Heart Had Wings" during the evening gown competition. She then performed her signature talent of "Upon This Rock," which landed Langley in the Top 11 at the 2006 Miss Alabama Pageant.

After the introduction of the selection committee, Langley took her last walk as Miss JSU while a pre-recorded message said her goodbyes and thank-yous to all the people who helped during her reign.

The scores were still being tallied after Langley finished her walk, so Reid and Johnson entertained the audience by recalling embarrassing pageant stories.

Jessica Andrews took home the crown, and she won the swimsuit competition. Haley Arrington was 1st runner-up as well as the talent winner. Nanci Morales was 3rd runner up.

Coleman, who also competed
The SGA and Alpha Phi Alpha sponsored a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. documentary in Theron Montgomery Building Tuesday, Jan. 16. The SGA and Alpha Phi Alpha wanted to honor King and his legacy around his birthday, which was the day before. Around 50 people came to honor the man who changed American history.

Although many people know a lot of the great things King has done for the equality of mankind, a lot of unknown facts were revealed in the documentary.

“I didn’t know that he was a quarterback for Moorehouse college,” said JSU student Whitney Jones.

“I didn’t know that Dr. King was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha,” junior April Vines commented.

Students were very impressed with King’s accomplishments with his education.

“It is truly a challenge to get your college degree at the age of 16, and Dr. King did that, and he went to Boston University to earn his doctorate,” said Alpha Phi Alpha member Herbert Wilkerson.

Many of the students did not know that King’s birthday was only just recognized as a national holiday in the 1980s, almost 50 years after his death.

To help Congress pass the bill for his holiday, legendary singer Stevie Wonder rearranged the song “Happy Birthday to You” to recount many of King’s accomplishments. The song is still sung today at many of King’s remembrance programs.

It was also revealed that King was a very humble man. After receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, one of the highest awards for anyone, he gave the money from the award away to different organizations he was a part of.

Dr. King’s legacy still lives on today. His dream to have “little black girls and little black boys to one day hold hands with little white boys and little white girls” has come true.

“He was a very influential figure in the civil rights movement. His dream is demonstrated in everyday life,” said JSU student Genesa Doss. “We as black people are able to go to any church, restaurant or school we want to go to. There is still discrimination, but there is more integration.”

“Today I saw both black and white people at this documentary,” said Alpha Phi Alpha member Varian May. “To me that is a step in the right direction.”

“I came today to honor Dr. King, not only because he fought for equal rights for black people, but also paved the way for women’s rights as well,” said JSU student Kassandra Doss.

After the documentary, a member from Phi Beta Sigma recited Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech in its entirety. He received a standing ovation from the crowd.

The scholarship competition also showcased the vocal talents of Jamie Langley, Miss JSU 2006.

Five of the six songs Langley performed had a heart theme in honor of her pageant platform “Go Red: Love Your Heart,” which promotes cardiac care. Also performing was Auburn student Tyson Hall.

The on-stage interview was followed by the swimsuit event, but the highlight of the evening was the talent portion of the competition. Candace Coleman performed “Devil Went Down to Georgia” on violin, while Haley Arrington sang “Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again” from The Phantom of the Opera.


all photos by Jessica Summe

Martin Luther King Jr. documentary viewing a success

By DeShunn Johnson
The Chanticleer Ad Assistant

The men of Alpha Phi Alpha and the SGA sponsored a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. documentary in Theron Montgomery Building Tuesday, Jan. 16. The SGA and Alpha Phi Alpha wanted to honor King and his legacy around his birthday, which was the day before. Around 50 people came to honor the man who changed American history.

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all photos by Jessica Summe
**College of Arts and Sciences:**
Student Symposium will be held in Houston Cole Library on Feb. 14 and 15. To participate in the symposium, an abstract of 400 words is required. Deadline for submission is Jan. 19.
**Contact:** Jan Case, jcase@jsu.edu, 782-5119

**Zeta Tau Alpha:** ZTA would like to congratulate our beautiful sister Nanci Morales for finishing 2nd runner-up in Friday’s Miss JSU pageant.
**Contact:** Hollie Thrasher, 256-740-7858

**National Pan-Hellenic Council:**
NPHC is hosting Greek Convocation Thursday, Jan. 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the Merrill Building in room 101. There will be door prizes and refreshments. Business casual attire.
**Contact:** Eddie Banks, 256-782-5491

**Writer’s Club:** 
*Something Else* at the Writer’s Club literary journal is accepting entries until March 2. The deadline for the R.U.M. poetry contest is also March 2. Meetings are Thursdays at 4 p.m. on the 7th floor of the library.
**Contact:** Dr. Pitt Harding, pharding@jsu.edu

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**The Chanticleer Editorial Cartoon**

**Get Well JSU**

**By Bethany Harbison**
**The Chanticleer Senior Reporter**

“To be healthy, you have to both eat healthy and get moving. One just doesn’t work well without the other,” said Jacksonville State University’s Wellness Coordinator Gina Mabrey.

