Art annex almost ready

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

For years, space constraints have been a problem for art students and faculty at JSU. Hammond Hall was quickly outgrown, forcing some classes into a former house on the edge of campus. After a while, holding classes in a building not designed for such use raised safety concerns. Scheduling was driven by what classrooms were available and when.

That era of art department history is coming to a close.

The Gladys M. Carlisle Applied Arts Building is scheduled to open on Saturday, Sept. 15. When it does, the Carlisle annex will provide long-sought and much needed space for the department, its students and its faculty.

Brand-new facilities will house drawing, design, ceramics and photography classes.

More room means less cramped quarters.

Professors will receive new office space. State-of-the-art classrooms and workspaces will give students better tools and conditions under which to create.

Though the fall semester began on Aug. 29, the building isn’t quite ready for occupation.

So far, students and faculty have juggled their schedules and daily routines as they held classes in temporary quarters at Hammond Hall and the old art annex near Paul Snow Stadium.

The transition should be a smooth one, said department head Dr. Charles Groover.

See “Art annex,” page 2

More than inflation to blame for vending hike

By Bethany Harbison
Copy Editor

Most students and faculty are adjusting to the new, higher prices of vending at JSU. But it’s not sitting well with everyone.

Economics professors Dr. Doris Bennett and Dr. Christopher Westley took the time to delve deeper into the reasons behind the price hike.

Bennett focused on the price of a 20 oz. soda, which rose from $1.00 to $1.25.

This increase was the first in four years for JSU.

“If they had just kept up with the inflation over those four years and adjusted the prices for the higher costs, there would not be as big a hike,” Bennett said.

“In general, they raised soda prices in response to increased costs of packaging and ingredients,” Bennett said.

“The packaging is plastic, which comes from petroleum. If they’re anticipating higher oil prices, then it makes sense that they would raise prices to try to cover higher costs in the future,” Bennett said.

Westley took another view of the issue, saying that the inflation rate is a national figure that covers as many as 120 goods.

“It is hard to look at the national inflation rate and consider it is affecting something on campus,” Westley said.
Lessons learned

A recent report shows Virginia Tech could have done more. Other universities, JSU included, now look at their policies to deal with potentially dangerous students.

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

The sounds of gunshots at Virginia Tech University on April 16, 2007 still resonate in the Blacksburg community. The town finds what it can to rally around and lift its spirits. This was evident by the Hokies’ home football opener on Sept. 2, where scenes of bright faces, hoping for a positive, new existence – one where students would not always be subjected to constant questions about the tragedy – were seen around the stadium.

Those gunshot sounds resonate elsewhere, too.

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

Features such as natural ventilation and recycled materials will help make JSU’s Little River Canyon Field Center the university’s first “green” building, designed with environmental concerns in mind.

When finished, the field center in DeKalb County will house offices for JSU and National Park Service staff, an auditorium, three classrooms and a museum.

“It’s the first of its kind,” Pete Conroy, director of the Little River Field School, said. “It’s a LEED certified building, the first JSU’s ever done, and one of the first that any university’s done in Alabama.”

LEED stands for “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” and is a designation awarded to structures that meet certain earth-friendly criteria. LEED recognizes “performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality,” according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

The Little River Canyon Field Center will employ many techniques intended to lessen the impact on local ecosystems. The center will use geothermal sources for heating and cooling, and will attract wildlife. It will also have a website that includes a “living” map of the area.

New JSU center to be eco-friendly

Photo and illustration by Matt McRae/The Chanticleer

A senseless slaying of 32 innocent people is not something people get over easily, especially at a university, where safety should be inherent.

In response to the massacre, universities across the country were left to reevaluate their emergency policies for such situations.

