



You know you want one.
What you can do to help, page 4.

THE CHANTICLEER



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March 29, 2007

Jacksonville State University

Volume 55, Issue 24

Grateful



to be



Greek

By Jessica Summe
The Chanticleer Editor-in-Chief

Greek Week is here! The 70s-themed events, held by JSU fraternities and sororities, included a variety of activities.

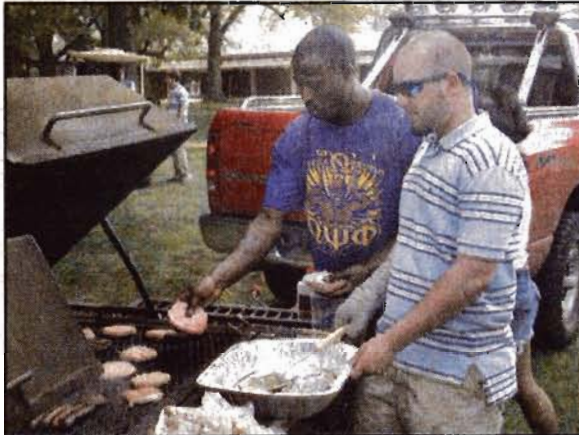
The week started off with the Greek Olympics on Sunday, March 25. Events such as "Name That Tune," "Hula-Hoop" and "Messy Tug-O-War" were held, along with the ever-popular "Wet and Wild Dodgeball."

On Monday, the Greeks sponsored a Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day and held a Block Party on the Quad, which included a barbeque for the lucky faculty and staff. Monday was also the launching day for the Penny Drop held on the fourth floor of the TMB during the week. All proceeds from the Penny Drop benefit the American Heart Association. There was also a Greek Mixer on the TMB lawn Monday evening.

Tuesday night had the Greeks gathering at the Roundhouse for the Greek Talent Show, which consisted of five humorous lip-synching dancing teams as well as Pie for a Pie in which JSU students bought raffle tickets for a chance to have someone of their choosing get a whipped-cream pie in the face. Ticket sales also benefited the American Heart Association.

The judges for the Talent Show were SGA President-Elect David Jennings, JSU Residence Life Coordinator Andrea Pruitt and Aaron Rush, who works for the Department of University Housing and Residence Life.

Third place in the Talent Show was Team Five, a group of students from Alpha Xi, Delta Chi, Alpha Phi Alpha and Zeta



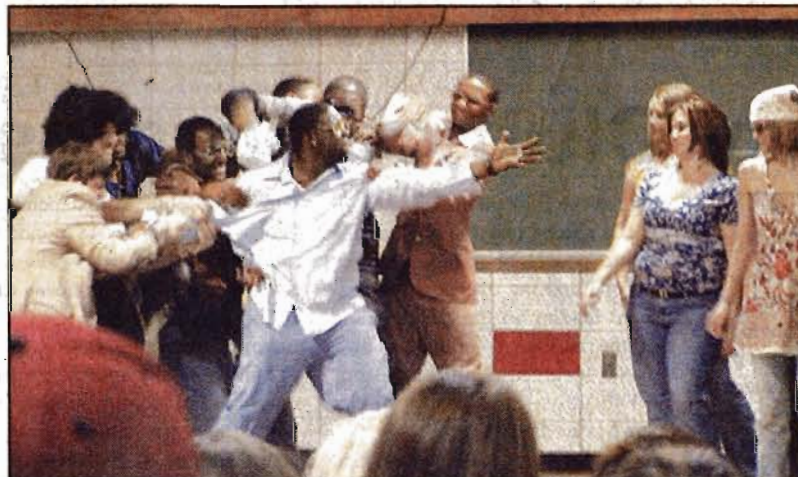
Phi Beta. The group danced to a medley of "That's the Way I Like It" and "Wild Thing."

Second place went to Team Two who performed to a series of popular 70s songs. Team Two was made up of Greeks from Delta Zeta, Phi Beta Sigma and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Team Four won first place. Dancing to "Ladies' Night" were students from Phi Mu, Pi Kappa Phi and Delta Sigma Theta.

On Wednesday, the Greeks will hold an Anti-Hazing Skit at the Leone Cole Auditorium at 7 p.m. However, Penny Drop and the colorful Faculty and Staff Appreciation Banners will stay up for the entirety of the week.

On April 3, there will be an Awards Banquet for all Greek Organizations that participated in Greek Week.



Top Left: Greeks prepare a meal for faculty and staff on the Quad on Monday.

Top Center: Jessica Jensen gets pied by Brett Smith. "I'm like a cobra, I'll get him," said Jensen.

Top right: Genesa Doss (in green) is about to win the Hula Hoop event at the Greek Olympics.

Center: Tug-of-War!

Bottom left: A member of Team Two is held back by his brothers during the Greek Talent Show.

Spring Fling more than just a concert

School to feature spring sports much like Homecoming features football

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

In mathematics, teachers explain that the main concept of a fraction is a part of a whole. Without any part of the fraction, nothing exist.

The city of Jacksonville and Calhoun County rely heavily on the part of the fraction known as Jacksonville State University, and JSU does the same when it comes to the other two, respectively. With this weekend's inaugural Spring Fling event, mathematics is sure to be applied as the city, county and university enjoy the benefits of being parts of a whole and multiplying them by a musical star.

With Greek Week playing the role of appetizer, the side item-festivities will begin on Friday, starting with a JSU Alumni

Golf Tournament at the Silver Lakes Golf Course.

"We have over 10 teams signed up for the tournament," stated Kaci Ogle, director of alumni affairs. "We will have a lunch around noon, then a four-man scramble that will be finished in time for everyone to enjoy the rest of the evening."

Later in the afternoon, Mason Hall will be the main focus. The music building will be the focal point of the Student Performance Hour, which will begin at 1:45 p.m.

Friday night, students, faculty, staff and citizens of Jacksonville and Calhoun County will be entertained by the main course, a vocal performance by country music star Sara Evans. The Friday-night feature will be the gateway into Saturday's early lineup and evening activities.

"Based on request and demographics, it was the best choice for Jacksonville State University," said assistant director of student life Debbie Taylor. "We are reaching our goal as far as ticket sales, and we expect a capacity crowd."