In an attempt to educate faculty, staff and students about the benefits and practices of healthy living, Mabrey, in collaboration with the Campus Wellness Committee, has launched the Get Well JSU campaign. The core of this campaign is comprised of Wellness Wednesdays, a new monthly event located in Jack Hopper Dining Hall (also known as The Caf).

Last Wednesday, Jan. 10, was the first of these events. Faculty, staff and students were offered a healthy-choice lunch line located on the right side of the cafeteria beginning at 11:30 a.m. Following lunch, Gina Mabrey shared a short presentation that emphasized the importance of making healthy choices every day.

“The more often you make healthy choices, the healthier you will be,” said Mabrey. She explained that while no one is going to live perfectly every day, each healthy choice can make a difference in your well-being.

Mabrey also addressed the timely issue of New Year’s resolutions. She said that while many people make New Year’s resolutions each year, many of them fail because their goals are either too vague or too overwhelming.

“Be specific and set the odds in your favor. Aim to do something that you know you can do,” said Mabrey.

She gave participants a 90-day calendar that provides individuals with a way to keep track of their daily successes in their attempts to develop healthy habits.

After Mabrey’s presentation, participants went on a 15-minute walk that aimed to promote healthy habits from an exercise standpoint. Participants also had the opportunity to fill out a survey to provide feedback.

Next, on Mar. 14, the theme will be “Eat Well to Live Well,” when participants will learn how to develop good eating habits to decrease the risks of diseases such as diabetes and cancer. “Trample Obesity” is the designated theme for April 11. Mabrey will help participants find ways to get in the doctor-recommended amount of 10,000 steps per day. Information will also be provided about the number of steps between various academic buildings on campus.

On May 9, the presentation will address the topic of hypertension and is appropriately named “Halt Hypertension.” Participants will learn ways to decrease high blood pressure.

Although Wellness Wednesdays are currently the main part of the Get Well JSU campaign, other plans are in the works.

“Our hope is to basically bring awareness to our campus about making healthy choices,” said Mabrey. “We want to make people conscious of the decisions that they make on a daily basis about their health.”

Another way that the Campus Wellness Committee hopes to accomplish this is by working with the cafeteria to provide a healthier menu. They also hope to eventually provide the nutritional information for every food item served in Jack Hopper Dining Hall.

Mabrey hopes to see the Get Well JSU campaign stretch beyond our campus.

“Eventually, we would like to see it become Get Well Jacksonville Community, then Get Well East Alabama, and then maybe...”

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**Announcements**

**Be a star every Monday night**

**By Chris Yow**
**The Chanticleer Web Editor**

So you think you can play guitar and sing? Now every Monday night, you can prove that to all of Jacksonville.

Open Mic Night at Brother’s Bar is up and running once again at the local establishment, and it promises to be a hot spot for local talent.

“I’ve seen the potential of this, and I think that it can be one of the staples to making Jacksonville the college town it was in the past. The ideal purpose of Open Mic Night is to give young bands the chance to get their name into the local community and maybe even get a show,” said Rose. “If a band shows that they’re good, they will be rock the stage. Rose and Fuller want the Monday and Tuesday night crowds to be as big as the weekend crowds, and they hope to accomplish this by charging a small fee. The money from these charges will be used to pay for the equipment needed for the performances.

On most nights there will be a drum set available. “We are trying to get general equipment for everyone to use, like guitar stands, guitars and drums,” said Fuller. After you sign up on the list, you simply wait your turn and then rock the stage.

If you can play, you can sign up at the Chanticleer Office. The last Mic Night was open to band members only, but on Jan. 14, the Chanticleer Office will be hosting an Open Mic Night for anyone to perform.

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**Campus Crime**

**Jan. 11**

Robin Colvin reported harassment at Sparkman Hall.

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**The Chanticleer Web Editor**

**Jeff Fuller (left) and Patrick Rose bring back Open Mic Night at Brother’s Bar.**

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**Get Well JSU Web Editor**

**The Chanticleer Senior Reporter**

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**The Chanticleer Announcements Policy:**
Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed, and are limited to 50 words. Submissions must include contact information. Information must not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in room 100, Self Hall, or emailed to Chanticleer_news@yahoo.com by 12 noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit submissions for style, brevity, and clarity.
Robin Colvin reported harassment at Sparkman Hall.

Jan. 13

Samantha Thornton reported harassment at Pannell Hall.

Jan. 16

Jan Pursley reported harassing communications on facebook.com
to making Jacksonville the college town it was in the 90s,” said Jeff Fuller, operator of Open Mic Night. Patrick Rose, a Sigma Nu member, is the new manager of Brother’s Bar. He was very much in favor of bringing back Open Mic Night.

If your band has never played a show, Open Mic Night is the perfect opportunity to play in front of a decent crowd and get the butterflies out of your system. They are capable of doing a show, we may offer them a Tuesday night gig.”

That’s not to say that if you aren’t asked that you aren’t good. Tuesday nights are filling up very quickly with local acts.

