



the/best 2007 albums/of

Plus The ten best games of the year. Special Section **Inside**

The Chanticleer

"Our writers are on strike after this until January 17."

Volume 56, Issue 13 November 29, 2007

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

INSIDE

Who won the Chanticleer's male and female athletes of 2007? Find out, plus the full week of sports.
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ON CAMPUS

Hundreds attend as Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps hold their annual tryouts.
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Forecast calls for high chance of success and scattered afternoon good impressions for young Joshua Morrison, son of JSU Field School coordinator Renee Morrison.
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QUESTION of the WEEK

What is your least favorite part of the holidays?



Constitution met with apathy

Reading suffers from slim attendance, ignorance

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

All the trappings of a public demonstration were there: a stage, a microphone, loudspeakers. The one thing missing from the College Council for Constitutional Reform's (CCCR) reading of the 1901 Alabama Constitution was people.

Students Sabrina Ussery and Tim Wyatt read selections from

the 1901 constitution on the TMB lawn Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 27. However, chairs set up for a potential audience remained unfilled as the afternoon wore on, evidence of how difficult it is to engage people in a debate about the merits of constitutional reform.

"It's further down the agenda of things that are going on in people's lives," JSU political

scientist Bill Lester said. "Things seem to be going well, and people aren't worked up about it."

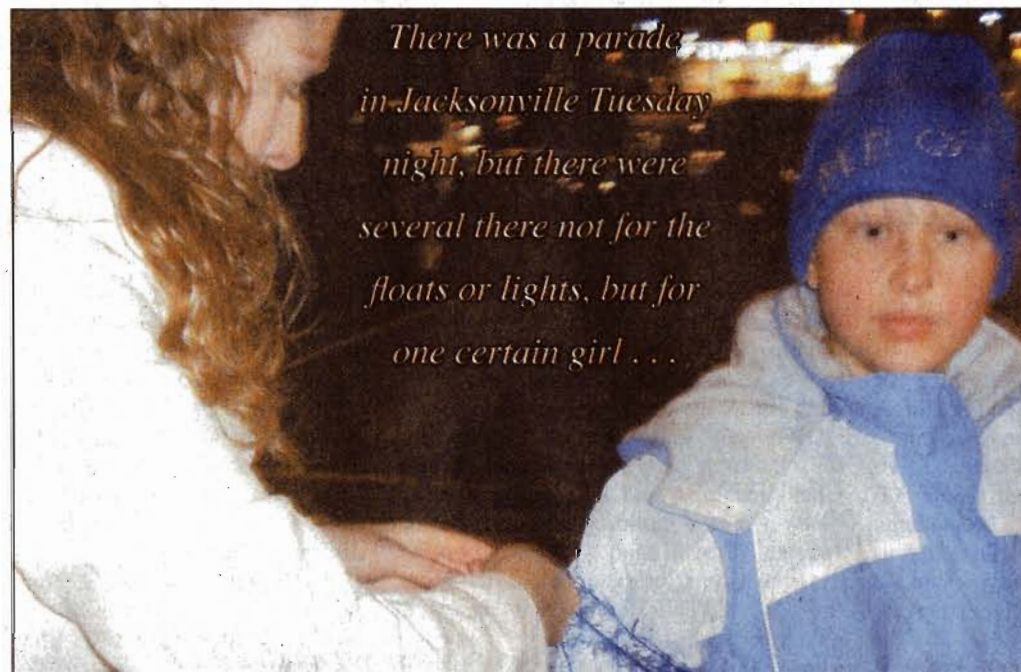
Sabrina Ussery, president of the CCCR, agreed with Lester's assessment.

"A lot of people don't even know Alabama has a constitution, which was mind-boggling to me," she said. "And those that do

See "Constitution," page 3A



Sabrina Ussery, president of the CCCR, reads Alabama's state constitution. Photo by Matt McRae / The Chanticleer



There was a parade in Jacksonville Tuesday night, but there were several there not for the floats or lights, but for one certain girl...

Survey: Students mostly satisfied

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

There are notable differences in how first-year students and seniors perceive the academic and social experiences they receive at JSU, according to a new national survey.

The tenth annual National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) surveyed students across the United States to get their take on five fields, including academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and a supportive campus

how engaged students are in the educational process," Dr. Tim King, Vice President of Student Affairs, said. "Not just (as) passive recipients. It's a difficult thing to measure."

Of first-time students, 48.8 percent were satisfied with the level of academic challenge at JSU, and 54.5 percent of seniors were satisfied. Academic challenge weighs the intellectual and creative loads students face.

"Active and collaborative learning" was a phrase the NSSE used to describe class



- Shopping in crowded malls 29%
- Gaining weight from all the delicious holiday food 24%
- Salvation Army asking for handouts 20%
- Incessant Christmas music 13%
- Seeing your relatives 7%
- Other 7%



"So many people are too excited about the sales and people end up getting hurt. I would be willing to shop with the crowds if it wasn't so chaotic."

— Martez Packer
Freshman

Next week's question:

How will you be spending Academic Preparation Day?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

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ABOVE Eleven-year-old Megan Brittain dons a blue ribbon, just like the ones the Marching Southerners' wore in her honor at the Jacksonville Christmas parade. Beth Anne Lawrence, BCM member and friend of Megan, assists. BELOW A very excited Megan got to meet and talk to the Marching Ballerinas before the parade. Photo by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*

For Megan

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

A bright blue toboggan is pulled down over her ears, she's zipped up in a cozy blue and white coat and she's wearing blue jeans.

Deciphering 11-year-old Megan Brittain's favorite color isn't the hard part.

But after just seeing the way her eyes sparkle with laughter and watching the way she instantly befriends everyone she meets, it is difficult to imagine that any sickness could ever slow her down.

Unless she tugged off that toboggan, you would never know that Megan has cancer. You would never know that in the span of her young life, she has endured more pain and suffering than most people experience in an entire lifetime. You would never know that she lost her mother to cancer this

February, just a few short months before beginning her own battle with the disease.

You would know, however, that Megan is a jokester at heart, a dyed-in-the-wool Alabama fan and a proud tomboy. She'll tell you all that right up front. You might not even have to ask.

Megan is not a bit shy, and as she perched on the back of a convertible during Jacksonville's Christmas parade this Tuesday, she soaked up the experience with a bright smile on her face.

The convertible's driver and owner, JSU Marching Southerners' director Ken Bodiford, was smiling, too. He, along with his secretary Sandy Lynch, organized the

See "Cover story," page 3A



Japanese student Sachio Arai is preparing to head back home to his family in Tokyo over winter break. Photo by Jenna Early / *The Chanticleer*

For some international students it's tough going . . .

Home for the holidays

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

A \$1200 round-trip plane ticket and a 17-hour flight stand between JSU student Sachio Arai and his home in Tokyo, Japan, but Arai is still determined to head home for the holidays.

While nearly 93 percent of Jacksonville State University students enrolled in the fall of 2006 lived nearby in Alabama

get their take on five fields, including academic challenge, student-faculty interaction and a supportive campus environment. The five areas, according to NSSE, are the ones studies suggest college-bound students look for when evaluating choices in higher education.

"(The survey) finds out

loads students face. "Active and collaborative learning" was a phrase the NSSE used to describe class participation, presentations and preparation time spent outside the classroom. Forty percent of first-year students said they engaged in such activities,

See "National survey," page 3A

JSU boxes up love for needy kids

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

Imagine a world where a shoebox is a treasure chest, and the smallest gifts are riches to be cherished.

Dr. George Lauderbaugh, associate professor of history at Jacksonville State University, no longer has to imagine such a place.

In 2003, he traveled to Guatemala and witnessed the depth of the nation's poverty with his own eyes.

Lauderbaugh is teaming up with the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta, which is the international history honor society, for the sixth time to host a shoebox gift drive for impoverished Guatemalan children.

"You really see the need when you visit Guatemala,"

See "Shoebox," page 3A



A young Guatemalan girl receives her shoebox, which contains everyday items that bring joy to the impoverished. Photo courtesy of Dr. George Lauderbaugh

or Georgia, JSU was also home to 233 international students that same year. Students from the most far-reaching corners of the world gather at JSU to study and soak up American culture, but when school ceases for holiday breaks, international students are faced with a dilemma.

According to Arai, international students have several options for the holidays ahead. They can dole out the cash for

the voyage home, remain in JSU housing over the break or participate in a homestay program.

Freshman Katelyn Shults of Athens, Ala., lives in JSU's International House with 39 other students from the United States and around the world. Shults explained that most of her international friends intend to return to their home country for

See "Traveling home," page 3A

Announcements

• **JSU Model Arab League Club** will be holding a used **book sale** on Thursday, Nov. 29, in the lobby of Martin Hall. Prices will range from \$.50 to \$2.00. For more information, contact Jason Sumner at jsum374k@jsu.edu.

• The **Student Health Center** is offering by appointment the **flu vaccine** at a cost of \$15.00. The vaccine must be administered during the physician's hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Please call 782-5310 to schedule an appointment.

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy:
Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed and limited to 50 words. Submissions must also 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 e-mailed to chantyodine@gmail.com, by 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 for brevity, clarity and style.

The Week in Events

Thursday, November 29

- Interfraternity Council Meeting, 302 TMB, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- Fall Chamber Winds Concert, Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
- World AIDS Day, 2nd floor TMB Lobby, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, November 30

- Last day of regular class sessions
- NPHC General Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson Hall, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Who's Who Pictures, 2nd floor TMB Lobby, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 3

- Spring 2008 tuition due today
- Traffic Court, Student Life Conference Room, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- Panhellenic Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson Hall, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Holidays light up campus



Students, faculty, staff and guests crowded into President and Mrs. Meehan's home Monday night to visit and view the count-down to JSU in Lights. Many student organizations, such as SGA and the JSU Ambassadors were well represented at the event. Photo by Toni Merriss / *The Chanticleer*

The spirit of JSU

Hundreds attend drum and bugle tryout

By Justin Tippett
Staff Reporter

This weekend, auditions were held for this year's Spirit Drum and Bugle Corps. The auditions were held as an open-house camp, and anyone between the ages of 16 and 21 was welcome to try out. About 300 attended, and they ranged from students here at Jacksonville State University to young adults from all over the country.

