

The Chanticleer

"No deal, McCutcheon.
That moon money is mine!"

Volume 56, Issue 7

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

October 11, 2007

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SOB Night is one of many unique facets of Jacksonville's La Mariposa. thechanticleeronline.com

INSIDE

Domestic violence victims memorialized at "Remember My Name" vigil. Story on [page 2](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

Reunited with the E Street Band, Bruce Springsteen's newest album offers hopeful glimpse of America. And classic Boss music. Review on [page 5](#)

QUESTION of the WEEK

What is the best thing about the fall?

JSU student, 21, killed in car wreck Monday

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

A JSU student was killed in a car accident Monday afternoon, Oct. 8, just three days shy of her 22nd birthday.

English major Karon Pesnell was traveling back to her home in Heflin after classes Monday when her car was struck by an oncoming vehicle near White Plains. The Anniston Star reported Pesnell died instantly in the wreck on Alabama Highway 9.

Pesnell, who would have graduated in May, was a dedicated student and avid learner, according to her professors.

"She was very dedicated and hard-working," English professor JoAnn Gates said.

"I had great confidence in her."

Dr. George Whitesel, Pesnell's British Literature professor, concurred, calling her death a "huge loss."

The driver of the other car, identified as 27-year-old Erica M. Pruitt of Piedmont, was airlifted to University Hospital in Birmingham with possible head injuries.

Pruitt's infant, who was in the car, suffered no apparent injury.

As of press time, no cause for the accident has been established. The Alabama Department of Public Safety's state trooper post in Jacksonville said the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the accident continues.

Funeral arrangements were pending as of Tuesday night.

For more updates, check later in the week at our Web site, thechanticleeronline.com.

If it seems like you're under more stress these days, it's not your imagination. College responsibilities are just...

Piling

it
on

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

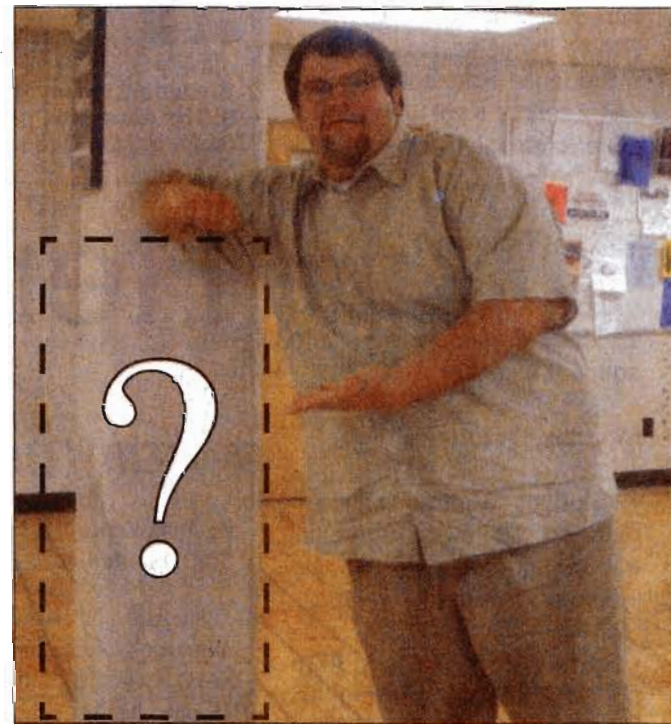
Tuition. Financial aid headaches. Book prices. Traffic. Classes. Bills. A job—or two. Paperwork, paperwork and more paperwork. These words and phrases comprise the vocabulary of college life in the 21st century, and they can lead to an even more important word—stress.

It's not an unusual occurrence—everyone experiences stress from one degree to another in their lifetime.

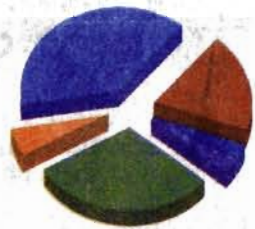
"Stress is your mental



Vandals leave void in TMB



SGA president David Jennings stands in front of where the cash-to-card machine used to be on the fourth floor of the TMB. Photo and illustration by Kevin Jeffers / The Chanticleer



- Cooler weather 39%
- Football season 31%
- Leaves turning colors 19%
- Fall holidays 6%
- New TV season 3%
- Other 3%



"I like to spend more time outside in the cooler weather because it doesn't wear me down as much as the weather during the summer."

- Ashley McDonald
Grad Student

Next week's question:

Do you support JSU's possible move to a higher football division?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

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stress from one degree to another in their lifetime.

"Stress is your mental physical and emotional response to change," Nancy Edge, of JSU's Student Health Center, said. "Some stress is necessary to complete daily tasks."

However, in addition to the daily grind, there are periods when stress does become considerably worse.

For college students, midterms, finals and the upcoming holiday season are all stressful events that can add significantly to the burdens already shouldered by a student, and the effects can be damaging to one's well-being.

"Usually the times when students feel the most stressed is the beginning of the school year," Counseling and Career Services director Rickey Naugher said. "Midterms and final exams would [also] be a time when students experience a higher level of stress."

Typical problems related to stress range from disturbed sleep patterns or increased anxiety. On the more extreme end, pressures faced in college can become so strong that they force students to drop out, distancing themselves from college environments, according to behavioral psychiatrist David Falk.

While psychologists agree that stress is a commonplace



Photo by Matt McRae, Illustration by Kevin Jeffers / The Chanticleer

event, that doesn't mean it can't turn into something much more dangerous. What begins as simple stress can degrade into a full-blown depression, and such occurrences are on the rise.

Ninety-two percent of college counseling directors said the number of students with severe psychological problems has increased in recent years, according to the 2006 National Survey for Counseling Center Directors. Concurrently, demand for mental health services is up at colleges and

This is the third in a four-part series taking a look at ...



See "Student health," page

Standing tall

Sgt. Shawn Giddy takes over as acting chief of police

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

He came to play, but he stayed to work.

Sergeant Shawn Giddy began at Jacksonville State University in 1983 as a basketball player pursuing his bachelor's degree in recreation. He planned on coaching.

Giddy's plans shifted gears when he accepted a part-time job with the University Police Department as a student patrolman. The work was routine—as simple as locking and unlocking buildings—but it opened doors for Giddy.



Sgt. Shawn Giddy stands on the steps of Sells Hall. Photo by Bethany Harbison / The Chanticleer

See "UPD in transition," page 3

cash-to-card machine used to be on the fourth floor of the TMB. Photo and illustration by Kevin Jeffers / The Chanticleer

Building's new hours due to vandalism

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

A recent string of vandalism is the cause for a change in the TMB's weekly hours, according to building manager Terry Casey.

The third attempted break-in in a little over a week was reported on Sunday, Oct. 7, when someone vandalized an ATM on the third floor.

Casey also said that on Tuesday, Oct. 1, TMB staff noticed a broken window on the third floor. The first reported incident took place on Sunday, Sept. 28, when a cash-to-card machine was severely damaged.

"Right now we're just trying to keep our students as safe as possible," Casey said.

Brian Stephenson of campus security was the first to notice the vandalism.

"I noticed the cash-to-card machine had been ripped off the wall and had severe damage," Stephenson said.

Stephenson said the cable from the machine was ripped from the ceiling, where a hole still resides. The machine has been moved completely from the building.

The TMB is home to several activities and services on cam-

See "Vandalism," page 2

Faculty Senate opposes football move

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

At its monthly meeting on Monday, Oct. 8, the JSU Faculty Senate passed a resolution spelling out the body's opposition to a move up in NCAA football divisions and expressing a need to find out more about the proposed shift.

The football resolution was approved on a 21-to-6 vote after spirited discussion in which faculty members debated the costs and benefits of such a move.

The university asked the NCAA for permission to move from its current home, the Ohio Valley Conference of the Championship Subdivision, to the Bowl Subdivision. Earlier this month, the NCAA rejected the university's request, and told officials the earliest such a move could be made would be 2013.

A common complaint among the senators was that cost to students, faculty and



Rayburn

See "Faculty meeting," page 3

Campus Crime

Wednesday, October 3

- Student Justin Casey reported theft of wooden symbols belonging to the Sigma Nu fraternity. The items were valued at \$100.00.
- Student Jessica Summe reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Houston Cole Library. Stolen were three textbooks, a canvas bag and \$60.00 in dimes.

Thursday, October 4

- Student Nitisha Stephens reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a car at Ayers Hall. Stolen were a purse, debit and credit cards and \$5.00 in cash.