Beginning at six in the morning, the city of Jacksonville will host "Rib N' It Up on the Square," a cook-off featuring local and traveling talent bringing their best sauces to the table with high expectations of their secret ingredients. From their, people can enjoy local, musical talents such as Cory Tucker, winners of the JSU Stars competition and assistant director of alumni affairs Alan Renfro with his buddy to form the group Tracey and Alan.

At the conclusion of the afternoon performances, football head coach Jack Crowe will show off the progression of his team with the J-Day football game.

Other athletic teams are scheduled to play in conjunction with this weekend's festivities.

The JSU softball team will host a three-

game series with the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles while the Gamecock Soccer team will play a 7-on-7 tournament.

The JSU track and field team will host a meet, and the tennis team will host the Panthers of Birmingham Southern. Children and kids at heart can also take part in the inflatable games, which will be setup in the RV lot.

Sunday will conclude the weekend, which will devote the afternoon to softball's final match of the series with the Eagles.

The events taking place over the next three days are similar to what many universities and cities across the nation indulge in, acting as a spring homecoming weekend. However, the spring has a slight advantage over the fall with the weather conditions.

"Most of the time, your fall homecoming is primarily focused on the football game," said Mark Jones, coordinator of university recreation. "Sometimes the weather is not great. With the spring, there's more of the 'spring fever' attitude because it's warm

weather, and we want to be able to have an early advantage with the weather being so great. We don't want to just showcase football; we want to give our other athletic programs on campus the same opportunity."

With all the weekend plans, the city and the university hope to eradicate assumptions made by some people outside the Jacksonville and Calhoun County area, and to bring those people out to get a full effect of what the city stands for.

"A lot of people have the misconception that the city and the university are separate entities," said Jacksonville parks and recreation director Bo Batey. "We are intertwined. What the university does affects the city and vice versa, and this weekend will be a positive example of the relationship."

The events held this weekend will provide diverse entertainment for all who attend. In addition to the performances and the athletic events, it will give the university and the city a blueprint for next year's Spring Fling ideas.

Students spend spring break helping Katrina victims

By James Burton
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

While many lay unconscious on the beaches of Panama City, a small faction of JSU students sacrificed their spring break in the name of helping others.

JSU's Baptist Campus Ministries took their annual SPOTs trip to Ocean Springs, Miss., to assist in the ongoing Katrina relief effort. The group left Saturday morning and arrived around 3 p.m. There was plenty of daylight left, and the students' first task was to dig up the flowering plants around the condemned Emmanuel Baptist Church buildings so that they can be reused once the new sanctuary is built.

Sunday saw the group doing yard work for an elderly woman who had nobody else to do it for her. Towards the end of the day, they were given three choices for the upcoming week: demolition of the education building, roofing a woman's house, or cleaning out buildings belonging to an elderly man.

Paul Smith is an 89-year-old man who received flood damage from Katrina in 2005. He hired a contractor to fix his roof and ceiling, but he disappeared before doing any work but not before taking \$12,000 from Smith.



photo courtesy James Burton

JSU students help clean up in Ocean Spring, Miss.

Fortunately, people much like those on the SPOTs trip volunteered their time to help fix his roof. His house was inhabitable, and he could at least rest easily now. However, he had another problem.

During the storm, the water went up around a foot and damaged three of his storage buildings and his back porch along with practically everything inside.

See Break, page 2

A Night at the BCM

By Bethany Harbison
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) knows how to start Spring Break off with a bang, and a loud one at that.

On March 15, the Thursday before school was dismissed, the BCM hosted four Christian rock bands for a concert entitled "A Night at the BCM."

Despite the downpour that drenched Jacksonville that night, the event's organizers, Jonathan Franks and Tara Phillips, were both thrilled with the results.

"I think it was very successful. I got a lot of positive feedback, with people saying that they hoped we would do it again at least once a semester," said Phillips, a sophomore major-

ing in social work. In addition to booking the bands, Phillips also served as emcee for the concert and gave out door prizes between band performances.



photo courtesy Bethany Harbison

Jonathan Franks (foreground) and Wesley Dobbins of We're Working On It.

The concert began with Johnny B of the band The Final Goodbye. His band was unable to accompany him, so he instead went solo,

entertaining the audience with his acoustic guitar and vocals.

"Johnny B of The Final Goodbye surprised me by how well he could move a crowd all by himself," said Franks, a music major.

Franks' own band, We're Working On It, was next in the concert lineup. We're Working On It plays weekly at Celebration, the BCM's Tuesday night worship service and every other week at First Baptist Church of Jacksonville's Wednesday night services, but the concert was their first real performance.

See BCM, page 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRO: Public Relations Organization will now meet on Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in The Chanticleer office in Self Hall. Contact: Jacyn Cosper, 256-404-2590.

Writer's Club: The JSU Writer's Club will meet on the 7th floor of Houston Cole library at 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays. Contact: pharding@jsu.edu.

JSU Ambassadors: Congratulations to the new members! Remember the reception on April 12 at 3 p.m. Go Gamecocks! Contact: Chad Hoffman jsu8368k@jsu.edu

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. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at The Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall, or emailed to Chantynews@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.

CORRECTIONS

In the March 15 issue of *The Chanticleer*, Mr. Friendly, Raynard Cargill, was misidentified on page 1. *The Chanticleer* apologizes for the error.

CAMPUS CRIME

Mar. 13
UPD found a concealed pistol on Trustee Circle.

Mar. 14
Trent Roberts reported negotiating worth-

BCM from page 1

"Out of all the times we have played together, that is the best that playing together has ever felt," said Franks.

The next band to grace the makeshift stage was A Love Not Lost. Franks explained that this was the band that had indirectly spawned the idea of the concert.

"Originally the band A Love Not Lost asked us if they could play for Celebration, but because they have a louder sound that does not fit in with a traditional praise and worship setting, I presented the concert idea," said Franks.

Phillips and Franks decided to invite the final band, Love Takes Flight, after seeing them in concert in Rainbow City.

"After seeing Love Takes Flight perform, we immediately knew we wanted to ask them to come," said Franks.

Though a love offering was given at the end of the concert to cover the bands' gas expense, the bands all performed for free.

"I thought it was really cool that the bands would come even though we couldn't pay them," said Franks.