"People play for the staff, go through clinics, then we narrow it down to 150 people," Assistant Director Jeremy Stovall

The selected Spirit team practices one weekend a month during the winter months. They then prepare for their move-in, or all days, spring training in May before the group goes on tour.

"We went to California last year for the Drum Corps International World Championships, and this year it's being held in a new building in Indianapolis, Indiana," Stovall said.

Drum Corps International started more than three decades ago and has now developed into a powerful, nonprofit, global youth activity.

televised events, which are now presented on ESPN2. It is considered "Marching Music's Major League".

Each year, more than 8,000 students audition for the fewer than 3,500 positions available in top-tier DCI member corps. Of the members, 66 percent are male, and 72 percent of the members are full-time college students. The average involved student is 19 years old.

"During the summer months, they eat off of a semi-truck converted into a cafeteria," Stovall said. "It's pretty much a kitchen on wheels," he said.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

• JSU professor and director of the Alabama Writing Project state network **Lisa Williams** attended the 2007 **National Writing Project (NWP) Annual Meeting** in New York City, Nov. 15-17. The NWP Annual Meeting provided a venue for teachers throughout the country to learn from each other and become familiar with national trends and issues that affect the teaching of writing.

• JSU's **Wellness Wednesday** program for November, "Toss Out Tobacco," was held on Wednesday, Nov. 28. It was rescheduled from the original date of Nov. 14. On that day, the **Jack Hopper Dining Hall**, which normally houses Wellness Wednesday programs, was occupied as over 600 area high school students visited campus for an SGA conference.

• The **JSU Financial Aid office** reports all students who receive federal student loans and who graduate in December must complete exit counseling prior to graduation. Potential fall graduates can complete exit counseling at the Financial Aid Office located in **Room 107 Bibb Graves Hall** or complete exit counseling via the Internet.

— From wire service

CAMPUS CRIME

Wednesday, November 14
• Student Clayton G. Mathis reported burglary

Conference Room, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 • Panhellenic Council Meeting, Curtiss Hall, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 • Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 • Freshman Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 7:45 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 4
 • Academic Preparation Day, no classes

Wednesday, December 5
 • Finals begin
 • Karaoke in the Caf, Jack Hopper Dining Hall, 10:00 p.m.
 - 12:00 a.m. Charge: \$4 or one meal plan

GOODBYE FROM OUR AD DIRECTOR

It's time for me to say goodbye to all the loyal Chanticleer readers and, most importantly, the staff of this great paper.

Throughout my tenure as Advertising Director, I saw many people come and go, yet one thing remained constant: the love they had for this publication.

Though there have been good times and bad, I'll always remember my time here as an amazing journey.

I appreciate the opportunity former Editor in Chief Jennifer Bacchus gave me, and for Jessica Summe and Toni Merriss for allowing me to continue in this great position.

As I leave, I will not only be walking away from a great job, but a group of people who are more like family than colleagues.

I hope my successors find this love as well.

Goodbye everyone, and GO GAMECOCKS!

— Jaclyn Cospier

young adults from all over the country. "People play for the staff, go through clinics, then we narrow it down to 150 people," Assistant Director Jeremy Stovall explained.

Spirit is a drum corps consisting of brass, percussion and color guard.

than three decades ago and has now developed into a powerful, nonprofit, global youth activity.

It provides entertainment to millions with more than 35 world championships with live performances and nationally

eat off of a semi-truck converted into a cafeteria," Stovall said. "It's pretty much a kitchen on wheels," he said.

Of the 150 selected from this past weekend, only about 40 are actually students here at Jacksonville State.

Forecast of success for Morrison

By Shaon Montgomery
Staff Reporter

Renee Morrison is more than a JSU graduate and field school coordinator. She is also the former education director for the Anniston Museum of National History, and she is the mother of 16-year-old Joshua Morrison, sophomore at Jacksonville High School.

"Raising my children has surpassed all accomplishments in my life," Renee Morrison said.

Joshua Morrison is the founder and the director of Gaming Environmentally Educated Kids, also called Geeks in the Woods. Geeks in the Woods is an organization that promotes outdoor activities over playing video games and listening to mp3 players. The Web site is

www.geeksinthewoods.org.

"The emotion I have for the organization is gratitude," Joshua Morrison said. "I am thrilled to see that young people are being recognized for their efforts to better their environment."

Recently, Joshua has been invited to Washington, D.C., for the Weather Channel Forecast's Earth Summit. The Earth Summit is a three-day meeting that focuses on environmental educational campaigns, and it allows the student participants to deliberate with some of the greatest climatologists and other scientists from around the world. Joshua will be competing against 19 other high school students from across the United States for Weather Channel prizes.

Luckily for Joshua, he has experience in the nation's capital. Earlier this year, the USDA Forest Service sponsored

Joshua's trip to Washington D.C. for the "More Kids in the Woods" forum. Joshua impressed his peers by delivering a speech at the American Academy of Science.

"The amount of joy I receive from seeing Joshua prosper cannot be measured," Renee Morrison said. "He is becoming so successful by being open to every experience."

With Joshua's leadership skills and brainpower, there is only one question left: Will he attend Jacksonville State University?

"If I have anything to say about it, Joshua will attend JSU, but he is thinking about coming to JSU for undergraduate school and then attending Harvard for graduate school," Renee Morrison said. "All I really want him to do when he comes of age is be the best in whatever it is he decides to do."

Shoebox: Accepting donations until Dec. 14

Cont. from page 1A

Lauderbaugh said. "There are so many people—about 60 percent of the population—who live in poverty."

After hearing of the shoebox program through his involvement with Partners of America, Lauderbaugh decided to try the project at JSU. Last year, organizations across the state sent about 7,000 stuffed shoeboxes to Guatemala, and 325 of them came from JSU.

This year, Phi Alpha Theta secretary Kartie Johnson said that the co-sponsoring organizations are hoping to meet and perhaps surpass that goal.

"We don't want to decrease, we want to increase," Johnson said.

So far, the organization has accumulated about 70 boxes for this year's drive, said Lauderbaugh. The deadline for turning in donations is Dec. 14.

Lauderbaugh explained that the best way students, faculty or others can contribute is by putting together a shoebox filled with small, new items. Stuffed animals, picture books and solar calculators are just a few of possible gifts.

Johnson said that for these kids, the simplest of gifts will be a reason to celebrate.

"I don't know what it's like not to have a toothbrush or clean socks, but these children do," Johnson said. "To get little things like a yo-yo or jacks or some little toy that they don't have will really brighten up their day."

Any kinds of liquids, medicines, perishable foods, toy weapons or breakable items are not allowed.

Officers of the two organizations will be working together to go through each box to ensure that no such items make it through.

Johnson explained that this year is the first time that they will also be required to write out an itemized list of the contents of every single donated shoebox.

"It is time-consuming, but it is well worth the effort to make sure everything is there and they get there," Johnson said.

In the past, Lauderbaugh said the organizations have received little feedback from the shoebox recipients—and for good reason. He explained that the boxes are given to people so poor that they could not afford to buy a stamp to send a thank you.

Yet, he remains unfazed by the lack of accolades.

"The true spirit of giving is giving freely, knowing you won't get any direct thank you," Lauderbaugh said. "It is giving without expecting anything in return."

Suggested items for donation:

- **Toys:** dolls, yo-yos, stuffed animals, balls, harmonicas, kazoos, Slinky.
- **School supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, solar calculators, colored pencils, crayons, coloring books and notepads.
- **Other:** socks, hard candy, ball caps, mints, gum, lollipops, costume jewelry, hair clips, sunglasses, soap, toothbrush and paste, combs and picture books.
- **Not allowed:** used items, toy weapons, perishable items, liquids (like shampoo), medicines or breakable items.
- For more information, call Dr. Lauderbaugh at 782-8044. Donations can be taken to his office in Stone Center, room 309.

Wednesday, November 14
 • Student Clayton G. Mathis reported burglary at Crow Hall. Stolen were a biology textbook and an algebra book valued at \$293.00. Crime occurred between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

• Student Oluwadamilola O. Olalude was arrested for possession of marijuana on Russell Ave. Arrest occurred at 5:37 p.m.

• Student Dexter L. Copeland was arrested for possession of marijuana on Russell Ave. Arrest occurred at 5:37 p.m.

Friday, November 16
 • Student Tamiasha N. Maisonet reported fraudulent use of a debit card. Crime occurred between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. on Nov. 10.

Monday, November 19
 • Student Christopher Warner was arrested for public lewdness in the parking lot of Jacksonville Place. Arrest occurred at 11:50 p.m.

Tuesday, November 20
 • Evan K. Bush was arrested for possessing alcohol as a minor. Arrest occurred at Jacksonville Place at 12:33 a.m.

Monday, November 26
 • Student William D. Dean was arrested for public intoxication at Logan Hall. Arrest occurred at 11:25 p.m.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Sells 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 782-4704 or contact JSUPD at 782-3699.

Traveling home: Some students not as lucky as others

Cont. from page 1

winter break, but that finances do prevent some from making the journey, leaving them to stay in the house. Shults said that though her time in the International House has expanded her horizons, it is still difficult to imagine what it must be like for students to spend the holidays away from family.

"It would be very hard to spend the holidays without my family because we are very close and have always spent every holiday together," Shults said. "The most difficult part would be seeing other families celebrating together and knowing that I (was) not able to experience that same joy.