JSU responded accordingly, issuing a task force to investigate the school’s emergency plans for shootings. The task force has since made several recommendations to President Dr. Bill Meehan concerning the school’s communication and training policies to

No man’s land

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

see “Cover Story,” page 3

Parking space, or lack thereof, is a common gripe among JSU students. This is especially true at the beginning of the fall semester. Perusing the parking lot in front of the Houston Cole Library and Martin building can prove to be a particularly trying task, as evidenced by this backup of parked cars during noontime of Thursday, Aug. 30. Photo by Matt McRae/The Chanticleer

See “Green building,” page 3

The sounds of gunshots at Virginia Tech University on April 16, 2007 still resonate in the Blacksburg community. The town finds what it can to rally around and lift its spirits. This was evident by the Hokies’ home football opener on Sept. 2, where scenes of bright faces, hoping for a positive, new existence – one where students would not always be subjected to constant questions about the tragedy – were seen around the stadium.

Those gunshot sounds resonate elsewhere, too.
Poster? I hardly know her

If there is a positive to the severe lack of rain northeast Alabama has endured over the summer, it certainly showed on Tuesday, as students flocked outside to the annual Poster Sale on the Quad. The Sale took place Tuesday, Sept. 4 and Wednesday, Sept. 5 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day. The event would have been moved to the TMB if any rain-did occur. Photo by Matt McRae/ The Chanticleer

WLJS finally finds news director

By Kevin Jeffers
Managing Editor

After a long and trying two-week search, WLJS has finally found its new news director, Amanda Clayton Gober, a graduate English student, will begin anchoring NPR's Morning Edition on Monday, Sept. 10.

She will host the show every Monday through Friday morning from 6:30 to 9, reading Alabama news twice every hour and weather once an hour.

“I am excited about the opportunity,” Gober said. “There’s something very classic about radio. It’s fun.”

Gober actually began her journalism career in the print field, writing for both the Cherokee Herald and the Cherokee Post.

“I was sort of thrown into radio after working in print. So it will be a good opportunity to learn more about FM radio,” Gober said.

She has previous broadcast experience, working three years for WEIS AM in Centre, where she served as the station’s news director.

Brandon Hollingsworth, former WLJS news director and current News Editor of The Chanticleer, still has a spot in his heart for news radio, and was pleased with the selection.

“We are all excited to have Amanda as the new news director. She brings a fresh perspective to the station and will bring new ideas to the table.”

“I think the listeners are going to be in very good hands with her,” Hollingsworth said.

When reached for comment, WLJS Program Director John Nickolson was caught a little off guard.

“I actually didn’t hear about it until now,” Nickolson said.

Media advisor Mike Stedham actually hired Gober, not Nickolson.

“That is not to say that Nickolson is displeased with the hire, however.

“I’m glad to have the position filled. It’s an important position for the station,” Nickolson said.

The hire will not become official until Gober signs her contract, however. She said she plans to do so on Thursday, Sept. 6.

NPR’s news programs can be heard on 91.9 FM, 92J every weekday, Morning Edition from 5 to 9 a.m., Day to Day from noon until 1 p.m. and All Things Considered from 4 to 7 p.m.

- From wire service
SGA Welcome Week begins with Get on Board Day, Pep Rally

By Kanani Miller
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, Aug. 29, SGA kicked off Welcome Week with the first of many events for Get on Board Day, at Gamecock Field.

The premise for this week is to welcome new freshmen to JSU and show them what the campus as a whole. Many of JSU's organizations set up booths to show freshmen what they each have to offer.

"My objective was to reach out to freshmen and tell them about Freshmen Forum because it is the first stepping stone into being a part of the SGA," said Dr. Russell, advisor for Freshman Forum.

SGA President David Jennings was also at the event.

"Getting students involved keeps them here and interested in JSU," Jennings said.

"It's all good when you meet new friends. SGA is always glad to lend a helping hand."

Along with the opportunity to learn more about JSU, those attending also received free food, drinks and snow cones.

On Thursday, Aug. 30, the festivities continued with an All Sports Pep Rally, where SGA handed out free water bottles at the gate as well as a calendar for upcoming September events.

Many students attended this event and were entertained by several competitions, including SGA's dance competition and a round of "Cocky Says" to get the audience involved.

Guests were also entertained by the Southerners, who performed a few numbers including JSU's Fight Song.