At the night's close, Phillips and Franks were both satisfied that the concert had achieved their main goal—to help the BCM reach out to the JSU campus as a whole.

"We wanted to make this a campus activity instead of just a BCM activity," said Phillips.

Chili Cook-Off

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

If you were in Martin Hall the Wednesday before spring break, you probably noticed that it was a little chili in the lobby. Well, maybe not a little chilly, but there was lot of chili.

The lobby hosted the first ever annual Martin Hall Chili Cook-Off. With representatives from five departments, the cook-off was a gas-blasting success. With tables piled high with chili, crackers and Tums, it was obvious that lots of time and preparation had been up put into this.

The event, organized by Allison Newton of the geography department, was a fundraiser for the American Heart Association's annual Relay for Life. Tickets only cost three dollars for students and five dollars for faculty. The goal was to raise a hearty \$1,500 for the association.

Judging by the number of student and faculty that stopped by either out of curiosity or hunger, that goal came close to reality. With faculty participation from

the biology department, earth sciences department, the nursing college, the library staff and the ASAD, the 14 contestants squared off for competition that was as fierce as it was tasty.

While it was hard to determine the number of those who stayed and ate, any student who went to class that Wednesday observed the spectacle and stopped by.

"This was a big hit," said Dr. Kelly Gregg of the earth science department.

Breaking into two categories, traditional and nontraditional, students and staff tried a variety of chilis from the regular to the extra spicy. With each contestant bringing in their homemade concoctions, there was surprise at every stop. And at the end of each table was a bottle of antacids. For those whose constitution wasn't up to scratch, baked snacks like brownies, cupcakes and cookies were available for only a dollar a pop.

With voting ballots in one hand and bowls in the other, students and staff tested their taste buds to

determine which faculty member could cook and which ones were just making something up. While the chilis on the traditional table were equally delicious, it was the nontraditional table that really got hot and bothered. From the slightly odd to the off-the-wall, every chili reflected each teacher's personal taste and flair.

At the end of the taste off, all the votes were counted and the winners were announced.

Coming in first place for traditional chili was Dr. Kelly Gregg of the earth science department. For first place in the nontraditional chili was Nixon Mwebi of the earth science department. The grand prize went to Tracey Casey.

Each winner was awarded the highly sought after chili statue, but since Casey won big, she received the coveted chili bead necklace. Congratulations to all the winners, and hopefully we'll get to burn our tongues again next year.

History Club celebrates St. Patrick's Day

By Jonathan Pennington
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

On Thursday, March 16, the History Club held a special St. Patrick's Day meeting that included a special guest lecturer. First, president Stephen Page delivered the annual state of the club address. His speech informed the organization of the current state of the club and encouraged the organization to continue to expand and prosper in the future.

tage of the Irish people.

His speech discussed where the Celtic people originated from in Europe and the events that transpired leading to the development of the nation of Ireland. These events involved significant historical figures such as Martin Luther and Mr. St. Patrick himself.

In closing, Gurner mentioned that St. Patty's day in Europe is observed as a day of religious national observance dedicated to the

which we observe Independence Day. Here, we try to honor the memory of those who gave their lives and played significant roles in the development of the United States of America.

Following the speech, an open question-and-answer session was held. Page was asked questions about his role as President of the History Club, while Gurner fielded both questions about his lecture and his workload as a teacher.

"I feel that the organization's

Break from page 1

The mission was to clean out the porch and the three buildings in preparation for their demolition, so a new building could eventually be built. Sounds simple, right? Not so much. Smith managed to save practically everything he had ever gotten during his entire life, including some things that he picked up that others threw out. It's a common practice by those who lived through the Great Depression.

"We're like a white Sanford and Son," said Smith's son, Butch, after examining the premises. The primary building was piled halfway to the ceiling with such things as ceramics, car parts, books, lanterns, and even outboard boat motors.

Each day out, the crew of around eight students consistently made dents in the over 70-year-old stack of accumulations, but it just wasn't enough.

After three days, the other two groups were rallied to help in the final day in order to finish the project, which would require a giant dumpster by the end of it. The piles of scrap wood, chemicals and metal slowly disappeared as an assembly line of around 25 came to life on Thursday. Meanwhile, three BCM volunteers were pulled from the Smith residence in order to help Kim Stewart, the coordinator for the SPOTS trip, load sheetrock and pick up furniture for a giveaway for the needy.

Physical labor is obviously important, but emotional support can be just as vital. The elderly are neglected far too often by today's society, and when they



photo courtesy James Burton

The students who volunteered to help Katrina victims suffer such a during their spring break.

disaster like Katrina, they need even more attention than before.

On a personal note, Smith spoke to me for a very long time while I was there. He spoke of how his father came from Alabama, how when the Depression hit he went to California to find work, and he told me about his career abroad, where he'd been, what his late wife had done. It was a fascinating and enriching experience, hearing history firsthand. I am sure that it is not too often when someone our age talks to him, much less actually listens. He was very grateful of the work we had done, and let each and every one of us know.

"I have to be prepared to meet my old Creator, and I want to make a good impression," he told me one afternoon. After spending four days around him, I think he's handled that very well.

However, the students did not spend the entire week working. The beach was only half a mile from where they were staying, and every evening they made an effort to go there and enjoy it.

The beach has been cleaned up since the storm, but there are still piers that are ripped up, and foundations of houses that washed away still remain. A year and a half after tragedy struck the Gulf Coast, one can still see the destruction.

Page also gave advice to any future leaders in the history club.

"Keep your head up and always think positive," said Page.

Gurner was asked what classes he will be teaching in the fall 2007 semester.

"I will be teaching intro level western civilization classes," answered Gurner.

Attendees asked Gurner about his Irish heritage and his key area

of interest in the studying of history.

"Yes, I am of Irish descent," said Gurner. "I thoroughly enjoy studying Ireland. Ireland is often overlooked by many historians in our country simply because they did not play a detrimental role in fighting both world wars. Ireland has a rich history, and it is rewarding to study this country in all of its greatness."

Mar. 14
Trent Roberts reported negotiating worthless instrument at Jacksonville Place.

Semeon Madir reported burglary at Dauge Hall.

Kevin Vaughns reported burglary at Dauge Hall.

