Renter’s insurance a neglected necessity

By Toni Merriss
Editor in Chief

The trees are full of color, the sun is shining and a nice breeze goes by. You are in a great mood since your last class of the day got out early.

Walking to your car, thoughts race through your head of all the great things you can do with the extra time this has allowed you.

Then you realize something is wrong.

While you were in class, someone came and cleaned out everything in your car. Gone are your CDs, cell phone and textbooks — things you thought were safe sitting in your backseat.

Or, maybe you rushed out of your house this morning, unintentionally leaving the door unlocked, which calls to thieves like a load blaring siren, just asking them to come rip you off.

Or maybe you remembered to lock it and the thieves paid it no mind.

See “Insurance,” page 3A

College students have to worry about so much that they barely notice their eating habits are part of a...

Large-scale problem

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

Amber Johnson was a cheerleader in high school. After she got to JSU, she said she put on 15 plus 20 more pounds. “It was a big difference going from high school to college,” Johnson said. “Stress plus the lack of time didn’t allow me to work out or anything.”

Now on top of schoolwork, a job and everything else, Johnson — a cheerleader majoring in education — has to find a way to balance her life and her health.

FBS opposition brought to trustees

Football resolution met with skepticism at board meeting

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

The Faculty Senate’s recent opposition to a possible move to a higher NCAA football division was the center of attention at Monday’s JSU Board of Trustees meeting.

Faculty Senate President Jim Rayburn presented...
Mean Green machine

JSU Psychology teacher Dr. Megan Green
more than meets the eye

By Zach Childree
Staff Writer

"No. I think maybe we should move down in division, that way we can actually win some games."

- Page Arrington
Grad Student

Next week's question:
What are you doing to celebrate Halloween?

ONLINE @
thechanticleeronline.com

INDEX

Homecoming......2A
Campus Crime..2A
Editorial............4A
Entertainment.....5A
Sports..............1B

Glad(ys) to be here

Gladys M. Carlisle cuts the ribbon to officially open the art annex that bears her name on Monday, Oct. 15. Members of the JSU Board of Trustees, Carlisle's family and the JSU community attended the ceremony. For a brief wrapup, see thechanticleeronline.com. Photo by Brandon Hollingsworth / The Chanticleer
Five finalists vie for Homecoming crown

By Brandon Hollingsworth / News Editor
and Vanessa Delise / Staff Writer

No Homecoming is complete with a Homecoming queen, and with a vote on Thursday, Oct. 11, JSU is one step closer to selecting its reigning monarch for 2007.

The five women selected to move on to the next round of voting represent four academic departments and five hometowns in both Alabama and Georgia.

They are Olivia Fadul, 23, of Huntsville, Valencia Cantrell, 22, of Heflin, Brittany Greene, 20, of Leeds, Samantha Magee, 22, of Marietta, and Holly Murdock, 21, of Rome.

There is no official duty for the Homecoming queen, though the title comes with a ride in the Homecoming parade on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Finalist Holly Murdock is a communications major and a sister in Alpha Omicron Pi.

"To be Homecoming queen means being a dedicated JSU student who is willing to do whatever necessary to represent her school well," Murdock said.

Fadul, who is hearing impaired, described the moment she learned of her selection as one of uncertainty followed by elation.

When election officials named her as a finalist, "I was a little unsure," she said. "I was like 'Is that me?' It's something I just couldn't believe."

The process of selecting a Homecoming queen began with an open vote among all female students at Jacksonville State.

The top five vote, held in the Theron Montgomery Building, narrowed the list of candidates from ten to five. Another round of voting commenced on Thursday, Oct. 18, and the winner will be crowned on Thursday night at Paul Snow Stadium.

With only one election left, the top five contestants are looking forward to the results, albeit with more than a little trepidation.

"I'm excited, and a little nervous," Greene said.

Fadul prefers to take a philosophical approach, even when faced with the prospect of a loss.

"Whatever happens, it's meant to be. Whoever becomes queen, I'll be extremely happy for them," she said.
The Week in Events

Thursday, October 18
- Homecoming Queen Election, TMB Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- NPHC Interfraternity Council Meeting, 302 TMB, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
- And Then There Were None, Stone Center, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
  Admission: $9/$7/$5

Friday, October 19
- Homecoming Door/Window Judging, 1:30 p.m.
- General Council Meeting, 220 Stephenson Hall, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- And Then There Were None, Stone Center, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
  Admission: $9/$7/$5

Saturday, October 20
- 2007 Homecoming Parade, Pelham Rd. North, 10:30 a.m.
  - 12:00 p.m.
- And Then There Were None, Stone Center, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
  Admission: $9/$7/$5

Sunday, October 21
- And Then There Were None, Stone Center, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
  Admission: $9/$7/$5

Monday, October 22
- Panhellenic Council Meeting, Curtiss Hall, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Freshman Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 7:45 - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 23
- CBASE, Leone Cole Auditorium, 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 24
- Career Connection, TMB 2nd floor lobby, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SGA throws block party

By Shalon Montgomery
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Oct. 16, the SGA held the first Rock Star Block Party in celebration of homecoming week.