JSU's athletic teams were introduced and a roll call of the organizations in attendance took place.

Both of university's cheerleading squads did a few stunts to pop up the crowd.

The pep rally was intended to create enthusiasm for JSU's athletic programs and boost overall school spirit.

Welcome Week continues on Thursday, Aug. 6 with the SGA Involvement Meeting and ends Saturday, Aug. 8, the day of JSU's home football opener, with a tailgate party at 12:00 p.m.
Gas prices down in tri-county area

By Brandon Hollingsworth
News Editor

The prices of gasoline in Calhoun, Etowah and Talladega Counties are down this month, while the rates for new construction are up, according to the most recent JSU Economic Update.

The bulletin, issued bimonthly by the Jacksonville State University Center for Economic Development, summarizes economic statistics from unemployment rates to grocery prices in the three-county area.

Gas prices for regular unleaded stand at $2.62 in the tri-county area, down 8.7 percent from August 2006. The 12-month high was $2.90, in June, and the 12-month low was $2.01, in February.

Penn Wilson, editor of the update, explained the decrease.

"We're moving kind of late into the summer. The peak vacation time has probably already passed," Wilson said.

"There's not as much demand right now for gas. The requirements for fuel in the wintertime — petroleum-based fuel — are not here yet. That may be part of the answer."

The tri-county study area's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent in July, higher than the national and state averages for the same period.

Alabama's unemployment rate in July was 3.7 percent, less than a point below the national average of 4.6 percent.

Calhoun County clocked in at 4.1 percent, with Etowah at 4.4 percent and Talladega at 5.8 percent. Despite those figures, said Wilson, Calhoun County enjoys a "robust" economy, citing the influence of the Honda plant in northern Talladega County and the Kronospan flooring plant along Hwy. 202 in southern Calhoun County.

While the numbers may look disconcerting, Wilson said the tri-county area is in "great shape."

"When we have an unemployment rate around 4 percent, that's virtually full employment. It's good news for the state of Alabama and our region," Wilson said.

Problems associated with the subprime mortgage scandal and a general softening of the housing market have not significantly stalled home sales or new construction in northeast Alabama.

Permits issued for new buildings in Calhoun and Etowah Counties were up in July 2007 over the same month in 2006.

"Building permits are about where they were last year. Or perhaps a little better," Wilson said. As for home prices, he said, "there's not a substantial drop."

Home sales in both Etowah and Calhoun Counties fluctuated during the yearlong period from June 2006 to June 2007. The latest figures showed 139,000 homes sold in Calhoun County, with 98,000 sold in Etowah.

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**COVER STORY: Lessons**

Cont. from page 1

plans of emergency. These recommendations are still being instituted.

On Aug. 30, a new report was released that investigated the what and why of the Virginia Tech massacre, in which it showed several inconsistencies with the school's system of communicating in emergency situations, as well as widespread confusion regarding privacy laws among the faculty. Teachers at the school were also not exactly sure how to handle a potentially dangerous student.

Now JSU, like every other college campus in America, must question the same issues.

Is our communication clear enough? What do privacy laws allow or not allow? These are questions that not every teacher at JSU can answer.

Where do teachers go?

Teachers at Virginia Tech knew Sueng-hi Cho was a strange kid - stranger than most, anyway. His high school teachers knew it, too. They did what they could within their limits, but there was nothing they could do. Cho was a stranger kid in the back of the class - are not unique. Situations like the massacre he lead are, though.

That still doesn't take away from the fact that something like this can happen any day, anywhere.

At JSU, problem students are dealt with on a more regular basis than most people may realize.

Rick Naugher is the Director of Counseling and Career Services.

"I've been here for eight years, and on numerous occasions we've sort of nipped things in the bud," Naugher said.

"A department head or Dean brings [a problem] to me," Naugher said. "There are also instances where teachers have directly called the UPD, which is also perfectly fine."

Naugher said that flagged students are subjected to an intervention committee. The committee pulls the student's mental health and other personal records, and if necessary, brings forth the student for questioning.

