



Guard Will Ginn

The Chanticleer

"What a shame...
not a looker in the bunch."

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Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

November 8, 2007

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ONLINE**

ENTERTAINMENT



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INSIDE

Two hundred high school juniors from Alabama and Georgia attend the eighth Annual Emerging Leaders Day.

Students and faculty roll up their sleeves for the SGA/American Red Cross blood drive.

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**QUESTION of the
WEEK**

How did you spend the hour gained when Daylight

Campus community loses two distinguished members

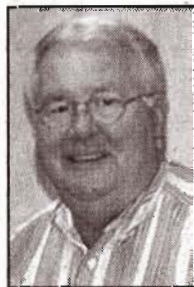
Jack Hopper, Gladys Carlisle, both with namesake buildings on campus, pass away this week

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

The Jacksonville State University community lost two of its most distinguished members this week, as both Jack Hopper and Gladys Carlisle passed away.

Hopper, a former JSU lobbyist and namesake of the campus cafeteria, died Tuesday, Nov. 6. He died at his home of a heart attack. Hopper was 62.

Hopper served as a public relations officer for JSU from the 1970s to the 1990s.



Hopper

"Jack always showed a great deal of wisdom," JSU President

William Meehan said.

Hopper also represented JSU before the state Legislature in Montgomery and was a local real estate developer. Hopper worked under five university presidents, according to Meehan. That service included a stint as athletic director during the tenure of Dr. Houston Cole.

"Jack Hopper was a respected member of the JSU family that will be greatly missed. He touched many student, faculty and staff lives in a positive and profound way," Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs Mr. Clint Carlson said. "His respect and love for this institution was without question. JSU Gamecocks that have gone before

are celebrating his arrival."

Gladys Carlisle died on Monday, Nov. 5, after a battle with stomach cancer. Carlisle, a native of Tuscaloosa, served on the JSU Board of Trustees for 23 years.

"Mrs. Carlisle was a faithful servant as a trustee for a quarter of a century and never missed a single meeting. She was a wonderful educator, and we're very proud that our art annex carries her name," Meehan said.

The university honored Carlisle's service back in September, when it opened a new home for the visual arts at JSU. The Gladys M. Carlisle Fine Arts Facility houses classrooms for drawing, sculpture, design and photography. It

opened to students in September, with a formal grand opening in October.

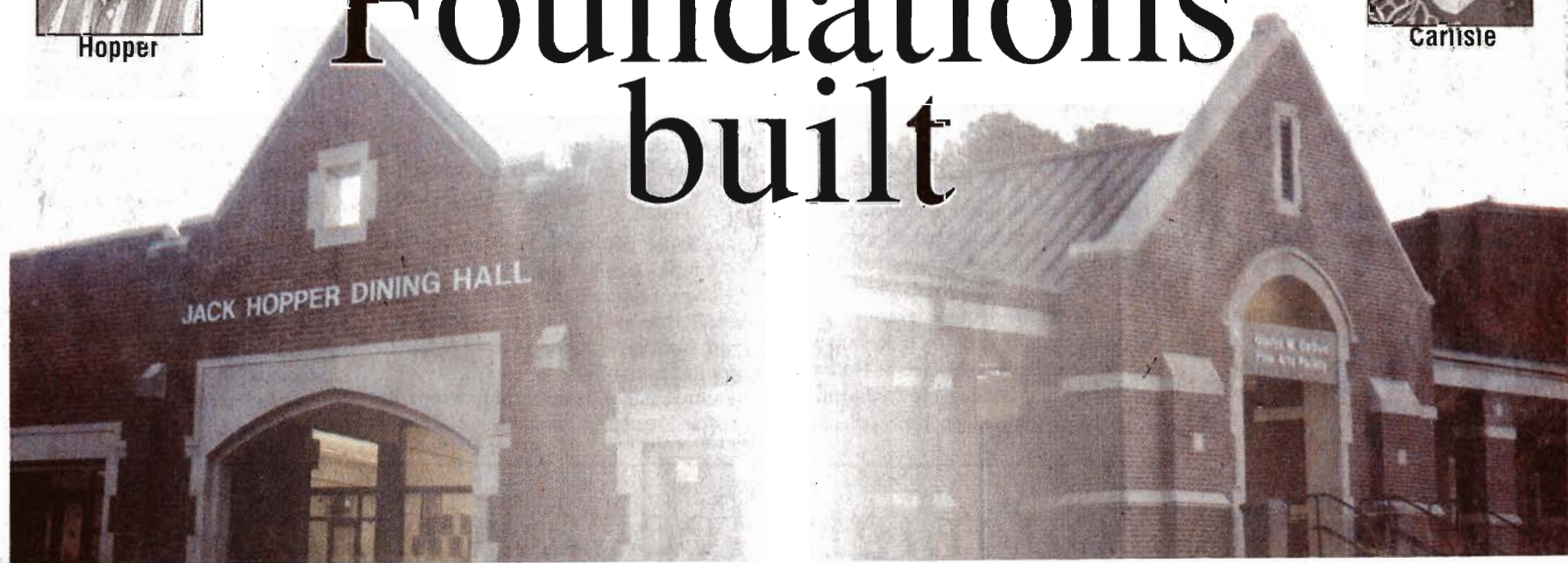
"We in the art department are extremely grateful for our new facility," Dr. Carter Osterbind, interim head of the art department, said. "We are very happy that Mrs. Carlisle was able to come to the dedication. We are honored that the building is named for her, because we know she gave so much to Jacksonville State University."

Before her service to JSU, Carlisle was a public school teacher in Tuscaloosa. She served in that capacity for 35 years.



Carlisle

Foundations built



How did you spend the hour gained when Daylight Saving Time ended?



- Sleeping 61%
- Mourned the life you could have had 15%
- Stayed up later 9%
- Relived an hour of your life to right an injustice 9%
- Other 6%



“Sleeping. I have been so tired. I have been so stressed out that all I want to do is sleep.”

— Christina Cheatwood
Junior

Next week's question:
What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

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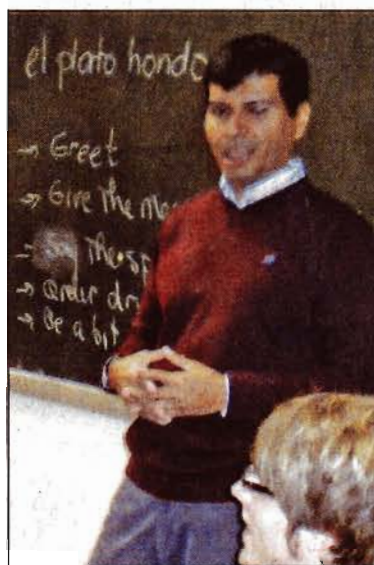
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The Jack Hopper Dining Hall (left), a fixture on campus, was built in 1962 and named originally for former JSU President Dr. Houston Cole. The building was renovated in 1989, and named in honor of Hopper, who worked for JSU from the 1970s through the 1990s. The Gladys Carlisle Fine Arts Facility, JSU's newest classroom building, was dedicated in mid-October. Carlisle, a longtime member of the Board of Trustees, attended the dedication along with her family. Both buildings provide a physical reminder of their years of service to the university. Photos and illustration by Kevin Jeffers / *The Chanticleer*

No bastantes

Foreign language classes not able to meet growing demand



Spanish instructor Eduardo Pacheco. Photo by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

Spanish instructor Eduardo Pacheco sought Jacksonville State University for its ideal location, mid-size campus and low cost of living, but was startled at what he found here.

“When I came to interview, I was shocked to find that I would be one of only three foreign language professors,” Pacheco said. “Three people for 10,000 students?”

The requirements involved in earning a foreign language degree from JSU are similar to that of neighboring schools, but the faculty resources needed to help students attain that degree are sorely lacking, according to Assistant French Professor Dr. Ronald Koss.

The University of North Alabama has an estimated enrollment of 5,600 students and five full-time foreign language faculty members. With a similar enrollment of 5,719, the University of Alabama at Huntsville clocks in with seven. The University of West Georgia, with approximately 8,476 students enrolled, and Tennessee Technological University, both have 15 full-time foreign

See “Not enough,” page 3A

Foreign endeavor

Dr. Rebecca Turner returns from China

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

Fresh from a world where the interstates are clogged with pedestrians, buses, bicycles, taxis and people pulling rickshaws, Dr. Rebecca Turner reveled in the extra hour of sleep allotted by Sunday's Daylight Saving Time.

Turner, JSU's vice president of academic and student affairs, returned last Wednesday from a two-week trip to Beijing, China. While there, Turner sought to establish and develop relationships with Chinese universities and educate Chinese students about the opportunities available in the United States.

“In working with a country like China, where

traditions are very longstanding, the first step to establishing agreements with universities is to establish relationships,” she said.

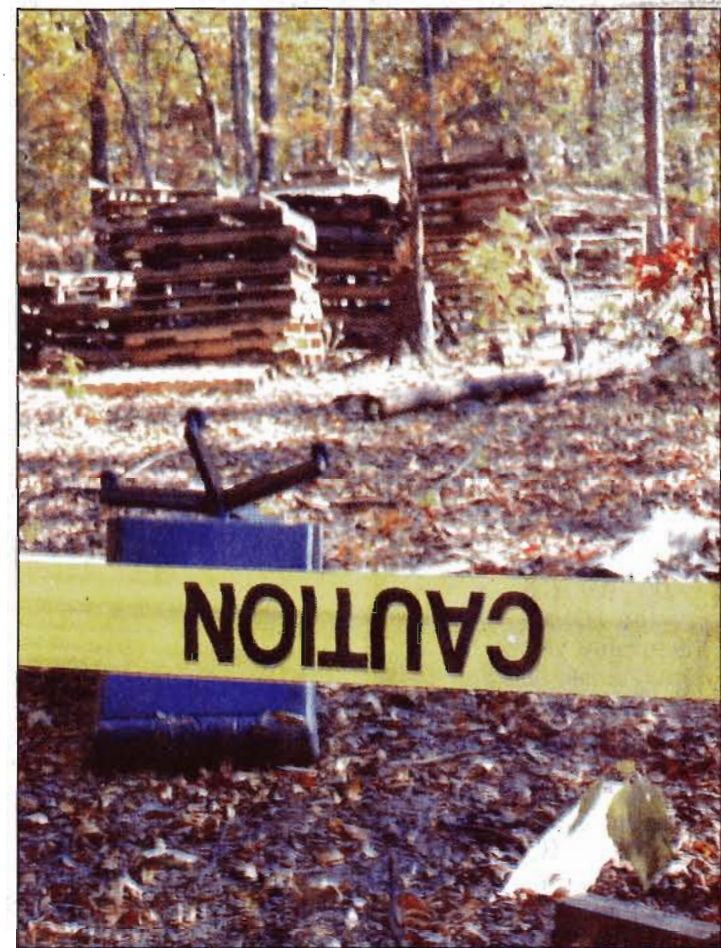
Turner was one of 60 delegates from state colleges and universities throughout the United States, a group that was organized by AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities).

The trip was AASCU's sixth to organize, but Turner's first. She and two delegates from Troy University were the only three delegates from Alabama universities.