“We want everyone to come out and have a good time. We are hoping by throwing this party we can get students excited about homecoming, and maybe we can relieve some of the stress that midterms bring. In addition to that, it shows JSU students something to do on a Tuesday,” SGA President David Jennings said.

The SGA had a new approach for the Rock Star Block Party. Instead of having the party at the Alumni House, the typical location for a SGA party, the SGA decided to throw the party on the TMB lawn.

The SGA filled the entire week of homecoming with activities for JSU students and faculty. The Rock Star Block Party was just one of the free attractions the SGA held in celebration of homecoming week.

“I always think we (SGA) are trying to improve the quality of our work no matter what it is,” SGA President David Jennings said. “I think we have improved the quality of this year’s homecoming events compared to past homecoming events. I also feel by having these events we are helping JSU students find friendships that could possibly last a lifetime.”

According to some, the party never built up to its name. When students were asked if the party was a success, their answers were harsh.

“It going all right,” MeMe Taylor said.

“It should have been canceled,” Jessica Moseley said.

Those at the block party appeared to harbor similar sentiments for homecoming week in general.

“It has been a couple of pretty boring days,” Audriea Moon said.

“This year’s homecoming does not appear to be better than last year’s homecoming; however, last year’s wasn’t that good either.”

Drought woes douse bonfire

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

No matter how passionate the fervor of the fans or players, JSU’s homecoming festivities will be a little less fiery this year.

It was not a lack of excitement, but an ongoing drought that brought about the cancellation of this year’s bonfire at Paul Snow Stadium. The decision, announced at Monday’s Board of Trustees Meeting, alters previous plans for homecoming week.

The original plans for the dual-role event called for the bonfire to be paired with the announcement of homecoming queen. The coronation will still take place as planned, along with performances from the Marching Southerners and speeches from Athletic Director Jim Fuller, coaches and senior players, according to SGA President David Jennings.

“It’s understandable,” Jennings said. “It’s not going to dampen our spirits; we’re still going to party like a Gamecock.”

Calhoun County, and most of the rest of Alabama, is under an exceptional drought category, according to the Oct. 9 U.S. Drought Monitor. “Exceptional” is the worst category of drought severity.

On Oct. 11, the National Weather Service’s Birmingham forecast office issued a red flag warning, designed to alert residents to conditions favorable to wildfire. Conditions improved slightly this week, but the risk of the bonfire getting out of control is still high enough to prompt the university to cancel the event.

The NWS’s reporting station at Anniston is now running 27.16 inches below in annual rainfall and with no major precipitation on the way, forecasters say the drought will only get worse, heightening concerns over water usage and fire danger.
Insurance: Renters should be aware of risks without it

Cont. from page 1

All they care about is getting inside and stealing your stuff, no matter what.

Now, all your extra time will be spent waiting for the police and filling out paperwork.

Not to mention the time you are going to have to put in trying to explain to your teachers why you cannot do the homework they have assigned or the money you will have to shell out to replace everything that has been stolen.

The situation could be remedied by renter’s insurance.

Renter’s insurance is like a safety net in the event your home, car or storage unit is ever broken into. Depending on the case, most landlords’ insurance policies do not extend to their tenant’s belongings. Usually in the case of a burglary, fire or flood, the tenant and the tenant alone is held responsible for damaged or destroyed belongings.

Some, but not all, insurance companies cover the loss of belongings in a vehicle. In most cases, if it is not included in the original policy, it can be added as an additional policy.

Almost every company that offers car insurance also offers renter’s insurance and for some, if you purchase multiple policies, you can qualify for a discounted rate.

A few of the more common companies are Geico, USAA, Allstate, Nationwide, Progressive, State Farm and Alfa insurance.

Some companies can be cheaper than others, but many actually encourage potential clients to shop around before choosing.

Depending on the amount of coverage desired, the monthly payment can vary.

Many companies even have an online feature that can deliver an approximate quote, though some require you to include personal information and authorize a credit check in order to do so.

For $27,000 worth of coverage, for instance, USAA charges about $18 per month, while Allstate charges $20 per month.

But for some, even the relatively inexpensive costs are not enough to convince them.

“I really don’t have a lot of expensive stuff, and I live in a pretty safe neighborhood, so I don’t really see the point,” Margaret Myers, a recent JSU graduate, explained. “Plus, it is another bill I don’t want to have to pay.”

As explained on multiple insurance Web sites, many people do not even realize the value of their belongings, so they have methods of helping you figure out what your property is worth.

According to their Web site, Allstate renter’s insurance will cover the “current replacement cost of whatever you lost, minus depreciation,” which means that your belongings will be covered for what you paid for them, but for their actual value.

Sometimes the value decreases due to normal wear and tear on property, but that is to be expected.

Many people feel that renter’s insurance is a good investment but forget about purchasing it, believing that they will never need it.

“My car was broken into last fall and I had a lot of stuff stolen. I have thought about getting insurance many times but just have never gotten around to it,” senior Jordan Boman, a geography major, said.