A registration hold is put on any problem student.
The notion of an environmentally-friendly building met with mixed reactions when first proposed.

"Some are more comfortable doing the same that they've done in the past," said Conroy. "Others are looking at ways to be innovative and use new technologies, and not only save money but protect the environment."

The university is not only helping the environment, but saving money. The $6.5-million price tag for the field center was met with mixed reactions when first proposed.

"We've gotten nothing from the University." said Lemmons, Professor of History, said. "People will say vague things about calling students aside and going over to the Counseling Center, but nothing more specific than that.

"We've gotten nothing from the University."

Conroy said that JSU is competing in a "friendly manner" with Auburn University to construct LEED-certified buildings. Auburn's is going up near the Shelby County seat of Columbiana, and will house an environmental science education center.

Teachers at Virginia Tech knew Sueng-hi Cho was a strange kid - stranger than most, anyway. His high school teachers knew it, too. They did what they could within their limits. But no one could have stopped what was to come.

Cho killed himself and 32 of his schoolmates, virtually out of nowhere.

According to the latest report, Virginia Tech's teachers were not exactly clear on how to report problem students.

"As far as instruction from the University on this particular question, we haven't had any," Dr. Russell Lemmons, Professor of History, said. "People will say vague things about calling students aside and going over to the Counseling Center, but nothing more specific than that.

"We've gotten nothing from the University."

Convented as the policies may be to some, Lemmons was correct in that JSU does indeed have policies in place to handle problems with a student who a teacher may feel is mentally unstable. A teacher would first need to go to his head of department, who then turns the case over to the Counseling and Career Service (CCS).

Another key finding of the latest Virginia Tech report was the amount of confusion regarding privacy with potentially dangerous students.

According to Terry Schneider, Chief of Police of the JSU Police Department, there should be no such confusion.

"The laws are misunderstood," Schneider said. "There are no laws that prohibit any caregiver, teacher or counselor from sharing information on individuals they believe could hurt someone."

Schneider said privacy laws do prevent information that a student shares from being made public by the student's counselor or officer. Those laws are not in effect, however, if the student is deemed as a danger to himself or others.

How are our cases handled?

Situations like Cho the student – the introverted personal records, and if necessary, brings forth the student for questioning.

A registration hold is put on any problem student until they meet certain requirements the committee gives the student. After the student meets said requirements, the hold will be lifted.

If the student fails to meet those requirements, or continues to be a problem, he or she is subject to expulsion and further health screenings, according to Naugher.

"There have been a couple of such instances," Naugher said.

JSU's plan of action

Schneider and Naugher both feel that JSU is adequately suited to handle problem situations with potentially dangerous students.

With the latest report from Virginia Tech, Schneider says that the recommendations that were made from the task force now must be evaluated again, but he does not see anything in the report that would suggest anything he did not already know.

The recommendations that have already been made by the task force include formal changes in communication and adding an active shooter plan to the other JSU emergency plans.

Schneider also said that because of Jacksonville's uniquely close proximity to Anniston's chemical weapons plants, Calhoun County and its schools are better suited for most emergency situations than many institutions elsewhere.

"We're very adequately suited," Schneider said.

As far as reiterating what the school has in store for any unforeseen problems, namely situations such as the massacre at Virginia Tech, there is still a stigma that JSU has been mum, despite the active work of the task force.

"I think the administration is afraid of creating the impression that something like that could happen here," Lemmons said. "Even though it could. It could happen anywhere."
A memo to spammers

Recently, there have been some issues on our Web site, www.thechanticleeronline.com, regarding certain members being blocked and their posts deleted. We wish to reiterate that this is by no means preventing anyone from free speech. Some users just don’t choose to adhere to our terms of service. Just so everyone is clear as to what is allowed and what is not, we have compiled a little list.

Allowed: different opinions, trashing how bad our articles may be (in your opinion), feedback, - positive or negative - on the content and letters to the editor.