Friday, October 5

- Jerrell Dabney reported disorderly conduct in the Jax Apartments parking lot.
- Student Byron Blaylock reported harassing communications at Dixon Hall.
- Student Conroy Cottrell Jr. reported a burglary at Campus Inn. Stolen were four keys and \$60.00 in cash.
- Students Rashaundra Sims and Zachary Kent were arrested for criminal mischief at Salls Hall.

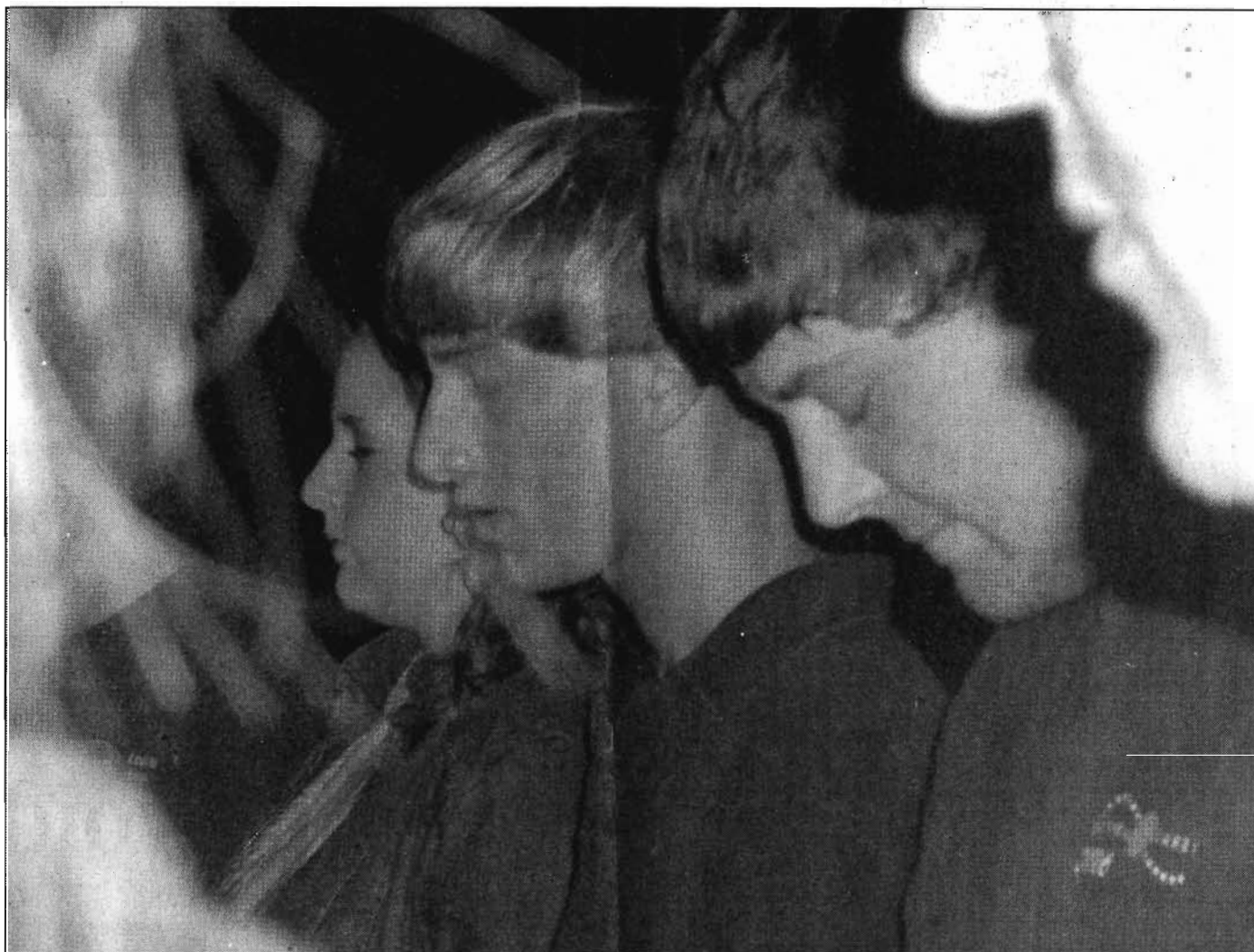
Sunday, October 7

- Ann Poe reported a burglary at TMB. A window was damaged, at a cost of \$400.00.

Monday, October 8

- Student Matthew Weaver reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle. Stolen were soft drinks valued at \$25.00.
- Student Charles Stapp III reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Crow Hall. Stolen was an iPod and accessories, value: \$510.00.
- Students Jaleshia Briggins and Johnetta Williams reported

Walking in faith



Students Lindsey Holcombe, Kyle Dean and Adam Snowden pray in front of the Houston Cole Library on Tuesday night, Oct. 9. The event was part of the Baptist Campus Ministries' Prayer Walk. Participants went to several location around campus, including the Quad, Bibb Graves and the International House. Photo by Jenna Early / The Chanticleer

Remember my name

Vigil memorializes victims of domestic violence

By Anna Keefe
Staff reporter

Students gathered to remember victims of domestic violence on Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. on the TMB lawn. The candlelight vigil was called "Remember My Name."

"The vigil recognized Calhoun County's seven domestic violence homicide victims from 2006 to the present," said Trace Fleming-Smith, of Women's Issues, Support

vastness of domestic violence. It affects all people," Moore said.

There were approximately 60 in attendance. Some of the attendants were survivors, according to Tamika Moore.

Some of the students who attended knew a family member or friend who had been a victim.

"It was definitely an issue that affected everyone in the family," JSU student Betty Wetzell said.

and qualify.

"We hope you will think about domestic violence on a day beyond just today and in a month beyond just October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It takes all of us knowing about domestic violence and caring about its consequences for everyone around the victim to make a change. Thank you all for caring tonight," Shipman said.

The keynote speaker of the event was

CAMPUS BRIEFS

• JSU's newest classroom facility will hold a formal opening ceremony next week. The **Gladys Carlisle Applied Arts Facility** is opening its doors to the public on Monday, Oct. 15, for the center's dedication. The building, which houses classrooms and offices for drawing, painting, sculpture and design courses, opened to students and faculty in September.

• JSU and the National Alliance on Mental Health joined forces to observe **National Mental Health Awareness Week**. The week began on Oct. 7 and continues through Saturday, Oct. 13. Earlier this week, representatives from NAMI offered mental health information in Ayers Hall, Ramona Wood Hall, TMB, Brewer Hall and Wallace Hall. Each year, Mental Health Awareness Week seeks to increase knowledge among the general public on mental and emotional disorders.

• Academic advisors will have a chance to learn more about the new **Curriculum, Advising and Program Planning (CAPP)** system when the university holds two overview sessions at TMB on Tuesday, Oct. 16. CAPP is an arm of the Banner computer system and replaces the old DARS reporting system.

- From wire service

SENATE

accessories, value: \$510.00.
 • Students Jaleshia Briggins and Jhonna Williams reported verbal and physical harrasment at Fitzpatrick Hall.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at th 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, October 11

- Interfraternity Council Meeting, 302 TMB, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Homecoming Top 10 Elections, TMB Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, October 12

- NPHC General Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson Hall, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13

- CBASE, TMB Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Monday, October 15

- Board of Trustees meeting, Houston Cole Library, 1:00 p.m.
- CBASE, Leone Cole Auditorium, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- NAACP Promotion for Events, TMB 2nd floor, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16

- Karaoke in the Caf, Jack Hopper Dining Hall, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Rockstar Party, TMB lawn, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- NAACP Promotion for Events, TMB 2nd floor, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17

- Homecoming Top 5 Elections, TMB Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- College Picture Day, TMB 2nd floor lobby, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

seven domestic violence homicide victims from 2006 to the present," said Trace Fleming-Smith, of Women's Issues, Support and Empowerment (WISE). According to Tamika Moore, outreach specialist for 2nd Chance, Calhoun County has had more homicides than any other county in the state in the last two years.

Sponsors of the event included WISE, 2nd Chance, The Calhoun County District Violence Task Force, The Calhoun County District Attorney's Office and The Daybreak Crisis Recovery Center, according to Trace Fleming-Smith.

Moore said that she hoped the event would bring awareness.

"We need support. Also, by having it at JSU, we hope to bring awareness of the



Participants in Tuesday's Domestic Violence Vigil paid tribute to Calhoun County homicide victims. Photo by Jenna Early/ *The Chanticleer*

Vandalism: TMB under new hours due to recent break-ins

Cont. from page 1

pus, including the SGA offices on the fourth floor.