Because the majority of international students do not live in the International House, JSU's University Housing seeks to accommodate students who need to live on campus year-round.

Though most residence halls close their doors to residents during winter break, the university-owned apartments and Sparkman

Hall, JSU's largest co-ed facility, remain open.

"By keeping Sparkman open all year long, we give ourselves the flexibility to offer more students the opportunity to stay," said Residence Life Coordinator Brooke Bell, who presides over Patterson and Logan Halls. "Using Sparkman eliminates the need to keep two buildings open for few students needing housing during breaks."

Bell estimated that most international students live in Sparkman, but that those living in other halls can reap the rewards of year-round housing as well. Bell explained that such students can submit an application for winter housing in the university's housing office.

Though Arai is headed home to Japan this Christmas, last year he participated in a homestay program. The Atlanta English for Internationals program, along with similar programs strewn across the nation, seeks to immerse international students in American culture by placing them with American fam-

ilies for a few weeks at a time.

Arai, along with one other Japanese student, spent the holidays with a family. Arai said that sightseeing was involved as well, and that he visited sites like the Coca-Cola plant and Georgia's state capital.

For shorter breaks like Thanksgiving, most international students vouch to remain stateside. All residence halls remain open for Thanksgiving break, a practice that, according to Bell, has been in place for three years.

Arai headed to Georgia this year with his friend and fellow student, Justin Swords, to experience a traditional Thanksgiving. He credits his friends, many of whom he met at JSU's Baptist Campus Ministries, for much of his positive experiences in America. Like most international students, Arai does not have a car, but he said he has good friends that he can rely on for transportation. He knows that for many international students, this is simply not the case.

"I think I am just lucky," Arai said.

Cover story: Megan's Web site over 77,000 hits

Southerners' portion of the parade as a special tribute to Megan. Each band member wore a sparkling blue ribbon on their arm in Megan's honor, and the color guard used shimmering blue flags.

Why blue? Because it's more than just her favorite color. For Megan, it's a not-so-secret code.

Megan and her father Gary Brittain, campus minister of JSU's Baptist Campus Ministries, post updates on her condition on her Web site, www.caringbridge.org/visit/megan-brittain, which, at last check, had been viewed over 77,000 times. Depending on how well Megan is doing that day, the two change the color of the message's text.

"Blue is a great day, red is okay, green is a not-so-good day and pink is a real bad day," said Megan, who made a face at the mention of the color pink (or even worse, a pink day).

Bodiford, who once lived just a few doors down from the Brittain family, said the Southerners' gesture is in response to years of kindness from Megan's dad, Gary. Every summer during the Southerners' sweltering band camp, Gary brings a group of BCM students to hand out popsicles every single day of the two-week camp—enough



Gary Brittain looks on as members of the Southerners prepare to march behind him. Gary is the father of Megan and JSU's BCM campus minister. Photo by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*

"This parade is one the things I least look forward to," Brandon said. "With this tribute to Megan and her family, it makes it worthwhile, and I think it is great idea."

Megan was originally scheduled to be admitted into

snag in the plan, but the kindness of yet another individual saved the day. Gary explained that a gentleman let Megan "break in line" in front of him, so that she could receive the treatment and head home to star in the parade.

as they launched into a rendition of "Sleigh Ride"—just for her.

Later that night, after the fun and festivities had come to an end, Gary sat down at home to update Megan's Web site. He told of the band's tribute, Me-

blogs. yep.

read what we have to say in our editor blogs.
a different one each day.

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of BCM students to hand out popsicles every single day of the two-week camp—enough for all 400 band members.

"It's great to have him working at the university," Bodiford said. "Everyone always has something good to say about Gary."

Mellophone player Josh Brandon, an active member of the BCM, is one example. Brandon said that it was Gary's popsicle ministry that first got him involved in the organization. Since then, he said he has come to think of Gary as a second father.

it worthwhile, and I think it is great idea."

Megan was originally scheduled to be admitted into Children's Hospital for the whole week of the parade, but after discovering that her blood counts were too low for treatment, daughter and dad faced mixed emotions. Though both were concerned about the low counts, Megan was thrilled at the prospect of being in the parade and Gary, ever the proud father, was ready to snap dozens of pictures.

Megan's 4:00 p.m. appointment for radiation in Birmingham was the only remaining

break in the— in front of him, and festivities had come to an end, Gary sat down at home to update Megan's Web site. He told of the band's tribute, Megan's fun in the convertible, and Mr. Bodiford's kindness.

When Megan and Gary arrived at the Winn-Dixie parking lot, the band's pre-parade gathering spot, Bodiford herded the masses of Southerners into a group and climbed a hill with Megan in tow to introduce her to the band.

"We want to celebrate with Megan tonight and wish her a speedy recovery," Bodiford said. "And Megan, this parade's for you."

From her perch atop the hill, Megan smiled down at the band

and festivities had come to an end, Gary sat down at home to update Megan's Web site. He told of the band's tribute, Megan's fun in the convertible, and Mr. Bodiford's kindness.

"It has been a long, tiring day, but a good one," Gary wrote.

Megan is in the midst of a yearlong treatment regimen for her tumors. The road ahead is long and rocky, but Megan Britain, brimming with spunk, is determined and ready to fight.

The colors of tomorrow are uncertain, but for today, Megan's dad just feels blessed to be writing in shades of blue.

Constitution: Alabama's over 357,000 words, 799 amendments

Cont. from page 1

know don't understand how large it is, and how out-of-date it is."

Alabama's state constitution has long been infamous to legal scholars and analysts for several reasons, none of them particularly favorable. Its length, at some 357,000 words, makes it the longest functioning constitution in the world and longer than any current state or national governing document.

The world's second-longest constitution is that of India, which clocks in a distant second at 117,000 words. The U.S. Constitution contains some 4,300 words, according to Lester.

At 799 amendments, it is the bulkiest governing document in the United States. The U.S. Constitution, by comparison, totals a trim 27 amendments and is 114 years older.

The state constitution's length can be partly blamed on one concept: a positive-law document.

"A higher-law document is based on fundamental principles. It lays out how government is going to function," Lester said. "It doesn't lay out much more than fundamental principles of government."

A positive-law document, Lester said, tries to envision every eventuality of governance. Positive-law constitutions tend to center power in the hands of the state and away from counties and municipalities.

Some state constitutions, and indeed the U.S. Constitution, are higher-law documents, which leave room for interpretation. Alabama's is not, which means that 90 percent of its length comes from the 799 amendments within its pages, and 70 percent of those amendments apply to only one county or city. Few of the amendments pertain to the state as a whole.

Having a positive-law constitution also means more power is concentrated in Montgomery and less in the hands of the counties and municipalities. An effort to change that

standard, called home rule, has taken off in the last decade.

"What it means is that localities and counties have to go back to the state to do very basic things that, in most parts of the United States, local and county governments can do [by themselves]," Lester said.

Though the grassroots efforts to reform the 1901 constitution are growing, the idea is making little political headway. It's hard to convince politicians who owe their careers to the document to rewrite it, according to Lester.

Still, CCCR will press forward in presenting its message to the public. Usery said more events are planned for the spring semester.

"It's been one of my passions to get involved, and it's definitely something we need," she said. "We need to go out there and make the best of what our state has. Without constitutional reform, there's no telling what we'll turn into."

National survey: Student-faculty interaction above average

Cont. from page 1

where 50.8 percent of seniors responded in the affirmative.

Students also seemed satisfied with the level of student-faculty interaction they encountered. The survey stated that 33.6 percent of first-year students and 43.2 percent of seniors said they worked with faculty members on outside or research projects, or receiving prompt oral and written feedback on assignments, exams and projects. While the figures sound low, they are above the national average, according to Dr. King.

Even fewer responded favorably to a category called "enrich-

ing educational experiences," defined by NSSE as internships, clubs and other activities outside the lecture hall, including discussions across racial, ethnic and religious boundaries. Within that frame, 24.5 percent of first-year students and 36.1 percent of seniors responded positively.

In the final of the five benchmark sections, supportive campus environment, positive responses climbed. NSSE found that 61.3 percent of first-year students and 59.8 percent of seniors said that JSU provided a supportive campus environment, which included academic and social support and interpersonal relations with faculty, staff

and students.

Universities use the findings in different ways. In JSU's case, Dr. King said, the results will be blended with the university's strategic plan to make necessary changes to academic or social facets of the campus.

"We really need to help the campus get a grasp on how important it is for students to be engaged in the learning process," Dr. King said. "I want to see more of that."

JSU was one of only four Alabama colleges and universities that participated in the survey. The other three were Auburn University, Faulkner University and Judson College.

The NSSE is sent to the participating institutions nationwide, which this year numbered 610. Those colleges and universities range greatly in size, location, degrees offered and course specialties.

Randomly selected students at those institutions are then asked to fill out and submit the surveys, which are then tabulated into one of the five benchmark categories. The results are used by both universities and prospective students to evaluate how well an institution is performing academically, culturally and socially.

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OUR VOICE

Let's not drink to that

Say there, young citizen! It sure has been a busy semester, hasn't it? I'll say it has! And now it's careening to a spectacular (or depressing, depending on if you're me or not) conclusion. Hey, how about this "lowering the drinking age" business? Seems as though some of the states are thinking about doing just that in the near future.

To veer a bit into the world of dual federalism and annual budget appropriations, it's a concept easier discussed than implemented. On paper and in principle, the states have the power to adjust the drinking age to whatever they wish it to be.

However, in practice, the federal government has the upper hand, for Congress controls the purse strings. In 1984, when Congress requested the 50 states to bring their legal drinking ages into line at 21 years old, they threatened federal highway funding if the state didn't comply. That is, if a state refused to go along, the federal government would withhold significant amounts of the state's annual highway appropriations.