It is very simple to get on the lineup for Monday nights. Just show up with your songs and a guitar. Amplifiers and microphones are provided, and

Delta Sigma Thetas start off new semester with good works

By DeShunn Johnson
The Chanticleer Ad Assistant

Last week Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. celebrated the first full week of school with their Spring 2007 Delta Week.

On Monday, the Deltas hosted a Back-to-School mixer at the TMB. Students came out in droves for the official first party of the school year.

The sorority also gave back to the community throughout their week, smashing the popular theory that all sororities’ and fraternities do is party. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Deltas collected school supplies for Anniston schools.

“I’m from Anniston, I know what it is like to go to school there”, said Delta Sigma Theta member Kia English. “Anything helps, whether it is school supplies, tutoring, or just extra love.”

On Wednesday, they hosted a Dating Game. The game involved a girl who was blindfolded so she could not see the contestants. The audience helped decide who her date would be.

“The game was really cool,” said JSU student Valencia Cantrell. “They had refreshments on sale.”

On Thursday, the Deltas raised money for their project in Africa. They sponsor Merry Help of the Sick Hospital, which is an international project to help African mothers with prenatal care.

On Friday, the Deltas supported political awareness by hosting a table in the TMB for voter registration.

Overall, Delta Week was a huge success, raising money and school supplies for the community as well as providing an optimistic beginning to the new semester.

Jeff Fuller (left) and Patrick Rose bring back Open Mic Night at Brother’s Bar.

Days with these strategies, there is a good possibility of increased crowds on weekdays.

If this past Monday is any indication of how it will be in the future, get up and go. With jam-band Phish and Garth Brooks covers and some surprisingly good original music, it is well worth the trip around the square to hear your fellow students and support local live music.

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'Hey Man, Nice Shot'

By Jonathan Pennington
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

So you think you know the meaning of fear? According to Monolith Productions, it isn't that human emotion that can cause someone to scream until he or she is hoarse. FEAR is the acronym for First Encounter Assault Recon. This is an outstanding first person shooter.

Originally a PC game, FEAR was released as a port for the Xbox 360 and PS3. The gameplay is great for a port. However, the luxury of a mouse and keyboard is missed when accuracy is especially necessary. I came across occasional combat moments when I knew I could have killed an enemy soldier quicker with a mouse. That detail itself is not drastic enough to say this game is anything less than great on the Xbox 360.

The artificial intelligence on this game is mind-blowing. Your enemies know how to strafe, jump over walls and hide behind cover. Their combat decisions during a fight are equally impressive. I played through the game on moderate difficulty. You can set the difficulty to low, moderate, hard, or extreme. Using moderate difficulty, their artificial intelligence is stunning.

If you attempt to slay FEAR the commander of the army of telepathically controlled cloned soldiers.

Throughout the game, you find yourself in various locations in pursuit of Fettel. The locations include a water treatment facility, national arms manufacturers' corporate offices, city streets, parking garages, sewers and rooftops.

You must kill off enemy patrols with a nice arsenal of weapons. Shotguns, pistols, submachine guns and some fictional weapons are at your disposal. The fictional weapons include a particle beam cannon which zooms like a sniper rifle but fires a beam of high voltage electricity.

The game makes a nice attempt at being horrific, but I was able to make it through the game without a single jump scare. Occasionally, you will see your commander of the army through the glass, and that is a pretty alarming detail. However, I could not call it truly scary. When I played, I found myself thinking of other bodily functions more than anything else.

The game is a thrilling ride with a great deal of detail that reveal storyline. You'll see a creepy little girl who appears in creepy environments. Additionally, you will see your main enemy Paxton Fettel, a port. However, this game is mind-blowing.

Xbox 360 allows a player to plug in their iPod and play to their own music.

'Money isn't everything'

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer Web Editor

Local bands are in excess around Jacksonville State, with some successful and others not so much.

One of the more successful and well-known bands is Derk and Elvis. Playing locally at Brother's Bar as well as in Anniston, Derk and Elvis have acquired a pretty sizable following.

Band members are guitarist and singer Mike Holman, Casey Maddox on drums and Muddy on bass. Holman and Muddy went to high school together in Lineville. Maddox joined the band just recently.

Holman, the only current student at JSU, is in his first semester, while Maddox is a member of the exercise science department.

Derk and Elvis may sound like a random and oddball name for a band, and in fact, it is just that. How the band got their name is featured in a blog on myspace.com.

"We were on our way to practice with the band we were in at the time out in Chandler Springs...Muddy and I were both letting our hair grow out for some reason. My hair was rather wind blown, and Muddy's was long and curly, almost like a perm. Our guitarist at the time was sitting on his porch...as we step out of the car he says, 'You guys look like Derk and Elvis'!"

One of us looked at the other and said, 'That would be a cool name for a band.' Five years later, I moved up to Jacksonville from Biloxi and started playing with Muddy again...One day we were sitting around trying to figure out what to call the band and one of us said, 'Well, what about Derk and Elvis?' The rest is pretty much history," explained Holman.

If you are wondering what to expect when you watch Derk and Elvis, random and oddball definitely summarize this group.