Not Allowed: posts with profanity of any kind, spam, racist, sexist or discriminatory remarks, spam, spam or spam. That includes any hypothetical links to any hypothetical petitions calling for the resignation of any hypothetical university president.

In fact, any posts that The Chanticleer considers to be offensive or inappropriate will be deleted, as will the IP address of anyone abusing other online users or JSU students, faculty or staff.

Now that you know the guidelines, don’t be afraid to get on there and tell us what you think. Believe it or not, we are here for you and we do care.

MORE ON MEEHAN

The double standard of Meehan’s snafu

By Rufus Kinney
Special to The Chanticleer

Three things bother me the most about Dr. Meehan’s plagiarism. The first is that Dr. Meehan to my knowledge has never admitted to personally having made a mistake and he certainly has never apologized to The JSU community for his plagiarism. He had a perfect opportunity to do that during his annual address to the faculty on August 28, but did not take advantage of it. It is one thing to say, “I take responsibility,” and quite another to say, “I apologize for my mistake.” The latter would have been very much appreciated by many JSU students and faculty, including me.

A second thing that bothers me is the author who will be held responsible and can be sued for a lot of money? If you sign your name to a credit card application and don’t bother to read the fine print, aren’t you still legally responsible for the exorbitant interest rates? If you sign on to an adjustable-rate mortgage without reading it carefully, aren’t you still going to have to make all those outlandish payments or face foreclosure? Dr. Meehan is indeed responsible, but is not being held responsible by the people who are whitewashing him and making him out to be a hero.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the whitewashing of Dr. Meehan has created a double standard at JSU whereby our students are held to one standard on plagiarism, a very high standard, and the President is essentially the double standard is intolerable, but passive old JSU will probably tolerate it anyway. If this were the University of Montevallo the President would already be long gone.

We learned just yesterday that JSU has been rated in the third tier of Southern universities with Master’s level programs, well beneath Montevallo, which does not surprise me, but also beneath the University of North Alabama, which both surprises and bothers me—you know, the school that won all the national titles at Division II in football, titles JSU would have won if we hadn’t moved to Division I-AA. Now they’re ahead of us academically as well. How in the world can we expect to move up to a higher tier with a President who is a
aggravations

By Webb Dillard
Contributing Writer

New semester, and it’s the same old aggravations. How much did you pay for that video editing book? ONE-HUNDRED-AND-EIGHTY-DOLLARS? Does it come with a TV?

Spanish textbook is $150.00. ¡Sí, cientos y cincuenta dólares! Ninguna TV.

Two freaking books equal a car payment? I still have three books I need to buy. I can’t even type in the words I really want to buy the dang-blasted, expensive books. I don’t have the

School started on the August 29, right? So, why in the blue hell are we not getting our financial aid checks until September 17?

That is a week-and-a-half of classes without having the money to buy the dang-blasted, expensive books. I don’t know why every year this surprises me.

Oh, wait. It is different. How many different ways have we had to sign up for classes over the last five years? Seventeen? Banner, Blackboard, Gem-mail, G-mail, etc. Log onto the JSU Web site and you have to go through 30 screens just to see what today’s date is.

Why is it, on the first day, there is always at least one teacher that keeps you the ENTIRE first day of class? Come on teachers, it’s not like we even have the $450 dollars worth of books we need for your class, Underwater Origami 101. This same teacher is the one who assigns the first three chapters in the text you do not have yet.

Enough talk about books, money and teachers.

What about walking into a new class late and the only seat open is the one in the far back corner of the room. The teacher has already started discussing his or her syllabus. The class is looking at you like an idiot. It’s almost like a death march in front of the entire class.

Come on, I know you hate it too. Your face starts getting red, hands sweating, heart racing. Then, just as you pass the podium... “Name?” The teacher calls you out.

I really like the lame “walk and duck at the same time” most of you do when coming in late. It almost looks like you are trying to board a helicopter with the fear that the blades might hit you if you stand up straight.

I did walk into a wrong classroom this year. Oh, the class had definitely already started. I stood there in front of the entire class and said, “IS THIS SPANISH?” D’oh!