Mar. 23
Marcus Shepherd reported unlawful breaking and entering a vehicle at Penn House Apt. parking lot.

Mar. 24
Anthony Castaneda reported theft of property at Rudy Abbott Field.

Mar. 25
Adam Ross reported burglary at Mountain Street.

Information in the Campus Crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-5701, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050.

and encouraged the organization to continue to expand and prosper in the future.

The featured guest speaker for this event was Jason Gurner. Jason is a history instructor here at Jacksonville State University. As a historian, his key area of interest is in the development of the nation of Ireland. Being of Irish descent, he thoroughly enjoys studying and lecturing on the history and heri-

that St. Patty's day in Europe is observed as a day of religious national observance dedicated to the people who played the most significant roles in the development of Ireland as a nation. Here in America, we see St. Patrick's Day as a day of wearing green, seeing cartoon leprechauns and drinking large amounts of green beer.

In Ireland, the holiday is observed similarly to the way in

History Club, while Gurner fielded both questions about his lecture and his workload as a teacher.

"I feel that the organization's trips to Atlanta to observe the Cyclorama and Civil Rights museum showed organizational unity among our members," said Page. "Additionally, we have seen our numbers of active members grow significantly throughout this year."

The Chanticleer Editorial Cartoon



Attendees asked Gurner about his Irish heritage and his key area of interest to study this country in all of its greatness."

April Art at the Museums

Watercolor Society of Alabama 66th Annual National Exhibition

Anniston Museum Changing Exhibit Gallery
Sunday, April 1 through Thursday, May 31

View watercolor paintings by artists from across the country in this juried National Exhibition from the Watercolor Society of Alabama. These works of water media are sure to amaze and inspire.

Anniston Museum of Natural History
256-237-6766 www.annistonmuseum.org

Painting Without a Brush

Berman Museum Changing Exhibit Gallery
Saturday, April 14 through Saturday, June 30

Local artist Rose Munford calls her technique "painting without a brush." The colorful pieces on display may look like paintings, but they are really intricate collages made of bits and pieces of recycled items such as cloth, magazine photos and colored paper.

Berman Museum of World History
256-237-6261 www.bermanmuseum.org

Free admission with valid JSU student ID, Spring Semester 2007

29 Thursday	30 Friday	31 Saturday	1 Sunday
	Encore: Vocal Ensemble Sara Evans in Concert		
2 Monday	3 Tuesday	4 Wednesday	5 Thursday
Traffic Court SGA Senate meeting	Spring Awards Ceremony Organizational Council Meeting	Phi Eta Sigma Induction Ceremony Communication and Student Management Tools Training workshop	Nursing Honors Day Higher Education Day 26th Annual JSU Social Work Conference Holocaust Remembrance

Where to find the WiFi

By Nick Lehwald
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Wireless internet. Truly a gift from the gods. For anyone who owns a laptop, you know the joy of being able to walk around your home with complete and total access to virtually everything in the world. Music while you walk, news while you talk, adult entertainment when you're up late at night or your roommate's gone - it's all at your finger tips. And what a joy it is, too.

That is, unless you live or work most places on campus, where there is a literal dead zone of wireless internet.

Trying to find a wireless signal on campus is harder than milking a bull but a lot less painful. Sometimes. This can be a major inconvenience for many students who bring their laptops to class and around the dorms. While this can be a blessing in disguise for those easily distracted students who like playing internet poker

(guilty) instead of listening to their lecture, it can be a royal pain for students and faculty that have legitimate work to do.

While faculty offices and computer labs are connected to the Internet, none are connected wirelessly and must rely on regular phone or cable lines to connect to the world. In fact, the only academic buildings that currently have wireless internet are the Houston Cole Library, the Merrill building, the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB) and the cafeteria. The only dorm that has wireless is Sparkman. If you're lucky and happen to be in the right place when the wind is blowing in the right direction, you can sometimes pick up the signal from the Baptist Christian Ministries (BCM) if you're sitting the right chair of the right room in Martin Hall. Do not bother trying to connect to the web in Self Hall either. God forbid that the communications department be able to communicate.

All hope is not lost, though. According to Randy Harper, the vice president of telecommunications here at JSU, the lack of wireless internet on campus is on the priority list for the computer services department.

"It's a slow going process that takes time and money," said Harper. "We have to install all the wiring and network everything ourselves. These things don't happen overnight."

Making the entire campus wireless ready will definitely not happen overnight. According to Harper, the current plan is to have every building on campus connected within the next two to three years. However, there will be limited bandwidth, and while it won't be the fastest connections, it will be better than nothing. That shouldn't surprise many students who live in the dorms and deal with slow connections and even slower downloads during the week. From personal experience, I can attest that during



Photo Illustration by Toni Merriss

Finding WiFi on campus is like trying to find an honest politician in Washington.

the week, the connections in the dorm are not great. However, since most of the student population finds it necessary to leave town on weekends, the students who stay around are free to enjoy a much faster connection since less people are trying to get on-

line.

So fret not students. Help is on the way. In the mean time, I suggest taking my approach to the problem and buy your own wireless router. Tell your parents it's a educational expense, and everything will be just fine.



Sound Off: Dreaming BIG

mon definition of the American Dream.

Some Americans pursue this more diligently than others do, while procrastinators just sit and dream.

Often the subject of economic standing and wealth are associated with the phrase the American Dream, along with having the power to obtain success, prosperity and longevity. Let's be honest- everyone wants a job that will provide a secure income; however, some do not want to be wealthy but just financially comfortable. It seems that it takes money to be happy and good economic stature to be accepted. Many people over emphasize the importance of money and lose focus on the true American Dream.

America is one of the wealthiest countries, and yet

we still strive for more. What is wealth? Is it the possession of an abundance of valuable property? Is it possessing anything of monetary value? If these are your definitions of wealth, then you are sadly mistaken.

Longevity is the key to the American dream. Most people think in short-term rather than long-term. Having wealth today does not mean that it will be there tomorrow, and being consistent with your prosperity is of most importance. Money can buy happiness, but when it runs out, happiness is sure to leave with it.

Marriage is a highly-sought social status among Americans. A compatible lifetime partner is something for which many individuals are hard pressed for. Most people desire to be married. From childhood, young girls, are told that every woman should be married before the age of 30. Starting a family used to be one of the key ingredients to a recipe of social acceptance and happiness. These ingredients rest upon the thought that women needed men to be able to survive.