The delegation took part in a myriad of activities and meetings while in China,

See “China visit,” page 3A

Heap o' trouble



Caution tape serves as a barrier to a giant pile of garbage located on the hill above Rowe and Wallace Halls. For the full story, see page 3A. Photo by Matt McRae / *The Chanticleer*

Chanticleer multimedia

See more pictures of garbage. You know you want to. **Slideshow online now @**
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Announcements

• As part of Sigma Alpha Iota's music outreach philanthropies, the sisterhood will be singing the "Star Spangled Banner" with the Kitty Stone Elementary School Singers. They perform on Friday, Nov. 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the Kitty Stone Elementary courtyard. JSU students are invited to attend.

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 chantyeditor@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.

Campus Crime

Wednesday, October 31

• Student Lori M. Bouldin was arrested for larceny.
• Students Terrell D. James and Demarcus G. Mosley were arrested for criminal trespassing at Fitzpatrick Hall.

Thursday, November 1

• Student Zachary Z. Vaughn reported theft of property at Houston Cole Library. Stolen was a University of Alabama valued at \$15.00.
• Student Wayne Hung reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Dixon Hall. Stolen was a clarinet valued at \$1,200.00.
• Student Winston M. Ware reported an assault at Delta Chi house.

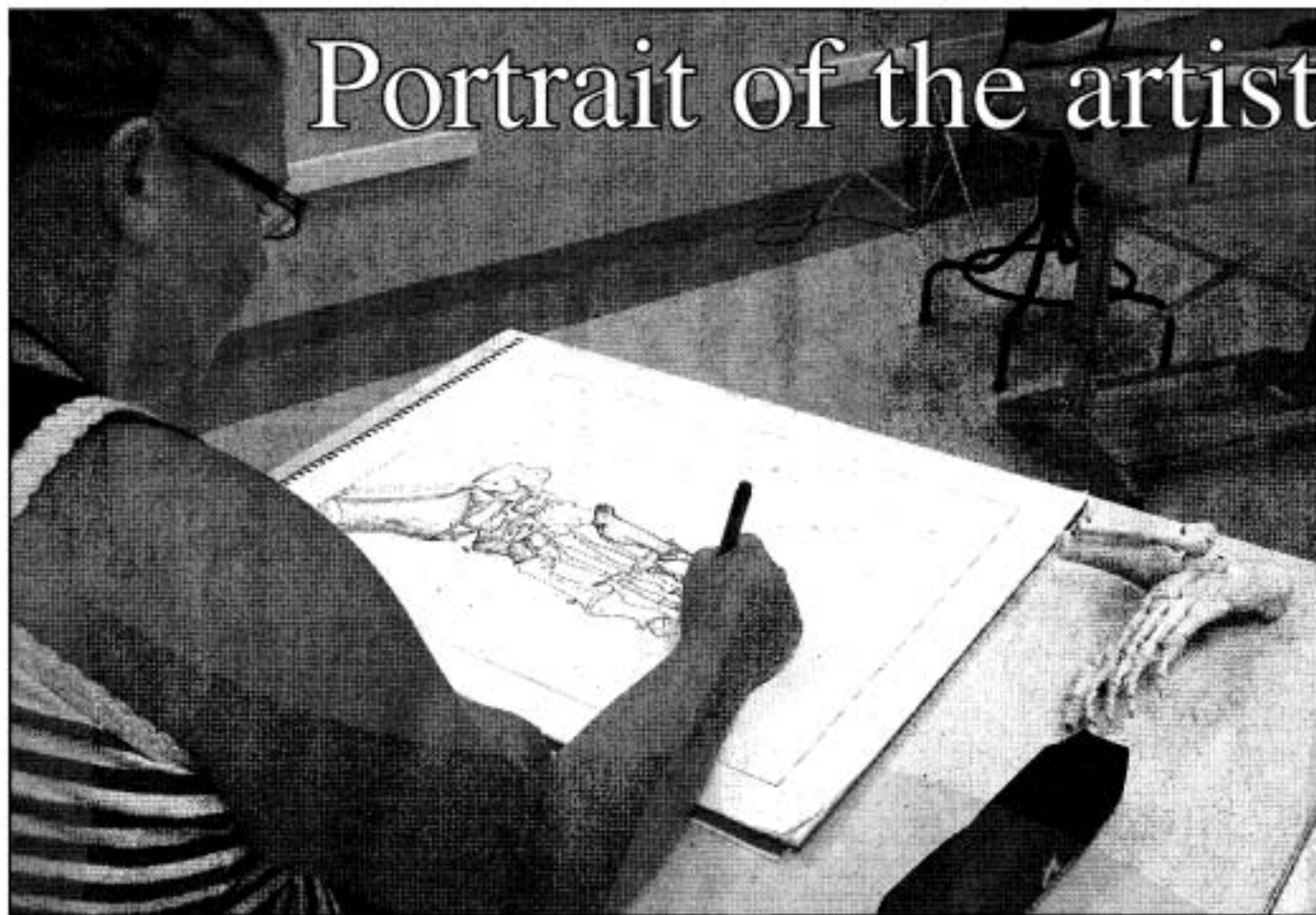
Friday, November 2

• Student Justin E. McMiller reported domestic violence at Crow Hall.
• Andy B. Chudy reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at the tailgating area on Cole Dr. Stolen were a JSU decal and digital camera valued at \$300.00.

Monday, November 5

• UPD reported vandalism at the Bursar's Office at Bibb

Portrait of the artist



A drawing student hard at work in the Gladys Carlisle Applied Arts Facility. She and other artists—in visual, musical and performance fields—will be celebrated this month. November is National Creativity Month, established by Congress to recognize the works of artists throughout the United States. Photo by Matt McRae/ The Chanticleer

Future leaders converge at JSU

By Anna Keefe
Staff Writer

JSU sought out high school students who may very well be the leaders of tomorrow for its 8th annual Emerging Leaders Day.

Over 200 high school juniors came to JSU's Leone Cole Auditorium on Tuesday, Nov. 6, to learn more about being effective leaders in their schools and communities.

High school counselors selected the students who attended based on exhibited leadership abilities, according to Tracy Phillips, who works for JSU's visitor center and was in charge of the event.

Students participated in leadership activity sessions that took place at Houston Cole Library and Leone Cole Auditorium. The activities focused on various leader-

ship characteristics, including courage, initiative and positive attitude among others, according to Phillips.

Adam Green, from Counseling and Career Services, spoke at the library session. The afternoon group session was a presentation by Andy Green, admissions counselor, about 10 steps for choosing a college.

"I liked how he told us how many colleges to pick and how he said not to apply to just one," Hope Hite, from Armuchee High School in Floyd County, Georgia, said.

Hite added that she is not fully decided on her future plans, but has some idea.

"I know I am going to school, not sure where," Hite said. "I want to check out Bryan College and Samford. I want to major in Spanish."

Jeremy Satcher, a student at Jacksonville Christian Academy, said that he enjoyed

the parts about efficiency and courage.

"I don't know where I want to go to school yet, but I think I want to go into education," Satcher said.

Andrew Bollinger, also from Jacksonville Christian, said that he appreciated Adam Greene's talk about commitment. He said that he plans on attending either JSU or the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"I'm planning on majoring in computer engineering."

JSU ambassadors, admissions counselors, Graduate Assistant Mardracus Russell and JSU alumnus Tim King helped with the event, according to Phillips.

Breezy Edwards from Ohatchee High School won the drawing for the one-year Leadership Scholarship.

Students were treated to lunch at Jack Hopper cafeteria and received giveaways and t-shirts.

CAMPUS BRIEFS

• JSU will illuminate stars on **Houston Cole Library** Sunday evening, Nov. 11, in honor of **Veterans' Day**. The stars, located on the 12th floor observation deck, are in honor of and in tribute to men and women who have served or are currently serving in the military service. After Sunday, the stars will be turned off until the official campus holiday lighting ceremony later this month.

• Student-reported rankings on the Web site **ratemyprofessors.com** list JSU in the **top 30 schools in terms of positive reviews of professors**. The site allows students to rate their professors on several criteria, including clarity, helpfulness and easiness. JSU clocks in at number 30. The top-rated school is Brigham Young University, and worst-ranked is Cornell University. The list is derived from Rate My Professor's more than 7.5 million student-generated ratings.

• JSU Alumnus **Dr. P. Brent Nichols** is delivering a seminar to biology faculty/staff and students entitled *From DNA to D.N.A.: The Evolution of a Dauphin Island Derelict*. The seminar is being held Nov. 9 at **Martin Hall**. Nichols currently serves as the Chief Scientific Officer, Director of Scientific Research for DNA Environmental Logistics Corporation in Tampa, Fla. Nichols is an alumnus of JSU, earning both a BS and MS in Biology. He earned his PhD from the University of South Florida.

You might feel a little pinch . . .

- Monday, November 9
• UPD reported vandalism at the Bursar's Office at Bibb Graves Hall. Damaged were two windows and a vending machine.
- Greg C. Johnson reported burglary at TMB. Damaged were two glass doors.
- Student Phillip O. Pollard was arrested for marijuana possession.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-4704, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050.

The Week in Events

Thursday, November 8

- Alpha Xi Delta Coin Collection, 2nd floor TMB, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- *All I Really Need to Know...*, Stone Center, Second Stage, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$9/\$7/\$5
- Coffee House & Open Mic Night, TMB Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, November 9

- *All I Really Need to Know...*, Stone Center Second Stage, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10

- *All I Really Need to Know...*, Stone Center Second Stage, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Tickets: \$9/\$7/\$5

Sunday, November 11

- Veterans' Day
- *All I Really Need to Know...*, Stone Center Second Stage, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$9/\$7/\$5

Monday, November 12

- NAACP Toys for Tots drive, TMB main lobby, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 13

- Freshman Forum Bake Out Sale, TMB main lobby, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14

- High School SGA Conference District VI, 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

You might feel a little pinch . . .

Students, faculty take part in blood drive at TMB

By Anna Keefe
Staff Writer

Students showed their willingness to make a difference and help a noble cause by donating blood at the TMB on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The drive was sponsored by the SGA.

The goal was to have at least 63 students participate during each of the two days, a goal that was successfully met, according to blood drive committee head Shade' Nix.

Crissy Werner, account manager for the American Red Cross, said the organization needs frequent blood donations because there is no artificial substitute for blood.

"Volunteer blood donations are the only thing that keeps some people alive," Werner said. "Every two seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion. One out of every 10 hospital patients will need a blood transfusion. A blood transfusion usually consists of three to four pints of blood."

The need for blood is great in this region, according to Werner. She said that in the Alabama and Central Gulf Coast region, the American Red Cross (ARC) expects to collect 120 thousand pints of blood a year. High school and college students supply around 20 percent of that amount.