It seems that only when something bad happens are people reminded about the benefits of purchasing insurance.

“I know I should buy it, but unfortunately, I will probably only get around to it if something worse happens,” Boman added.

The famous phrase, ‘fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me’ comes to mind, or perhaps people just learn from their former mistakes.

“Last year, my house was broken into and over a thousand dollars of stuff was stolen. I didn’t have insurance then, but I definitely have it now,” senior Jon Clements, an education major, said.

Clements, who recommends purchasing the insurance to anyone, feels prepared if he should have another break-in.

Feeling safe in your own home is not something that should have a price tag on it, but in this case, perhaps better safe than sorry.

Student health part 4 of 4: Nutrition a problem for students

Cont. from page 1

The problems with Americans and obesity and poor diet are well-documented.

A lot of the problems that are indicative of poor eating habits are the same habits that college students endure on a daily basis.

Dr. Debra Goodwin of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at JSU said it’s much harder for students to adhere to healthy living standards than a lot of Americans.

“Some of the dietary habits that I have observed include skipping meals, consuming excessive amounts of fast foods, eating portions that are way too large and eating too much sugar in the forms of candy, cookies, cakes, and carbonated beverages,” Goodwin said.

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) suggests that only 10 percent of Americans have good diets. Dr. Goodwin has her theories on why college students generally fall into other 90 percent.

“I think college students develop poor eating habits because of two major factors: lack of time management skills and lack of motivation,” Goodwin said.

“If one doesn’t have time to plan, purchase and prepare healthy foods, he or she is more likely to routinely rely on fast foods or packaged foods.”

There are of course some students who fight the temptation of the glowing, yellow arches, like JSU senior Richard Chappell, who finds time for his classwork and time to run two or three miles a day.

“I’ll be the first to say fast foods tastes great. But health-wise and money-wise, it’s better to make your own food,” Chappell said.

Chappell also uses to his advantage what JSU and the community give him to help him stay active.

A lot of students don’t realize they can take advantage of things like the Ladiga Trail and Stephenson Gym,” Chappell said.

There’s also the perception that eating healthy costs more than a college student can afford, a stigma that Chappell says is untrue from his experience.

“I figured it up. If I ate out every day it would cost me $400 a month. Eating what I eat now costs $50,” Chappell said.

It’s not just the diet that is essential. Exercise and daily activity are a must for one’s health.

Amber Johnson can attest to that.

Since beginning her new exercise regimen a month-and-a-half ago, she has already lost 10-15 pounds.

She also said the adjustment from high school to college in the biggest concern.

“Don’t change your life too much,” she said.

And she, Chappell and Dr. Goodwin all offer the same simplistic, yet effective advice.

Stay active.

Dr. Green: was on Jeopardy

2000. On that episode, Green lasted until the Final Jeopardy round.

Trustees: Football move discussed

Cont. from page 1

of underfunded departments, poised in the resolution. He also expressed skepticism at the group’s claim that current tuition
We expressed skepticism at the group's claim that current tuition puts a major financial burden on students.

"We advertise ourselves as the cheapest school in the state of Alabama," Coxwell said. "And I see this resolution, and I'm wondering, 'Who do I believe?'"

Rayburn said that the concerns stated in the resolution were perceptions of the faculty, not extracted from studies. He added the group was mainly looking for more information on the move.

"The Faculty Senate had a couple of questions," Rayburn said. "We felt kind of like there was [an] information vacuum." He went on to describe the difficulties faculty members faced in trying to obtain equipment and other needs. Coxwell responded that if that were true, the university should request a study to ascertain the extent of any shortages or understaffing.

"I just don't feel that enough study has been done [on this issue]," Coxwell said. "If you're going to approach this board and tell us things we're going to have to believe, you need to [give us] facts, and I don't think these are facts."

Faculty Senator Ed Bellman, sitting in the audience, distanced himself from the resolution as adopted. Bellman was a vocal critic of the resolution during discussions in the Oct. 8 meeting.

"I think before we go off and say we're opposed, we need to look at the numbers," Bellman said. "I don't think by any stretch that it's a unanimous set of questions here."

Later in the meeting, Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs Clint Carlson discussed terms of the university's annual budget. He outlined the three main sources of university funding: students, private gifts from donors and state appropriations, which this year total just shy of $98 million. Of that, $65.5 million is provided by the state and $42.6 million comes from students.

Carlson expressed skepticism at the Faculty Senate's claim of underfunding.

"Out of the $65.5 million [provided by the state], a portion is earmarked," he said. "So you're looking at $3.8 million for $35 million, and some people are not going to get what they want."
Our Voice

Trying to do our part

If there's one thing we hate in the field of print journalism, it's the field of public relations. All PR people do is make our jobs harder. That being said, it is the duty of a community newspaper to play its part in making said community aware of certain things. Much like PR does.

For the past four weeks, we have brought you a series of stories focusing on different health issues that concern college students. Autumn is typically a good time to focus on such issues. We hope the series was at least somewhat informative. You can read all of the health stories at thechanticleeronline.com/studenthealth.