Times have changed now, and there is a surplus of women who are independently successful and happy without the helping hand of a man.

Possessing the freedom to make decisions without having to consult others is consistent with the American Dream. Being able to do what you want when you want propels self-esteem and makes one feel comfortable knowing that he or she has the power to do so. A person feels restricted when they are not able to make decisions alone.

of having a high school diploma, owning a car and maybe a house with a white picket fence. Now the dream has transformed, and not only do you have to obtain a high school diploma but a college degree as well. Owning one car has increased to owning multiple vehicles, along with a high-tech cell phone and a million dollar home.

Wealth should not be defined as a monetary value, but as achievement of goals and the feeling of that pursuit. Many people find themselves unhappy because they let money rule everything. Most people begin their lives with an idea of what they want. Sometimes their lives turn on a different highway, and they have to adapt to those changes. Living the American Dream includes being able to adapt to changes in order to succeed in life. As Darwin stated, "Those best adapted to existing conditions are able to survive... survival of the fittest." Only the strongest will survive and achieve their dream; the "American Dream."

Thank you,
Shavonne Williams
JSU Senior

Editor's note: Sound Off is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion about, well, whatever you have an opinion about. Please

Jake Smith gets *Real*

By Ben Heine
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

Jake Smith is a 20-something guy from New Orleans with a lot on his mind. In the last two years, he has dealt with many hardships. In addition to the Hurricane Katrina

here (as is often the case with albums that deliberately attempt to lift spirits) but inspirational. This probably stems from the artist's back-story of his hard luck in the recent past and, as it turns out, his faith.

Like any smart gospel singer, Smith managed to slide his

open and records selling. In the liner notes, there is a small paragraph from Jake to the listener.

He tells us "not to be turned off by the fact that he says God in the paragraph." And he promises that "this is not another cheesy CD." While it

last two years, he has dealt with many hardships. In addition to the Hurricane Katrina devastation, he was in a serious car wreck, his girlfriend dumped him, and both parents, oddly enough, were diagnosed with cancer. He did what anyone would do when faced with a string of devastating events—he made a record. His debut album *Real* will be released July 31.

He has mixed blues, R&B, rock and that sensitive, John-Mayer-type pop to achieve an album with strong diversity among tracks. While most of them fall flat, he does get points for being eclectic.

There are a few decent blues numbers, as well as some horrid pop songs, such as "Breakdown." His urban-with-attitude vocals are not convincing, though his rhythm is mildly impressive on a few tracks. The album seems to radiate hope, which is not cheesy

and, as it turns out, his faith. Like any smart gospel singer, Smith managed to slide his Christian agenda under the radar. He obviously doesn't want his music to be labeled as "Christian rock," so is quite vague in his anecdotal style of "spreading the word." As he probably understands the stig-

ma attached to genre, the low profile will surely help keep break. While *Real* may not do so well, perhaps the pity factor can do something for him.

God in the paragraph." And he promises that "this is not another cheesy CD." While it may not be cheesy, it is lacking in many areas. Very bland, heavily produced instrumentation bring the album down. He strives to make very clear his New Orleans roots and even has the voice to go along with it.

His almost entirely synthesized sound seems manufactured. A mediocre guitar player behind him could do wonders for the artist. He seems to be emulating the styles of various artists today who appeal to the fairer sex. His soft, wistful vocals work well with his message of faith and love but lack substance and depth.



Photo courtesy www.yourmusiczone.com

Jake Smith, a New Orleans native debuts *Real*, on July 31, 2007.



2 out of 5 Gamecocks

you want proper self-esteem and makes one feel comfortable knowing that he or she has the power to do so. A person feels restricted when they are not able to make decisions alone.

The definition of the American Dream has changed tremendously over the years. In the past, it consisted

Editor's note: *Sound Off* is a new section for JSU students, faculty and staff to voice their opinion about, well, whatever you have an opinion about. Please send submissions to chantynews@yahoo.com

Sara Evans

Friday, 3/30/07, 8:00PM CST

Pete Mathews Coliseum

Jacksonville, AL



Jacksonville State University
presents Sara Evans
March 30, 2007
Pete Mathews Coliseum
Gates open at 7:00 p.m.
General Admission - \$20.00



Tickets can be purchased online or at the Athletic Ticket Office. The Ticket Office is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm (M-F) and will be closed for Spring Break Mar 19 - 23, 2007.

Tickets on sale
Tuesday,
January 30
at 8:00 a.m.

For More Information, Contact the Athletic Ticket Office, 256-782-8499

THE CHANTICLEER

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LETTERS POLICY:

The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our office in Room 180, Sell Hall, or to the mailing address at left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantynews@yahoo.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous, defamatory, or submitted anonymously. Letters may be edited for style, brevity, or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST EXPERIENCE YOU HAVE HAD ON APRIL FOOLS DAY?



Sterling Smith
Freshman

"My parents got married on April Fools and half the people didn't come because they thought it was a joke."

Rescuing your new best friend

By Toni Merriss
The Chanticleer
Features Editor



They have saved lives, they have found hiding criminals, they even lead the blind around when there is no one else there, and they are man's best friend. Can someone tell me, then, why there are so many stray dogs running around on the streets when there are so many good homes they could be going to?

According to recent numbers, there are thousands of stray animals all over the country, and unless people start having their pets spayed and neutered, those numbers are not going to decrease all that much in the future.

Animal control is a subject that really bothers me. Having already adopted two dogs, Abby and Beck, from rescues, I know that there is always something that can be done to help. Both dogs were adopted when they were around nine weeks old. Abby is now three, and Beck just turned one.

Let me tell you a story, and for those of you who have already heard me complain about this, I apologize.

It was a Saturday night around 1 a.m., and my boyfriend and I were headed home from a rare night out at the local bars. As we drove around the Square in town, we saw two lab puppies tearing up a trash can in their hectic search for some kind of food. As we continued on our way home, I tried to get the images of the two starving animals out of my mind by thinking of every possible excuse I should not go back to help them. "They probably have rabies . . . or mange. Maybe they just got out of their yard and someone is out looking for them right now."