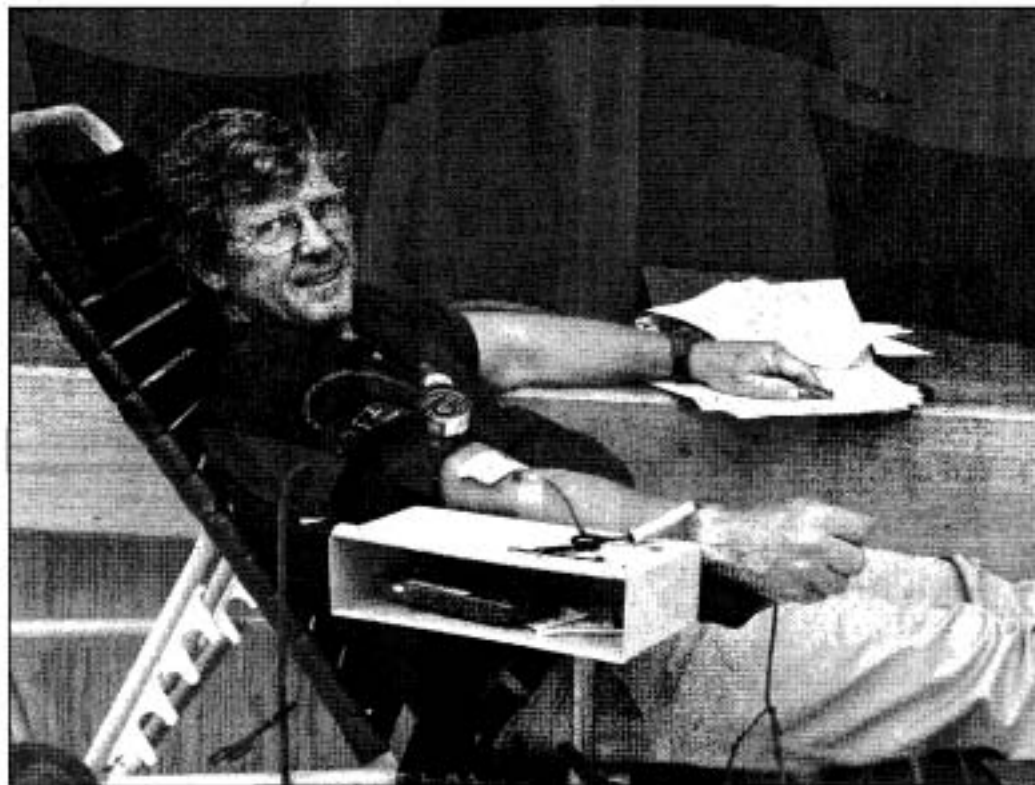
Only five percent of the nation donates, the American Red Cross's Vincent Allen said, and those are mostly of the baby boomer generation. He stressed the need for younger donors across the board.

"The blood type most in demand is O negative, according to Allen, because it can go to anyone. The second is O positive.

Students who donated blood felt strongly about giving.

"I hope that one day the kindness will be returned," 21-year-old Kenna Hogan said. "A friend of mine had leukemia. I just want to help out."

Karla Crescioni, 20, is a



Dr. Hardy Jackson, head of the JSU history and foreign languages department, relaxes as he donates blood. The SGA and American Red Cross joined forces to hold a blood drive at the TMB on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. Photo by Matt McRae/ *The Chanticleer*

junior and has given blood once before.

"I know that my blood could save a lot of people's lives," Crescioni said. "It amazes me that just a small amount of blood can do so much to save lives."

Alison Nichols, 20, is a junior and has given blood many times before.

"My granddaddy gave blood," Nichols said. "He was always special to me. It was important to him, so it became important to me too."

The blood drive is the result of much preparation and volunteer work, not just from the university and the ARC, but from student organizations as well. Two sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha and Zeta Tau Alpha, helped out with the drive. Lisa Waldrep, 19, is a freshman in ZTA who helped on Nov. 1.

"I am here to pass out juice and cookies to people, fold t-

shirts and help people who pass out," Waldrep said.

"Crissy Werner, ZTA alumna, called and asked us to help," Tristen Cole, 19, also a freshman in ZTA, said.

Werner does scheduling and public relations marketing for the Red Cross. She is also the Zeta service advisor. Werner said that she was able to get the job with the Red Cross because of networking opportunities she had while attending JSU.

"When I was in SGA, I did blood drives for two years," Werner said. "John Sweeney was the account manager then, and he contacted me after I graduated. Sweeney is now the donor recruitment department manager. I work under him."

Volunteers from the Red Cross also helped make the drive possible. Jeannette Riddle, blood services coordinator, said that she has been helping for over 20 years. Helen Burns said she has been helping for over

10 years.

"We really appreciate JSU. They do two drives a year with the SGA," Werner said. "We can always count on them. They've helped save thousands of lives."

There will be another blood drive at the TMB in the spring on Feb. 12 and 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Students may also donate at the American Red Cross donor site in Anniston, across from the Salvation Army on Noble Street. Donating times are Mondays and Thursdays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule an appointment. Appointments are preferred but not necessary.

"We are in a critical need for blood, and will continue to be, especially going into the holiday season," Werner said. "We can't wait for a disaster to come because things happen all the time, and we need to be prepared ahead of time."

— From wire service

SENATE MINUTES

Rundown of the Monday, Nov. 5, SGA Student Senate meeting:

- Approved minutes from the Oct. 22 meeting.

- Heard reports from officers Shalon Hathcock, Keyrunta Houston, Destini Mayberry, Brittney Cunningham, Jennifer Nix and David Jennings.

- Heard reports from committee heads.

- Passed a resolution urging university administration and Sodexo to increase the amount of flex dollars allotted to each student by 33 percent.

- Passed two related resolutions dealing with Homecoming activities. Both take effect in the 2008 school year.

- Passed a resolution asking the university to expand wireless internet capabilities at all residence halls and campus facilities.

- Passed a bill allocating \$300 to Sakura-Union for the 2007-08 term.

- Passed a bill allocating \$300 to Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. for the 2007-08 term.

- Passed a bill allocating \$300 to Common Sense Media for the 2007-08 term.

- Passed a bill allocating \$300 to the Mimosa yearbook for the 2007-08 term.

Trash transfer point raising eyebrows, little concern

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

On a hilltop behind Rowe Hall, in an otherwise wooded area, lay piles of trash.

Within sight of Houston Cole Library, perhaps JSU's most recognizable landmark, broken chairs, old toilets, discarded pipes, TV sets, microwaves, even an old recliner—items deemed obsolete are heaped one on another, waiting to be taken to larger landfills elsewhere.

It's what Capt. Jerry Mize of the military science department described as a transfer point—a place where discarded items too large to be easily transported are stored, awaiting a move to a landfill.

The refuse heap has been in its current position atop the hill above Rowe and Wallace Halls for about a year, according to both Mize and ecology professor Dr. Robert Carter.

"I know that [the university] has had it at various places around campus," Mize said.

Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs Clint Carlson described it as a case of "out of sight, out of mind."

"It's a rather secluded area," Carlson said. "It's been there as long as I've been here."

The waste comes from all over the university. JSU's Physical Plant employees pick up discarded materials from academic and administrative departments and transport the larger items to the transfer point.

"If there's no value to [the items], other than just for scrap purposes, that's typically where it's going to end up," Carlson said.

Sometimes, according to Mize, the university gets one more use out of the rubbish, such as when wooden pallets are burned for the Homecoming week bonfire.

Most of the materials, though, remain on site for a few months before they can be transferred to the final destination, a landfill elsewhere in Calhoun County. JSU contracts with a private hauler to transport the materials to that landfill, according to Carlson.

As for environmental concerns and possible danger to the public, there seems to be little cause for concern. Some of Carter's ecology classes conduct fieldwork in the vicinity with no known complaints. JSU's ROTC division also holds classes and training exercises on the hilltop with no ill effect, according to Mize.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management investigates every complaint filed, but no one has notified the agency of the rubbish pile, said Jerome Hand, an ADEM spokesman.

Capt. Mize does not believe there is an environmental problem to be reported, saying that there appears to be no danger to students of faculty who work or hold classes near the site.

"Some things you may be concerned about with landfills, like [chemical] runoff...I've never seen any toxic stuff—oil, gas, stuff like that—none of that is back there," Mize said.

Carlson did not know of any specific environmental studies conducted before emplacement of the scrap heap, but he noted that JSU places no hazardous waste on the site.

"We don't put any chemicals up there, or things of that nature," Carlson said.

Not enough: FL professors claim lack of funding crippling

Cont. from page 1A

language faculty members.

While JSU's number of foreign language faculty has held steady at three, Koss, who has been at JSU for 18 years, explained that the demand for foreign language instruction is increasing as more departments include it in degree requirements.

This fall, the criminal justice department began officially "highly recommending" Spanish as a minor for every criminal justice major. Dr. Richard Kania, head of the department, said that though a Spanish minor is not required, it would be an excellent asset to graduates of the program. Kania said that the decision's effect on foreign language courses has yet to be seen.

"We don't know how much impact it is going to have," Kania said. "We didn't think it would put that much burden on

for three years. According to Koss, foreign languages could ideally use two more professors in Spanish and one more in French.

"We've been requesting it for three years," Koss said. "Our request has been approved by the dean's office. It's gone to the academic and student affairs office in Bibb Graves, and that's the last we've heard of it."

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Rebecca Turner said that while the university administration sees the need and wants to remedy the situation, the money is simply not there. Turner estimated that the cost of adding a new position would be about \$100,000 yearly for salary and benefits.

"Positions require funding," Turner said. "I've approved it, but I've just not been given the money to fund it. The money hasn't been available to increase

actively looking for sources of revenue to fund at least one of those positions."

Due to the scarcity of funds, Turner said the positions would have to be funded one at a time. She hopes that the existing foreign language faculty will not have to wait beyond next fall for the first.

Koss said that the mixed messages he has received from university administration have been frustrating.

"Last year, Dr. Meehan asked me to do some radio spots about the importance of foreign language, which I think is really ironic because we already have more students than we can possibly handle," Koss said. "If it's so important, where's the faculty?"

According to Pacheco, the swelling class sizes increase the rate of students that drop. Pacheco, who is now in his

difficult," Pacheco said. "A lot of work has to be done on their own. I cannot really dedicate more time to sit down and go over material, because then I start falling behind."

This semester, Koss is teaching five classes and two independent studies, Teresa Suco has six classes and one independent study and Pacheco is teaching five classes and currently working to finish his dissertation for his doctorate. Koss said that in the last 15 years, he and Suco have only had three or four semesters when they were not overloaded. He said a professor normally teaches four classes, and anything above that is considered an overload.

"The fact that we are constantly teaching overloads really restricts our ability to do research and work on publications," Koss said. "These are requirements for promotion,

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"If we don't have it! - We will find it!"

impact it is going to have," Kania said. "We didn't think it would put that much burden on them. We just didn't know."
 A Spanish minor consists of 24 hours, and Koss is concerned that if even half of the 550 active criminal justice majors follow the suggestion, the two full-time Spanish faculty will not be able to keep up with the demands.
 Koss said the history and foreign languages department has been submitting requests

out I've just not been given the money to fund it. The money hasn't been available to increase my budget so that I could fund it. We need more revenue, and there are usually two ways to get it—from the state or from student tuition."
 Turner said the university administration elected to not raise tuition this year and will continue to be cautious about tuition increases.
 "But I have not given up," Turner said. "I'm going to be

sweating class sizes increase the rate of students that drop. Pacheco, who is now in his second year at JSU, said that in a class of 20 students, a professor can expect three, possibly four, to drop before the semester's end. In foreign language courses twice that size, Pacheco explained that a greater percentage of students drop.
 "Because the classes are so big, students don't get the attention they need, and they find the language extremely

to do research and work on publications," Koss said. "These are requirements for promotion, so we are being prevented from getting promotions because of our course load."
 Pacheco said that in addition to being key for promotions, it is important for professors to constantly be researching and bettering themselves in order to create the best possible classroom experience. He said that at JSU, however, there is simply not enough time.
 While Koss and Suco have been mainstays in the sector of foreign language courses for 18 and 38 years respectively, the position of the third faculty member has been much more fluid.
 "We've had so much trouble keeping that third faculty member," Koss said. "They get hired here, and then they realize what is being asked of them. They work a year or two, find a better job and leave."
 Pacheco, the current "third faculty member," said he enjoys his job here and likes the area, but is not without misgivings.
 "I just feel concerned," Pacheco said. "If there is not change in one or two years, I feel like I will have to look for a place where there is more advancement and respect for foreign language teachers."