Leave Britney alone? Not if she has her way

By Webb Dillard
Senior Writer

P.T. Barnum once said that a sucker was born every minute, but I believe we can update his old adage to every second.

Take Britney Spears for instance. This whole "Britney personality breakdown" is all garbage if you ask me. Let's look at Spears from the beginning. She made her name as a "pop princess." She made her rise to fame with the help of some of the greatest hits of all time. She had a record-breaking album with hit after hit. But then, all of a sudden, she's "suffering from mental illness."

And the thing that most higher-ups, namely the ignorant couple of Dems in question, seemingly fail to realize is that NASCAR is the fastest growing sport in America for a few reasons. Corporate sponsors with a lot of money pay a lot of money to have their happy logos on the sides of these cars. And the South, has a lot of people, a lot of whom pack into these racetracks every week. And more importantly, a lot of them are voters.

Democrats may have a lost cause on their hands here. The conservative values of the South aren't going anywhere. And conservative Southern voters aren't as forgiving as most. That's why they're conservative.

And the thing that most higher-ups, namely the ignorant couple of Dems in question, seemingly fail to realize is that NASCAR is the fastest growing sport in America for a few reasons. Corporate sponsors with a lot of money pay a lot of money to have their happy logos on the sides of these cars. And the South, has a lot of people, a lot of whom pack into these racetracks every week. And more importantly, a lot of them are voters.

Democrats may have a lost cause on their hands here. The conservative values of the South aren't going anywhere. And conservative Southern voters aren't as forgiving as most. That's why they're conservative.
My theory is this: All her recent troubles are a sham. There, editor Bush is a rock star.

Scratch that—a country music star.

Brandon Hollingsworth is the news publicist.

The support of scientific research is definitely a bipartisan issue. My point is this: Don’t be duped.

Those of you who were fans of this chick, and you know who you are, don’t buy into this crap. This, in my opinion, is manipulation of the media to the highest degree.

Does anybody remember the recording artist Tiffany? I do. I also remember that she didn’t fare well when it came to the fates that awaited those two teenyboppers of the late 80’s, and so is her publicist.

Separation of science and politics a must

Last week was Nobel week, the annual blitz wherein Nobel Prizes in six categories are awarded to scientists, writers, activists, politicians or others who a panel deems worthy of recognition.

As is usually the case, five of the prizes were awarded to people you’ve never heard of.

For instance, this year’s Peace Prize went to Albert Fert and Peter Grünberg for their discovery of giant magnetoresistance.

About damn time, I say. People have been ignoring giant magnetoresistance for too long!

No doubt that all of this year’s recipients are deserving people. But still, not readily identified by anyone who doesn’t follow “giant magnetoresistance,” whatever that might be.

It was the Nobel Peace Prize that grabbed the headlines last week, more than a typical Nobel award does.

The attention came for two reasons: 1) the issue for which the prize was given is a controversial one and 2) one of the men who received it was Al Gore.

Yeah, Al Gore the former vice-president, Oscar winner and PowerPoint maven. He and the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change shared the 2007 Peace Prize in part for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change.

The announcement came last Friday morning. Forty-eight hours later, the Sunday morning talk shows groaned under the weight of speculation of political motives and ideology. A prime example:

Bill Kristol of the Weekly Standard said on Fox News Sunday that the Nobel committee—a nonpartisan, nonpolitical group—was a group of liberals handing out awards to liberals.

Good ol’ Bill. He and so many others this week missed the point by a mile and about something as important to our future as global warming.

Look, don’t get me wrong. People on the left and right ends of the American political spectrum misuse climate data to make their points for and against global warming. Abuse of scientific research is definitely a bipartisan field and has been for years.

But there’s a mistake that Kristol and others make: Science is not politics. Confusing the two is a dangerous game. Science is a process of discovery and exploration, not compromise or cloture or majority rule. Science should, by its very nature, be free from the political bands that tie down so many other fields of human endeavor.

Your politics are yours and mine are mine, but science is science to everyone, everywhere.

And we don’t get the option of deciding whether or not to believe in the facts. There is no opt-out policy.

Of course, we’re not talking about the science. We’re talking about the politics and the symbolism and dastardly liberals and just about everything else that has nothing to do with the reason the Peace Prize was awarded in the first place.

If we don’t learn to differentiate between the two, our distraction could prove catastrophic.

Brandon Hollingsworth is the news editor of The Chanticleer. He can be reached by phone at 782-8521 or by e-mail at chantyne@gmail.com. You can read his weekly ramblings @ kevinflashjeffers.blogspot.com.
**Music Corner**

**WLJS Top Ten Records of the Week**

1. Black Lips - Good Bad Not Evil
2. Magik Markers - Boss
3. Thurston Moore - Trees Outside the Academy
4. José González - In Our Nature
5. Les Savy Fav - Let's Stay Friends
6. Iron and Wine - The Shepherd's Dog
7. M83 - Digital Shades Vol. 1
8. Health - Health
9. Animal Collective - Strawberry Jam
10. The Go! Team - Proof of Youth

**ALBUM OF THE WEEK**

Radiohead

_In Rainbows_

After two years in the making, leaks of various concerts with new songs in the set lists and abstract statements on the band's blog, Radiohead released their seventh studio album, _In Rainbows_, last week.

