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 believe it needs reform.”

See “Constitution,” page 3A

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 environment.

Survey participants also rate 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 engagement.
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 JSUboxes 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

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 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 dail 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 $0.50 to $2.00. For more information, contact Jason Sumner at jsu6374k@jsu.edu.

- The Student Health Center is offering 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 constitute endorsement by The Chanticleer. All information must arrive at the Chanticleer office in Boblet 105, or e-mailed to chanticleer@jsu.edu 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, Old Union 207, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

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.

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- From wire service

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

Students, faculty, staff and guests crowded into President and Mrs. Meehan's home Monday night to view the countdown 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

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"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.
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 the former Chief Editor Jennifer Baccus 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 Cospers
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 families 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 Britain, 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 (even worse, a pink day).

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

"His heart is in the right place," said Bodiford, who is a member of the Southerners. "Megan, in return, has fought for his son every step of the way."

"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 a great idea."

Megan was originally scheduled to be admitted into the hospital on Thanksgiving Day, but the Southerners' gesture is in response to the kindness of yet another individual—her 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.
43.2 percent of seniors said they received prompt 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 "enriching 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 recognition, and community involvement, 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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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

People are the key at JSU

When I first started at JSU for my undergraduate degree, I was just out of high school. My dad worked at JSU and almost assured that I would study there. At that time, I didn't have a clue about moving away from home. I didn't know what to expect and what to expect. I just knew that I was going to miss my family.

I can't really explain why JSU pulls at me. Perhaps it's the beautiful campus, the great people, or just the fact that I'm so far away from home.

I have been here for almost a year now, and I have to admit that I have grown to love the place. I have made some great friends and have had some amazing experiences. I am so grateful for this opportunity to be here.
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 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 know 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 then 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.

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.

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 not do this 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 any-

body, 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.

Read more on JSU @ chantyeditor.blogspot.com
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.

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.

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.

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 the 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.

"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 it's 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."
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 Gamecocks 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, 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
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 playoff 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 Whitemore 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men's Basketball</th>
<th>Individual Air Rifle Champion</th>
<th>Team MVP: asphalt Garner</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12 OVC 9th place</td>
<td>2nd place</td>
<td>7-13 OVC 2nd place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team MVP: Courtney Bradley</td>
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<td>Women's Basketball</td>
<td>Men's Cross Country</td>
<td>Women's Golf OVC Champions</td>
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<td>7-22, 4-16 OVC 10th place</td>
<td>7th place</td>
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<td>Team MVP: Jolie Efezekhae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Women's Cross Country</td>
<td>Women's Golf OVC Champions</td>
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<tr>
<td>33-27, 18-9 OVC 2nd place</td>
<td>7th place</td>
<td>Team MVP: Manuela Tarazona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team MVP: Clay Whitemore</td>
<td>Team MVP: Lesley Binning</td>
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<td>Softball</td>
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<tr>
<td>35-23, 17-10 OVC 2nd place</td>
<td>14-6, 8-1 OVC 9th place</td>
<td>4-12-1, 2-6-1 OVC 9th place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team MVP: Daniela Pappano</td>
<td>Team MVP: Scott Robertson</td>
<td>Team MVP: Kate Kelly</td>
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<td>Rifle</td>
<td>Team MVP: Kimberly Ferris</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>OVC Air Rifle, Smallbore and Overall champions</td>
<td>7th place</td>
<td>18-10, 15-5 OVC Regular season OVC Champions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team MVP: Michael Dickinson (NCAA)</td>
<td>Team MVP: Kimberly Ferris</td>
<td>Team MVP: Abbey Breit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>Football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-6, 5-3 OVC 4th place</td>
<td>4th place</td>
<td>6-5, 5-3 OVC 4th place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team MVP: Cedric Johnson</td>
<td>Team MVP: Michael Dickinson (NCAA)</td>
<td>Team MVP: Cedric Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th place - Outdoor 6th place - Indoor</td>
<td>7th place</td>
<td>Track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Jacksonville State left fielder Clay Whitemore earned OVC Player of the Year honors after hitting .391 with 69 RBI's and 20 doubles. Photo by Steve Latham / Jacksonville State University**

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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 halftime lead to 25-23.