Obviously, I discarded these ideas for what they were - excuses - and I knew what I had to do. So after I changed my clothes and filled a huge tupperware container with

dog food, my boyfriend and I found ourselves back in the car and headed up to the Square.

Friendly as ever, as soon I stepped out of the car, the dogs came right up to me and sniffed my hand, deciding I was the type to help. In probably five minutes, both dogs had devoured the entire container of food we brought them.

I had no idea what to do from there, so we put them in my car and went up to the Jacksonville Police Department for guidance. After explaining my predicament to the lady at the desk, she informed me that there was nothing she could do and



Photo by Toni Merriss

Now Abby (back) is very protective of Beck (front) and you never find one without the other.



Photo by Toni Merriss

It took Abby (left) a little while to warm up to Beck (right) when he was adopted last year.

no one she could call because it was the weekend and the local animal control only worked during the week.

With my heart going out to these two well-behaved puppies, we decided to take them home with us and house them until Monday. I would have brought them in the house with us, except our dogs were inside and we could not be sure they did not have some kind of disease that we did not want passed on to our lovable mutts. So we kept them outside for the weekend until we could have them picked up on Monday.

The whole experience really bothered me and the problem has become more apparent that homeless animals are all over the place and can be found on every corner. I have

called animal control so much that I actually have their number programmed into my cell phone.

I wish people would realize that just a little love towards an animal can go such a long way. Many people do make the choice to adopt a pet, but once the "fun" wears off they just let them go, which makes an already bad situation worse. There are many alternate ways to help an animal besides adopting, such as donating time or money to local shelters. Even having your pet spayed or neutered can help so much.

Some shelters have a no-kill policy, but many end up having to put animals down just because lack of space.

Really, this is more of a plea to all those people who think that there is nothing they can do. There really is always something that can be done. So please get out and help these poor animals. They only want to make you happy . . . and be loved.

Hearty for the mind, body and soul

By Chris Yow
The Chanticleer
Web Editor

It is a known fact in the south that we like to eat. And arguably the group of people that eat together more than anyone else is the Baptist church denomination.

I am a member of a Baptist church, and I remember how every first Sunday at seven in the morning we

been a part of the BCM since the 1970s, and it will surely continue for a very long time.

The weekly Agape lunch is served by a different local church each week and is a sort of fund raiser for the organization. It is inexpensive as well as very hearty. For a very small price, you can get a full plate of the provided food and also find some really nice people on the "friendliest campus in the south."

The proceeds of the lunch help the students perform missionary duties around the south and sometimes even the country.

lunch can have you reminiscing of your own grandma and the complete meals she would serve on Sunday. The cooking is just like what grandma serves.

If you are yearning for a homecooked meal, the BCM's Agape lunch is the perfect place to fill that void in your empty tummy.

Besides the great food, getting to know the members of the BCM is something I would encourage anyone to do.

Oh yeah, did I mention that your first Agape lunch is free?

AGAPE Lunch



Cody Grimes
Senior

"I super glued the silverware to the table because my waitress was really bad."



C. J. Sliocy
Freshman

"My mom called and told me that she was gay; one year later it was no joke."



Cassie Gulliford
Senior

"My dad put a huge boulder in my backpack."

tist church, and I remember how every first Sunday at seven in the morning we had brotherhood breakfast. Every Wednesday night before church was a fellowship dinner. Every fifth Sunday was Fifth Sunday lunch. Seems like every time I went to church, there was food.

Well, it is no different for the Baptists here on campus. Every Wednesday, you can find a local church at the BCM serving up a hot meal called Agape Lunch. Agape is the Greek word for love and was used in the Old Testament to describe God's love.

Campus minister Gary Brittain has been at the BCM since 1990, and Agape lunch had been a staple of the organization since long before he arrived.

"Agape was here before me; when I got here they had been doing it for years," says Brittain. It has actually

AGAPE Lunch



Wednesdays

11:15
&
12:15

Photo Illustration by Chris Yow

the food was quite good. But what else could be expected from little old Baptist ladies?

Frequent BCM goers have always enjoyed the lunch. Brian Ayers says he loves it because it reminds him of "grandma's cooking."

The great ladies that prepare and serve the

help the students perform their missionary duties around the south and sometimes even the country.

"Everything goes to our college missions fund, and we also contribute to World Hunger Relief foundation," said Brittain. "The missions we take over Christmas and Spring Break are cheaper for our students."

The BCM just finished a Hurricane Katrina relief mission over the break.

Every time that I have been to Agape,

Letter to the Editor

A recent article gave the impression that the movie *300* is very accurate and that the lectures in my ancient political theory course warranted that conclusion. In fact, while the movie follows my general summary of the Persian War and of the Spartan sacrifice, eugenic practices, that is where the resemblance between history and the movie ends. By chance I saw *300* on invitation of a friend and was irritated by its propagandistic, comic-book style distortions.

In addition to the depiction of the Spartans as virtual supermen - combining the attributes of Hercules, Rambo and Spiderman - there were various ethnic and cultural distortions obviously designed to draw parallels with the present Middle East.

First, the various polyglot subjects of the Persians were depicted as looking and dressing like Arabs or Iranians or

other modern West Asians, and two so-called "Persian" emissaries were black. In fact, while there were a large number of Semitic subjects of the Persian Empire, many other cultural and physical types (including blondes) were present as well, and that empire had almost no black subjects. And what about the Persians themselves? They were Nordic.

Indo-European people having blond or red hair, blue or green eyes - like Swedes. And that included the blondhaired, blue-eyed King of Kings himself. Xerxes more closely resembled one of three wise men from our Christmas displays than the character in the movie. Fashions such as having rings and chains piercing ones face were not a Persian practice.

Secondly, it is not likely that Xerxes was referred to as "god-king." The Persian elite of the Achaemenid Empire

mixed in their religious beliefs some traditional Aryan pagan concepts with a distorted form of the monotheistic religion we call "Zoroastrianism." The concept of a human "god-king" was looked upon as extreme blasphemy by the Persian Zoroastrians.

Third, according to the movie, some of the subject national armies under the Persians were growling mutants resembling the villainous hordes in "Lord of the Rings." There should be no need to comment of that particular comic-book nonsense.