It was an odd release considering that the band self-released the album with no label support—after 2003's _Hail to the Thief_. Radiohead's contract with EMI expired—via their Web site as a download and allowed fans to pay any price (no, really) that they wanted.

Clocking in at a mere 40 minutes, _In Rainbows_ is not an album of a band trying to change their sound once again. The band, in fact, sounds very confident here—not trying to outdo any past effort. In doing so, Radiohead has crafted perhaps their most user-friendly album to date.

The album opens with "15 step," a track that starts off with glitchy drums and Thom Yorke's whine. I was skeptical that Yorke's voice floating ethereally around.

Halfway through the album, I admit that I'm completely underwhelmed. However, an underwhelming album from Radiohead is far better than most bands' best albums and is surely worth whatever price you choose to pay for it.

_B - Matthew L. Reese_

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**Entertainment**

**Game Review**

**Five games, one (orange) box**

The cast of _Team Fortress 2_ poses. The game was in development for nearly a decade. Media file photo.

"Orange Box" delivers in quantity, quality

By Chris Pittman
Web Editor

Game prices have risen over the past few years, but developer Valve attempts to give gamers some much-needed relief. _The Orange Box_ features five games in one package including _Half-Life 2_ with both expansions, _Team Fortress 2_ and _Portal_.

_Half-Life 2_ is every bit as good as the original PC version, which received over 40 game of the year awards when it launched several years ago. The game features a story that is easy to understand, but deep enough to keep you interested throughout the experience.

Physics play a big role and are one of the key concepts that separate the game from other first-person shooters. With the gravity gun, you can move objects in order to proceed through many puzzles that are scattered all over City 17.

The enemy A.I. is one of the more impressive aspects of the game. You might see an enemy plunge through a window if you have barricaded the door. Unfortunately the squad A.I. is not nearly as good, and many times proves to do more harm than good.

The graphics hold up very well, but are not nearly the quality of other games in the genre. There is some visual pop—up during some of the more technical parts of the game.

Every audio aspect of the game is fantastic. The music kicks in at the right times, the sound effects for weapons are spot on and the voice dialogue is well performed.

**Episode 1 and 2** provide extra story length, as well as more epic battles to tackle. Each episode is short, but both add strength to one of the best games ever made.

_Team Fortress 2_ was in development for nearly a decade, but the wait has been worth it.

The game features class-based multiplayer combat with stylish cartoon graphics. Each class has a different strongpoint that sets them apart from the rest of the pack. The games six maps have preset objectives, which is slightly disappointing because they quickly lose variety.

The downside is there are performance issues during online matches. Many games will run flawlessly, but there are times that the game becomes a slideshow due to lag.

Despite the lag issues, _Team Fortress 2_ is one of the best multiplayer games currently available. The gameplay is very strong, and the simple mechanics make it an absolute blast to play. _Portal_ rounds out _The Orange Box_ in a big way.

_Portal_ is pretty short and many of the puzzles are very easy, but the game is such a breath of fresh air that it must be experienced. The game is hilarious and extremely well made. Valve has a hit on their hands with _Portal_.

**The Orange Box**

**Developer:** Valve

**ESRB Rating:** M for Mature

**Release date:** October 10th, 2007

**Verdict:** _The Orange Box_ is a special package that may never be surpassed in terms of value. All five games in the box are well made, and almost all of them would warrant a purchase as a separate product. Valve really cares about the gamer, and it shows with this package. _The Orange Box_ is a must—have for any first-person shooter fan. And it is the best value yet in gaming history.
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NEW AND USED

435-7407
Cedric the entertainer

Did someone say “playoffs?”

The Bowl Championship Series standings, which are used to determine the participants in college football’s National Championship game, have arguably been the most criticized system in NCAA history.

Do they ever get it right?

Last season, the only two undefeated teams at the end of the year were Ohio State and Boise State.

Nobody thought that the Broncos would stand a chance with the nation’s elite, but that was before they defeated Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl.

After Florida destroyed the Buckeyes in the national title game, Boise State was the only school without a loss in Division I football.

Unfortunately, the Broncos had nothing tangible to show for it.

Many say that the Boise State’s of the world don’t play against top-notch competition week in and week out and therefore don’t deserve to be in the title game. That’s fine.

What about Auburn in 2004?

The Tigers finished 12-0 in the SEC, arguably the top conference in all of college football, and were left out of the championship game.

Semo stuns JSU

By Jared Garavette
Staff Sports Writer

For the first time since the 2005 season, the Jacksonville State volleyball team was simply outplayed in every phase of the game in an Ohio Valley Conference match.

The high-throttle Gamecock offense never got into a rhythm on Saturday afternoon as they fell to Southeast Missouri in four games (30-27, 25-30, 23-30, 21-30).