It was called the National Minimum Drinking Age Act. While it did not outlaw the consumption of alcoholic beverages by those under 21 years of age, the federal government's highway funding provision made it nearly impossible for state governments to disregard it.

Most of the states fell in line, but Louisiana remained the sole holdout for a long time. Consequently, its roads went all to hell before the state finally gave in, and now they have nicer roads.

The lesson here: Don't mess with the federal government when it comes to your annual highway appropriations bill.

But anyways, back to this idea of lowering the drinking age: It stinks.

Think about it. If 21-year-olds are buying booze for 18-year olds, what would happen if 18-year-olds bought booze for 12-year-olds? The children! Won't somebody please

DAVE DILLON
Political Cartoonist



People are the key at JSU

When I first started at JSU for my undergraduate degree, I was just out of high school. My



I can't really explain why JSU pulls at me. Per-

The 7 dwarves make it look so easy

By Eric Beck
Distribution Manager

As a high school student approaching college, you can't wait. You're so excited to be able to do whatever you want, whenever you want. There's just one problem: Everything in today's society costs money.

Then you finally realize that college isn't going to be the same breeze that high school was when mommy and daddy paid for everything. They say it's time for you to grow up and start making your own money.

Originally, you begin to think, "no problem. I can find a job anywhere," and in some cases that's the truth, but soon you begin to realize that the only jobs in this area are those awful jobs at the dirty fast-food restaurants.

Then you begin to understand that finding a job isn't going to be as easy as you once thought.

I started a job search not too long ago and quickly realized that as a college student with no work experience, it's almost impossible to find a job that I was truly going to be happy with, or one that's going to support the lifestyle I am used to keeping.

Now, as an employed individual making a minimal \$6.50 an hour, I have realized that you have to do what you have to do in order to make ends meet.

The first thing that changes is your lifestyle — no more \$80 tabs at the bar and definitely no more taking dates to Outback.

Suitable places to work in this town are few and far between, and basically if you don't spend the summer here or come back a month before school starts, you going to be out of luck when it comes to employment.

Also, if you are not from around here, it can be an uphill battle.

As a person that moved here from out of state, I began to realize quickly that the job situation

Think about it. If 21-year-olds are buying booze for 18-year olds, what would happen if 18-year-olds bought booze for 12-year-olds? The children! Won't somebody please think of the children?!

AMT robs middle-class ATMs

And now for something completely different. One of our higher-ups here tells me I have to be "edgy" in this space, so here it is: The Alternative Minimum Tax should be abolished.

Yeah, I went there.

There are two AMTs: one for corporations and one for individuals. It's the individual AMT that burns my toast. The idea meant well enough when it was enacted in 1969.

The AMT's original target was 155 high-income households that, because of loopholes in the tax code of the day, ended up owing little or no tax revenue to the federal government.

The intentions were good. I don't dispute that. Those 155 households got off easily when no one else did. It's good to close those tax loopholes that made it possible.

But the road to hell, it's been said, is paved with good intentions. There are serious issues with the modern application of the AMT.

In fact, the Alternative Minimum Tax was declared the single biggest problem in American Tax Code in 2006. By the IRS. When the IRS has a problem with its own tax code, you know it's trouble.

Because the AMT is not indexed to the inflation rate, in recent years, more and more Americans have become ensnared in its pernicious grip.

Most of those affected are middle-income families who are already hurting from the lower spending power of the dollar and President Bush's disastrous tax cuts.

So, yeah. Fix it, Congress. Do NOT make me come up there!

And so, with champagne wishes and caviar dreams, all of us here at the *Chanticleer* wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanza, Merry Festivus and a very Happy New Year.

When I first started at JSU for my undergraduate degree, I was just out of high school. My dad worked at JSU and almost everyone that I graduated with was going to Troy University. But I went against the grain and chose Jacksonville (this was also back when Troy and JSU were huge rivals).

Though that was only seven years ago, sometimes it feels like an eternity.

My first two years at JSU were typical of many who are just getting out of the house for the first time. I rarely studied, rarely went to class and was always partying.

Of course, that did not sit well with my parents or the scholarship board. After my sophomore year, I decided that I didn't need college and I was done.

I got a "real" job, worked "real" hours and learned that "real" life is not as much fun as they show on television. Whenever someone would ask me where I went to school or when I had graduated, I hated saying, "Well, I am taking a break."

Though I was making good money at the time, my boss informed me that although I had the experience, I didn't have the education to go any further with that company so, after two and a half years, I finally figured it out.

If I did not end my break soon, it was going to be a permanent one. In the spring of 2005, I started back to school at JSU.

As I am told now, most people were surprised not only that I came back at all, but also that I came back to JSU.

Apparently, there are a lot of people who would rather start over completely than to return to the scene of the crime and try to right old wrongs.

Right them I did, and this past summer, I finally graduated.

So, what does a new graduate decide to do? Start back to grad school at JSU, of course.



Toni Merriss

chantyeditor@gmail.com

I can't really explain why JSU pulls at me. Perhaps it is the feel of a big university in a small town that I get as I drive down the road.

Perhaps not.

My gut tells me it is the people. The students, faculty and staff that make up this great university are why I came back here.

The fact that I can walk into many buildings on campus and know more than five people that know me as well. The fact that most of my professors know my name after only one or two class meetings.

I mean, seriously, what other school can you go to where the president leaves his door open on Friday afternoons, just so students can talk to him?

Here at the *Chanticleer* this semester, we may have been busting some chops on some of our stories and editorials. We do this not only because it is our job and it helps us prepare for our future jobs, we do it so that we can help JSU be aware of ongoing problems and hopefully take the necessary actions to solve them.

We want JSU to succeed just as much as anybody, and if we can help even one person get a better quality education, then we feel that we have done our job.

JSU is not just my school, it is my alma mater and one that I am proud of.

Toni Merriss is the editor in chief of The Chanticleer. She can be reached by phone at 782-5701 or by e-mail at chantyeditor@gmail.com. You can read her weekly JSU blog @ chantyeditor.blogspot.com.

As a person that moved here from out of state, I began to realize quickly that the job situation around here can become very stressful, especially when you have bills to pay.

I applied for jobs for over two months before I actually found one working in Oxford. Honestly, that job is not even worth it, considering I spend more money in gas driving there and back then I make in a day.

A large problem I found was that many employers do not want to work with the crazy schedules that college students have. It is not like we get to pick and choose from a sea of classes. We have to show up for class just like everyone else.

Seriously, what kind of college town doesn't have employers that are actually willing to work with students to give them a break and a chance to make a little money?

Of course, there are those fortunate few whose mommy and daddy are still willing to pay for everything, no matter how much their kids want to spend at the bar or spring break in Mexico. To them, I say, "Enjoy it, cause it won't last forever."

I just think that this town would benefit from having a few more opportunities for those who are not made to work with food but would still like to pay their bills. Since most of us have to work through college, why not help us to make ends meet?

Eric Beck is the distribution manager of The Chanticleer. He can be reached by phone at 782-5701.

Read more on JSU @ chantyeditor.blogspot.com

The Chanticleer

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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 offices in **Room 180, Self Hall**, or to the mailing address to the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com.

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Sports

... envelope please

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

With the end of the calendar year quickly approaching, *The Chanticleer* staff, along with three guests with ties to Jacksonville State, submitted their votes for the 2007 Male and Female Athlete of the Year awards.

The voting wasn't even close.

One athlete picked up seven of eight total first place votes and the other picked up half.

The Chanticleer congratulates not only our winners, but every JSU student athlete for their hard work and determination.

Abbey Breit

The Chanticleer's

2007 Female Athlete of the Year

Clay Whittemore

The Chanticleer's

2007 Male Athlete of the Year





What else can be written about the most decorated volleyball player in Jacksonville State history?

No one in school history has more career kills than Abbey Breit's 1,897.

In fact, only one former player, Kisha West, has more career digs than her 1,342.

Breit's four-year career in Jacksonville has been a virtual assault on the record books.

"It's something to be proud of," Breit said of her records. "But also, I'm aware that none of that would have happened if it weren't for the success of the team."

One look at the list of her accomplishments and you'll see just why the Louisville, Ky. native earned first-team All-OVC in each of her four years and won the OVC's Offensive Player of the Week award 13 times in her career.

In addition to those awards, Breit has also won the OVC's Offensive Player of the Year in each of the last three seasons.

Last season, Breit took it one step further by winning the OVC's Female Athlete of the Year.

"It's all just a byproduct of hard work and being surrounded by people that work hard and compete and push each other everyday," Breit said.

Breit was also earned Honorable Mention All-America honors by the American Volleyball Coaches Association in her sophomore and junior seasons. The announcement of this year's All-Americans will come near the conclusion of the NCAA tournament.

In her final season, Breit led the Gamecocks in total kills and kills per game and also became the second person in school history with over 1,000 career kills and 1,000 career digs.

Breit even ventured into uncharted territory this season, picking up her first ever OVC Defensive Player of the Week.

"I think I'll be able to appreciate it more when I'm older and I look back whereas right now it's just kind of hard to see the big picture," Breit said.

Breit was an almost unanimous choice for our Female Athlete of the Year.

Breit ran away with the voting, picking up seven of the eight first place votes and a second-place vote on the remaining ballot.

"This is cool," Breit said. "It's a different one. With this award, it's more invested in the university as opposed to coaches and sports information directors who have to consider everyone else. This one comes from my peers, so it's definitely cool."

Clay Whittemore's season was as consistent and productive as any baseball player could have.

Whittemore flirted with .400 for much of the season, finishing with a .391 batting average while driving in 69 runs to lead the Ohio Valley Conference.

He also led the OVC in hits, doubles and multiple-hit games.