In summary, while watching *300*, it occurred to me that this movie seemed to have been put together by technological geniuses based on the screenplay and the direction of a 15-year old boy.

Dr. Ralph Savage
Professor of Political Science

What's an Officer's Military Experience Worth?



"Veterans are impressive, because what they have done at their age is usually five or ten years ahead of civilian peers in terms of leadership and responsibility."

- Kelly Perdue
NBC's "The Apprentice"

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- The Lucas Group

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- The Home Depot

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JSU sweeps Govs in OVC opener

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State baseball team did the typical Spring Break trip to Florida before heading back home. However, their mission was slightly different from getting a tan and relaxing the entire week. The goal of the Gamecocks was to come away happy with its performance to get ready for conference play. Saturday and Sunday's conference opener proved to be successful against the Austin Peay Govs.

Game one for the Gamecocks (13-12, 3-0 OVC) set the tone for the rest of the weekend, which help them in the 7-inning second game and the Govs (12-9, 0-3 OVC) and Sunday's final contest.

On Sunday, junior Donovan Hand (2-4) showcased why he's the starting pitcher in the rotation. After giving up two runs in the first inning, Hand came back to put up seven shutout innings. Hand gave up a solo homerun to APSU first baseman Jake Lane in the ninth inning to cut JSU's lead to 4-3, but Hand came back and forced Gov player Tyler Bullock to ground out to end Sunday's game.

In addition to Hand's performance, right fielder Nick Cleckler blasted a shot to right field, opening up the game with an inside-the-

park three-run home run in the fifth inning. First baseman Eric Beck added an RBI earlier in the fourth inning, sending in Clay Whittemore from second base.

"You can't come out pitching flat," said Hand. "I was able to get a scouting report from Saturday's games and I went after them."

In Saturday's doubleheader, JSU handled the Govs in the 7-inning second game 13-4. The adrenaline from the first game comeback spilled over to the opening inning as the Gamecocks put up five runs. Beck added an RBI in the second inning, scoring Garrett Bass from second base. Case's crew added six more runs in the fourth inning for insurance and increase their lead to 12-1.

With five early runs and seven from the second and fourth combined, JSU pitcher Ben Tootle was able to get into a rhythm and strikeout seven batters while only giving up one run. Pitcher J.T. Wright came in to finish the game for JSU, but did not earn the save.

Game one for the Gamecocks started rough, but JSU battled back to give them the edge for the rest of the series. Down 6-4 in the bottom of the eighth, JSU put themselves in position to make something happen. Whittemore started the inning off with a single. The next batter, Beck, brought the Gamecocks back with a two-run homerun

over the left field wall. Following Beck's performance, third baseman Jake Ball kept the inning going with another single. Ball added more pressure to the Govs by stealing second base, which proved to be successful for

JSU. Pitcher Shawn Kelley threw 2 wild pitches, advancing Ball to third and across the plate for the winning run. The top of the ninth inning shut down Austin Peay with an Alex Jones save. After giving up a double, Jones quickly settled himself to retire the next three batters and get the win for the Gamecocks.

"This was a good start for us," stated baseball head coach Jim Case. "It's difficult to come away with a sweep in this conference, but we did.



Photo by Kim Wright

Senior first baseman Eric Beck does a split to save the ball and get the out.

We're going to enjoy it, and then move on and continue to work hard."

The Gamecock's next home game is Wed, April 11 against the Georgia State Panthers, which is one of four home games at Rudy Abbott Field. The games can be heard of the Gamecock Sports Network, 92J.

Gamecock softball works hard over Spring Break, looks ahead to Tenn Tech

By Chad Hoffman
The Chanticleer Senior Reporter

The Jacksonville State University Softball team completed their fourth away game in just as many days with a 7-1 win over Ohio Valley Conference foe Samford.

The Gamecocks (15-11, 4-3 OVC) used three home runs and solid pitching to lift them over the Bulldogs (16-13, 3-4 OVC).

Senior Daniela Pappano sent her first home run of the night over dead center and scored the only run in the top of the fourth inning to get things started.

Junior Rachel Fleming, a Gadsden, Ala. native, answered in the fifth with her own homer over the right field fence. She gained two RBI's and it was just her second of the season.

While tying the school record for the most home runs in a game, Pappano sent a two-run homer over the fence. This was the fourth time that Pappano has achieved this feat.

She is just one home run shy of hitting the 50 mark which will put her being the only JSU player in history to hit 50 home runs in her career.

On top of Pappano's homer, junior Whitney Elder sent two across the plate with a single in the seventh inning and escaped the bit of the Bulldogs.

Junior pitcher Karla Pittman (9-6) went the distance in the circle, the twelve time this season. She earned the win and only gave up one unearned run on four hits and lowered her earned run average

to 0.95, the lowest in the OVC with a minimum of 15 appearances.

The junior struck out eight batters and walked only one.

For Samford, Stephanie Royall (9-8) was pinned with the loss and surrendered three earned runs on six hits in five and one-third innings.

Susanna Meyer pitched the rest of the game and gave up four runs on four hits, two were earned.

In the bottom of the first, the Bulldogs used the inevitable fielding errors of JSU to gain their unearned run. Jessica Owens hit a slow roller to second and beat out the throw from Mary Beth Ledbetter. The throw went over first baseman Nikki Preir's head and into right field. Pappano's throw to the infield was not handled and allowed Owens to score.

Over Spring Break, the Gamecocks had no resting time. Spanning eight games of the week and a half, the ladies came out 5-3.

The first two wins came against Middle Tennessee on the Wednesday before the break began.

The red and white took game one 8-1 and needed extra innings to claim the win in game two, 7-5.

The beginning weekend, the ladies used home field advantage against Morehead State and tried to sweep the first three game series of the season.

In day one, the Gamecocks used their powerful bats and used the mercy rule to sweep the Eagles 9-1 in the opener and 13-1 under the lights.

They used seven home runs from five different players.

Pappano and freshman Chrissy O'Neal had two, while Prier, Alana Hicks, and Ledbetter each added one.

Ledbetter sent her first collegiate home run over the wall in game one.

Melissa Dowling improved her record to 5-3 on the season in game two, while Amy Brown only allowed one hit in two innings of relief.

Day two, game three, would be a different story for the Gamecocks.