With the loss, JSU (12-6, 9-2) fell into a three-way tie for first place in the OVC with Murray State and Tennessee State.

“I thought they played a great game defensively,” JSU head coach Rick Nold said. “They were just picking up some really tough balls, and that has a way of kind of getting in your head.”

The Redhawk defense held the Gamecocks to a .183 attack percentage for the game and did an excellent job of keeping JSU’s big hitters in check.

“We talked about how to respond, from that and keep coming back, and I thought that we just didn’t do a great job of keeping the pressure on them,” Nold said.

With the exception of senior Abbey Breit, whose 29 kills accounted for the majority of the JSU offense, the combination of Joi Watts, Rebekah Nichols, Britney Whitten and Caitlin Vorbeck were all held under a .148 attack percentage.

Over the course of the season, JSU has been playing great defense night in and night out.
JSU quarterback Cedric Johnson has rushed for six touchdowns since becoming the starter for the Memphis game Sept. 15. Since then, the Gamecocks are 3-2. Photo by James Harkins/JSUFan.com

The move to promote Cedric Johnson to starting quarterback looks to be paying off

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Over the last five weeks of the season, fans have seen the true evolution of a quarterback happen right before their collective eyes. He’s gone from being a junior college transfer with an infinite amount of hype and potential to an electric playmaking gunslinger with a quick release on the ball and an even faster first step. He’s exciting to watch. He’s a showstopper. He might even be the real playmaker on this Jacksonville State football team.

After last Thursday night’s 42-9 thumping of Austin Peay, his name was heard all over America. Cedric Johnson had what’s called “a Sportscenter moment.”

One play, a 69-yard touchdown run, earned the junior from Americus, Ga., the fifth spot on Sportscenter’s “Top Plays” segment. “The play we had called was an option,” Johnson said. “I guess Austin Peay was just over-playing it, so that’s when I cut it back. I saw that I had it, so I just went for 69 yards.”

Johnson took the snap and broke to his left on an option play. Suddenly, Johnson made a quick stop and changed direction, taking it virtually untouched, all the way for the score.

It was just one of his four touchdown runs on the game. When Johnson was initially told about his brief brush with the national spotlight, he didn’t believe it. “I really didn’t know that I was on Sportscenter,” Johnson said. “As a matter of fact, after the game Thursday, I was asleep and got a couple of phone calls cause some of my friends were watch-

See “Johnson,” 2B

Backs against the wall

Weekend losses knock JSU to seventh in OVC

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

JSU squandered an opportunity to move up the OVC standings by losing twice this weekend to the dregs of the conference.

The Gamecocks (3-9-1, 1-3-1 OVC) continue to have away-day blues, suffering a defeat in all seven matches away from Jacksonville.

Despite the results, the Gamecocks are still only two points out of qualifying for the OVC tournament.

JSU has four games to make up that ground, starting with matches against Tennessee Tech and Austin Peay in Jacksonville this weekend.

The Gamecocks’ form at home has been better than on the road.

JSU is unbeaten in the last three at home, and those results will need to continue in the vital matches this weekend.

“I don’t want to say must-win,” said coach Julie Davis. “But it’s an important weekend for us to continue to work hard to learn how to get results.”

Davis felt her team had not

See “Soccer,” 3B

Gavin Halford currently leads the nation in field goals made with 16. Photo by Steve Latham/ Jacksonville State University

For the average high school football player, halftime usually means a break from the action while coaches make adjustments to help the team’s chances to win.

For JSU place kicker Gavin Halford, halftime wasn’t the break that it usually is.

Halford, a junior from Phenix City, Ala., began playing the trumpet in the sixth grade in Central High’s band program before moving to baritone his junior year, the same year he decided to play varsity football.

Any football player, high school or college, can tell you that summer training camps are intense. It’s nonstop from the first day until the end of the season.

Any band member, high school or college, can tell that, while not as physical as football, band camp is just as grueling.

Either way you look at it, you’re perfecting your craft in the sweltering summer heat, but both at the same time.

See “Halford,” 3B
# GAMEDAY BREAKDOWN

**Gamecocks, Golden Eagles square off Saturday in important OVC matchup**

Sports editor Patrick Swafford breaks down Saturday's homecoming game between Jacksonville State and Tennessee Tech. Jacksonville State carries an all-time record of 51-8-2 in homecoming games.

## All-time series
This will be the 12th time that the Gamecocks and Tennessee Tech have locked horns, with JSU winning four out of the last five contests, including last year's 13-10 overtime win in Cookeville, Tenn.

### Who's hot
Jacksonville State quarterback Cedric Johnson has been nothing short of electric in the last few weeks, rushing for four touchdowns in last week's thumping of Austin Peay. Johnson has already thrown for more than 1,100 yards and rushed for over 400 yards with six rushing touchdowns.

Tennessee Tech's Larry Shipp is one of the most productive weapons in the entire OVC. Tech's standout wide receiver earned first team All-OVC honors in each of the last two seasons and currently leads the conference in touchdowns. He's also an incredible return threat with two return touchdowns to his credit already.