Foreign language faculty for Southeastern colleges and universities
 (All these are public four-year schools with an enrollment of 10,000 or less.)

University	Estimated Enrollment	# of Faculty
Armstrong Atlantic State	8086	3 (plus 3 part-time)
Florida Gulf Coast University	7121	4
Columbus State University	6764	5 (plus 7 part-time)
University of North Alabama	5600	5
Austin Peay State University	8467	6
Morehead State University	7512	6 (plus 5 part-time)
UAH	5719	7
Louisiana Tech University	9000	7
Tennessee-Martin	6320	8
Western Carolina	7146	9 (plus 3 part-time)
Augusta State	5707	9
Valdosta State	9489	10
Murray State	8601	12
University of West Georgia	8475	15
Tennessee Tech	8200	15
University of New Orleans	9156	24

Enrollment figures from Peterson's Guide www.petersons.com as of Nov. 2, 2007.
 Foreign language figures were taken from individual schools' Web sites.

China visit: Dr. Turner educates students about America

Cont. from page 1A

including meeting with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, participating in an expo for Chinese high school students interested in attending school in the U.S. and touring two Chinese public universities.
 According to Turner, 30,000 Chinese high school students flocked to the expo for more information about colleges and universities within the U.S. Turner said that she arrived with 5,000 brochures and several other JSU giveaways and left empty-handed.
 Why such an interest in American education? Turner explained that for Chinese college graduates, jobs are severely limited.
 "Primarily they come because they see America as a land of opportunity, and they see it as opening up the world to them," Turner said.
 After touring public Chinese universities, Turner said that she felt she would better be able to describe JSU to interested Chinese students and parents.

The differences were many, but Turner said that some common threads do link the universities of both nations.
 For example, many Chinese students are first-generation college students, much like a lot of American students at JSU.
 Most of them also rely on financial subsidies to pay for college.
 The actual costs of a college education in both countries are in stark contrast, however. Turner estimated that an education at a Chinese university would cost one fourth or less of the cost of an American education.
 Living arrangements are another way that Chinese and American universities differ. In China, all students are required to live on campus in dormitories—in conditions at which the average American college student would likely scoff.
 "The dorms are not heated nor cooled," Turner said. "Even when the winters get cold, they don't have heat. They just have to wrap up."

Students are also required to work for the university that they attend—without pay.
 Turner discovered this tradition after noting several students busy sweeping sidewalks and paths and inquiring if they were part of a program similar to America's work-study.
 "I was told that all students are required to work, not for pay, but to reciprocate what the university has done for them," Turner said.
 Universities are just a piece of what Turner called "a country of contrasts." While soaring skyscrapers and thick smog fill cities like Beijing, Turner explained that much of the nation is extremely rural.
 Turner believes that the students who emerge from China will be assets to universities like JSU.
 "I think having us learn from them gives us a chance to improve our own education foundation," Turner said.
 "It's certainly important. We need to have a worldview and not a view that is limited to

What's Being an Army Officer Worth?

What's a Degree Worth?	Average Starting Salary
Nursing	\$46,840
Accounting	\$45,723
Economics/Finance	\$45,191
Business Administration	\$39,850
Marketing	\$37,446
Criminal Justice	\$33,222
Political Science	\$32,734
Psychology	\$30,958
Elementary Education	\$30,308
History	\$30,306
Biology/Life Sciences	\$26,449

Annual Vacation	≤14 days
Sick Leave	≤14 days
Health & Dental Care	Expensive

What's an Army Officer's Starting Salary Worth?

Starting Salary	\$42,303
After 2 years of service	\$58,846
After 4 years of service	\$70,925

Annual Vacation	30 days+Federal Holidays
Sick Leave	Unlimited
Health & Dental Care	Free
Plus annual cost of living adjustments	

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YOUR VOICE

JSU: A transfer student's nightmare

As a transfer student (with a degree) from a 38,000-student university, the change to JSU has not been easy.

The limited courses offered in my major, communications, takes some adjustment. Having a course I need offered only once a week is just odd and perhaps unacceptable to me. It leaves me wondering how parents or people who have regular jobs are able to attend JSU. I commute two hours round trip to the university, and with gas prices I can't afford to go every day.

But those are just annoyances, really. My major problem with JSU starts with when I was basically lied to. I was told from the moment I applied to Orientation Day that I would probably need to take three or maybe four general education courses.

I found out this past week from my advisor that I will need possibly twelve. TWELVE? I could handle three or four, but TWELVE?

Not to mention, I also need to take two minor courses I've already passed. I already spent my time and money on history, math, and science. I am unwilling to do it all over again just because JSU counts the classes I took and passed as "electives" because they are not offered here.

Online courses are another major complaint of mine. I live an hour away from campus and cannot attend JSU every day of the school week. I was told when I applied that JSU has a great online system for courses and not to worry about when classes are offered. They knew I was a communications major, and apparently none are offered in this department at all.

Was I lied to? Yes. Am I upset? Yes. Am I staying at JSU? Depends.

If they would work with me rather than pushing me aside now that I am a student, I may stay. If they don't, I am gone.

- Sheri Newton, JSU senior majoring in communications

Alumnus concurs with us

DAVE DILLON

Political Cartoonist



OUR VOICE

A call to action

If you've been reading this editorial page over the past two weeks, you may have noticed an explosion of complaints about the structure and administration of the communications department.

If you haven't, allow us to fill you in: There's been an explosion of complaints about the department.

Personal attacks have been launched, axes have been ground, nerves have been frayed. And now it's time to reach a resolution.

The problem with complaining is that, if no action is taken, all you have at the end of the day are words. The department of communications, its administration, students and faculty are working together to solve the problems discussed in previous editorials from an internal standpoint.

A series of meetings held this week and the last have helped clear the air and separate fact from fiction, but again, words beget more words. Our concerns deserve action, and we feel that action is being taken.

To be fair, there have also been complaints from the administration: about our fact-checking, and about the possibility of personal grudges getting in the way of an accurate portrayal of events.

Those are wholly reasonable concerns, and administrators are justified in asking about them. Our accountability is just as important as the department's.

Indeed, if it were just us, just a lone voice in the woods, the administration might have a point.

Perhaps the dissent wasn't nearly as widespread as we portrayed. Perhaps it was the work of one or two students dissatisfied with their grades or class performance.

Music's state of the union

Alumnus concurs with us

During my recent visit to JSU, I picked up the Oct. 25 issue of *The Chanticleer*.

First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate the staff of *The Chanticleer* for addressing the state of the communications department. I, myself, have written letters to various JSU officials regarding certain communications faculty members who have been hired over the last four to five years.

I particularly addressed the issue of the significant inexperience of these new hires. When a paid teacher can't teach a class because of inexperience or inability to communicate or instruct, student and government money is wasted.

When one staff member has to take time from his or her responsibilities to teach another staff member's class, more time, money and resources are wasted.

As a JSU graduate, I naturally want my alma mater to grow and improve with time. I want to be proud of my alma mater, and I want others who enroll in the communications department to have academic and professional success. But how is any of this possible when too many new teachers aren't able to teach and prepare new communications students for the real world of professional communication?

Secondly, I am curious to know the relationship between TV 24 and the communications department. TV 24 is in the middle of the department, yet the students do not—for one reason or the other—use the studio, camera or other equipment as part of their curriculum. Why is this?

The studio and equipment are easily accessible to the students. Furthermore, they are property of JSU; therefore, they are property of the students.

Is JSU not willing to stand up to TV 24 and use what is rightfully theirs, or is the problem that certain faculty are not savvy enough to use the resources as part of their course work?

What percentage of JSU communications students are even employed by TV 24?

Auburn and Samford both host regular newscasts run by their students. JSU communications students could do the same with ours, but they haven't. Why?

As a JSU alumnus, these matters deeply concern me. I want the staff and faculty of JSU and *The Chanticleer* to know I am willing to do whatever I can to make our school and communications department better.

- Colter McGaha, JSU communications alumnus

MUSIC'S STATE OF THE UNION

Music is timeless. It is hard to find a person who is not influenced by the music their parents once listened to. I can still remember listening to The Beach Boys, The Temptations, Creedence Clearwater Revival and learning about "The Tears of a Clown" from Smokey Robinson & The Miracles on Oldies 106.9 FM.

These artists are legends because they truly meant something to their generation and because their music is still enjoyed by people today.

Our parents' generation left us with some classic music, but what are we leaving behind for our children? Where did things begin to change?

Each genre of music started out with its own early legends. Rock music had The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones and Elvis.

Hip-hop, the most successful genre in music today, also had its legends—The Sugarhill Gang, Run D.M.C., Tupac, Notorious B.I.G. and Snoop Dogg. The reason these artists were able to reach this status is because their music had meaning or because they were original.

Unfortunately, music has lost such originality.

The leveling point for rock music hit during the hair-metal era of the 1980's. It was all about the sex and the drugs—not about the rock n' roll.

The effect was an opiate for the masses complete with unoriginal sounds, bad hair and a lot of bands with nearly the same name.

The formula that the record executives created—to be successful, sound the same as whatever is popular—is still in effect today.

How much longer can we allow Nickelback to make the same song, change up just a few riffs here and there, give it a new title and try to package it as their new single?

It's time to stop the insanity.



Matt McRae

chantyphoto@gmail.com

People keep buying the same thing—just by a different artist—and the record execs know that this is what sells.

And now, they are doing it to hip-hop music.

If the bass rattles the car and you can party to it, it is a hit. Lyrics about the booty + lyrics about alcohol + a lot of bass = sales.

It is the same leveling off that occurred with rock music some 20-odd years ago.

Rock and hip-hop aren't so different after all.

A prefabricated sound has taken over the airwaves, and we as consumers are helping to support it.

This is not to say that there hasn't been any legends to arise from the ashes that lay in the wake of the industry.

U2 arose out of one of the leveling-off phases in rock. Outkast was able to bring a new and innovative sound to the hip-hop genre with the release of *Stankonia*. These two artists will go down as timeless, but is that enough?

What will our generation of music listeners leave behind? Who else will be our musical legacies?

If we keep buying and downloading the same music all the time, further generations will be left with a void.

Matt McRae is the photo editor of The Chanticleer. He can be reached by phone at 782-8521 or by e-mail at chantyphoto@gmail.com. You can read his weekly music blog @ mattonaniland.blogspot.com.

Read more about music @ mattonaniland.blogspot.com

it was the work of one or two students dissatisfied with their grades or class performance.

But that's not the case. We're not alone.

That's where you come in.

We're turning to you, our readers, to step up and speak out. If there are similar problems in your department, talk to us about it.

As we stated in the Nov. 1 edition, legitimate complaints should be heard and taken seriously—an assessment to which we still adhere.

The truth of the matter is, no matter how responsive or unresponsive your department is to your comments and questions, action cannot be taken until someone realizes there is a problem and says something about it.

Then, and only then, can real dialogue between students and faculty begin, and solutions found.

Gone but not forgotten

Here at *The Chanticleer*, we would like to express our sympathy and send our condolences to the families and friends of the two beloved university members who passed away earlier this week.