Whittemore led the Gamecocks to the championship game of the OVC Tournament and also earned first-team All-OVC as well as OVC Player of the Year.

"It's really special," Whittemore said of the achievements. "When I was a little kid, these are the things I laid in bed thinking about. You always dream of stuff like this happening. It's just really special to have some of those dreams come true."

In 2007, it seemed like every time Whittemore came to the plate, he had runners on base.

More often than not, the two Gamecocks hitting ahead of him in the batting order, Bert Smith and Nick Cleckler, were already in scoring position.

"It's not hard to have those types of numbers when everytime you come to the plate, Bert and Nick are on second and third,"

Whittemore said. "When you've got guys like that in front of you, it makes your job really easy."

To say that Whittemore was a one-man show would be a lie.

Whittemore was the most consistent bat on a team that saw ten of its players earn All-OVC honors in either first, second or freshman teams.

"It's nice to have one or two guys on those conference teams, but when you get seven or eight guys making these teams its a more consistent level of players," Whittemore said.

Consistency helped Whittemore earn countless honors from the OVC and it helped him win this award as well.

While Whittemore only received four first place votes, he appeared on every ballot, something no other male did in the voting.

"It's really humbling to have your fellow students deem you worthy of an award like this. I put this up there with any of the other awards I've gotten," Whittemore said. "I look and see how good these other guys are and to think that people put me up there with them means a lot."

Second Place

Daniella Pappano — Softball

Pappano finished the 2007 season hitting .392 and hitting 11 homers and led JSU to the championship game of the OVC tournament.

Pappano also became the first Gamecock to hit more than 50 career homers.

Other receiving votes: Karla Pittman, Brooke Schumacher, Jolie Efezokhae, Nolinda Garner, Kate Kelly and Rachel Flemming

Third Place

Rebekah Nichols — Volleyball

Nichols final season as a Gamecock was far and away her best, leading the team with a .299 hitting percentage and finishing second on the team with 384 kills and earned first-team All-OVC honors.

Second Place

Cedric Johnson — Football

Johnson earned All-OVC honors in his first season as a Gamecock. He also became the first player in JSU history to rush for 100 yards and pass for 100 yards in the same game.

Other receiving votes: Courtney Bradley, Michael Dickinson, John Scott and Devin Phillips

Third Place

Daniel Willett — Golf

After leading JSU to the OVC title and claiming the individual crown, Willett turned his OVC success into international success. Willett advanced to the round of 32 of the British Amateur Championships.

This year's voters were: Toni Merriss - Editor in Chief, Kevin Jeffers - Managing Editor, Patrick Swafford - Sports Editor, Jered Staubs - Staff Sports Writer, Jared Gravette - Staff Sports Writer, John Nicholson - WLJS Program Director, Chris Lundy - Former Sports Editor, Gerhard Matlhangani - TV24



Jered

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We want to watch, but we can't

I'm not a big professional sports guy.

The behavior a lot of professional athletes exhibit on and off the field mortifies me, and I hope that Sean Taylor's death wasn't the latest example.

Whether it was indiscretion on his part or just a random tragedy, there have been several of examples in the NFL over the past year that have largely turned me off the game.

Darrent Williams deciding it was acceptable to be at a nightclub at 4:30 in the morning and paying the ultimate price. Michael Vick ... well, you know. The poor decision making of Pacman Jones, Chris Henry, Tank Johnson and on and on.

Not to be all holier than thou, but it's legitimately hard to cheer for any of these players or any of their teams.

But the one story I have been following is the rejuvenation of Brett Favre. His play — he would be a lock for NFL MVP if not for Tom Brady playing out of his mind — combined with the young talent on the Packers defense has made Green Bay extremely watchable.

Tonight, the Packers travel to Dallas in a battle of 10-1 teams looking to assert themselves as the superior team in the NFC.

It should be a great battle between Favre and the young player that many are saying is

A look back at 2007

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Jacksonville State athletics as a whole had a fairly productive year in 2007.

The spring saw six different teams either win or contend for an Ohio Valley Conference title.

Baseball

Baseball saw the emergence of Clay Whittemore as one of the team's premier hitters as the Gamecocks entered the OVC tournament as the second seed.

Whittemore led the OVC in batting average, runs batted in and hits on his way to being awarded the OVC's Player of the Year award.

JSU's pitching staff was as effective as usual with Donovan Hand cementing his role as the leader of the staff while Alex Jones developed into a reliable closer that coach Jim Case could count on in later innings.

The Gamecocks found themselves in the championship game of the OVC tournament for the fourth straight year, losing a 3-2 decision to Austin Peay in the finale.

Softball

Softball saw similar success and an ending that Jana McGinnis and her staff are becoming all too familiar with.

JSU's bats were active as always with three different players hitting 11 or more home runs.

Pappano also hit .392 and drove in 50 runs on the season.

After a 35-23 record during the regular season, the Gamecocks battled their way through the tournament and once again advanced to the title game where they eventually lost to Tennessee Tech.

Tech has been a thorn in JSU's side for the better part of the last several years. The Golden Eagles eliminated JSU from the OVC tournament a few years ago after the Game-

cocks won the regular season title and the right to host the tournament.

Golf

Both men's and women's golf teams brought hardware back to Jacksonville after claiming OVC Championships.

For the women, it was their third straight conference crown and helped to continue their streak of dominance over the rest of the OVC.

The men seemed to hit their stride at the perfect time, capitalizing on a late charge by Daniel Willett.

Willett faced a seven-shot deficit at the start of the final round, but somehow not only made up the difference but pulled away for a five-stroke individual lead and the individual medal as well.

Tennis

The men's tennis team broke through in a big way, winning the regular season and tournament titles while only losing one OVC match through the entire season.

Scott Robertson led a host of Gamecocks that earned All-OVC honors, but the biggest surprise of the year was freshman Eduardo Saratt.

Saratt lost his first match of his collegiate career, then went on to mow down a school record 17 consecutive opponents in singles play before finally losing in straight sets in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

New faces

JSU saw several new faces make an immediate impact in 2007, but none more than quarterback Cedric Johnson.

Johnson came in as a junior college transfer from Mississippi and brought life to an offense that many believed to be stagnant.

Once Johnson earned the starting role after the UT-Chattanooga game, the junior from Americus, Ga., took Paul Snow Stadium by storm.

Johnson's ability to make

plays with his feet as well as his arm made him a duel threat.

If there was any question as to the degree of his impact, he answered all doubts and questions with his four rushing touchdown performance against Austin Peay in front of a national television audience on ESPNU.

Johnson's feat matched a school record, but his feet made the biggest impression.

One particular play saw Johnson fake an option pitch to his left, stop on a dime and take off in the other direction.

The end result was a long touchdown run and the number five top play of the night on ESPN's *Sportscenter*.

Softball also was introduced to its own new faces, Karla Pittman and Chrissy O'Neal.

Pittman came in and immediately strengthened a pitching staff that lost its two best from the previous season to graduation.

Pittman flourished in the circle for JSU, going 21-10 while striking out 172 batters in 209 innings of work.

Pittman also led the team with a 1.57 ERA.

In her freshman season, O'Neal was one of the strongest bats JSU had.

O'Neal tied for second on the team with 11 homers and was third in hits while batting .310 in all 58 games JSU played.

Another new face at JSU was new women's basketball coach Becky Geyer.

Geyer came to JSU after a stint as an assistant at Central Florida.

Before that, she coached Division III Trinity to a NCAA Championship.

Geyer's first season in Jacksonville neither began nor ended well.

The Gamecocks finished far out of contention for a spot in the OVC tournament, managing only seven total wins through the season.



Quarterback Cedric Johnson was named the starter three weeks into the season and later became the first person in school history to rush and pass for over 100 yards in the same game. Photo by Steve Latham / Jacksonville State University



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It should be a great battle between Favre and the young player that many are saying is the next Favre, Tony Romo.

America's Team versus America's model athlete.

And few will be able to watch.

The game is on the NFL Network, a channel that is available only to satellite subscribers.

The NFL and cable television aren't able to reach a satisfactory contract to show these Thursday night games, and as a result, the majority of the country will do without.

The NFL claims it is using the marquee games to build the network. And sure, that would be great if people could actually watch the games.

But it seems like the league is holding its fans hostage in an attempt to force cable to pay steep prices to air the NFL Network.

Roger Goodell is doing his best in his new role as commissioner to straighten out the league's player conduct policy. It's good to see that he recognizes the image problems within the NFL and is trying to correct them.

But why wouldn't he do everything in his power to make sure Green Bay and Dallas are on TV?

The game tonight could exemplify everything that is right with the league. Even T.O. has become a model citizen.

But to have this monetary dispute with the cable networks, to deprive its fans of one of the biggest games of the year ... it's just unconscionable to me.

Imagine this scenario.

The Patriots are 15-0 and are looking to become the first team in the history of the NFL to put together a 16-0 regular season.

They are playing at the New York Giants, a probable play-off team in the biggest media market in the country.

There is potential history — something not likely to be seen again any time soon — in the making, and it's going to be seen by fewer than 40 percent of American households.

It really makes the NFL look as underhanded as the athletes who turned me off the league in the first place.