### Prediction
JSU and Tech both make a living off running the ball and stopping the run on defense. JSU's riding high from last week's drubbing of Austin Peay and should carry it over.

JSU 28 - Tenn. Tech 24

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## TTU probable starting lineups

<table>
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<th>DEFENSE</th>
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<tr>
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**Running men**

Jacksonville State quarterback Cedric Johnson leads the Gamecocks in three major statistical categories: rushing, passing and total offense. Photo courtesy of Steve Latham / Jacksonville State University

**Running the ball is a one-man show**

While JSU sports a multi-headed monster in the backfield, Tennessee Tech only needs one, and he is truly a monster.

For sheer power, it doesn't get any better than Derek White. White has more rushing yards than anyone in the OVC and is...
have really started to develop into a powerful unit in the last few weeks.

In short-yardage situations, JSU’s ground game can become lethal with one particular offensive set, using all three fullbacks at once in Alphonso Freeney, Ronald Murray and Ty Griswold.

JSU is averaging just over 181 yards per game on the ground and have really started to develop into a powerful unit in the last few weeks.

Shutting down the power

If there’s one thing Tennessee Tech can do with the OVC’s best, it’s run the football. Jacksonville State must shut down Derek White, the Golden Eagles’ primary ground weapon.

White is the Ohio Valley Conference’s second leading rusher, gaining an average of 128 yards per game to go along with a conference leading eight touchdowns.

If there’s something to be learned from the last two games, it’s that JSU can shut down a team’s running game.

Over the last two weeks, the Gamecocks have held the Football Championship Subdivision’s two all-time active leading rushers to below their respective season averages.

If that front set, led by John Scott, can hold White in check, JSU will be in very good shape.

Do not give up the big ones

Jacksonville State has had a problem this season with giving up touchdowns on long-yardage plays 11 times this season.

The pass defense has given up seven of those touchdowns, including two against Alabama State and UT-Martin and three against Memphis.

This could play right into the hands of, arguably the OVC’s most dangerous receiver, Tennessee Tech’s Larry Shipp.

Shipp would be leading the OVC in scoring if not for Gavin Hallford’s amazing start.

Shipp, who has found the end zone ten times this season alone, averages 59 yards receiving per game in a run oriented offense and is a legitimate deep threat.

For sheer power, it doesn’t get any better than Derek White.

White has more rushing yards than anyone in the OVC and is ranked tenth in the Football Championship Subdivision in yards per game.

White spearheads a rushing attack that is third best in the OVC, chewing up just under 200 yards per game on the ground.

Despite boasting a powerful running game, TTU has a tendency to lose the time of possession battle to their opponents, but that’s usually due to the Golden Eagles’ scoring.

The Golden Eagles are going to need a huge game from White to pull out a victory here.

If you can’t go through them, go over them

If Jacksonville State is able to shut down the Tennessee Tech running game, they better be ready for the passing game.

What’s the old saying?

If the left one doesn’t get you, the right one will.

Tech’s quarterback Lee Sweeney has been injured for the past few weeks, but he did suit up and warm up last week. If he doesn’t start, Cass Barnes will.

Look for Barnes and Shipp to connect early and often to keep the Gamecocks honest on defense.

The Golden Eagles haven’t had too many problems with the change in quarterbacks. They still boast a powerful offense that can, and probably will, put a lot of points on the board.

They already average 34.3 points per game this season.

Find the weakness and exploit it

If there is one thing that Jacksonville State has struggled in all season, it’s been the lack of production in kickoff and punt coverage.

The Gamecocks have been burned for substantial yardage on kickoffs this season, including two back breaking touchdown returns against Eastern Kentucky.

This week, the Gamecocks have to contend with the best kick return man in the OVC, Larry Shipp.

Shipp is averaging just under 30 yards per return and has already taken two kicks back for touchdowns.

Stopping Shipp might be a problem for Jacksonville State. If Shipp can put the Golden Eagles in good field positions, JSU may have a long day.

Johnson: Making plays, seeking conference title

"We got through a lot in practice," Johnson said. "I guess it just comes out on game day. Early in the season, the offense really wasn't scoring. We just got to a point where we just said it was time for us to start clicking."

This season, Johnson leads the Gamecocks in every major statistical category, including rushing and passing yards as well as touchdowns.

The role of rising star is nothing new to Johnson.

Johnson currently holds the Georgia high school record for most passing touchdowns in a career with 92. He also broke the single-season record with 42, eclipsing an athlete Johnson hopes to follow one day; his brother.

"I'm just trying to follow in my brother's footsteps," Johnson said. "He's won three championships since he started playing quarterback; one in high school, one in junior college and one professionally in Europe."

Despite all the records Johnson has collected over his decorated football career, the one award Johnson's trophy case lacks is a championship, something he's failed to capture on his own.

During his freshman year of high school, he won while splitting snaps with another quarterback, never as a team's full-fledged starter.