Gladys Carlisle, namesake of the new fine arts facility, and Jack Hopper, namesake of the on-campus cafeteria, contributed greatly to Jacksonville State University, both financially and with service time.

They will be greatly missed by all.

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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Letters Policy:

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

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

Sports

FOOTBALL — JSU 24, SAMFORD 12

MORE ONLINE

Extended look at JSU football's hopes of making the 2007 Division-I playoffs.

Also, an in-depth look at last week's volleyball matches.

Visit thechanticleeronline.com



Patrick Swafford

chantysports@gmail.com

The perfect season

It seems like every football season we have to go through the same thing.

Over the past two seasons, it was the Colts. This season, it's all about the Patriots.

Are they going to do what no team since the 1972 Dolphins could accomplish and go undefeated?

I'm sorry, but there are greater accomplishments in the National Football League than rolling off 19 straight wins.

Screw that, we've got bigger issues here.

Yeah, New England has the chance to pull off the greatest season in professional football history, but I'm not talking about 19-0.

I'm talking about 0-16.



JSU's Daniel Jackson became the first Gamecock running back to rush for over 100 yards in JSU's 24-12 win over Samford last Saturday. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Another rivalry week

Gamecocks host another rival this weekend

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

College football teams are defined by their rivalries.

Jacksonville State put a sense of finality to an in-state rivalry last weekend and prepares for its most heated this weekend.

The Gamecocks completed the final chapter of their long-standing rivalry against Samford with a definitive statement.

The Gamecocks held Samford's explosive offense to four field goals in a 24-12 win Saturday in Birmingham and took an overall 22-21-2 all-time series lead.

JSU (6-3, 5-1 Ohio Valley Conference) shut down a Bulldog team that scored 59 points and ran up 654 total yards, keeping them from scoring a single touchdown.

Offensively, the Gamecocks accomplished something they haven't done all season long—have a single running back rush for over 100 yards.

Daniel Jackson became the first running back to accomplish the feat in almost a year after an 18-carry, 103-yard performance to lead the rushing attack.

Defensively, JSU did what it had done twice before in OVC play; shut down a premier running back and essentially eliminate Samford's entire offensive threat.

Samford's Chris Evans rushed for 20 yards, and no other Samford running back reached the 50-yard mark.

This weekend, two teams with identical records and identical postseason hopes will clash in another of the OVC's best rivalries.

JSU shares no geographical ties with the Panthers. In fact, no OVC school is a farther from Jacksonville than EIU.

"From a competitive standpoint, you couldn't have a greater rival or a more defining game against a comparable opponent this late in the season," Crowe said.

With the recent history both teams have, this game might actually be the best rivalry on the schedule.

"Eastern Illinois is ten times bigger," senior nose tackle John Scott said. "They like to play smash-mouth football just like us, so it's going to be a real good fight."

It seems like every year this game means more than just a simple win or loss. Generally, a conference title hangs in the balance.

In each of the last two seasons, the Panthers ended JSU's playoff chances.

While an OVC title may be out of reach for both teams, it is expected that an 8-3 overall record might secure an at-large bid.

"It always comes down to the last game between us and them," Jackson said. "It used to be between us and them to determine the conference championship. This year, it pretty much determines the playoffs."

VOLLEYBALL

Playoff push

Second-place Gamecocks host first-place Morehead State Friday night

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

It's becoming more and more apparent with every passing week that the Ohio Valley Conference volleyball cham-

Gamecocks securing a first or second place, they have to beat Morehead State on Friday night. JSU handed the Eagles one of their three conference losses earlier this season.

"I would say that they are

FOOTBALL

The race for the postseason

By Jared Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

JSU will be hosting Eastern Illinois Saturday in what amounts to an elimination game for both teams.

The teams are currently tied for second in the OVC at 6-3

be enough to earn one of eight at-large bids into the FCS Playoffs.

The OVC has traditionally been a one-bid league, but that was not the case last year as both UT-Martin and Eastern Illinois made the playoffs.

Only one OVC team with

ern Illinois Saturday would add to what is quickly becoming a strong resume.

"I think one thing that we can say is that if we win out, we will have a longer winning streak than any of (the other potential at-large teams)," he said.

Each season, however, with a

history, but I'm not talking about 19-0.

I'm talking about 0-16.

If you ask me, losing every game in a season is next to impossible, unless you pull a 1919 Chicago White Sox and throw the games.

Winning them all requires a team to be on its game week after week, much like Tom Brady and company have been doing.

Come on. They're running up the score like a Steve Spurrier-coached football team.

To lose every game requires a feat greater than Tom Brady's supermodel-dating charm.

It's never been done before and the Dolphins, yes the same franchise that went unbeaten 25 years ago, might be bad enough to do it.

To pull this off, you've either got worse luck than anyone in the history of the world, or you've got to be worse than most of the jokes I tell.

While the Patriots were just acquiring the likes of Randy Moss and Wes Welker this season to aid their quest to win another Super Bowl, the Dolphins have seemingly lost everything.

They lost quarterback Trent Green with a serious concussion and running back Ronnie Brown went down with a knee injury against the Patriots.

Injuries aren't good enough, though. This team's got to suck to pull this off.

Stupid decisions help and Miami made a huge one on draft day.

They passed over Brady Quinn to draft Ted Ginn, Jr.

Quinn has spent the season on the bench in Cleveland, and Ginn has done just as much while playing every week.

I love a good train wreck, and Miami looks to be just that.

Now that I've said this, watch them beat Buffalo by 50.

Patrick Swafford is the sports editor of The Chanticleer. He can be reached at 782-5703 or at chantysports@gmail.com. You can also read his blog every Monday at chantysports.blogspot.com.

more apparent with every passing week that the Ohio Valley Conference volleyball championship is anybody's for the taking.

Jacksonville State knew they would need a big weekend to stay in the hunt to host the OVC tournament, but after splitting a pair of matches against SEMO and EIU, it doesn't appear likely.

"There are scenarios that we could still end up being first," JSU head coach Rick Nold said. "The part we would have to handle is to win both our games, and then we would probably need some help for that to happen. We haven't really been talking about that right now. We have to get ready, whether the tournament is here or on the road."

"It would be nice to play here in front of our home fans, but we won on the road two years ago, and we just have to be ready to go back and do that again."

With the loss to SEMO over the weekend, the Gamecocks fell into a two-way tie with the Redhawks for second place in the OVC. Morehead State currently sits in the top spot, a game and a half above both JSU and SEMO.

At the end of the regular season, the top two teams in the OVC receive an automatic bye through to the second round of the conference tournament, and the Gamecocks would love nothing more than to secure one of those spots this weekend.

JSU will need to win both games over the weekend and hope the Redhawks fall to either Tennessee-Martin or Austin Peay, two teams that combine for only seven conference wins on the year.

"That would be very helpful, but if we stay tied, SEMO will have that second seed," Nold said. "They would have to lose a game for that to happen, which I don't know whether they will or not. That isn't really in our control. Again, when we played two years ago, we had to come out and win all three, and we ended up doing that. It makes it a little tougher road, but we just have to come together and make it happen."

If there is any chance of the

one of their three conference losses earlier this season.

"I would say that they are probably similar to us in terms of being a very strong offensive team, but they also play very good defense along with that," Nold said. "We know it's going to be a battle. There is a reason that they are in first right now, but I also think that any number of teams could be in that position with one break or another."

"All we can take care of is ourselves. I want to make sure that we are improving and ready for the conference tournament, and this is one of our last opportunities to prep for it."

The Gamecocks finish up the regular season against Eastern Kentucky on Saturday. After that, they will begin to prepare for the conference tournament which begins on Nov. 15.

"We won on the road two years ago, and we just have to be ready to go back and do that again."

— JSU coach Rick Nold



Sophomore Brittney Whitten recorded 21 kills and 24 digs in JSU's 3-2 loss to SEMO. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com

for both teams.

The teams are currently tied for second in the OVC at 6-3 overall and 5-1 in conference play.

Coach Jack Crowe emphasized the importance of the game.

"Eastern Illinois is a game that, for the fifth year in a row, is a defining game in what the outcome of the season is going to be," Crowe said.

Barring an epic collapse, Eastern Kentucky will win the automatic bid.

One win in its final two games—at Austin Peay and at home against Samford—will clinch the conference.

But two wins by JSU could

UT-Martin and Eastern Illinois made the playoffs.

Only one OVC team with more than one conference loss has made the playoffs since 1986, so it's easy to understand why Crowe called this "a playoff game."

"I guess you could call it a wild-card game," he said. "We've got to win this one to get in (the playoffs)."

It's basically been do-or-die since the first conference game of the season, a home loss to EKV.

Five consecutive wins—four by double digits—have left the Gamecocks with hope for an at-large bid.

A win over 22nd ranked East-

than any of (the other potential at-large teams)," he said.

Early season losses might ultimately doom JSU, but trends suggest that two more wins will be enough for the Gamecocks.

Since the FCS Playoff field expanded to 16 teams in 1986, there have been 32 OVC teams that won at least eight games. All but four made the playoffs.

No OVC team with eight victories over Division I teams has been left out of the playoff field in that time period.

Of course, when Eastern Illinois comes calling Saturday, the Gamecocks have to put all that out of their minds and beat the Panthers for the first time since 2004.

Wesley Golf Tournament

Saturday, November 17
Cane Creek Golf Course
Fort McClellan

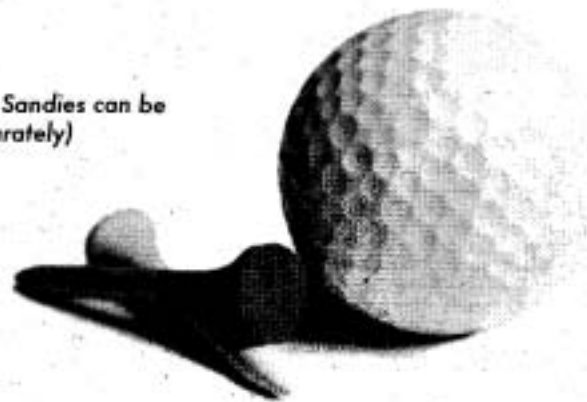
\$30 for students to play
\$50 for non-students

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Door Prizes!