David Jennings, president of the SGA, said the new hours are restricting the amount of work the SGA officers are able to do.

"This place shuts down at 4:30, and we have meetings that take place after that time," Jennings said. "We can't have a bunch of students up here when things like this are going on."

Casey has asked all of the officers and students who work in the building to take extra precautions, locking doors behind them and avoiding working late into the night.

"He told us to try and get all of our work done in the mornings and afternoons just as a precaution," Jennings said.

"It was really all for caring tonight," Shipman said.

The keynote speaker of the event was Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Gillespie. She is also the chairperson for the Domestic Violence Task Force.

"Domestic violence takes not a victim, but a child's innocence, a mommy, a daughter, a sister, a granddaughter and a friend," Gillespie said.

Gillespie introduced the reading of the homicide victims names.

"The batterer maintains power and control through violence and isolation. As a community, let's remember these names and fight domestic violence by saying to victims today: We support you; we will help you; we will fight to protect you. To those who have passed: You have inspired us by your courage and strength, and you will never be forgotten," Gillespie said.

The vigil ended with a reading of the names of the victims, led by Moore. Volunteers held up posters with pictures of the victims, their names and the dates on which they were killed.

"There were so many victims who did not have the courage to come forward. Out of these seven, I can tell you now that there are many more that you do not even about. By lighting your candle, you show support, that you understand, you are willing to understand domestic violence," said Moore.

2nd Chance has a toll-free hotline: 1-256-236-7233 for anyone who needs help or knows someone who does.

There is also a Web site for more information about 2nd Chance: 2ndchanceinc.org.

"With classes, sometimes we have to work late at night. He wants us to try to stay away from that right now to be safe."

According to Jennings, they have been trying to get security cameras in the building for some time now.

"We've never been able to. Maybe this will help that cause," Jennings said.

The TMB is also home to the Academic Center for Excellence on the second floor, where students receive tutoring, the food court and bookstore located on the second floor and the print shop located on the bottom floor.

Casey, who also serves as director of student life, said this is the worst string of incidents he has seen take place at the building since he started working there in 1993.

"All of a sudden the TMB is kind of the 'hot spot.'" Casey said. "None of us are

really sure why."

Casey said there is no immediate timetable for the new building hours.

"We just want to get a handle on exactly what is going on," Casey said.

The JSU news wire announced the TMB's new hours on Oct. 4. As it stands, the TMB is now open Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday from 7 a.m. until 4 :30 p.m., Sunday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and closed on Saturday.

Stephenson said the new hours are mainly to keep people out of the building on the weekends.

"Since there aren't as many people around on the weekend, we felt it would be best just to go ahead and keep it locked up," Stephenson said.

The TMB used to be open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

SENATE MINUTES

Rundown of the Monday, Oct. 8, SGA meeting:

- Heard reports from officers Shalon Hathcock, Keyrunta Houston, Destini Mayberry, Brittney Cunningham, David Jennings and Jennifer Nix.
- Approved minutes from the Oct. 1 meeting.
- Tabled a bill allowing two delegates to represent each organization at Organizational Council meetings. Senators agreed more informaiton is needed before a vote can be taken.
- Passed a bill setting a formal agenda for Organizational Council meetings.
- Passed a bill allowing the Organizational Council president to appoint an official OC parliamentarian. The person in that job will keep up with parliamentary procedure and ensure adherence to it during OC meetings.

OOPS LOL... Mistakes from last week's issue:

- Stephen Gross's name was misspelled in his photo credit on page 6.

The Chanticleer regrets the mistakes and apologizes to anyone who was affected.

UPD in transition: Giddy in as interim chief

Cont. from page 1

When a police officer left, Giddy was hired as his replacement. And so it began. In the past 22 years, Giddy has continued advancing in UPD.

"I've been here ever since," Giddy said. "Sometimes you just can't leave—there's always something."

Capt. Terrance Schneider's recent resignation from his position as Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety called for Giddy to step up again to serve as interim.

On Oct. 4, President Meehan officially approved Giddy's appointment as acting chief until a new chief is selected.

The search for a replacement is still in the beginning stages, and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Timothy King said Schneider will be difficult to replace.

Schneider came to JSU in 1998, and, according to King, his work in those nine years was above reproach.

"[Schneider] was fantastic," King said. "He is a wonderful person and an honorable man with a lot of integrity. He had the respect of his staff and was an ambassador for this campus."

King said that the search for Schneider's permanent replacement will be extensive and nationwide. According to King, the committee will most likely post the opening with the Chronicle of Higher Education, International Association of Chiefs of Police and CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies).

"We want to make sure we do a thorough job," King said. "These are big shoes to fill."

The search committee will consist of a broad representation of the campus community, said King. He said that faculty, staff, students and citizens of the community of Jacksonville are all likely to be represented.

Faculty Senate

Cont. from page 1

staff would be much greater than the potential benefits to be gained through the shift in division.

JSU doesn't meet any of the NCAA's requirements for transfer, according to history professor Paul Beezley.

Opposition was not unanimous at the meeting. Engineering professor Edwin Bellman said that at other colleges, the revenue earned by the athletic department had positive effects on academics.

"Several years ago, the University of Tennessee was going to cut the library budget by a million dollars," Bellman said. "The athletic department wrote them a check. They said, 'Here, don't worry about it.'"

The approved resolution, which Senate President Jim Rayburn will present to the JSU Board of Trustees at their meeting next Monday, Oct. 15, reads in part:

"The JSU faculty opposes any move up in NCAA division standing at this time, without more information, [and] that careful third-party estimates be made as to the cost/benefits of moving up and the amount of student tuition that would be required to pay for this change."

The text of the September resolution included blunter wording, including the phrase "strongly oppose."

Music professor Michael D'Ambrosio asked for the less-confrontational phrasing, along with the provision that the opposition was made "without further information," signaling the senate's desire to learn more through a neutral observer.

Additionally, psychology professor Heidi Eyre asked that a reference to "potential

Student health part 3 of 4: Stress relief available on campus

Cont. from page 1

universities across the United States, putting additional strain on already-taxed counseling staffs and school resources.

At JSU, issues with stress, depression and other mental and emotional problems fall under the umbrella of the office of Counseling and Career Services.

"It would be difficult to put a number on how many students we see for stress," Naugher said. "I would say about 25 to 30 students come in with stress-related problems in a semester."

Treatments for stress and related issues vary, depending on the severity and impact on the student.

When students exhibit high

amounts of stress, Naugher said, the CCS staff conducts a complete emotional assessment, looking for the causes of the stress and whether it is a result of a larger underlying problem or a stand-alone issue. From there, the question becomes how best to deal with the stress and its effects.

"Stress, if left untreated, can lead to emotional, concentration, memory and coordination problems," Naugher said.

A 1999 study by Shannon Ross, Bradley Neibling and Teresa Heckert asked 100 students to rank 40 stressful situations by severity, in order to determine the sources of stress in a typical collegian's life. The top five causes were change in sleeping habits, vacations/breaks, change in eating habits, increased workloads and new responsibilities. Those causes reflect the significant shifts in routine and lifestyle one often encounters in making the transition from adolescence to adulthood.

"College students are a group particularly prone to stress, due to the transitional nature of college life," the study said.

The authors went on to say, "Grades [are] not the only source of stress for college students. Other sources include excessive homework, unclear assignments and uncomfortable classrooms."

Additionally, stress affects undergraduates and graduate students differently. The problems encountered by undergrads, including changes to living circumstances, eating habits and responsibility shifts, tend to be the biggest stressors, according to a 1985 study from the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE).

The same report cited very different stressors for grad students: uncertainty about future career choices, feelings of helplessness and inability to form interpersonal relationships due to time constraints.

It is vital to understand where to draw the line between normal stress encountered in everyday life, and overwhelming stress that can have a major negative impact.

Generally, a student can identify and deal with normal stress on his or her own, according to Naugher. People have individual ways of dealing with normal stress, from listening to music, to exercise, to engaging in relaxing hobbies.

The trouble, of course, comes when such measures have no noticeable impact on stress levels. Then stress becomes a much more insidious threat.

"With dangerous stress, you have other issues involved [than with normal stress]," Naugher said. "During stages of dangerous stress, it's difficult for a person to even go through daily routines."

Solutions could go beyond the individual level. Some researchers have proposed more sweeping institutional changes for colleges and universities. The 1985 ASHE study suggested more involvement for faculty advisers, better preparation

strategies for incoming students and improving campus mental health services.

On campus, help is available through Counseling and Career Services. CCS offers one-on-one counseling for stress management, and workshops focusing on how to deal with stress in one's life.