"I'm excited about all these records, but they really don't mean anything to me," Johnson said. "I'll be alright once I win me a championship."

"That was my first time ever rushing for four touchdowns in a game. Ever. I threw for six in one half in a high school game."

- Cedric Johnson, on rushing for four touchdowns last week
CROSS COUNTRY

JSU picks up home wins

By Will Payne
Staff Sports Writer

Both JSU men's and women's cross-country teams finished their regular seasons on a high note by hosting and winning their respective meets at the JSU Foothills Invitational in Jacksonville this past Saturday.

The Gamecock men broke through in a big way with their second victory of the season, were led by their two leaders in freshman Ryan McKay.

Sava earned his first-ever collegiate victory by completing the 8k course in a time of 25:52 and led a quartet of Gamecock runners that placed in the top ten.

Marius Sava showed why he was the reigning OVC Male Runner of the week, extending his streak of top 10 finishes to six consecutive races with a third place finish with an overall time of 26:03.

While the men picked up their second victory of the season, the women were able to earn their first of the season by edging out Kennesaw State by two points.

Sarah Caine led the charge by turning in a second place finish, completing the 5k course in 18:33.

With the end of the regular season, both squads are preparing to go into the OVC Championships on Oct. 27 in Birmingham.

"Like all the other teams in the OVC, we now have two weeks to prepare for the championship," Ray said. "The last time we had this long to prepare, we came out and ran our best times of the season."

Hallford: Leading FCS in field goals

Cont. from 1B

"It took a lot out of me," Hallford said. "One thing that really helped was once school started, I had a varsity football class, so that's when I lifted weights. We'd practice football from, like, three until five. Then band practice was at 6:30. I'd go get something to eat, go to band practice, go home and probably crash.

Halftime became an everyday running of the gauntlet, complete with a quick costume change of sorts.

"It was me, our punter and two or three cheerleaders that were in the band," Hallford said. "So, we'd play the first half. Me and the punter would take our shoulder pads and helmets off and put them on the sidelines and put our jerseys back on. Someone would bring our instruments down to the field and we'd play in the band."

The entire experience wasn't as bad as you might think. Central-Phenix City's classes were on block scheduling, which allowed him to finish his homework in class.

Making it to both practices wasn't as bad, either.

"We had football practice and then band at night," Hallford said. "So we'd let our instruments down, our uniforms down to the band director, who would let us take our jerseys off and put them on. Someone would bring our instruments down to the field and we'd play in the band."

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While the freshmen continue making mistakes inside our 18-yard box and not finishing in theirs.

Freshman Paige Rovillo got a goal back in the 59th minute of the second game, but JSU could draw no closer.

Rovillo is the team's leading scorer with three goals, and Davis praised her and the other seven freshmen that have played extensively this season.

"She's starting to find her ability to be successful at the college level, and like the rest of our freshman, she's learning the speed of the college game.

"There's always some luck in scoring goals, but Paige is putting herself in position and finishing her opportunities."

Soccer: Prepares for Peay and Tech this weekend

Cont. from 1B

played too poorly this weekend, but early goals continued to doom JSU.

"We're playing a very good 75-minute game, we just have to start well and get into the game quicker," she said.

Six of the last eight goals the Gamecocks have conceded have come within the opening 11 minutes.

On Friday, Morehead State's Kimmie Beiting scored the lone goal in the eleventh minute. On Sunday, JSU gave up goals in the seventh, ninth, and eleventh minutes to lose 3-1 to Eastern Kentucky.

The Gamecocks had similar or more possession of the ball in both games, but poor play at both ends was the difference.

"I don't think the results portray how we're actually playing," Davis said. "But we're making mistakes inside our
They were getting some free, easy swings. That's a matter of a lot of positioning stuff and lately we have been doing a good job of it, and tonight we just didn't do it.

All season long, the Gamecocks have shown the ability to claw their way back into matches when their backs are against the wall.

However, they fell behind early in each of the four games against the Redhawks and only managed to come back once.

They showed signs of possibly getting back into each of the final three games, but SEMO always seemed to come up with a big play to swing the momentum back to their side of the court.

"I told our team that it wasn't that we played that bad," Nold said. "We played a pretty good game. But in our conference, when you look at the top teams, there is very little difference between losing and winning.

Despite the loss to the Redhawks, the Gamecocks did have a good showing against Eastern Illinois on Friday night as they defeated the Panthers in three games.

JSU held EIU to a .000 attack percentage and recorded 12 blocks on the defensive side of the court.

Abbey Vierling continued her hot streak on defense, recording 26 digs. She has recorded at least 22 digs in each of the last four games.

Breit paced the Gamecock offense once again knocking down 19 kills on only 29 attacks.

However, Nold passed a lot of the credit to Brooke Schumacher, who did an outstanding job of setting up the Gamecock offense with great passing. Schumacher recorded 41 assists in only three games.

"They are a very good serving team, and they put a lot of pressure on us with their serve," Nold said. "I thought as the match went along, we started passing much better and handling that."
GO GAMECOCKS!
Have a great homecoming!

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