"We do some covers, some originals. Whatever we are feeling," said Holman, "we just go off." Fans watching the show this past Tuesday at Brother's gave them rave reviews. One fan said that they were "having a lot of fun, these guys rock!"

Another more sober fan called them "fun and definitely worth seeing."

The great mixture of comedy, covers and punk-rock originals really kept the crowd into the band. Along with the comedy of Holman, Muddy jumped in with funny one-liners.

The covers went from "Margaritaville" to "Since You've Been Gone" Tuesday night at Brother's Bar.

Maddox shows the crowd his skills on the drums Tuesday night at Brother's Bar.

"That detail itself is not drastic enough to say this game is mind-blowing."
difficulty, their artificial intelligence is stunning. If you attempt to play FEAR on extreme, you'd better be a veteran first-person shooter gamer. I tried to play through some maps on extreme and gave up after less than ten minutes. The enemies on extreme difficulty have artificial intelligence and accuracy that are impressive. I played the game online and played against the smartest and most accurate opponents I have ever faced.

One moment for me was activating slow motion while pumping my shotgun. His body flew back, and it looked as though his body was broken out of their shell as a Christian rock band into a mainstream band with the sound of today's changes. Switchfoot's newest sound is that of a thumping bass line and a hardcore rock sound. Switchfoot could possibly be competition for bands like The Killers and Fall Out Boy.

Oh! Gravity has an edgy vibe like U2. Some of their lyrics are mellow like that of their last album, The Beautiful Letdown. In their opening song, "Oh! Gravity," the lyrics don't quite make sense but are still very catchy as that in the opening lines. "There's a fracture in the color bar in the backseat of a parked car/ by the liquor store where the street light's keeping you company 'til the next night."

One of their best songs, "Amateur Lovers" would seem like your ordinary love song but with a twist. This song refers to love as drugs and that of a common cold. Their lyrics are pretty entertaining but nothing like their last album. When first listening to this album, I was thinking, "This sounds nothing like Switchfoot's last album." It seemed they could not be compared because they were two totally different worlds. Then I came across the song, "In This Life."

"In This Life" reminds me of "Dare You to Move" because the lyrics are alike and the beat is also. It's a song about life, love and making a move. The beat is mellow and charismatic. "In this life, you're the one place I call home/ in this life, you're the feeling I belong/ in this life, you're the flower and the thorn."

"In This Life" has powerful lyrics and just gives you a good feeling about love. Most of the songs on this album are about love, dreams and just being yourself.

There are a lot of pros and cons to this album. The pros would be the original lyrics, some written by the band's lead singer Jon Foreman. The songs recommended to listen to would be "Dirty Second Hands" and "In This Life." The cons to this album are the confusing lyrics that catch you off guard and the new sound. "4:12" is not one of the best songs on this album.

Oh! Gravity by Switchfoot has catchy lyrics, a great sound and a new tone. If you liked the sound of their last album, The Beautiful Letdown, then you might not like this new sound. The band has come around from their last, and they are keeping up with the mainstream sound like The Killers and U2.

The Chanticleer rates this album (out of five gamecocks):
Day in the Life: Matt Morgan
Intern “Gump” for Rick & Bubba

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer - Features Editor

For everyone, there is a calling. That notion in life that tells you that you are on the right track, have chosen the right field and are truly doing what you are good at. For Forrest Gump, it was ping-pong, or loving Jenny, or running a shrimp-picking boat, or it could even be running. But for another “Gump,” senior communications major Matt Morgan, that calling is entertainment.

“In everything I do, I love to entertain people. Whether it is on the radio or maybe even television, I just want to make people happy,” said Morgan.

Currently in Morgan’s final chapter of his college years, his passion led him to a prestigious internship for the Rick and Bubba radio show. Airing on WZZK 104.7, the Rick and Bubba show is live on-air from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

JSU alumni Rick Burgess and Bill “Bubba” Bussey, otherwise known to their listeners as “the two sexiest fat men alive,” first formed a friendship while working together at the Jacksonville State University radio station, WLJS 92J.

Since establishing the Rick and Bubba show, the duo has introduced numerous interns into the exciting life of being an on-air personality. One of show’s standing rituals is the nicknaming of the interns at the beginning of their term.

Morgan was given the nickname “Forrest Gump” only to be shortened to “Gump” later on.

“There were some really cool nicknames that they were considering... until they found out that I ran cross-country for JSU from an old intern of the show. After that, it was settled,” sighed Morgan.

Other names that were considered were “Mattquest” (due to the fact Morgan had to Map quest directions to get to the studio), “Genesis” (because he was the first intern since the move to WZZK 104.7 from Y 94.5, which happened earlier this month), and “10k”/“Spike” (also for running cross-country).

Following a suggestion from his mom, Morgan spoke to Don Killingsworth about the internship, who then e-mailed his friend “Speedracer” (Calvin Wilburn), who in turn contacted Morgan, who then spoke with “Don Juan” (DeMarco), who set up the interview. Did you get all that?