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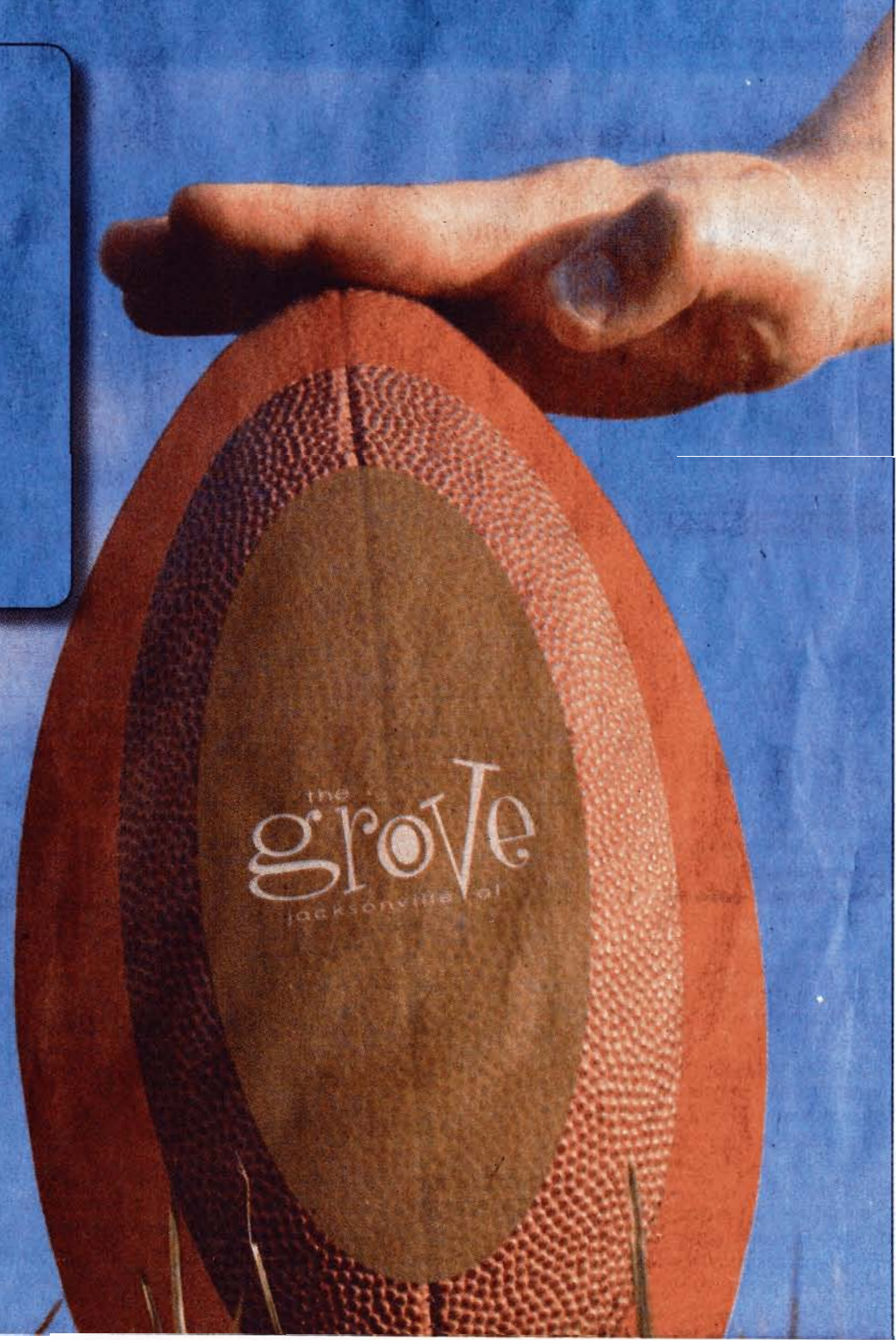
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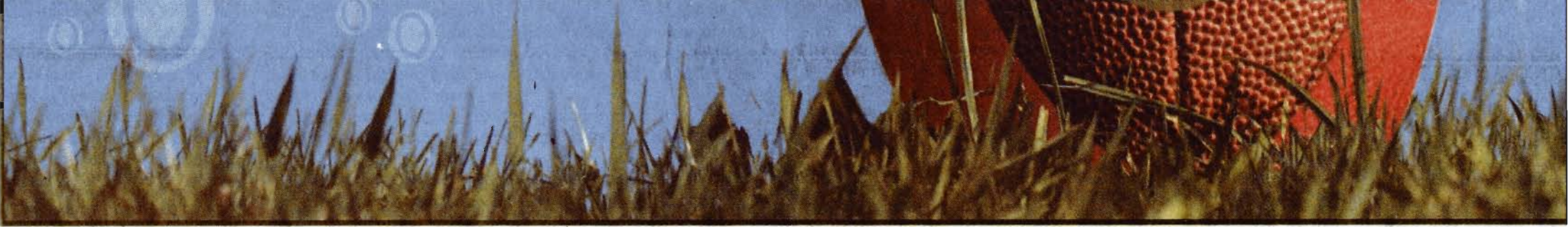
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the **Chanticleer** Basketball Preview
2007-08

“In college athletics, every coach is in the last year of their contract.”

*— Mike Laplante
Head coach, men's basketball*

For LaPlante, it may be a case
of . . .

**Now
or
never**

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

It seems like basketball coaches, above all others, are always on the hot seat.

One bad season could mean the difference in a contract extension and being shown the door.

Take a season where a team loses 21 total games—including eight at the last second—and you'll see why Jacksonville State men's coach Mike LaPlante might be feeling the heat.

"In college athletics, every coach is in the last year of their contract," LaPlante said.

"Nobody wants to win more than the head coach. This is your painting, your creation, your masterpiece. Nobody wants to win more than I want to win. Nobody's working harder than I'm working to try to get us in position to be successful."

Bouncing back

Last season was a tough one for JSU fans to endure. The Gamecocks lost 21 games last season (including the low point that was a 100-69

loss at home to UMass) and LaPlante's critics have all the ammunition they need.

"The perception can be that we had a bad year last year," LaPlante said. "But, we finished 7-13 in the conference, and on the last day we have to win to get into the tournament.

"Well, we won, but we needed Austin Peay to beat Morehead State. It didn't happen for us."

The Gamecocks lost eight games by three points or less, five of which were at the last second.

Two of those came at the hands of in-state rival Samford.

"If a couple of balls bounced our way, now, maybe the perception of those outside influences are saying 'Boy, they're doing a great job' only because the ball bounced our way," LaPlante said.

"We wouldn't have done any different of a job than what we're doing

See "COVER STORY," page 3B

WOMEN'S HOOPS

Youth movement

Gamecocks open 2007-08 season with eight new players and only five returners

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

PROBABLE STARTERS



#2

Danielle Beneby
Guard

Freshman
5'9"

Ft. Lauderdale,
Fla.

South Broward HS



#10

Erin McMichael
Guard

Sophomore
5'8"

Nacogdoches, Tex.
Nacogdoches HS



Coming off of a season that saw the Jacksonville State women's basketball team finish at the bottom of the Ohio Valley Conference standings with a 7-21 record, it's hard to imagine the Gamecocks going anywhere but up in Becky Geyer's second year as head coach.

Last year's squad didn't exactly fit into coach Geyer's offensive scheme, and the Gamecocks struggled to compete, but thanks to a bevy of fresh new faces, things should be different this season.

"I think that we are just a lot deeper than we were last year," Geyer said. "We went out and we recruited seven freshmen and one junior college kid. So, we have eight new people on our team. Plus, we get Courtney Chessher back who had to red-shirt last year. So really, nine of 13 kids are brand new."

One of the main concerns coming into this season is the experience factor. The Gamecocks will enter the season as one of the youngest teams in the country.

JSU's four returning players, all sophomores, combine for only 38 career starts.

"We've bonded together because of what we went through last year," Jolie Efezokhae said. "We knew, coming out, that we were going to be the older people on the team. We're going to have to show the freshmen what we went through last year and help them out."

knock it down from any area on the court."

Johnikin will likely share the point guard duties with junior college transfer Cassi Stuart.

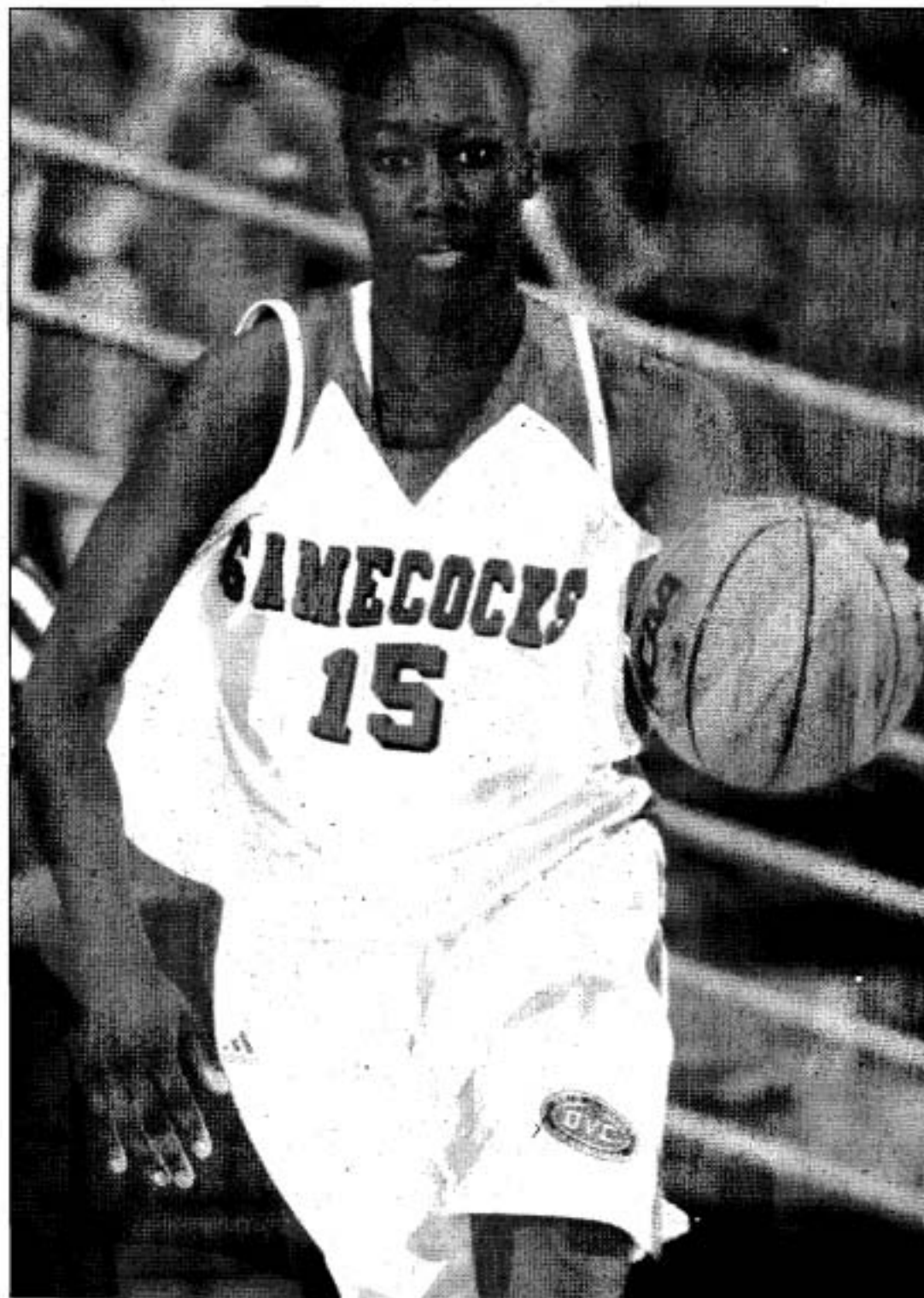
"We have Kelsey returning at point guard," Geyer said. "I think she is playing with a lot of confidence. She also has a good outside shot. She has another year of maturity under her belt. She really knows how to control and run things and get the ball into the hands of the people who need to have it."

"Cassi brings experience from Wallace State," Geyer said. "She is a kid that won't make a lot of mistakes. She is going to get the ball to who it needs to go to, and she is going to run the offense. That stability and that experience is huge. We are very blessed to have Cassi here."

Erica West is the only other returning player from last year's squad. She spent a lot of her time on the court last year in the post, which isn't her natural position. She should benefit tremendously from added depth that JSU has this year.