Nope, it wasn’t Spanish.

Oh yeah, it’s great to be back.

Learn and build - don’t slash and burn

By Jerry Chandler
Special To The Chanticleer

In an age when ‘Gotcha’ media garner the highest ratings, it’s not hard to understand the falsetto firestorm surrounding recent revelations that former JSU News Bureau chief Al Harris copied, sometimes whole cloth, material used in JSU President Bill Meehan’s newsletter. Harris admits he was wrong, and takes full discredit for the deed.

Still, the material appeared under Dr. Meehan’s name. And that prompted at least one JSU professor to say the president ought to step down.

Instead of focusing on lessons learned, some would simply slash and burn. They’d have the head of the most charismatic, respected leader Jacksonville State University has produced in decades.

First, understand that Meehan was unambiguously unaware of Harris’ actions. Second, know that in the wider society – the one beyond academia – CEOs’ messages are regularly ghostwritten. Those who assume perches of unapproachable perfection need a bit firmer rooting in the reality of how things really work. This doesn’t mean axing ethics, or eschewing integrity. It means determining intent.

Intent is the real issue here. And there was no intent on Meehan’s part to put his name on a piece of plagiarized journalism. Intent is inherent in stealing someone else’s work. Intent to do it, and you should be nailed. Plagiarize is an active verb, not a passive one. That’s English 101.

I love teaching. Aside from my family, it’s the most fulfilling thing in my life. But also write for a living, inhabiting the day-to-day trenches of a reporter. I understand the importance of attribution, the primacy of accuracy. You don’t live long down in those trenches without them.

From this ground-level perspective, Bill Meehan did nothing wrong. When accusations of plagiarism surfaced, there was no Stonewalling. In an era where the first instant of those in power is to cover their own back, that’s rare.

What’s not rare is raving. Media love it. It is the raw material of talk shows, griot for the gullible. If you let it, it can drown out civil discourse, and kill the ability of an institution to learn from mistakes past.

So far, signs are that sanity prevails. It would be hype to say this university is engaged in “soul searching.” What it is engaged in is a good faith, unselfconscious effort to ensure that safeguards are put in place so this kind of thing doesn’t happen again.

It’s an effort devoid of drama, demanding of hard work, and inherently low key. It’s an effort that would build, rather than burn.

Anybody care to join us?

Jerry G. Chandler is an assistant professor of Communication at JSU. His office is located in Room 122, Self Hall. He can be reached by phone at 782-5092 or by e-mail at jerryg1401@gmail.com.

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 at 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 reviewed 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.
So easy a college kid could do it

By Jessica Summe
Senior Writer

Look, Dude, I Can Cook! is marketed to college students, but you can tell it was written by a mom -- a mom who just happens to be a former caterer, recipe-winning chef and semi-finalist in a Food Network competition.

When author Amy Madden isn’t using embarrassing “college slang” in her introductions to the four “years” of her cookbook (or in her recipe titles -- “Homeboy” Egg and Cheese Muffins, anyone?) she’s busy trying to convince you to eat healthily, with turkey wraps or tofu stir-fry, and an unreasonable number of recipes, it’s not enough to feed you on a regular basis.

Madden also supposedly starts off with “simple” recipes in the “Freshman” portion of the book, but the Comfy Shepherd’s Pie involves 18 separate steps, not including looking up “sauté” in the back of the book, calling Mom to ask if sauté means medium or high heat, and giving up.

By the way, did you know that meat and candy thermometers are an “essential” to take to college, along with a basting brush, garlic press and handheld lemon zester? And I don’t even know what a springform pan is, but apparently we’re supposed to have one. And then Madden lists...
Every Time I Die
The Big Dirty

Every Time I Die's fourth studio album, Big Dirty, is nothing new. It has been done before, and better.

Try as they might to improve, they come off as Pantera wannabes. Too often it sounds like the band could not think of more to add to the songs.

The highlights include "We're Wolf," "Buffalo Gals," and "Rebel Without Applause." These songs grow on you after a while. Pretty soon you might find yourself head-banging along with the music.