To explain a little more, “Speedracer” is the full-time producer of the show and a former Program Director of 92J. “Don Juan,” who started out as an intern, is the assistant producer and is in charge of the interns for the Rick and Bubba show.

“Getting this internship has been great! I’m not only getting hands-on experience, but I am also getting to see how only two people entertain thousands of listeners,” said Morgan.

“At first, I was really intimidated to be around Rick and Bubba. But now, I love it. One thing about them is that whatever we get to do, they do not act like they are better than anyone and it makes you feel really comfortable around them.”

Although Morgan was the first intern to start this term off, he definitely was not the last. He has been joined by “Darth Banker,” “Flipper” and “Roller Coaster.”

Enjoying every minute he gets to be there, Morgan gets to the studio at 5:45 a.m. to help set everything up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The interns’ responsibilities include answering the phones (a.k.a. screening calls), running the professional editing machine and getting to “drop the satellite,” which really means ending syndication for the show.

“All of the interns are starting to mold together, and I think we are anxious to start learning more. It is already a fun atmosphere. I want the interns to do something. Maybe we have a project all of our own. I am really looking forward to whatever we get to do,” said Morgan.

Originally planning on attending JSU as a Marching Southerner, Morgan changed his mind at the last minute after placing high in the cross-country state tournament. Most people are unaware that from seventh to twelfth grade, Morgan was active in the Weaver High School Band; playing both the trumpet and the french horn.

When he received a scholarship offer to run cross-country at JSU, he jumped at it, literally. After running all through college, Morgan has nothing but fond memories (and tired feet) to leave behind.

As graduation looms at the end of the semester, Morgan is still unsure what road his life is about to take. Graduate school is an option, but another possibility hovering in the distance is attending classes at the Memphis Improvisational Theater.

Many famous actors have trained in improv, and since a huge dream of Morgan’s is to someday be on Saturday Night Live, Memphis would be the perfect place.

“I would love to be a part of SNL! I have always wanted to work on that show,” said Morgan. “I think if I could make it that far, I could die complete.”

Well Matt Morgan, as Momma Gump always said, “Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you’re gonna get.”
Sentimental Journey: the Today show at 55

By Brandon Hollingsworth
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

“Dear, here we are, and good morning to you—the very first good morning of what I hope and suspect will be the very best good mornings of all time. It is simply this: to be able to watch television.”

—Dave Garroway

Thus spoke the Master Communicator on a frigid Monday morning in January 1952. Today was indeed something new, and though at first almost no one but Garroway called it “revolutionary,” it soon became clear that morning news was one of the most significant inventions of the still-young television era. On that first morning Dave Garroway, announcer Jack Lescoulie and news anchor Jim Fleming introduced the awakening nation to a brand new kind of television, one in which the information then available could be brought to the viewer in real-time.

Newspapers were flown in and faxed in from all over the nation. Phone lines connected Dave with reporters in London and Frankfurt. Clocks displayed the time for most major cities of the world. Chattering teletype machines churned out the latest news. And yet, relatively nothing happened. It was a slow news day, and not much to show for all the gadgets at the staff’s disposal.

Critics and viewers were less than impressed.

A lot of things went wrong on that first episode. Except for a few bewildered people who stopped by the huge glass windows that walled the studio, hardly anybody watched, at least at first. For the first several months, this new combination of news, weather, information and entertainment—at seven AM, no less!—snuck in under the radar, arousing little in the way of publicity outside of newspaper columns and trade journals.

But where it snuck—that was the important part.

Into living rooms and kitchens, bedrooms and dens; slowly but surely more and more people were getting up to see Garroway, Lescoulie, Fleming and a strange chimp named J. Fred Muggs. Children missed school buses. Men ran late for work. People started moving mirrors in front of their TVs so they could watch from other rooms. Oth ers would listen carefully, so that when something piqued their interest they could run into the next room to see it. One letter-writer said she had a special stand built so she could watch from bed. One boy, interviewed by Garroway himself outside the studio in July 1953, said, “It gets boring the second hour, because you repeat everything.”

Pat Weaver sent out a memo in December 1951 outlining the goals for his new experiment. He ended with a grand burst of energy palpable from the typewritten paper: “I have a commission for each one of you. It is simply this: to make of Today not merely a good program but the finest news presentation in history. We have the resources. We have the opportunity. Now we go to work and do the big job.”

Today changed America. Strange thing to say, you might think. But it did: it changed the way we view television, sure, but it also roved the world looking for fascinating stories. From a dead-end hour of the day to the go-to place for news first thing in the morning, Today transformed the role TV played in our lives and the places it could go.

To Paris in 1959, Rome in 1960, Athens in 1965 and Africa in 1969; to car shows and technology expos; on ships and airplanes; with newsmakers and world leaders; everywhere there was a story, Today went, and took viewers right along with it. From Garroway to John Chancellor and through Hugh Downs and Tom Brokaw and Jane Pauley to Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira, Today has indeed taken viewers around the world to find the most fascinating people, places and events that shape our lives. Today has provided the running commentary and record of our world these past fifty-five years.