Jacksonville State left fielder Clay Whittemore earned OVC Player of the Year honors after hitting .391 with 69 RBI's and 20 doubles. Photo by Steve Latham / Jacksonville State University

HOW WE STACKED UP

Men's Basketball

9-21, 7-13 OVC

9th place

Team MVP: Courtney Bradley

Women's Basketball

7-22, 4-16 OVC

10th place

Team MVP: Jolie Efezokhae

Baseball

33-27, 18-9 OVC

2nd place

Team MVP: Clay Whittemore

Softball

35-23, 17-10 OVC

2nd place

Team MVP: Daniela Pappano

Rifle

OVC Air Rifle, Smallbore and Overall champions

Team MVP: Michael Dickinson (NCAA)

Individual Air Rifle (Champion)

Men's Cross Country

2nd place

Team MVP: Ryan McKay

Women's Cross Country

7th place

Team MVP: Lesley Binning

Men's Tennis

14-6, 8-1 OVC

Regular season and tournament champions

Team MVP: Scott Robertson

Women's Tennis

8-15, 4-6 OVC

7th place

Team MVP: Kimberly Ferris

Track

4th place — Outdoor

6th place — Indoor

Team MVP: Nolinda Garner

Men's Golf

OVC Champions

Team MVP: Daniel Willett

Women's Golf

OVC Champions

Team MVP: Manuela Tarazona

Soccer

4-12-1, 2-6-1 OVC

9th place

Team MVP: Kate Kelly

Volleyball

18-10, 15-5 OVC

Regular season OVC Champions

Team MVP: Abbey Breit

Football

6-5, 5-3 OVC

4th

Team MVP: Cedric Johnson

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MEN'S HOOPS

Bray has career night in loss to Central Arkansas

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

JSU's run of close games continued, as the Gamecocks traveled to Central Arkansas and fell by a 76-72 score.

It was the fourth consecutive game JSU has played that was decided in the final minute.

"We're putting ourselves in position to win these games," said coach Mike LaPlante. "It's just a matter of making the plays down the stretch and closing the deal."

The Gamecocks did make some plays late against Central Arkansas, putting together a furious rally after trailing by 13

with less than four minutes to play.

Will Ginn had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds, but his 3-pointer was off the mark, and the Bears' free throw shooting was nearly impeccable down the stretch.

After starting out ice cold and falling behind by as many as 10, the Bears trimmed JSU's half-time lead to 25-23.

The Bears hit 13 of their first 19 shots in the second half on their way to shooting 59 percent from the floor. Nate Bowie scored 21 of his game-high 23 points after the half to pace UCA.

JSU featured a balanced at-

tack that saw four players score in double figures, led by Dorian Brown's 17 and Ginn's 16.

DeAndre Bray added a career-high 15, but perhaps more important were the eight assists he dished out. Those assists bring his season total to an NCAA-best 45.

The junior was named Ohio Valley Conference Co-Player of the Week, after dishing out 19 assists in the two games JSU played, and turning the ball over only three times.

Jeremy Bynum also shared an OVC honor, for Freshman of the Week, after scoring 26 points in the two games.

Bray, who led the OVC in assists last season, is counted on to facilitate the offense even more than usual with Jonathan Towles missing from the lineup.

Towles has missed the last two games with a thigh bruise, and senior Erik Adams has not played at all this year.

Both have returned to practice, and LaPlante says that their return will strengthen JSU's end-game play.

"It's a bit of a double-edge right now, having to rely on freshman at the end of games," he said. "On the one hand, you'd like to have more experience out there, but on the other hand, having these guys out there now will prepare them for conference play."

The Gamecocks (2-4) will have an immediate opportunity to avenge the loss as the Bears come to Jacksonville on the back end of a unique home and home series.

"It's a little odd to play the same team twice, in a row like this," said LaPlante. "We just couldn't find any other way to work it out, and now we have to get ready for another hard fought game."

WOMEN'S HOOPS

Gamecocks lose two straight despite big weekend from freshmen

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Many people believe that playing against stiff competition during the early portion of the regular season will ultimately make you better in the long run.

That is what the Jacksonville State women's basketball team is hoping.

The Gamecocks (1-4) lost to both Georgia Southern and Georgia State last week.

Despite the losses, it's becoming apparent after each game that the team is moving in the right direction.

"I'm not looking at the fact that we are 1-4," JSU coach Becky Geyer said. "I'm looking at the fact that we are, tremendously better than we were when we played our first exhibition game."

The biggest key for this team entering conference play could be the performance of two standout freshman. As of late, both Cierra Duhart and Danielle Beneby are living up to their lofty preseason expectations.

Through four games, Duhart is averaging 10 points per game to go along with 6.8 rebounds per game. Beneby has led the team in scoring two out of the last three games.

Despite the number of positives coming from this team, last Tuesday's game against Georgia Southern wasn't pretty. The Gamecocks fell 63-44.

Sophomore Jolie Efezokhae was the only player to reach double-figures for JSU, as she recorded her second double-double of the season tallying 10 points and 12 rebounds.

"Against Georgia Southern, we didn't come out with the effort that we needed," Geyer said. "Of all the teams that we have played, I think they were the most beatable, but if you don't show up with that effort you are going to get beat."

The Gamecocks played better on Saturday but still came away on the losing end, falling to Georgia State 63-51.

Only nine players traveled to Atlanta for the game.

Without the services of Duhart or Courtney Chessher in the post, the Gamecocks played zone defense for the majority of the game, which helped JSU take a four-point lead into the



JSU guard Eren McMichael was instrumental in the Gamecocks' early success against Georgia State. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com

break.

The second half was a totally different story.

Georgia State shot 64 percent from the field and outscored the Gamecocks by 16 points.

"I thought they really struggled with our zone," Geyer said. "At crucial times, we didn't get matched up, and then they started getting a little bit hot."

Two Gamecocks scored double-digits in points on Saturday. Beneby led the team with 15, and freshman Zenobia Pitts added 10.

The Gamecocks will finish up their non-conference schedule this week as they will take on Troy and Southern Miss.



JSU guard DeAndre Bray earned OVC Co-Player of the Week honors after dishing out a total of 19 assists last week. Bray currently leads the nation in assists with 45. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com



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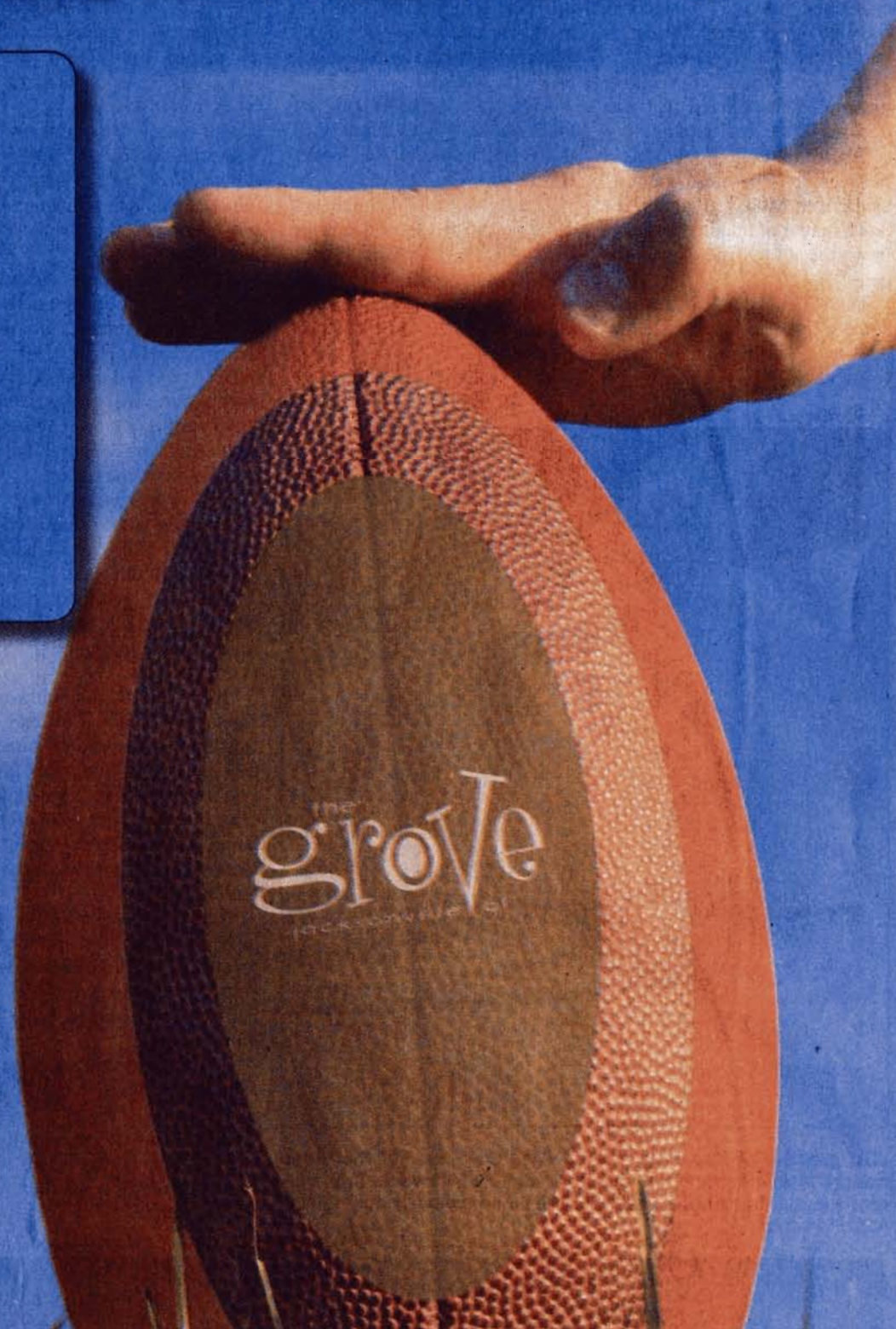


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the Chanticleer

November 29, 2007 / Volume 56, Issue 13

our
20

favorite albums of

07



by kevin jeffers / matthew l. reese / corey martin /
natalie dempster / matt mcrae
pages **2b & 3b**

also / the year's 10 best games.
by chris pittman / page **2b**

Illustration and design / kevin jeffers, *the chanticleer*
cover and inside photos / natalie dempster

the 10 best games of 2007

by chris pittman
web editor

10 *Uncharted: Drake's Fortune* (Playstation 3)

Naughty Dog has a hit on their hands with *Uncharted*. The game is very fun to play and even more fun to look at. *Uncharted* has some of the best visuals in the gaming market today. It also has a large variety of gameplay mechanics that keep the game fresh and interesting.