But if a student's issues go beyond the capabilities of the CCS staff to handle, he or she may have to seek off-campus treatment, from medications to sessions with professional therapists.

"[Those] resources would be through the Mental Health Center and private counselors," Naugher said. "They would teach a person how to deal with stress effectively and how to catch it before it gets out of control."

With tests and holidays fast approaching, it may very well be in a student's best interest to listen to what his body is telling him. Often, how he deals with stress can be the difference between a manageable problem and a dangerous situation.

Stress doesn't have to be a specter hovering over your daily life. Try out these tips for dealing with stress:

- Learn better ways to manage your time. Prioritize your tasks. Think about which things are most important, and do those first.

- Find better ways to cope. Look at how you have been dealing with stress. Be honest about what works and what does not. Think about other tactics that might work better.

- Take good care of yourself. Get plenty of rest. Eat well. Do not smoke. Limit how much alcohol you drink.

- Try out new ways of thinking. Work on letting go of things you cannot change.

- Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help. People who have a strong network of family and friends manage stress better.

— source: WebMD.com

Where does stress cross the line into dangerous territory? Here are some warning signs you should look for:

- Changes in sleep patterns; taking longer to fall asleep; waking up tired and not well rested
- Changes in eating patterns
- More frequent headaches than normal
- Shorter temper than normal
- Recurring colds and minor illness
- Frequent muscle ache and/or tightness
- More disorganized than normal for you
- Increased difficulty in task completion
- A greater sense of persistent time pressure
- Increased generalized frustration and anger

— source: campusblues.com

Terri Bowen & Curtis Sessions, Owners

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community of Jacksonville are all likely to be represented.

King said that he hoped for the position to be filled by December, but said that January was a more realistic goal.

Until then, Giddy is in charge of holding UPD together.

Being named acting chief in Schneider's absence was of little surprise to Giddy. It was a role that he had stepped into several times previously.

"When the chief leaves, he has somebody that he designates as the acting chief while he is not here, and I have served in that capacity a lot in the past," Giddy said.

According to King, Giddy was also Capt. Schneider's recommendation for the interim position.

"Sergeant Giddy is the senior officer," King said. "In this type of profession, your senior officer is typically selected as acting chief. It's a chain of command decision."

Giddy said that, as interim, many new responsibilities have been added to his regular duties—including purchasing equipment, meeting with various groups within the university and dealing with the press.

The highlight of his work, Giddy said, is the chance to help others and maintain peace on campus.

"You always have the opportunity to help people," Giddy said. "That's what most, pretty much all, people in this job do, it for. You don't like seeing people hurt, and you do what you can to prevent that."

As soon as the position of Chief of Police and Director of Public Safety is posted and open to applicants, Giddy intends to be among them.

"I just believe that if there's a job that comes open within your department that the individuals under that should apply for it, if it's a job you can do."

King said that the university hopes that whoever fills the position will continue to hold UPD to the high standard of the past.

JSU's University Police Department is one of five law enforcement bodies in Alabama to be accredited by CALEA. Only one other of the five departments, the University of Alabama's is university-based

professor Heidi Eyre asked that a reference to "potential cost" to students be changed to "potential costs and benefits."

In other business, Rayburn described the current state of a safety task force due to release a report in the near future. JSU has another committee that focuses on safety issues, Rayburn said, but the two have little to do with one another, making communication between the two difficult.

The next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Nov. 12.

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Toni Merriss

Editor in Chief

chantyeditor@gmail.com, 782-5701

Kevin Jeffers

Managing Editor

chantyme@gmail.com, 782-8192

Mike Stedham

Faculty Adviser

mstedham@jsu.edu, 782-5713

OUR VOICE

Our deepest condolences

We're merely a weekly paper here at *The Chanticleer*, so we don't have to deal with many of the headaches that dailies face on a regular basis.

For instance, we don't have to write obituaries too often. Thank God we don't have that task riding on our shoulders each day.

Such was not the case in this issue.

As you may have read on our front page, 21-year-old Lashaye Pesnell was killed in a car accident on Monday. We received the news on Tuesday morning and immediately grappled with the most appropriate way to cover it. We sincerely hope the piece we provide does the event justice.

The Chanticleer regrets it could not write more on Lashaye this week. We hope to be able to follow up on her death next week as more information comes to us.

We hope it will be the last such story we will have to write for a while.

The Care Bears updated

By Webb Dillard
Senior Writer

The other day at my in-laws' house, my daughter pulled out my wife's old Care Bear. It was pink with a sunshiny face on its belly. Now, let it be known that I am not an expert on the Care Bear brigade of old, but it did get me to thinking of an updated version of the plush posse.

The first change that needs to be made is the "me" bear.

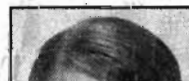
DAVE DILLON

Political Cartoonist



Still a follower, but not of trends

From Birkenstocks to North Face, I have witnessed many a trend in my day.



enough to pour my heart out for the world to read and analyze and criticize?

Friendliest campus in the south toward gays

By Zac Childree
Staff Reporter

Thursday marks the 19th annual National Coming Out Day, designed to raise awareness of LGBT issues in American communities.

Oct 11th is "National Coming Out Day" and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people all over the United States are encouraged to tell friends, family or even strangers of their sexual orientation.

So being the intrepid reporter I am, I set out on campus to talk to students and gauge the attitude toward LGBT people here at Jacksonville State.

I was prepared for all kind of answers, from "eww, gay people" to the usual biblical passages clobbering homosexuals. (These same passages also condemn the eating of shellfish, but that's a different story.)

I found a gaggle of students sitting at a table in the Theron Montgomery Building and asked if I could join them. They obliged and I brought up my topic. "What do you think the attitude toward gays and lesbians is on campus?"

I braced myself for the responses, but I was pleasantly surprised.

"I think people here are really uncultured when it comes to gay people" English major Jake Phillips said. "I think people judge way too quickly."

Adam Fulner, a Drama major, seems to think that people are taught hatred.

"Oh yeah, it's all in how you were brought up," he said.

Fulner went on to tell me about his parents and how they raised him to respect everyone equally.

Rachel Bagley sat across the table from me. She said that while college isn't as bad as a high school setting, it's still pretty bad.

"I bet if an open lesbian were to apply to a sorority, they wouldn't let her in," she said.

I thought I'd test that theory. I went up to a table of sorority girls to ask them their opinion.

They all sat behind a brightly colored pink tablecloth as they promoted

Care Bear brigade of old, but it did get me to thinking of an updated version of the plush posse.

The first change that needs to be made is the "me" bear. I would make the "Me Bear" red and on its chest the word "ME." This is to represent the "All about me crowd."

Next, we need a bear to represent the attitude in the world involving natural resources. The black bear would have an oil rig and an army tank on its chest. I guess you would have to include a military-style beret on this bear to represent the most of the free world's idea of obtaining the earth's natural resources.

The green bear would represent money and greed. So that means on his chest would be the Enron, Tyco and WorldCom insignias. Former employees of these companies know this bear all-too well.

The next bear would be the "Bear of no Consequence." We will make this the blue bear, which will represent the people in this world who think that any bad behavior should be rewarded with a second chance instead of punishment. On this bear's chest we'll just put "2nd chance." Just for giggles I would put a number 7 on the back of this bear (for guess who).

Now, we come to the yellow bear. On this bear we will put a cross, a Star of David and a crescent moon. This is to represent the three prominent religions of the world and their own skewed visions and agendas. I will have to include a cartoon-style bomb with the fuse lit. It will be placed directly in the middle of the three symbols to represent the ticking time bomb of the situation.

The last bear will be the purple bear. The purple bear will simply have a picture of a bald-shaven Britney Spears. This bear will be named "WTF?" and will just remind us that not everything is worth knowing about.

Now that we have all the bears and their new identities established, I guess a new gang name is appropriate. I thought of a few.

- 1) "The Who Gives A Damn Bears"
- 2) "Don't Care Bears"
- 3) "We Are No Longer Role Model Bears"
- 4) "The Like it or Not Bears"

I know some of my observation sound harsh, but pick up a newspaper or watch the news and see if I am wrong. Now, these ideas will never make the chest of a children's toy, but they are out there.

I just hope one day something changes. Morals and values are in desperate need of a comeback.

From Birkenstocks to North Face, I have witnessed many a trend in my day.

Over and over, I have seen the phenomenon at work.

It begins in the "it group", spreads to the outskirts of the "cool kids" and finds its way onto the Christmas lists of "everyone else." By the time the not-so-cool kids (like myself) were wearing it, the "it group" had moved on to something else a month before.