By default of my birth year, I’m among the newer Today fans. Even so, we’ll be able to tell our descendants about the wonders we saw via our electronic window on the world. I’ve seen more in my life than would otherwise be possible, and through this program I’ve traveled around the world, met people I’d never get to meet, seen events I’d never get to see, and I’ve learned things I’d otherwise never get to learn.

Dave Garroway articulated that notion on the very first day. “We hope to keep you more free, more informed. Because I believe, as I hope you do, that an informed people tends to be a free people.”

He was absolutely right. Here’s to the next fifty-five years of Today and the promise they bring.
From Staff Reports

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. -- Despite a furious comeback in the opening minutes of the second half, the Jacksonville State University (4-12, 1-6 OVC) women's basketball team couldn't overcome an early 20 point deficit and lost its third straight game to Tennessee Tech (4-12, 3-4 OVC) Thursday night, falling 85-73 at the Eblen Center.

Tech carried a 44-28 lead into the break, but JSU came out of the half and played inspired basketball. Led by Jolie Efezokhae's 17 second half points, the Gamecocks opened the half on a 12-5 run and closed the gap to just eight points. LaTonya McKinney's running jumper in the lane with 16:20 left cut the Tech lead to 48-38. McKinney then stole the inbounds pass and dished to Efezokhae, who finished the play to within 48-40. After a defensive stop, JSU created an open look for Efezokhae under the basket, but she missed the layup that would have made it a two possession game.

Out of the media time-out, Tech stretched the lead back to 12 and JSU never drew closer than eight points the rest of the game.

Efezokhae finished with 19 points, her highest output since scoring 22 vs. Georgia State on November 25, and seven rebounds. Junior Courtney Slaughter ended with 15 points, her 10th double digit scoring effort of the season, and a career-high seven assists. Nine different Gamecocks scored in the game and JSU's 22 assists was a season-high.

JSU shot 46 percent from the floor on the evening, six points higher than its season average, but had its worst performance of the season from behind the 3-point line hitting just three of 19 shots.

Tech took control of the game early in the opening half and maintained a large lead throughout the remainder of the half. On the strength of a 24-4 run, the Eagles jumped out to a 29-9 lead with 11:50 to play in the first half. During the run, Tech knocked down four 3-point shots and scored on 10 of its 13 possessions.

Tech won the rebounding edge in the game 42-33 and it's 15 offensive boards led to 14 second chance points. Cara Reed had a game-high 12 rebounds.

Kendall Cavin led all scorers with 20 points for the Eagles. Three of her six made baskets were 3-pointers. Meagan Lyons had 15 points, Blair Bowens finished with 14 and Marissa Hensley had 11.

JSU will play its third consecutive road game on Saturday at Tennessee State. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. and the game will be available on the JSU Sports Network.

Photo By Chris Lundy

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Gamecocks edge Tennessee State

From Staff Reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Sophomore guard rebounds. Sophomore Ashley Boykin, who was instrumental in a pair of key JSU runs finished with 17 points on a 5-of-6 shooting
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Sophomore guard LaTonya McKinney sank her third and final free throw with four seconds remaining Saturday night to lift Jacksonville State (5-12, 2-6 OVC) over Tennessee State 69-68.

McKinney got to the foul line after she was fouled by TSU’s Jheri Booker while shooting a 3-pointer from the right wing as the shot clock wound down. With McKinney at the line, JSU had the opportunity to take a three-point lead and assure itself of nothing less than overtime. But McKinney missed her first two free throws before making the third.

“LaTonya has been struggling with her shot over the last few games,” JSU head coach Becky Geyer said, “but I was confident that she’d make the third one.” She’s a good shooter and good shooters rarely miss three straight free throws.”

TSU’s attempt to win the game was thwarted when Eren McMichael knocked the ball away at midcourt.

“It’s nice to pull out a win on the road, especially a conference win,” Geyer said. “Hopefully this will help give us a little more confidence heading into the rest of our schedule.”

JSU jumped out to as much as a 12-point lead in the first half, but the Lady Tigers stormed back and evened the game at 32-32 heading into the break. Neither team built much of a lead in the second half and it was clear heading into the final minutes that the game would come down to the wire.

The Gamecocks carried a two-point lead into the final minute of play, but a tipped rebound off a missed Courtney Slaughter layup led to a transition bucket for TSU and the seventh tie of the game with 1:01 left. The Gamecocks then inbounded the ball and milked the clock as much as possible before taking a shot that rimmed out. But Jolie Efezokhae tipped the rebound and kept the ball alive for JSU, who took possession of the ball with 34 seconds to play and a four-second differential on the shot clock.

Out of a timeout, McKinney created an open look on the right wing that resulted in the foul and the eventual game-winning free throw.

McKinney finished the game with nine points and five assists, but was just 2-of-6 from the free throw line.