Fielding errors once again plagued the team and gave the Eagles the momentum to carry out the 6-5 win from University Field.

The loss snapped the 22 game OVC winning streak at University Field for the Gamecocks. The streak began on April 9, 2005.

Sophomore Allie Barker drove in a pair of runs and went 2-for-3 with her third home run of the season.

Pappano belted a two-run homer, while Fleming and Ciara Wesen each added two hits.

During spring break, the ladies did not stop preparing for their next challenge; the Eastern Kentucky Colonels.

One day one, the Gamecocks split with a 12-9 win in game one and a 4-3 loss in game two that saw the pitcher's go at it in the circle for extra innings.

The opening game featured three home runs and four doubles.

O'Neal led the way with a homerun, a double, four runs scored and three RBI's.

Pappano added to the lead with her pair of doubles

to put three runs across the plate.

Hicks added her on flare to the game when she belted a three-run homer in the sixth.

The second game saw a 1-0 JSU lead going in the bottom of the seventh go to a tie game with a solo home run by Katie Rolf.

With the game on the line and the Gamecocks leading 3-2 in the bottom of the eighth, it just wasn't their night and Adriel Foxley hit a walk-off homer to seal the game.

Game three on day two was much of the same for the ladies from JSU.

They could not overcome a three run deficit from the first inning and the Eagles handed JSU their first OVC series loss of the year, 4-3.

Despit Barker going 2-for-3 again with a double and Ledbetter sending her second career home run over the fence, the red and white could not finish the game.

Dowling was stuck with the loss and surrendered three runs, one earned, on three hits and just one out.

Freshman Kelly McGregor came in for relief and pitched four and two-thirds innings while giving up only one run on two hits.

The Gamecocks have yet to garnish a series sweep, but look to do so this weekend at University Field against OVC preseason favorite, Tennessee Tech.

The first pitch is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a second game part of the double header. The three game series will conclude on Sunday with a 1 p.m. start.

G2K: GET 2 KNOW

EBONY BRISKI

JSU TRACK AND FIELD



Photo courtesy Ebony Briski

By Chris Lundy
The Chanticleer Sports Editor

Why have one record when you can go for two? That's what was sophomore Eboni Briski's mindset entering the Alabama Relays March 24. Her jump of 1.65 meters (5'5") is the new outdoor high jump record at JSU. Briski, who also has the indoor high jump record set last year, is a Five Points, Ala., native majoring in exercise science and wellness. Briski took a moment to sit down with *The Chanticleer* to talk about breaking the outdoor high jump record and to get a little personal.

Chris Lundy: Talk about breaking the high jump record.

Ebony Briski: I was not expecting to break the record at all. It was the last thing on my mind. I didn't realize it until the competition was over. I was trying to break my personal best.

CL: How did your teammates react to you beating the record?

EB: They were excited and happy for me. They knew I had broken the record before I did.

CL: Last year you broke the indoor high jump record. This one was indoor. Other than the meet being indoor or outdoor, what is the major difference?

EB: The temperature is significant because indoor you have to stay moving and stretching and outdoor you don't. When the temperature is cooler it's harder to stay loose.

CL: Other than having these records, what are some of your other accomplishments?

EB: Some of my other accomplishments are getting my time down in the hurdles every week, and trying to master my technique in high jump, long jump, and triple jump.

CL: What is something about you people don't know?

EB: A lot of people don't know that I am very down to earth and silly. I love to laugh and smile.

CL: Are you involved in any other campus organizations?

EB: I am a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

CL: What kind of music do you listen to to get ready for a meet?

EB: I listen to rap and R&B, but the majority of the time I just stay to myself to get focused.

CL: Going for anymore records?

EB: I'm trying to go for my personal records first. Hopefully, school records will come as well.

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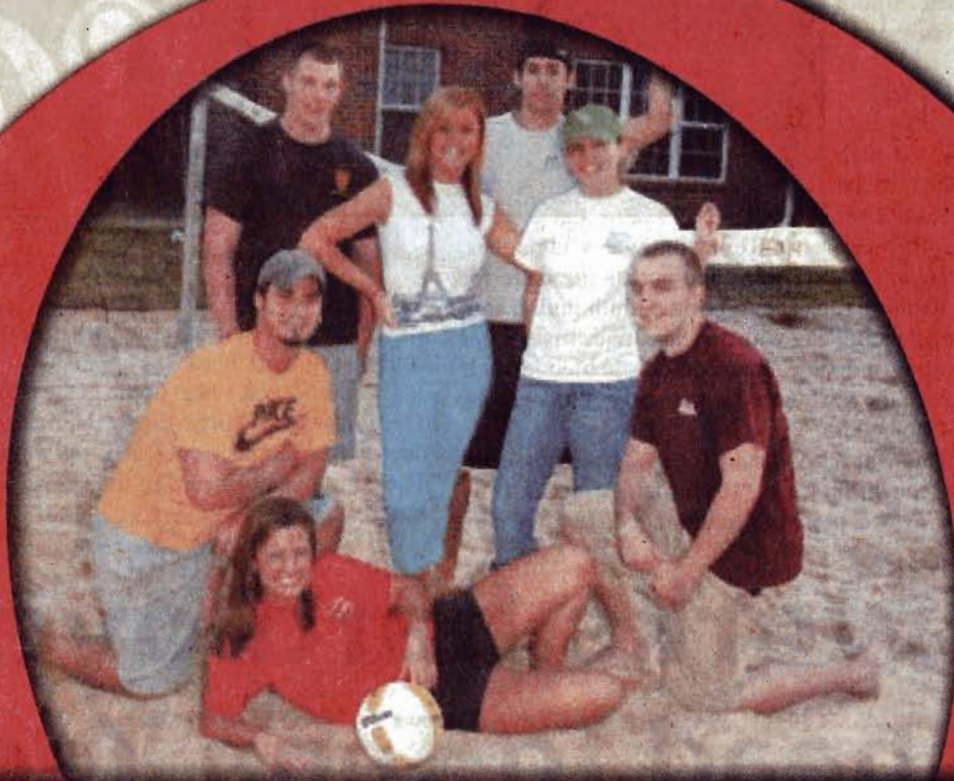
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- Be a citizen of the United States
- Reside in Calhoun County Alabama
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