I laugh when I look back at some of the trends that my friends and I painstakingly followed in the interest of popularity.

Oh, how skewed were our visions for ourselves.

In 5th grade, it was tube socks. Ugly, white, long tube socks. After venturing into the men's department of Wal-Mart to make the purchase, the next step was to perfect the art of wearing them. We pulled the socks up to our knees and then, very carefully, pushed them down, wrinkling them in just the right way.

I often wore mine with a pair of black Umbro sandals—high fashion, I know.

Beginning in about 8th grade, it became absurdly popular at my school to tie a single strand of black embroidery thread around one's neck choker-



Bethany Harbison
chantycopy@gmail.com

style. Yes, I succumbed to this one, too.

Don't ask me who started it or why we followed suit, because I have no idea.

I was only a follower.

I was a shameless conformist—so uncomfortable, so miserable in my own skin that I longed for nothing more than to blend into the crowd. If I couldn't be noticed for anything positive (and I had long since given up on that hope), then I did not want to be seen at all.

For the most part, I think perhaps I succeeded. My heart breaks to remember the pain of my former self—mostly because I know that I was not, and am not, alone.

The trends change, but the principle—the reality—does not.

How did I change? How did I find myself here, doing what I love, being somehow bold

enough to pour my heart out for the world to read and analyze and criticize?

The answer, quite simply, is my relationship with Jesus Christ.

He changed my heart and pulled me from my shell. He showed me that He had created me (and you, too) uniquely, with an ultimate purpose in mind. I realized that He could not care less about my untamable mane or my not-so-cool wardrobe. I became confident, not in the individual that I am, but in His plans and dreams for me. He made me. He loved me.

And that was more than enough for me.

I am still a follower, certainly—but no longer of the ways of this world.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Bethany Harbison is the copy editor of The Chanticleer. She can be reached by phone at 782-8192 or by e-mail at chantycopy@gmail.com.

them their opinion.

They all sat behind a brightly colored pink tablecloth as they promoted breast cancer awareness. The sorority was Sigma Gamma Rho. I asked them if I could talk to them for the student newspaper paper, and they agreed.

I popped the question to sorority president Lettisha Burton: "What if a lesbian were to apply for your sorority?"

"Oh, we embrace it!" she said, smiling. "We focus on a person's character and community service not [sexual orientation]."

I was surprised at the positive responses I received, but I was certain that this being Alabama—the buckle of the bible belt—that I would encounter some homophobia here.

I decided to head out into the quad and find two random people and ask them their thoughts.

Lauren McCleney and Caleb Hill were walking across the quad when I stopped them to ask their opinions.

"I don't have a problem with it," Hill said, "Sometimes I hear a 'queer' joke here and there, but never attacking someone specific."

McCleney thinks it's actually easier to come out of the closet here. "[There are] a lot of new people here. I wouldn't think anyone would have a problem with it."

The rain began to pour down, and Lauren and Caleb hurried on their way. I found a dry place to sit and flipped through my notes, reading quotes and opinions.

I had set out expecting to find rampant homophobia on campus, but I didn't. Time and time again people surprised me.

And ya know what? I'm okay with that.

Read more on faith @ bethanyharbison.blogspot.com

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News Editor.....	Brandon Hollingsworth.....	782-8521
Sports Editor.....	Patrick Swafford.....	782-5703
Web Editor.....	Chris Pittman.....	782-8521
Copy Editor.....	Bethany Harbison.....	782-8192
Photography Editor.....	Matthew McRae.....	782-8521
Advertising Director.....	Jaelyn Cospers.....	782-8191
Distribution Manager.....	Eric Beck.....	782-5701

The Chanticleer

Room 180 Self Hall
Jacksonville State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265

<http://www.thechanticleeronline.com>

Editor in Chief: 782-5701, Managing Editor / Features:
782-8192, News Desk / Web site: 782-8521, Sports
Desk: 782-5703, Advertising: 782-8191, Newsroom
Fax: 782-5932

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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.

Music Corner

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Bruce Springsteen *Magic*



Never have people been so happy to see a boss.

Bruce Springsteen is back with the E Street Band with the album *Magic*.

This marks the first time that Springsteen and the E Street Band have made an album together since 2002's *The Rising*.

Springsteen and the E Street Band were able to record *Magic* despite reports of heavy schedule conflicts. However, Max Weinberg, the leader of the Max Weinberg Seven on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien* and Steven Van Zandt, who played on *The Sopranos*, both were able to once again be a part of the reunion.

The result? A nearly seamless piece of magic (pun intended).

Despite other reports of having to record parts at separate times, Springsteen and the E Street Band make it extremely hard to believe they have ever been apart.

The album opens with the first single "Radio Nowhere," one the best songs on the album. Whether or not you necessarily agree with some of the views Bruce so eloquently expresses on the album, you can't help but be drawn in by its overall feel.

The album does not even feel so much as a protest, but instead a plea for a return to the country that Springsteen loves. A return to this country's greatness.

Magic does a simply amazing job of making you want to love this country no matter what political side you take or what views you have on the state of our nation. It is reminiscent and analytical all at the same time.

Highlights include the aforementioned "Radio Nowhere," the title track, "Your Own Worst Enemy" and "Long Walk Home," which actually debuted outside of the album while Springsteen was touring solo.

Magic is perfectly titled because it is, well, perfect.

- Matt McRae

ALSO IN ROTATION

The Pipettes

We are the Pipettes

Get ready for a revolution!

The Pipettes are explosive in their brand new album *We are the Pipettes*, which released on Oct. 2.

This English pop group consists of three edgy women—RiotBecki, Gwenno and Rosay—who are ready to take a stand against boring music.

If the first song, "We Are the Pipettes," doesn't make you dance, I'm not sure what will. Their music consists of a ton of different instruments and pop vocals that make for a fun

ENTERTAINMENT

LOCAL MUSIC

Tracey and Alan



Tracey Tucker (left) and Alan Renfro (right) perform at the 19th Hole Restaurant at McClellan. Photo by Julie Skinner / The Chanticleer

By Julie Skinner Staff Reporter

As I pulled up to the 19th Hole Restaurant at McClellan, I rolled down my window to ask if Tracey and Alan were playing that night. Two guys said, "Oh yeah, they're great!"

How right they were.

I walked into a dimly lit bar with people laughing and singing as two guys in the back with guitars played songs that everyone recognized. Their talent is undeniable, but there's much more to these guys than just being musicians.

Alan Renfro and Tracey Tucker were both born in Atlanta, Ga. and grew up in Gaylesville, Ala.

It wasn't until they both attended Jacksonville State University, however, that they became best friends while working at 92J. Later, they became roommates, and the rest is history.

Dabbling in different bands while in college,

Renfro taught himself to play acoustic guitar. He teamed up with Tucker, who bought an acoustic bass guitar, and together they joined Brad Cotter and Justin Johnson to form the band N-Dangered. The band broke up after only two years, and Renfro and Tucker became known as simply "Tracey and Alan."

Their accomplishments go beyond playing bars and campus gigs. They opened for country music star Taylor Swift earlier this year and played at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

They each write their own songs, but mostly play covers. Their list of artists they cover include John Mayer, Pink Floyd, James Taylor, The Doors, John Mellencamp and many more.

But don't count on them playing Lynyrd Skynyrd songs anytime soon. It's just not their style.

"We have a no-Skynyrd policy," Renfro said.

Renfro produced a solo album entitled *Home*, and they're both currently working

on their album *Long Time Comin'*. While these guys may just seem like rockers who travel from place to place connecting with fans over a few beers, they are family guys first and foremost. Each have a wife and children, and they graduated with degrees in communications from JSU.

Renfro currently works at the university's Alumni House as the assistant director of Alumni Affairs. He is very passionate in all that he does and has had to learn to balance a professional day job with rockin' night gigs.

It's hard not to envy the double life they lead. It seems like they have it all.

You can them out at the Peerless Saloon in Anniston, Alabama, most Friday nights or at the 19th Hole Restaurant at Fort McClellan the last Friday of every month. While there, request your favorite song and kick back with a beer or two. Relax to the sounds of Tucker's deep and raspy voice and Renfro's energetic guitar playing.

BOOK REVIEW

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

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of different instruments and pop vocals that make for a fun and energetic album.

Though their music is poppy and new, it plays off of an old sound like the 1950's by delivering some rather simple lyrics in a harmonizing fashion.