Slaughter led the Gamecocks in scoring with 20 points, eclipsing the 20-point mark for the third time this season. She also had six rebounds. Sophomore Ashley Boykin, who was instrumental in a pair of key JSU runs finished with 17 points on a 5-of-6 shooting performance from behind the 3-point line. Efezokhae finished with 11 points and six rebounds and Ashley Clay hauled in seven big rebounds.

Both teams got out to a slow start. A combined nine points were scored in the game’s first five minutes. But the Gamecocks took control of the game following the first media timeout. Sparked by consecutive 3-pointers from Eren McMichael and Ashley Boykin, JSU went on a 17-6 run and took a 21-11 lead with 8:23 remaining in the half.

The JSU lead fluctuated between 12 to 10 points until the 2:51 mark of the half when McMichael committed JSU’s seventh team foul and put the Tigers in the bonus. TSU then scored nine consecutive points from the free throw line to tie the game at 30-30. Both teams added a basket before the half and went into the locker room tied.

In the second half, TSU took its largest lead of the game at 43-39 with 14:41 remaining. But the lead quickly evaporated after Ashley Boykin hit treys on three consecutive trips down the floor and helped spark the Gamecocks to a 15-4 run and a seven-point lead.

JSU’s defense limited the Lady Tigers to just 39 percent shooting the game, thanks in large part to TSU’s ability to connect on just 26 percent of its shots in the first half. The Lady Tigers were an unconscious 54 percent in the second half, but were just 2-of-9 from the free throw line. The Gamecocks countered by shooting 50 percent from the field itself in the second half, including four crucial 3-point buckets.
LaPlante, Gamecocks fall twice, look ahead to EKU and Morehead

TSU outlasts Gamecocks

From Staff Reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee State’s Reiley Ervin scored a career-high 29 points and was 15-of-16 from the free throw line to lift the Tigers to an 83-74 win over the Jacksonville State men’s basketball team at the Gentry Center on Saturday night.

Senior guard Nick Smith scored a career-high 18 points to lead the Gamecocks (3-14, 1-7 Ohio Valley Conference), 16 points in the second half, but the Tigers (7-9, 4-3 OVC) wouldn’t let a late JSU charge come to pass. TSU knocked down 20-of-25 free throw attempts in the second half alone to hold off a JSU comeback attempt.

After shooting just 29 percent from the floor in the first half en route to an 11-point halftime deficit, the Gamecocks heated up in the second half. They shot 60 percent from the floor and were 5-for-10 from behind the arc, but TSU did just enough to complement its free throw shooting to pull out the win.

Junior Harold Crow was the only other JSU player to score in double figures, scoring 15 points, all in the second half, on 7-of-8 shooting from the floor. The Lubbock, Texas native has connected on 20 of his last 25 shots from the floor, dating back to Jan. 4.

Ervin led five Tigers in double figures in the scoring column. Moraye Ivy and Clarence Matthews each scored 13 points, while Larry Turner and Andrae Belton each added 10 points.

The Tigers won the battle on the boards, 39-33, but used 17 offensive rebounds to get 14 second-chance points on the game.

The first 20 minutes were ugly on both sides of the court, but it was JSU on the short end of a 31-20 halftime score. The Gamecocks struggled to find the bucket, hitting just 7-of-24 (.292) shots from the floor. The Tigers were 10-for-34 (.294) from the field but grabbed 25 rebounds to JSU’s 18 and secured 11 boards on the offensive glass. They also had 8-for-10 from the charity stripe, while JSU struggled from the line, making just 5-of-11 attempts.

Ervin led all scorers in the first half with nine points, while senior Courtney Bradley led the Gamecocks with six points.

The Tigers matched the Gamecocks’ hot hand for much of the second half, building the lead to as many as 13 but never fewer than four. Behind a string of seven-straight points from Smith, Jax State made a late charge. Trailing 77-72 with just over a minute to play, sophomore DeAndre Bray swiped the ball from Ervin’s hands and dished it to Smith under the bucket. He lost the handle on the ball, leading to a TSU free throw and negating a chance to cut the lead to four.

JSU couldn’t drop the late attempts as time wound down and the Tigers converted from the stripe to seal the win.

Jacksonville State comes home for just his second time since Dec. 9 on Thursday, when the Gamecocks host Eastern Kentucky at 7:30 p.m. in another OVC match up. The game will be broadcast live on the JSU Sports Network with Mike Parris calling the action.

JSU falls at Tech

From Staff Reports

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Career highs from junior Will Ginn and senior Nick Smith weren’t enough for the Jacksonville State men’s basketball team on Thursday night, when Tennessee Tech handed the Gamecocks a 75-71 defeat in Ohio Valley Conference action.

Ginn tied his career high and led all scorers with 20 points on 6-for-11 shooting from behind the arc, while Smith added a career-best 15 points in 20 minutes of action, but it was the Tigers who were the beneficiaries of the outcome.

Ervin led all scorers in the second half with nine points, used 17 offensive rebounds in 20 minutes of action, and dished it to Smith from behind the arc, while Smith added a career-best 15 points in 20 minutes of action, but it was the Tigers who were the beneficiaries of the outcome.