There isn't much more to write home about outside of those few tracks. The first song, "No Son Of Mine," is possibly the worst on the album. If you get past it, you will find some songs that are fairly decent. This album is what one could refer to as a "pump-up" album. High school athletes could listen to it in order to get pumped up for their big games. Then lose.

- Matthew L. Reese

Lo-fi Suicide
Last Trip to the Golden Gate

Lo-fi Suicide's Last Trip to the Golden Gate, consists of 11 interesting, yet depressing, songs with music that is hardy relaxing. The band itself is mysterious, listing its members on the liner notes only by their first names, fluorescence, guitar and vocals, Jesse as the drummer, and the choir consisting of Jesse, Mike, Sarah, and Jenny.

The music isn't awfully bad, but the lyrics sound as though they were written as a story and then thrown to some random music. If you get around to listening to this band, notice the sound effects that match the lyrics throughout the CD, giving it a little splash of a techno vibe. That aspect was actually pretty cool.

One might enjoy this music after a rainy day when their significant other dumped them unexpectedly. There's always got to be music to seize those moments in life, so give it a shot and listen to Lo-fi Suicide's Last Trip to the Golden Gate, it may actually appeal to you. "Alien Tourist" would be the only song I might listen to again, though.

- Julie Skinner
Football drops 3rd straight opener

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

For the first quarter and a half, it looked like JSU’s defense would be able to handle Alabama State quarterback Alex Engram. ASU coach Reggie Barlow made a quarterback change, and junior quarterback Chris Mitchell brought the Hornets back for a 24-19 win Saturday night in the Crampton Bowl.

With the loss, Jacksonville State (0-1) drops its third straight season opener.

In the two previous years, the Gamecocks battled nationally ranked Furman to the wire, losing by less than a touchdown in the game’s final minutes.

The new look of JSU’s offense was a huge positive entering the season.

The only evidence of an offense JSU had at game’s end was a school record four field goals by Gavin Hallford.

JSU was inside the Alabama State 20-yard line seven times and netted zero touchdowns.

In fact, JSU’s lone touchdown came off a 19-yard interception return by T.J. Heath with 1:48 left in the first half.

Already facing a 6-0 deficit, Engram was flushed out of the pocket and nearly brought down by the JSU defense before carelessly throwing the ball away.

Heath picked off the errant pass and fought off an ASU defender all the way to the end zone. After the Heath touchdown made it 13-0, Mitchell made his presence known.

“The change at quarterback hurt us,” JSU coach Jack Crowe said. “I think we were programmed for one style of play and we gave this guy room for him to be himself.”

The junior from Mobile came in with less than two minutes before halftime and connected with Marcus McCall for a 32-yard touchdown strike as time expired, sending ASU into halftime down 10-6.

Mitchell was 10-of-11 for 206 yards on the night.

While JSU’s new look on offense gave them problems late, it was the tried and true running game that abandoned the Gamecocks throughout the game.

The inability of the backfield to generate any sort of running game put the pressure on the shoulders of Hardin and Johnson who failed to lead the offense into the end zone.

Late in the game, the Hornets were stacking as many as nine men in the box to make JSU beat them through the air.

The Hornets nearly doubled JSU in total offense, holding them under 300 total yards for the first time since Tennessee-Martin did it last season.

ASU scored two more touchdowns in the game’s final 10 minutes of play, and had 10 plays that gained more than 20 yards.

“For us to give up 10 plays for over 20 yards a piece in one football game is probably a first,” JSU head coach Jack Crowe said.

Report Card

Offense: D+
The inability to get any kind of running game going didn’t do much in terms of opening the offense up. It wasn’t working last Saturday. JSU knew it and so did Alabama State.

Defense: C
Up until Chris Mitchell entered the game, JSU had the defense it needed to be competitive.

A Glance ahead

JSU makes its return to home this weekend to take on one of the school’s biggest rivals, UT-Chattanooga.

Last season’s contest ended in a bit of controversy when UTC head coach Rodney Allison elected to take a roughing the kicker penalty and go for the win with 29 to play.