"Erica West is returning, and she has come night and day from a year ago," Geyer said. "The tough part for Erica a year ago is that we had to play her at a four or five position, and she is not a four or five. She is a three."

The most exciting part of the upcoming season will likely be the incoming freshmen. Coach Geyer put together an outstanding recruiting class, and these





#32
Cassi
Stuart
Guard
 Junior
 5'9"
 Alabaster, Ala.
 Wallace-Hanceville
 CC



#44
Cierra
Duhart
Forward
 Freshman
 6'0"
 Hawkinsville, Ga.
 Hawkinsville HS



#15
Jolie
Efezokhae
Forward
 Sophomore
 6'1"
 Buford, Ga.
 North Gwinnett HS

we went through last year and help them out."

Efezokhae is the most experienced player returning for JSU and will likely be burdened with carrying the load for the Gamecocks.

"I think we have better chemistry this year," Efezokhae said. "I just think we work well against other teams."

She started 23 of 28 games last season, leading the team in rebounding and blocked shots on her way to earning OVC All-Newcomer honors.

"She's pretty special, and she has spent time improving her skills. She has spent a lot of time on her ball-handling skills," Geyer said. "She is just so versatile. I think you are only going to see her continue to get better as the year goes on. We will rely on her tremendously."

Efezokhae will likely be spending most of her time in the post, but she does have the ability to play the wing if the situation calls for it.

Eren McMichael and Kelsey Johnikin bring back much-needed experience in the JSU backcourt.

"We are moving Eren to shooting guard and letting her be in the area that really is her strength, and that is shooting," Geyer said. "She is one kid that really has the green light to just

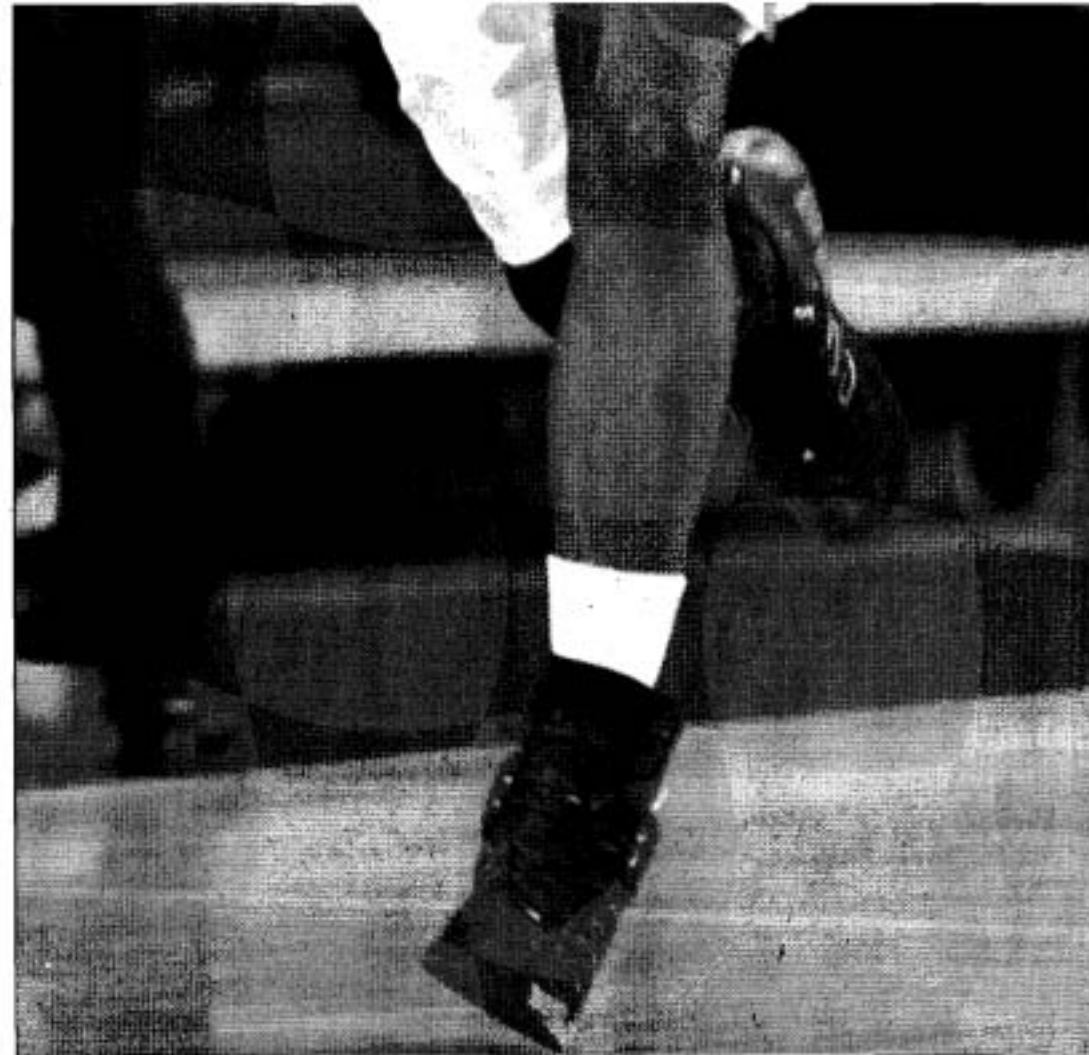
the incoming freshmen. Coach Geyer put together an outstanding recruiting class, and these newcomers will likely carry a heavy burden this season and in the future.

"I think the beauty of league play is that because we are so young, people are going to underestimate us in the beginning, but what they don't realize is that all you have to do is to win enough games to get into the tournament. And that is our intention," Geyer said.

As the younger players get acclimated to the college basketball landscape, they will only improve. By the end of the season, Geyer hopes JSU will morph into one of the most dangerous teams in the OVC.

"As that talent continues to mature and get experience, we are only going to get better. By the end of the year, we are definitely going to be a force to reckon' with in my mind. I would not want to play us," Geyer said.

"You always know there might be some bumps in the road with a young team," Geyer said. "But on the other hand, I would rather go into battle with the team we have right now for the next four years than any other team in the league. I would pick this team over anybody."



Sophomore Jolie Efezokhae returns as JSU's highest returning scorer. Last season, Efezokhae averaged 11.5 points and 5.9 rebounds per game and was named to the Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer team. Photo by Steve Latham / Jacksonville State University

"On the other hand, I would rather go into battle with the team we have right now for the next four years than any other team in the league. I would pick this team over anybody."

— JSU head coach Becky Geyer

2007-08 SCHEDULE

11/9/2007	at Kennesaw	1/10/2008	vs Tennessee Tech
11/14/2007	vs Alabama A&M	1/12/2008	vs Tennessee State
11/17/2007	vs Furman	1/17/2008	at Eastern Kentucky
11/20/2007	at Georgia Southern	1/19/2008	at Morehead State
11/24/2007	at Georgia State	1/24/2008	vs Austin Peay
11/28/2007	vs Troy	1/26/2008	vs UT Martin
12/1/2007	vs Southern Mississippi	1/31/2008	vs Eastern Illinois
12/5/2007	at Samford	2/2/2008	at Murray State
12/8/2007	at UT Martin	2/7/2008	at Tennessee Tech
12/18/2007	vs Murray State	2/14/2008	vs Eastern Kentucky
12/20/2007	vs SEMO	2/16/2008	vs Morehead State
12/22/2007	at Alabama	2/23/2008	at Tennessee State
12/30/2007	at Colorado	2/28/2008	at Eastern Illinois
1/5/2008	at Austin Peay	3/1/2008	at Southeast Missouri
1/7/2008	vs Samford		

MEN'S HOOPS

With all five starters returning, the Gamecocks are looking for improvement. . .

Across the board

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

The JSU men's basketball team will no longer be a one-man show.

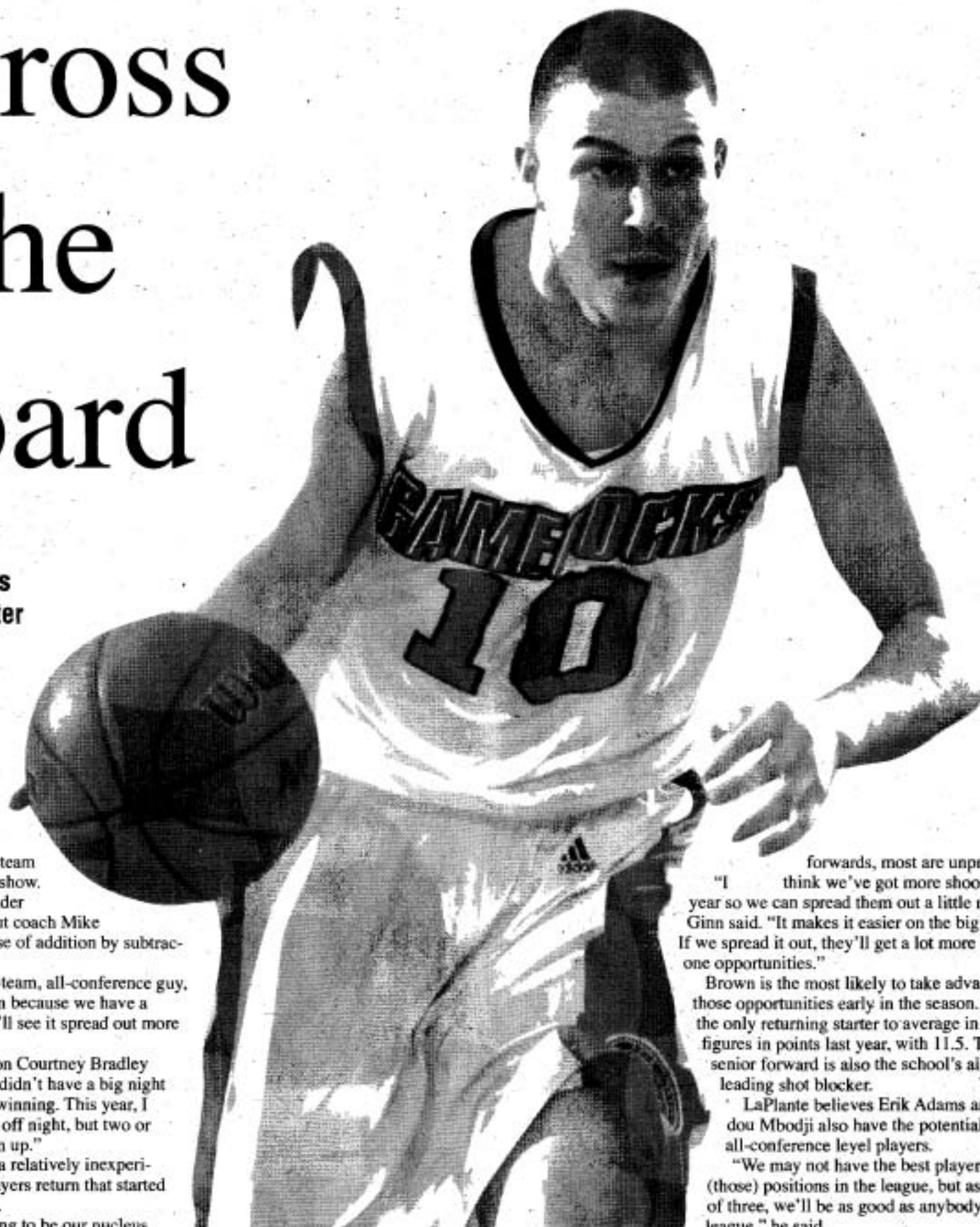
Leading scorer and rebounder Courtney Bradley is gone, but coach Mike LaPlante says it may be a case of addition by subtraction.