The Bears hit 13 of their first 19 shots in the second half on their way to hitting 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 attack that saw four players score in double figures, led by Doriem 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.”

WSUS 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

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 Sierra 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 twice 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 Efzeokhae 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 game.

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

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.
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our favorite albums of 2007
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
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.

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

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.

7. **God of War 2** (PlayStation 2)

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 multiplayer 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 game’s longevity. They were successful as many people will be playing this game for years to come.

5. **Mass Effect** (Xbox 360)

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 scale back on its ambitions, as seen with its try at a space-based game.
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.

3

**The Orange Box**  
(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.

1

**Super Mario Galaxy (Wii)**

*Super Mario Galaxy* is, simply put, the best game of 2007. Nintendo has yet again reinvented the platformer by sending their lovable 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.
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, Photod 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

our favorite songs of the year

11

feist /
the reminder

Funnv to me that the fust words to come out of Feist’s gorgeous month 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**k if, 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 a 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-sawger of "How Do You Tell a Child That Someone Has Died," along with other influences on the album.

9

andrew bird /
amchair apocrypha

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

8

jennifer gentle /
the midnight room

Jennifer Gentle’s came at a time when America needed Italian avant-pop like 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, held himself up in an old, creaky house (immersed with fog, no doubt) in northern Italy to record this album. He went in with a paisely shirt, wavy hair, and a trebly electric guitar. He left with a modern psychedelic masterpiece. And probably dementia. — kj

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 drummers you’ve never heard of in Bryan Devendorf. 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 easy as an album yet, there’s not a bad track on here. You’re in love halfway through Fake Empire, the opening track.

6

shout out louds /
our ill wills

The Shout Out Louds follow up their debut album, How Hot Can Cuff With Our Ill Will, 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 Empire of the Sun, a band with whom the group fronted by Joel Pott often performs. The album is out now.

5

our favorite songs of the year

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/Heroin"
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. "What I've Done"  
   Linkin Park  
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 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

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. "Vini Viddi Vicci"  
   Black Lips

Julie Skinner,  
DJ, Thursday night  
1. "Zeitgeist"  
   Smashing Pumpkins  
2. "Apologize"  
   One Republic  
3. "You Made Me Like It"  
   Tegan and Sara

Natalie Dempster,  
News Director  
1. "F**k 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

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 breathless 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," "Wet Her Appar" and "Jigsaw Falling Into Place" are all on par with any Radiohead song. Of course, they are all pointless wafing of time that we could all be listening to, err, reveling, in this album. It is brilliant. — kj

of montreal /  
his sing 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 hopeful 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

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 marks one of being edgy in a muscle car soaring past ghosts or a low-ranking member of a motorcycle gang. Either fantasy requires me to wear leather. The pretentiousness of this outfit bothers me more than the frantic vibe that "White Castle 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

rilo kiley /  
under the black light

Eagleness and Rilo Kiley's influences are evident throughout. "Close Call" and "Dreamworld" have similarities to some of the heft-sixties-Nicks-influenced Fleetwood Mac days. "Breakin' Up" is reminiscent of Glitter. Then there's "Smoke Detector," a nod to the old beach bum movies of Frankie Avalon. — mlr

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 opted to do a breakup album that owes more to 1970's 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. Anything can be said that sums of the album it would be that this album could be the best driving record of the last few years. — mlr

liars /  
liars

The Shoot Out Loads follow up their debut album, How How I Gaff Gaff with Our Il Ills. 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' sound is very similar to Robert Smith's. If you are a fan of The Cure, you will love this album. You are a diehard fan of The Cure, you may see it as a ripoff. 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
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