Sporting polka dots in almost every picture available of the pop trio, they embody the fun and sass that many girls and young women wish to obtain.

Their songs include "Pull Shapes," "Dirty Mind," "It Hurts to See you Dance So Well," "Baby, Just Be Yourself" and "Sex." This album is everything fantastic and nothing short of a smashing good time.

The Pipettes are getting ready to go on tour in the U.S. starting in mid-October and are visiting as close as Atlanta and Birmingham. If you like upbeat songs and lyrics with a bit of punch, you should check them out. They may remind you a bit of the music in *Hairspray*, but with a kick to it.

Fresh sounds are hard to find and this album embraces the right to have fun, be young, and live free. Enjoy your worry-free days while listening to these girls sing about whatever is on their minds.

B+ And at night break out your polka dots and Pipettes album; We're going dancing!

- Julie Skinner

M83 Digital Shades Vol. 1

I wanted to review a rock album. I wanted something aggressive, something I could speed-shovel to. Instead, I have M83's *Digital Shades Vol. 1*—the first in a series of ambient musings by the French electronic artist—playing softly over my speakers.

This, certainly, is not whiskey-soaked yelping music. This is traveling along a lunar path music, and it is executed in a very good way.

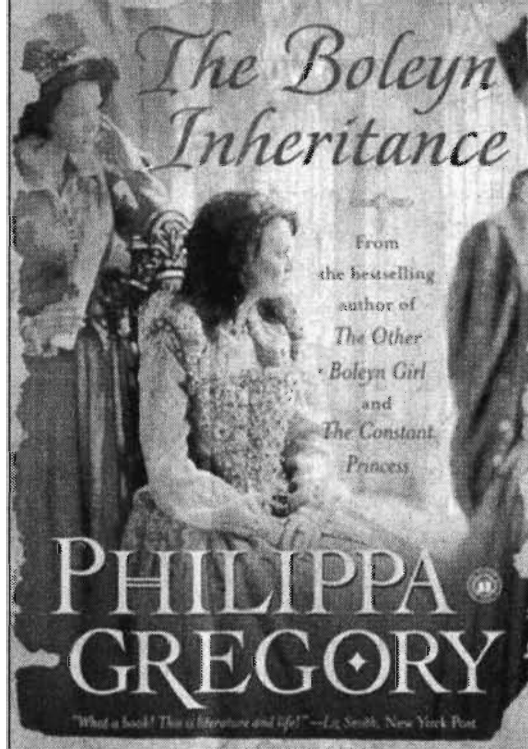
M83, fittingly named after a galaxy, has always recorded dream-like songs, although it was more in the shoegazer realm of things.

The second album, and last as a duo, *Dead Cities, Red Seas & Lost Ghosts*, was universally regarded as a milestone in that very genre of music made so popular by My Bloody Valentine. Anthony Gonzalez, the provocateur of M83, having split with bandmate Nicolas Fromageau, was then free to work at his own pace.

After completing the tour for the third album *Before the Dawn Heals Us*, Gonzalez decided to slow down and create a work in a more minimal direction - à la Brian Eno. The results are this album. Recorded in 2006, *Digital Shades* is very much an Eno-esque ambient exercise, it also draws from krautrock - specifically Cluster and Klaus Schulze. Recorded in Gonzalez's home studio, it was decided that this would be an ongoing series separate of the "main" albums. In fact, Gonzalez is very nearly completed with the follow-up to *Before the Dawn Heals Us* and it should be released in early 2008. Alluding to the title, *Digital Shades Vol. 1* and subsequent volumes will be released only as downloadable albums.

- Matthew L. Reese

For WLJS' top ten albums of the week, see us online at www.thechanticleeronline.com



The Boleyn Inheritance paints Henry VIII's England in captivating light

By Jessica Summe
Contributing Writer

When established, best-selling authors try something different, it's usually a hit-or-miss situation. There's always that outside chance of alienating your core audience, but, luckily for everybody, Philippa Gregory pulls off her new tricks with flair.

Gregory tackles familiar territory in *The Boleyn Inheritance*—the unlucky wives of Henry VIII—but the twist is that she tells the story in a three-part narrative, an approach that can be disconcerting if not handled correctly.

The first few switchovers in the book are a little jarring, but once you get to know the characters (the stolid but loveable Anne of Cleves, the harried and guilt-ridden Lady Rochford and the naïve and superficial Katherine Howard), the transitions become easier.

Ultimately, the different narratives animate this story of Henry's fourth and fifth wives in a way that a single narrative would have been hard-put to do justice to. It also adds a deeper level to all of the characters, even the ones who aren't narrating.

Seeing Henry VIII through the eyes of three different women in his court—one he despises, one he desires and one he pretty much ignores—is enlightening, especially since he's changed from the romantic and uncertain boy in *The Constant Princess* and the spoiled and easily-manipulated man in *The Other Boleyn Girl*. (You don't have to read these before picking up *The Boleyn Inheritance*, but it's probably recommended.) Henry's still romantic and spoiled and uncertain, but he's also old, stinky, suspicious and very, very angry—a dangerous creature, indeed.

Gregory's fictional takes on historical facts (reference works are listed in a bibliography in the back of the book) are, as always, a pleasure to read. Even though we all know what happened in Henry VIII's court, Gregory's able to give us the why, and that's much more satisfying.

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A

Sports

FOOTBALL — JSU 27, UT-MARTIN 24



Above: Jacksonville State's Daniel Jackson falls over UT-Martin's Dontrel Miller. Jackson rushed for 59 yards on 13 carries in the rainy game. Below left: Running back Anthony Jones breaks away from a UT-Martin defender in the Gamecocks' 27-24 win over the Skyhawks last Thursday night, Oct. 4. Photos by Stephen Gross / *The Anniston Star*

VOLLEYBALL

JSU moves back to first place in OVC

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Even the best teams go through stumbling blocks every now and then, but it's how they bounce back that ultimately determines how strong they are.

If this is the case, then the Jacksonville State volleyball team should be just fine.

Exactly one week after their heartbreaking loss to Tennessee State, the Gamecocks reclaimed the top spot in the Ohio Valley Conference with an impressive victory over Morehead State, who entered the week in first place.

"Right now, it's not that big a deal," JSU head coach Rick Nold said. "Everybody is going to battle back and forth. What we are trying to do is make sure that we are improving every week. I thought this weekend we did what we needed to do in terms of just really having a great attitude. We just want to make sure that we are bringing that every week."

Improving is exactly what the Gamecocks did over the weekend.

On Friday, JSU made easy work of the Eastern Kentucky defeating the Colonels in three games (30-21, 30-23, 30-17).

The Gamecocks excelled on both sides of the court against ECU, smashing 56 kills while holding the Colonels to a .035 attack percentage throughout the match.

JSU's true test came on Saturday as they traveled to Morehead, Ky., in an attempt to take back what had been their property for almost two years, the top spot in the OVC.

With outstanding defense coupled with a few tweaks in their attacking style of offense, the Gamecocks were able to do just that, defeating the Eagles in four games (28-30, 30-19, 30-23, 30-27).

The Gamecock offense was led by Abbey Breit, who recorded a match-high 14 kills to go along with 13 digs to record her 14th double-double of the season.

Sophomore Brittney Whitten added a double-double of her own, knocking down 10 kills to go along with 10 digs.

Freshman Caitlin Vorbeck and senior Rebekah Nichols added to the offensive attack recording 13 and 12 kills respectively.

While the offense made some big strides, the Gamecock defense was the story over the weekend.

The Eagles were held to a .070 attack percentage during the match, thanks in large part to senior Abbey Vierling, who recorded a match-high 31 digs.

Breit also led the Gamecocks to a 3-1 victory over Austin Peay

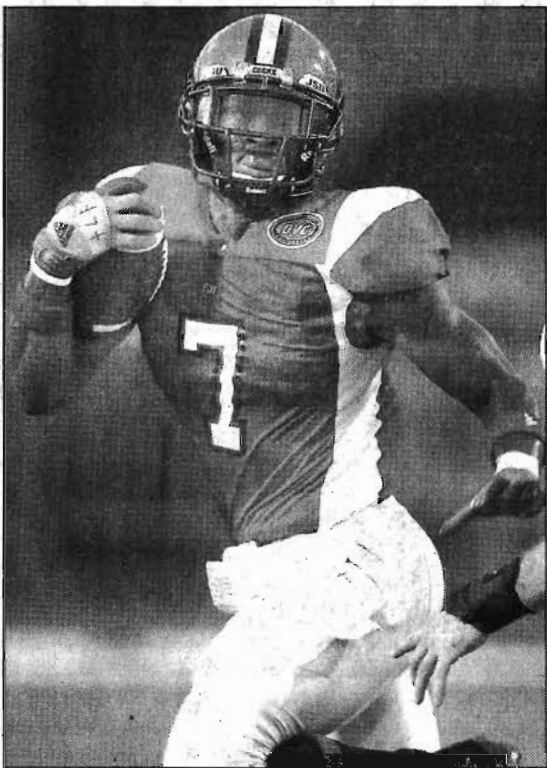


Breit

MAKE or BREAK

MAKE OR DREAM

Gamecocks prepare for pivotal game at Austin Peay Thursday night



By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Despite the slow offensive start, Jacksonville State still finds itself in the running for a third Ohio Valley Conference championship, making Thursday night's match-up with Austin Peay a true make-or-break game.