Junior Dorian Brown scored 13 points on the night, thanks to a 7-for-10 night from the charity stripe. Harold Crow led the Gamecocks on the glass with seven rebounds, while Brown added six boards.

Amadi McKenzie led TTU on the glass with seven boards and had 15 points, making him one of four Golden Eagles in double figures. Anthony Fisher scored 16 points, and Jonathan Jones added 10 points.

It was all Tennessee Tech for the first 14 minutes of the game, as the Golden Eagles came out on fire and led by as many as 13 at one point in the first half.

Ginn’s eight-straight points, including a 6-for-11 showing from the stripe to seal the win. The Gamecocks adjusted, however, thanks to Ginn’s hot hand.

The guard knocked down three of his four first-half treys in the final minutes. His last of the half came at the horn, capping a 16-2 Jax State run and giving the Gamecocks a 34-33 advantage at the intermission. He led all scorers with 12 points in the final 20 minutes, while Rivers led Tech with 11 points.

The two exchanged the lead 11 times in the second half and tied the score nine times in the second half before TTU went to the line and created some separation.

The Gamecocks will now move about 80 miles west to Nashville, where they will face Tennessee State on Saturday night. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m., and the game will be carried live on the JSU Sports Network.
Underclassmen taking over in '07

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

With the upcoming 2007 draft, many analyst and sports critics predict "The year of the Underclassmen" will take effect during the first 10-15 selections. And with rising superstars from last year's draft like Vince Young, Reggie Bush, and Devin Hester, why not go for the young bucks?

Many questions arise in the board room when an organization's personnel get together to decide on their pick: "Do we want to go offensive or defensive?" "What is the salary cap looking like?" "Why should we invest the time and money into this player over the next five to six years?" These questions are heavily weighed over the course of the football combine, invitational bowl games, and the players ability to adapt the next level. Based on this year's draft class, which has a multitude of superstar, sleeper, and "what the hell were you thinking" athletes, the 2007 NFL draft class should be one of many classes heralded as one of the greatest to grind it out on the turf.

We will start with the seniors, who have the experience to be at the next level and have the power to change any team they are drafted by. For example, Brady Quinn, who finished the season on a low note, getting hammered by the Louisiana State University Tigers 41-14, but had a remarkable 146.66 passer rating. In my book, that's pretty good, but I still question his arm strength. Looking at it, he would be a great fit for the Cleveland Browns, who are coached by Weis' former colleague Romeo Crennel. The system is pretty much the same, so Quinn would not have a problem fitting in.

This year's underrated team has one of the most underrated quarterbacks in Wisconsin's John Stocco. Finishing second in passer rating in the Big Ten (143.90), his size and ability to see the field makes him a top prospect. I'm sure a lot of critics are anxious to see how he separates himself in the combine, but I do not see the combine standing in his way. Expect Mr. Stocco to make an impact in the NFL and the stats of his wide receivers.

The Big Ten produced some favorable candidates this season, especially in the underclass ranks, like Ohio State wide receiver Ted Ginn, Jr. The burst of speed down the sideline against the Gators gave him a quick boost to the top of the draft day order. Ginn finished with 781 receiving yards on the season, and while he sprained his ankle on the opening play, he may sprain some defensive ankles on a few stop-n-go routes on his way to a touchdown.

Ginn's talent certainly puts up a fight with another heavy contender in the underclassmen category. Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson can climb the athletic ladder just about anywhere on the field. Just throw the ball in his direction and he will make something happen. His athleticism earned him 1,202 receiving yards on the season, placing him on the top of the Atlantic Coast Conference list and making him the only 1,000 yard receiver in the conference. Standing at six-foot, four-inches tall, his talent should land him in the top five of the '07 draft class.

No one can forget what JaMarcus Russell has done for LSU. With what was basically a home game for the Tigers, his 334-yard performance might have jumped him to the top of the draft. His Incredible Hulk size and scrambling ability will put him in some heavy talks with the top three draft teams.

While the exposed players have the limelight, there are the so-called "sleeper" athletes gain attention during the middle of the season. Like Marques Colston, who was the sixth round draft pick, but a made a huge Hofstra splash in the NFL. I can see a player like Houston's Kevin Kolb going in the third round, but with a 162.72 passer rating and airing it out for over 3,800 yards, I would not be surprised if he popped up in the first round.

The same goes for Florida safety Reggie Nelson, who made a monster impact for the Gator defense. Racking up 51 tackles (34 of them solo) and six interceptions on the season speaks volumes in the Southeastern Conference. With Nelson on the defensive side of the ball, he will be a nightmare to quarterbacks and receivers for seasons to come.

There are a number of unspoken athletes who have a great amount of potential in this year's draft, but for the sake of boring my readers, I will leave out names like Sidney Rice of South Carolina, Dwayne Jarrett of Southern California, Jared Zabransky of Boise State and Michael Bush of Louisville. However, while all of these things are taken into consideration, and my judgments are a mixture of opinion and fact, one thing remains true throughout this whole ordeal...Oakland is on the clock.

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