"It's hard to replace a first-team, all-conference guy, but we might be a better team because we have a little bit more depth and you'll see it spread out more evenly," he said.

"Last year we had to rely on Courtney Bradley having a big night, and if he didn't have a big night we had a very difficult time winning. This year, I think one guy might have an off night, but two or three other guys can pick him up."

While the Gamecocks are a relatively inexperienced group overall, four players return that started at least 10 games last season.

"I think our strength is going to be our nucleus



forwards, most are unproven. "I think we've got more shooters this year so we can spread them out a little more," Ginn said. "It makes it easier on the big guys. If we spread it out, they'll get a lot more one-on-one opportunities."

Brown is the most likely to take advantage of those opportunities early in the season. He is the only returning starter to average in double figures in points last year, with 11.5. The senior forward is also the school's all-time leading shot blocker.

LaPlante believes Erik Adams and Amadou Mbodji also have the potential to be all-conference level players.

"We may not have the best player at (those) positions in the league, but as a group of three, we'll be as good as anybody in the league," he said.

PROBABLE STARTERS



#5
DeAndre
Bray
Guard
Junior
5'6"
Atlanta, Ga.
Mays HS



#10
Will
Ginn
Guard
Senior
6'0"

Alexandria, Ala.
Gadsden State CC



enced group overall, four players return that started at least 10 games last season.

"I think our strength is going to be our nucleus of returning players," LaPlante said. "Our three seniors — Dorien Brown, Will Ginn, and Erik Adams — need to provide that leadership that will carry us until these new guys get up to speed."

With eight newcomers, that leadership will be tested, especially since LaPlante intends to use a deep rotation this year.

Under his tutelage, the Gamecocks have always played up-tempo, but this year, without a go-to scorer, LaPlante says he'll push the gas pedal even more.

"Our goal is going to be fifty (points) a half," he said. "We have the speed and depth to play an up-tempo game and wear people down, and hopefully be able to win in the last couple minutes because we're more used to playing at that pace."

Guard play is the key to that kind of style, and that appears to be the strength of this year's team.

DeAndre Bray led the OVC in assists last year, despite playing only 22 minutes a game. The diminutive junior has the quickness and energy to frustrate opponents on both ends of the court.

Ginn averaged over four assists per game last year and is the best pure shooter on the team. His free throw shooting will likely be the difference in some close games.

LaPlante said Jonathan Toles—the number one JuCo point guard in the state last year—is cut from the same mold and will be a crowd favorite.

"We think he'll be an impact player for us," LaPlante said. "Between him, DeAndre and Will, we'll be as good at the point spot as we've been since I've been here."

The players to whom those three will distribute the ball are the bigger question mark. While LaPlante is optimistic about the talent and potential of the other guards and



(those) positions in the league, but as a group of three, we'll be as good as anybody in the league," he said.

Adams, who started 18 games last year, is listed as both a guard and a forward. Whichever position he will be playing, he will be relied on for rebounding when he recovers from a foot injury that might sideline him for the first part of the sea-

The senior was third on the team last year with 5.3 per game.

LaPlante believes Mbodji, a 6'11" sophomore from Senegal, will be a "much improved presence" inside after last year's experience.

"Amadou has really stepped his game up, both his defense and his offense," Brown said. "We're waiting to get Erik back healthy. Nick Murphy is a defensive specialist."

JuCo transfer Jozay King and freshmen J.R. Weathers and Zack Winston will add depth to the forward position.

LaPlante said this year's incoming class is "as talented a group as we've brought in since I've been here."

Winston, J.J. Wesley and Derrick Young all came to JSU mere months after winning the 6A state championship at LeFlore High School.

Jeremy Bynum makes the short trip from Oxford High, and Nick Murphy and J.R. Weathers are talented freshman coming from out of state.

With the style of play LaPlante will be emphasizing, all will have a chance to earn playing time sooner rather than later.

"You can't play that up-and-down style with just five players all the time," Ginn said. "So you've got to have players coming off the bench. I think we've got that this year."

LaPlante is anxious to see how the established veterans and incoming talent can mesh.

"As quickly as the new guys can learn this level of basketball, that's how soon we'll have success," he predicted.

Guard Will Ginn. Photo by Steve Latham / JSU, Illustration by Kevin Jeffers / The Chanticleer

COVER STORY: LaPlante develops plan to improve program

Cont. from 1B

if the outcomes of these close, one-point losses were different."

Making do with less

While LaPlante's critics have been outspoken about wanting him out, few realize just what JSU's head basketball man has accomplished with the resources given.

He's won more with less-than-average financial commitments when compared to the rest of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Don't take that as an excuse for LaPlante, though. He wants to raise the stakes.

LaPlante formed a planning committee to determine what JSU's level of financial commitment to the program was in comparison to the rest of the OVC and other regional schools that recruit against JSU.

The results showed the type of hole JSU was in.

"One thing I have done with the Strategic Plan is try to say 'I'm right on board,'" LaPlante said.

"You have to have a plan to get there. I hope the Strategic Plan points out that if you want to be successful against your competition, you better have similar resources and facilities to your competition."

According to the plan, out of the 11 teams in the Ohio Valley Conference, JSU ranks ninth in total budget, spending under \$650,000 a year.

The OVC's top four teams, Murray State, Samford, Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee Tech, spend an average of over \$1 million per year.

Basically, JSU's men's basketball program, while not getting

the desired results on the court, has less to work with than almost any other OVC program.

However, that's not to say that a bottom-tier team, spending-wise, is playing like a bottom-tier team.

In the past five years, JSU has the sixth best overall record in the conference, better than Morehead State, SEMO and Tennessee State.

All three of those schools have a larger budget for their basketball programs than do the Gamecocks.

Comparing JSU's financial commitment to the OVC is one thing. To compare it to four regional teams that LaPlante and his staff recruit against is just down right frightening.

Western Kentucky, South Alabama, Chattanooga and Middle Tennessee State spend an aver-

age of \$1.3 million a year.

The average difference between them and JSU is more than the Gamecocks' total budget.

The budget isn't the only aspect where JSU's program lacks.

Pete Mathews Coliseum is the only arena in the OVC that can be called small and old.

There are smaller arenas, like Samford's brand new Pete Hannah Arena, a 5,000-seat venue that was completed earlier this year to the tune of \$32 million.

And there are older arenas, like Eastern Kentucky's McBrayer Arena (built in 1963), which seats 6,500 compared to Pete Mathews (1974), which seats 5,500.

Discontent

The most vocal members of Gamecock Nation can be found on Internet forums, expressing

their displeasure of LaPlante's methods.

But the coach is fine with that. "From the fans' perspective, that's their right," LaPlante said.

"The fans want you to win. They want you to win championships, and they want you to be competitive. From that standpoint, that's all expected.

"You want people that are passionate about your school and your program. That's what makes it fun to cheer for your team or even jeer for your coach."

The skeptics will jeer. They've been doing it for at least a year now.

If LaPlante wants to silence them, a strong showing in the OVC will probably do the trick.



#30 Erik Adams
Forward
Senior
6'5"

Philadelphia, Pa.
Neosho County
CC



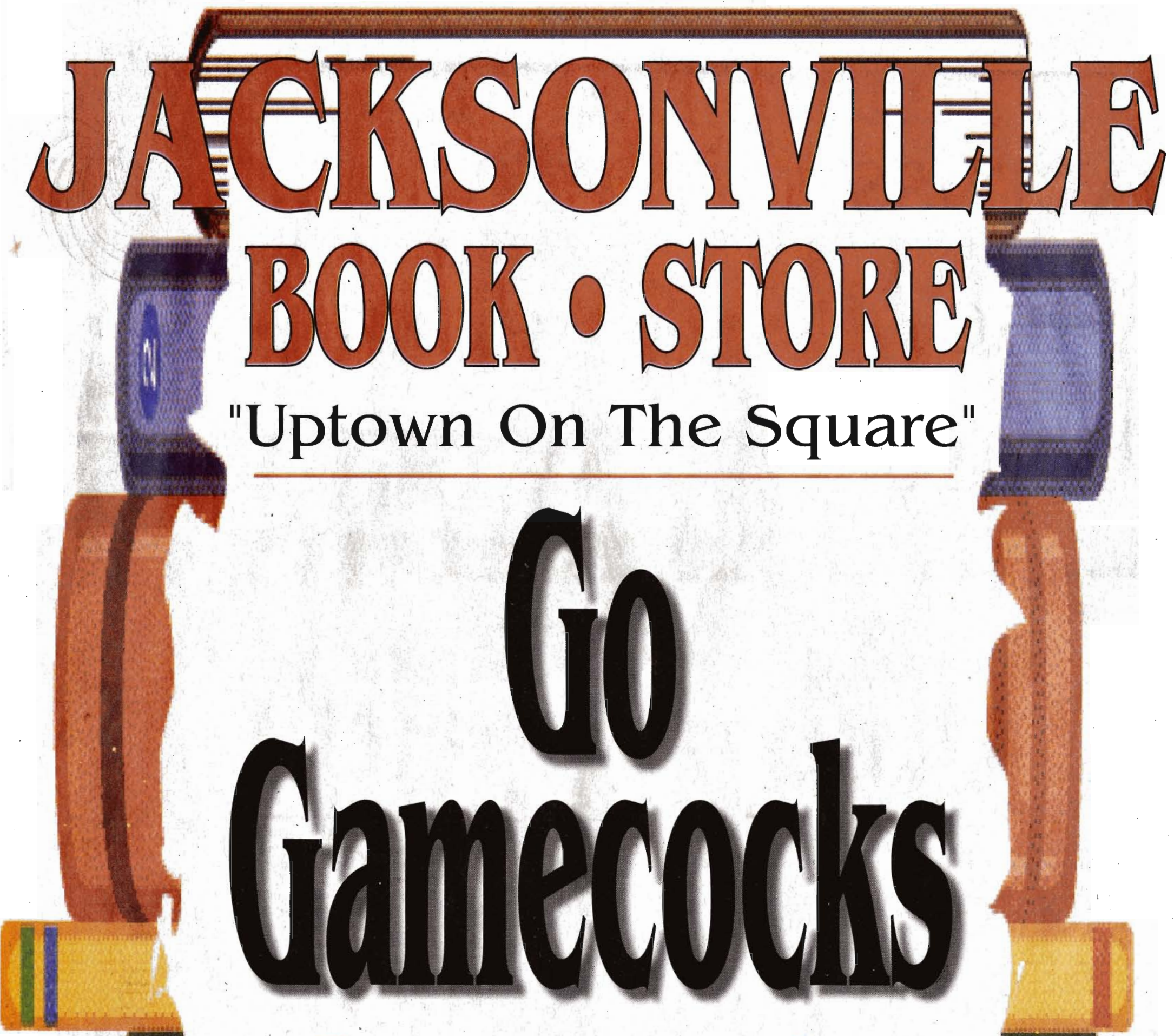
#22 Amadou Mbodji
Forward
Sophomore
6'11"

Dakar, Senegal.
Limamou Laye HS



#33 Dorien Brown
Forward
Senior
6'7"

Lynn, Mass.
Northfield Mtn.
Herman Prep




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"Uptown On The Square"

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