The Legend of Zelda: Phantom Hourglass (Nintendo DS) 9

Link's newest adventure takes him back to the land of the handheld. *Phantom Hourglass* is truly a work of art, featuring graphics and sound that push the Nintendo DS to the next level. The game strays away from the standard Zelda experience, but still retains the quality that you would come to expect from the series.

8 *Metroid Prime 3: Corruption* (Wii)

Metroid Prime 3 takes the Wii's unique controls to a new level. Samus makes her debut on Nintendo's newest console with a game that seems to perfectly blend shooting and adventure elements. *Metroid Prime* also provides the challenge that many Wii games lack.

God of War 2 (Playstation 2) 7

God of War 2 proves that there is still a good reason to keep that Playstation 2 hooked up. The title is one of the best action games to come along in recent history. Every little detail of *God of War 2* shines—from combat to puzzle solving.

6 *Halo 3* (Xbox 360)

Master Chief's debut on Xbox 360 prompted a launch event that put every other form of entertainment to shame. *Halo 3* combines a good single-player campaign with a fantastic multi-player mode to produce one of the year's best games. Developer Bungie included both a level editor tool and a saved games feature in order to strengthen the games longevity. They were successful as many people will be playing this game for years to come.

Mass Effect (Xbox 360) 5

BioWare is notorious for creating some of the best role-playing games in the industry. *Mass Effect* continues this tradition and shows that the company does not have

The Chanticleer's 20 best albums of 2007

kevin jeffers / matthew l. reese / corey martin / natalie dempster / matt mcrae

20 shocking pinks / shocking pinks



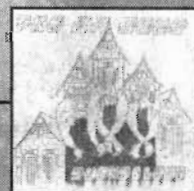
I don't really know what disco-punk is. I know very little of New Zealand outside of *Lord of the Rings* and *Flight of the Conchords*. But I do know that both are associated with Shocking Pinks, who released its best record in 2007. The record veers from moments of ethereal pop to those of sheer destitute. But never is it uneven for the sake of experimentation. A couple of listens and you don't know whether to feel bouncy or solemn. Such emotional ambiguity is a sign of a good artist, if nothing else. — kj

19 avett brothers / emotionalism



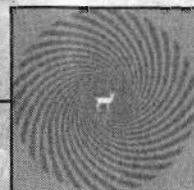
The Avett Brothers seem to have secured their status as one of the most influential alt-country bands of this decade. *Emotionalism* harps on homegrown charm and harmonic vocals. It's a more polished effort, and that's not a bad thing. Keeping true to their bluegrass roots, the rudimentary banjo and simple lyrical prose of their 5th studio release from the North Carolina trio, *Emotionalism* creates a gentle atmospheric whirl of the "grass of yesteryear," while easing us into the future of the alt-country genre — a melding of traditional folk sounds not limited to lap steels. Or banjos. — nd

18 thee ohsees / sucks blood



John Dwyer (Coachwhips, Yikes) heads in a different direction than his typical thrash-rock with this set of songs from his new group. With a heavy emphasis on reverb and female vocals, *Sucks Blood* sounds absolutely lush in production. With plenty of hooks, Thee Ohsees (formerly OCS) prove to be a hit-machine for Dwyer. For the nastier side of Dwyer, check out Yikes' *Whoa Comas/Blood Bomb*, also released this year. — mlr

17 deerhunter / cryptograms



Deerhunter, from Atlanta, makes a compelling debut for Kranky records in *Cryptograms*. With a mix of ambient tracks and haunting experimental rock songs, Bradford Cox (lead singer/writer) shows himself to be a figure to watch in the coming years. Never mind the slightly disconcerting personal ballyhoo that Pitchfork seems intent on posting about them (see articles concerning Cox's blog), Deerhunter is the real deal. — mlr

BioWare is notorious for creating some of the best role-playing games in the industry. *Mass Effect* continues this tradition and shows that the company does not have to rely on the Star Wars license. The game shines in the role-playing aspect, with each player made decision being crucial to the story. *Mass Effect* is a huge game that will keep you playing well into next year.

4 *Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare* (PC/Playstation 3/Xbox 360)

Infinity Ward has taken their hit franchise to the next level with *Call of Duty 4*. The war shooter has an amazing single-player campaign that will have you on the edge of your seat the entire ride. The multiplayer experience is one of the best you will find this year. The game has many jaw-dropping moments that simply do not exist in many of today's games.

The Orange Box 3 (PC/Playstation 3/Xbox 360)

The Orange Box features five quality games in one package. *Half-Life 2* is the meat of the group, and it comes complete with both expansions. In the making for nearly a decade, *Team Fortress 2* proves that the wait was worth it by delivering amazing class-based multiplayer. *Portal* rounds out the package, and has become a cult favorite among gamers all over the world. *The Orange Box* is by far the best bang for your buck this year.

2 *BioShock* (PC/Xbox 360)

BioShock is the most memorable experience of any game on this list. Irrational Games' first-person thriller surprised many people this year by delivering a game that was near perfect on all cylinders. The world of Rapture is an absolutely breathtaking place that perfectly fits the dark mood of the story. The use of plasmids adds more variety to tackling enemies, and ignores the constant run-and-gun gameplay of most shooter games. *BioShock* is a breath of fresh air to the first-person shooter genre.

Super Mario Galaxy (Wii) 1

Super Mario Galaxy is, simply put, the best game of 2007. Nintendo has yet again reinvented the platformer by sending their loveable mascot into space. Everything about the game shines, from the amazing animations to the top notch musical score. The level design is by far the best ever in a Mario game, and the controls utilize the Wii Remote's strengths. *Galaxy* proves that Mario is still the king of video games.



Mario takes to the sky in *Super Mario Galaxy*. Media file photo

16

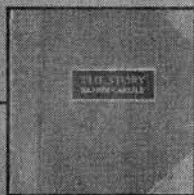
peter bjorn and john /
writer's block



There may not be a less fitting album title to come out this year than *Writer's Block*, as PB&J has produced a quintessential Swedish pop record. The most fun song to come out in the last two years is "Young Folks," with a whistle-filled verse that would put Andy Griffith to shame. "Up Against the Wall" is perhaps as beautiful a piece of simple melodies and chords as anything I've heard in a while. It's this year's album equivalent to the perfect date movie. Call it the *Jerry Maguire* of our list. — kj

15

brandi carlile /
the story



The 23-year-old Brandi Carlile sings with a voice so beyond her years (yet writes with the novical view of any aimless kid in her twenties) and in such a clear and thoughtful outlook, it leaves you thinking you couldn't have said it better yourself. Carlile's sound is not easily pinned down, either. Is she pop? Is she bluegrass? Is she alt-country? I really don't care. I just like it. — nd

14

kings of leon /
because of the times



Let's talk about McFearless, the best song on Kings of Leon's best album, *Because of the Times*. Somehow, this Tennessee, Southern-rock-meets-grunge-meets-alt-country-whatever outfit was able to bottle a stereotypical down-on-his-luck Western vagabond tale into one of the more hard-charging (while still radio-friendly) rock singles of the year. Enough hyphens for you? That's the kind of band KOL is. Tough to pin down into one genre or describe in one way. But a good album is a good album. — kj

13

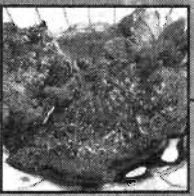
bright eyes /
cassadaga



Connor Oberst did nothing to dispel those who claim him to be the emo generation's Dylan with *Cassadaga*. The prolific everyman of Bright Eyes writes words so piercing (sung with an equally piercing, quavering voice) that it's impossible not to care about the cause — *whatever* cause it may be — just a little. *When the Brakeman Comes My Way* has as good advice as any anthem released in 2007, and *Four Winds* is as socially conscious as it is knee-slapping fun. It takes a rare gift to pull that off. — kj

12

animal collective /
strawberry jam



I've always felt that Animal Collective would be far superior if they would embrace the pop format completely instead of shrouding melody with abrasive noise. It is on this release that the group attempts to create a fully embraceable set of songs that still retain the adventurous aspect of their past endeavors. These nine songs demand being heard. It's this insistence that makes this album immediately flourish. *Strawberry Jam* is a must own album, one that exceeds all expectations. — mlr

our favorite songs of the year

*The Chanticleer***Kevin Jeffers,
Managing Editor**

1. "Heretics" Andrew Bird
2. "Turn On Me" The Shins
3. "Reckoner" Radiohead
4. "Up Against the Wall" Peter Bjorn and John
5. "Rag and Bones" The White Stripes

**Toni Merriss,
Editor in Chief**

1. "I'm Still a Guy" Brad Paisley
2. "Living our love song" Jason Aldean
3. "Beautiful Girls" Sean Kingston
4. "Waves of You" Jeannine Hebb Band
5. "Don't Blink" Kenny Chesney

**Matt McRae,
Photo Editor**

1. "Dream World" Rilo Kiley
2. "Salt of the Earth" Lovedrug
3. "Epidemic" Blackfield
4. "Magic" Bruce Springsteen
5. "The Hound" Coheed & Cambria