JSU (3-3, 2-1 OVC) and Austin Peay both sit in a three-way tie with Eastern Illinois for second place in the OVC while Eastern Kentucky and Tennessee State both sit atop the conference.

Traditionally, the Gamecocks have been a run-first team that has had little trouble scoring inside the red zone.

In the past, Gamecock running backs racked up 100-yard games seemingly at will.

This season, those great strengths have become the Achilles Heel for head coach Jack Crowe's football team.

Last Thursday night's win over Tennessee-Martin in the drizzling rain marks the sixth straight game that a JSU back

has failed to eclipse the century mark.

In fact, the highest single-game rushing performance by any Gamecock was Cedric Johnson's 90-yard output against Memphis.

In case you've forgotten, Johnson made his first career start for Jacksonville State in that game - at quarterback.

"I think we are gonna have a 100-yard rusher before it's over with," Crowe said. "We are not trying to manufacture a 100-yard game. What I'm focused on is yards per carry, individually and collectively. What we are watching now is our bonus system. That is yards after contact, pass receiving, blocking and stuff like that."

Part of the reason for the drought has been JSU's usage of a three-back system.

Daniel Jackson and Anthony Jones struggled to begin the season, but still combined for adequate numbers.

See "Football," page 7

SOCGER

First-place Bulldogs bash Gamecocks

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

Samford showed JSU that it still has quite a ways to go to be among the elite teams in the OVC.

JSU entered Friday night's game at Samford only a point behind the conference-leading Bulldogs, but were dominated from the opening kickoff as Samford cruised to a 4-0 win.

The Gamecocks (3-7-1, 1-1-1 OVC) allowed two goals in the opening seven minutes on their way to losing their first OVC match.

The defending regular season champions got two quick goals from Leah Leppert, and JSU never was able to recover.

The Gamecocks did not even

manage a shot on goal until the final minute of the first half, and failed to either control possession or generate any attack for long stretches of the game.

Kate Kelly, the newly named starting keeper, could only watch as her defense was picked apart time after time.

"Kate actually played pretty well, despite the score," coach Julie Davis said. "But we had some changes in personnel because of injuries, and the players we needed to step up didn't get the job done."

The result was further evidence of the drastic difference in JSU's home form and road form.

In games in Jacksonville, JSU is 3-2-1. Away from Jacksonville, the Gamecocks are a

disastrous 0-5, with a combined score of 16-3 in those games.

"Last year, we were good on the road," coach Davis said. "This year, we need to find confidence and success on the road, and we have to communicate on the road like we do at home."

Davis said road performance has been a talking point for her team, and while the last two performances have been poor, she is confident they will play better as the OVC season continues.

"We've actually had some decent performances on the road but we haven't learned how to get a result on the road yet," Davis said.

They'll have best opportunity to get positive road results this week, as they travel to More-

head State Friday and Eastern Kentucky Sunday.

Davis believes the next four games, all against teams below JSU in the OVC standings, offer a strong opportunity.

"If we can capitalize on these next four games, we can get a good seed (in the conference tournament), and maybe get in position to host a first-round game."

"We need to find confidence and success on the road, and we have to communicate on the road like we do at home."

— JSU coach Julie Davis

RUGBY

JSU gets late rally to defeat Auburn

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Jacksonville State faced an early deficit, but conditioning and defense helped the Gamecocks rally to defeat Auburn 15-9 Saturday in Jacksonville.

The win gives JSU its first win over their in-state rival in team history.

The Tigers pulled ahead early in the first half with two penalty kicks to make it 6-0 and could have stretched the lead further had it not been for an amazing play from Chris Steketee.

Auburn carried the ball into the try zone, but before the Tigers could down the ball for the score, Steketee dove in and prevented him from downing the ball to hold Auburn to their six-point lead at halftime.

After the Tigers scored again early in the second half on another penalty kick to go up 9-0, the Gamecocks roared back.

Steketee scored on a penalty kick from about 20 meters out to make it 9-3, the better-conditioned Gamecocks took control.

"We were just in better shape," Steketee said. "When they were starting to wear down, we were still in good stamina and kept the pressure on them."

The Gamecocks began using a "hammer and anvil" technique, which helps to push the pile after the ball carrier has initially been held up.

JSU's offensive attack began with a constant barrage of

smash-mouth rugby led by Zach Hilburn.

Hilburn, Jacksonville State's biggest member, powered his way in for the try about midway through the second half.

Steketee converted the kick to make it 10-9.

"A lot of times, they'd try to overload us," Steketee said. "But because our pack basically cut back to the middle, we pushed them back, and they weren't able to overload us on the wing."

Auburn tried to bounce back late in the match, but the Gamecocks regained possession on an up-and-under kick which led to a Barry Harrison try in the match's final minutes.

The Gamecocks will travel this week to Atlanta for the Georgia Rugby Union tournament.



Jacksonville State's William Wacker tackles an Auburn ballcarrier in JSU's 15-9 over Auburn Saturday. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com



Jered Staubs

chantysports@gmail.com

A beautiful disaster

The average American sports fan can hardly be accused of being a cultured individual.

The fastest growing "sports" – and I use that term very loosely – in this country are NASCAR and Ultimate Fighting, which are hardly the paragon of grace and skill.

So it's no surprise that we fail to embrace the game that exemplifies those qualities more than any other.

To other countries, soccer is the beautiful game. To Americans, soccer is the *boring* game.

Americans want only the best in all walks of life, especially in sports.

Would a league of the best footballers in the world succeed in America? Who knows?

But Major League Soccer may as well be called Little League Soccer.

There's just a tremendous gulp in class between the MLS and the premier (pun intended) leagues in Europe.

Teams near the bottom of Spain's La Liga or the English Premier League would be heavy favorites to beat the best team in America.

The MLS is trying to improve that image by throwing \$250 million at David Beckham to play for the LA Galaxy.

Give them credit for that.

But this is one of the most shortsighted moves in the history of sports.

Oft-injured? Check.

Aging? Check.

More interested in playing for England than LA? Check.

The other problem...

Cross country takes second at Memphis

By Will Payne
Staff Sports Writer

Last Saturday night, the Jacksonville State men's cross country team finished with a second overall team finish at the Brooks Memphis Twilight Classic in Memphis, Tenn.

It was the first meet this season in which the Gamecocks ran at night; however it wasn't what most people might think.

"Obviously competing at night under the lights adds a bit of excitement to any sporting event, and cross country is no different," head coach Steve Ray said. "You would think that a night time event would be cooler, but Memphis was very warm being in the upper 80's, and the humidity was high as well."

The Gamecock men placed four runners in the top 25 which included runner Ryan McKay, Marius Sava, Jeff Rhodes and George Kapkiai.

Ryan McKay placed with an individual time of 24:30.10, which was good enough for seventh, the highest of any Gamecock runner.

For McKay, it was his fifth-consecutive top 10 finish. Sava finished 11th overall with a time of 24:36.95. It was the fastest time for the freshman on the 8k course falling one second shy of a third consecutive top 10 finish.

Both Jeff Rhodes and George Kapkiai finished 21st and 23rd individually

Overall, the Gamecock men finished with a team score of 110 points. Competing amongst 42 other teams, the Gamecocks finished behind overall meet winner Drake University (79) and ahead of OVC conference rivals

Eastern Illinois and Austin Peay.

For the Gamecock women, four runners placed in the top 100.

Lesley Binning had an individual time of 18:59.22 on the 5k course, which was good enough for 26th place. Out of 41 teams, the Gamecock women placed 11th overall.

The JSU cross-country teams next meet is the Gem of the Hills Invitational in Jacksonville on Saturday.

"You would think that a nighttime event would be cooler, but Memphis was very warm being in the upper 80's, and the humidity was high as well."