**Chris Pittman,
Web Editor**

1. "Be Bold" Screwie Lewie
2. "What I've Done" Linkin Park
3. "Blue Magic" Jay-Z

11

feist /
the reminder

Funny to me that the first words to come out of Feist's gorgeous mouth on her best album, 2007's *The Reminder*, are "I'm sorry." She has no reason to apologize to us. It's an eclectic listen. The record ranges from, forgive me, feisty to somber, and it's all done superbly. With a voice like hers, it'd be tougher not to make songs that sound anything less than beautiful. Indeed, her gifts do not go to waste. The best songs from an album that rarely left my CD player this summer are "I Feel It All," "The Park," "My Moon, My Man" and "Brandy Alexander." F*** it, there's not a bad track on here. — kj

10

black lips /
good bad not evil

This young quartet out of Atlanta proves once more why they are the most exciting rock bands with *Good Bad Not Evil*. Raucous guitar and drums along with playful, often silly, lyrics could easily make this band seem like one of the typical garage-rock revivalists, but don't overlook these guys. Check the twangy-stutter of "I Saw a Ghost Lean" or the country-swagger of "How Do You Tell a Child That Someone Has Died," along with other influences on the album. — mlr

9

andrew bird /
armchair apocrypha

I don't pretend to have heard every single song that was released in 2007. But it'd be a tough sell to tell me there was a better one than Andrew Bird's "Heretics." I won't poo-poo it by describing it. Fruitless. Go listen to it. The rest of *Armchair Apocrypha* is not quite as brilliant, but there are brilliant moments nonetheless. Most who have followed Bird's scattered career agree it's his best collection to date. Released early in the year, *Apocrypha* is a record that has staying power. You can't pigeonhole this one. Fitting record for the vagabond visage Bird so aptly portrays. — kj

8

jennifer gentle /
the midnight room

Jennifer Gentle's came at a time when America needed Italian avant-pop the most. Light up some incense and serve the gelato, Jennifer Gentle delivers the goods. Marco Fasolo, founder and sole creator on *The Midnight Room*, holed himself up in an old, creaky house (immersed with fog, no doubt) in northern Italy to record this album. He went in with a paisley shirt, wavy hair, and a trebly electric guitar. He left with a modern psychedelic masterpiece. And probably dementia. — mlr

7

the national /
boxer

This is what Top-40 music should sound like. Perfection. The National (who released its second excellent record with *Boxer* in 2007) boasts probably the best drummer you've never heard of in Bryan Davendorf. Hell, the drums alone would be reason enough to listen to *Boxer* if not for the complexities that the layered melodies and instruments throughout present to the listener. Never fret, though, because the soothing baritone of Matt Berninger guides you through. Even if it's as even-keel as albums get, there's not a bad track on here. You're in love halfway through *Fake Empire*, the opening track. — kj

6

shout out louds /
our ill wills

The Shout Out Louds follow up their debut album, *Howl Howl Gaff Gaff* with *Our Ill Wills*. The album starts out with possibly its best song, "Tonight I Have To Leave It." Within the first minute of the album, you can hear a strong resemblance to The

our favorite songs of the year

WLJS

**Matt Reese,
Music Director**

1. "Take My Hand" Jennifer Gentle
2. "Baby Comes Around" Ariel Pink's Haunted Graffiti
3. "Videotape" Radiohead
4. "In the Club" White Williams
5. "Mechanical Mee-Mee Sings the Blues" 300 lb. Ghost

**Jessica Bloodworth,
DJ, Sunday night**

1. "Is There a Ghost?" Band of Horses
2. "Boy with a Coin" Iron and Wine
3. "Missed the Boat" Modest Mouse
4. "Big Casino" Jimmy Eat World
5. "Hero/Heroine" Boys Like Girls

**Katie Shepard,
DJ, Sunday night**

1. "Acceptable in the 80's" Calvin Harris
2. "Rockers to Swallow" Yeah Yeah Yeahs
3. "My Little Japanese Cigarette Case" Spoon
4. "Big Casino" Jimmy Eat World
5. "The Pretender" Foo Fighters

**Corey Martin,
Afternoon DJ**

1. "We were born again mutants with

2. "What I've Done"
Linkin Park
3. "Blue Magic" Jay-Z
4. "First Time"
Lifehouse
5. "Big Things Poppin"
T. I.

**Brandon Hollingsworth,
News Editor**

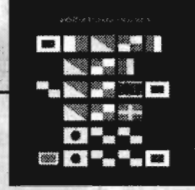
1. "Thnks fr the Mmrs"
Fall Out Boy
2. "This Ain't a Scene,
It's an Arms Race"
Fall Out Boy
3. "Hum Hallelujah"
Fall Out Boy
4. "The Take Over, the
Break's Over"
Fall Out Boy
5. "I'm Like a Lawyer
with the Way I'm
Always Trying to Get
You Off" Fall Out Boy

**Patrick Swafford,
Sports Editor**

1. "One and Only"
Timbaland w/ Fall Out
Boy
2. "What I Want"
Daughtry
3. "Deathstar"
Sevendust
4. "Paralyzer" Finger
Eleven
5. "Streetcorner
Symphony"
Rob Thomas

**Bethany Harbison,
Copy Editor**

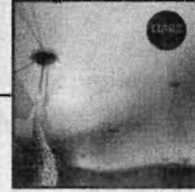
1. "East to West"
Casting Crowes
2. "Everything Glorious"
David Crowder Band
3. "I'm For You"
Toby Mac
4. "In Better Hands"
Natalie Grant
5. "God With Us"
Mercy Me



The Shout Out Louds follow up their debut album, *Howl Howl Gaff Gaff with Our Ill Wills*. The album starts out with possibly its best song, "Tonight I Have To Leave It." Within the first minute of the album, you can hear a strong resemblance to The Cure. Frontman Adam Olenius's sound is very similar to Robert Smith's. If you are a fan of The Cure, you will love this album. If you are a diehard fan of The Cure, you may see it as a rip-off. Though the entire thing is a great listen, the album has some songs that stand above the rest, including "Your Parents Living Room," "You Are Dreaming" and "Hard Rain." Swedish pop is back for a reason. — mm

5

**liars /
liars**



A flash! and Liars starts off on a fierce riff and the drums (once dead) pound as if their lives depend on it. The opening track to Liars' self-titled fourth album reminds one of being either in a muscle car evading past ghosts or as a low-ranking member of a motorcycle gang. Either fantasy requires me to wear leather. The preposterousness of this outfit bothers me more than the frantic vibe that "Plaster Casts of Everything" provides. As with the very first track, Liars is completely more accessible than their previous two albums. All tracks retain Liars' past experimentation, but there is fun to be had now. — mlr

4

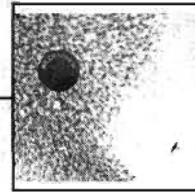
**rilo kiley /
under the black light**



Few things hit the spot like this album. The wide variety of styles makes it a great listen, starting with the light and lofty rhythm of "Silver Lining." The goddess that is Jenny Lewis quickly transforms her voice from angelic to devilish and sultry, a feat which few could rival. This is especially evident in "Moneymaker." Kiley's influences are evident throughout. "Close Call" and "Dreamworld" have similarities to some of the heavily Stevie Nicks-influenced Fleetwood Mac days. "Breakin' Up" is reminiscent of Blondie. Then there is "Smoke Detector," a nod to the old beach bum movies of Frankie Avalon. — mm

3

**wilco /
sky blue sky**



The sixth studio album from Wilco shows a band starting to play music fitting of their age. Rather than continuing their trend of experimental rock, Wilco opts instead to do a breezy album that owes more to 1970's soft-rock than anything else. Not necessarily their best album, *Sky Blue Sky* nonetheless contains some really great songs helped by an overall improved musicianship. The introduction of guitar virtuoso Nels Cline certainly lends to that. If anything can be said that sums up the album it would be that this album could be the best driving record of the last few years. — mlr

2

**radiohead /
in rainbows**



Who are we, Earthlings that is, to dare doubt Radiohead? Who are we to question whether *this* will be the Radiohead album that finally sucks. After the brouhaha surrounding the unique and abrupt release of the seventh studio album from world's greatest rock band, we know now what we've really always known. Just more than ever now, it's Radiohead's world, and we should just all be thankful to live in it. "Reckoner," "Videotape," "Weird Fish Appreghi" and "Jigsaw Falling Into Place" are all on par with any Radiohead song. These words are all pointless wasting of time that we could all be listening, err, reveling, in this album. It is brilliant. — kj

1

**of montreal /
hissing fauna, are you the destroyer?**



Hissing Fauna is a true masterpiece of electronic psych-pop and glam rock. Since its release, it has been an absolute favorite of the staff at 92J and has been on constant rotation. The album overflows with upbeat melodies, colorful lyrics and outlandish concepts that transcend the common idea of what a concept album should be. With long-winded song titles and at oftentimes complex themes, this album may seem like a handful, but it is definitely worth giving a hard listen to. — cm

Afternoon DJ

1. "We were born
again mutants with
leafing" Of Montreal
2. "Hey Girl" Figurines
3. "What Light"
Wilco
4. "Silver Lining"
Rilo Kiley
5. "Vinni Viddi Vicci"
Black Lips

**Julie Skinner,
DJ, Thursday night**

1. "Zeitgeist"
Smashing Pumpkins
2. "Apologize"
One Republic
3. "You Made Me Like
It"
The 1990's
4. "Girls Who Play
Guitar"
Maximo Park
5. "I Was Married"
Tegan and Sara

**Natalie Dempster,
News Director**

1. "F-ck Was I"
Jenny Owen Youngs
2. "No Bad News"
Patty Griffin
3. "Girls and Boys"
Ingrid Michaelson
4. "Wolves at Night"
Manchester
Orchestra
5. "Sing Theresa
Says" Greg Laswell

**Mike Stedham,
Media Adviser**

1. "Ordinary People"
Neil Young
2. "Radio Nowhere"
Bruce Springsteen
3. "#9 Dream" R.E.M.
4. "That Was Me" Paul
McCartney
5. "No More Walks In
The Woods"
Eagles

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