— JSU coach Steve Ray

Football: In three-way tie for third in OVC

Cont. from page 6

When Crowe decided to remove Shawn Green from the red shirt list, the running game got a much-needed shot of adrenaline.

If there is one thing that has kept JSU in many of their games this year, it's been the defense.

The Gamecocks started the season off with interceptions returned for touchdowns in each of their first two games and have been nearly devastating in terms of forcing turnovers.

With Andrew Ridgeway's touchdown return last Thursday, the Gamecock defense has forced 15 turnovers and scored 4 times.

While turnovers have helped flatten the opposition, the potential to give up the big play has deflated the Gamecocks often this season.

JSU opponents have scored nine times on plays longer than 30 yards, including a 40-yard bomb last week as the halftime buzzer sounded.

Earlier in the season, that play might have been the beginning of the end for JSU, but last week was a different story.

For the first time all season, the Gamecocks rallied in the game's final minutes and took the lead when Johnson connected with Rhetta from

Chris Fletcher, the active leader among all FCS running backs.

"Chris Fletcher is probably the best running back we have played against," Crowe said. "He is very hard to tackle, he is a record holder, a national statistical leader and I think he represents an enormous challenge."

Obviously, stopping the run on Thursday night is the key to victory.

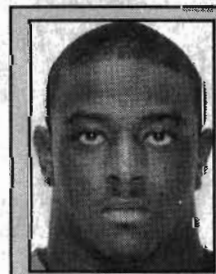
Austin Peay is a very strong rushing team, and Fletcher has the potential of being the ultimate game breaker.

Fletcher averages 121.3 yards per game on the ground and poses a huge threat for a JSU team that ranks in the middle of the OVC in rushing defense.

The Governors (4-2, 2-1 OVC) has, statistically, one of the best defenses in the conference and allows just over 21 points a game.

While the Gamecocks seem to have turned the corner on their season, JSU's playoff hopes might take a big hit Thursday night on ESPNU.

Patrick's Prediction: Austin Peay 28, JSU 14



4

Number of defensive touchdowns scored this season by Jacksonville State after Kenny Walker's 35-yard return against UT-Martin.

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Aging? Check.
More interested in playing for England than LA? Check.

The other problem – aside from the fact that he makes more money than the rest of the league combined – is that he's not a particularly great player right now.

Don't get me wrong, he's still arguably the best free kick specialist in the world, but other than that ...

It's sad to see him laboring to keep up with mediocre talent in a mediocre league.

Sir Alex Ferguson, Beckham's former coach at Manchester United, once said that if Pele and other stars couldn't make soccer a major sport, neither can Beckham.

But Beckham shoulders some of the blame as well.

He was desperate. Neither his national team nor his club team, Real Madrid, wanted anything to do with him, but the MLS was willing to pay him a ton.

After agreeing to the contract with the Galaxy, he had a minor rebirth, and for a couple glorious weeks, returned to the Becks of a decade ago.

He helped Real Madrid win La Liga, fueling speculation that he would not honor his MLS contract.

Technically he has, but he's appearing in England's lineup card more often than LA's.

Beckham flew to England for a friendly – a game that doesn't count – played 90 minutes, and flew back to America to play the next day.

Surprise, surprise, he got hurt.

Beckham has already stated that England comes first, no matter where the Galaxy's season takes him.

That's great commitment.

It's no coincidence that once Beckham suffered a severe ankle injury, the Galaxy won four in a row for the first time all year.

I personally coach a youth soccer team, cover the JSU soccer team for *The Chanticleer*, and watched about 1000 minutes of soccer programming last month.

About 10 minutes of that was MLS coverage.

If you can't reach me, you can't reach America.

the game's final minutes and took the lead when Johnson connected with Rhett from eight yards out to give them a 27-24 win.

While the JSU running game has been an issue, stopping the opponents' running game has been like a way of life for the defense.

Last week, the Gamecock defense shut down UT-Martin's Don Chapman, the Football Championship Subdivision's (FCS) second-leading rusher among active players.

Chapman, who torched Jacksonville State last season, was held under 100 yards and kept out of the end zone.

This week, the Gamecocks get a shot at stopping

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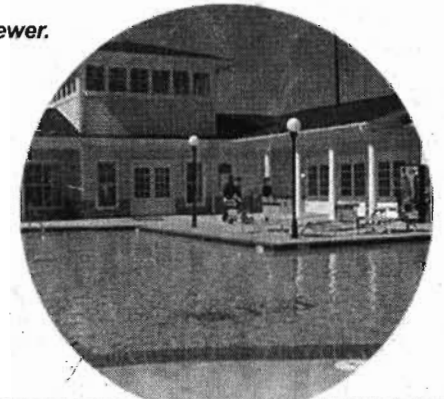
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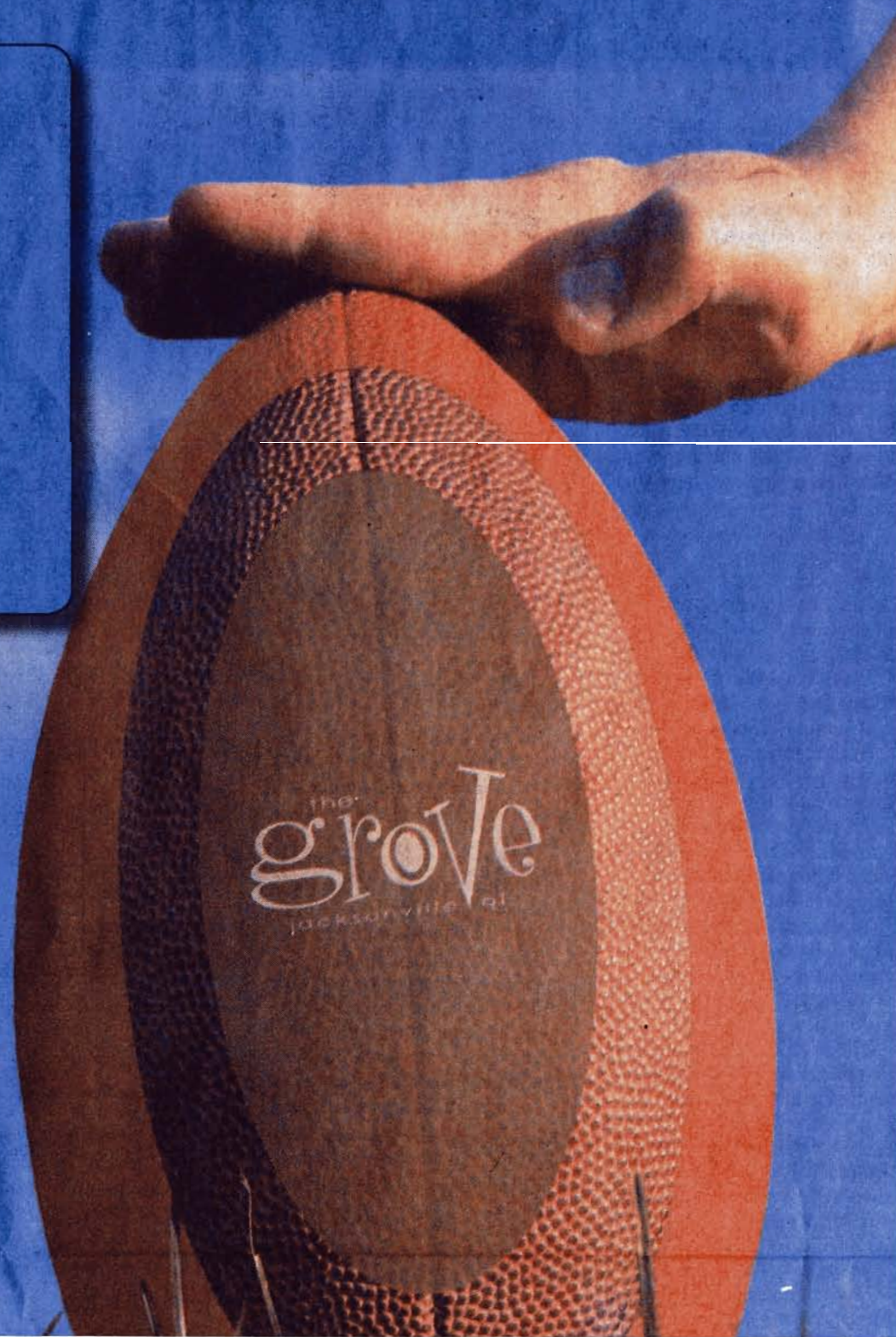
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