By taking the penalty, Allison erased what would have been a game-tying penalty. JSU held the Mocs out of the end zone and escaped with a 13-10 win.

UTC leads the series 25-7 and has won six of the eight meetings played in Jacksonville.

However, under Jack Crowe, the Gamecocks are 2-1 against their bitter rivals from the Southern Conference.

While JSU had its troubles with Alabama State last week, UTC was dropping a 29-17 loss to Division II Carson-Newman.
Defense: C
Up until Chris Mitchell entered the game, the defense was its usual dominant self. Mitchell was only in for five plays before the Hornets found the end zone.

Special Teams: A+
Gavin Halford knocks down 4-of-5 with a longest of 42 yards. Enough said.

Volleyball struggles at Lady Vol Classic; prepares for home opener

By Jared Gravette
Staff Sports Writer

Playing from behind isn’t a place that the Jacksonville State volleyball team finds itself in very often. But over the weekend, that’s exactly what happened.

Many would argue that JSU plays their toughest competition at the beginning of the season rather than the end. In the last two seasons, the Gamecocks have more than held their own in big tournaments against powerhouse schools like Louisville and Missouri.

Last weekend was no different as the Gamecocks took on Appalachian State, Belmont and Indiana in the Comcast Lady Vol Classic in Knoxville, Tenn. One thing is for sure, head coach Rick Nold doesn’t like to open up with a cupcake schedule.

“The teams we are scheduling are teams that if we don’t come out with the right attitude, then we are going to get beat. To me, it’s good that we saw that. We could schedule teams to just get wins, but we want to make sure that we understand that it is going to be that way in conference. If we come out and we’re not on top of our game, then we are going to get beat. As a team, you have to learn that,” Nold said.

JSU opened up on Friday afternoon against Appalachian State. After splitting the first four games, the Gamecocks took the fifth and final set 15-12. The Gamecock offense was led by senior Abbey Breit who led the team with 15 kills to go along with 15 digs. The comeback was one of the bright spots for JSU Friday night.

“I think that says a lot about the determination they have,” Nold said when asked about the comeback. “I think we got down by being inconsistent with some of the things that we had worked on. To me, it says a lot about their attitude and knowing how well we can play if we push towards it.”

Despite a huge match from senior Rebekah Nichols, the nightcap didn’t go quite as well for the Gamecocks as they fell to Belmont 3-1.

All four of the Gamecock seniors held up their bargain against the Bruins. Nichols exploded knocking down 18 kills and recording a .567 attack percentage. Breit had 18 kills of her own to go along with Joe Watts’ six. Abbey Vierling had a good game on defense with 14 digs. According to Nichols, senior leadership is a key to the success of the team going forward.

“We have to have senior leadership. We have to really try and carry the team because the freshmen are still getting used to it. They don’t know the play that were used too and the attitude we have to have. It’s just really important for the seniors to step up and try to lead the team,” Nichols said.

Despite the performance of the seniors, the Gamecocks seemed to be missing something in the rightcap on Friday.

“Against Belmont, I didn’t feel like we came out with the right attitude all the way through. That’s something that we really haven’t run into in the last couple of years. The attitude has been there the whole way through. We talked a lot about that before the Indiana match. We kind of came out with a different mindset,” Nold said.

On Saturday, JSU was nothing but ready for the Indiana Hoosiers. Freshmen Caitlin Vorbeck and Brooke Schumacher both had outstanding matches. Vorbeck knocked down 12 kills while recording a .333 attack percentage. Schumacher, the team’s setter, added seven kills of her own and also dished out a match-high 43 assists.

“All the freshmen are finding ways to contribute. Different situations will call for a different person, but they are doing the things that they need to. It’s just going to be a season long process,” Nold said.

The Gamecocks won the first two games by a score of 30-26 but had trouble closing out the third game falling 32-30. The Hoosiers eventually took the final two games and the match 3-2.

“It was real exciting. It was back and forth the whole time. We were ahead and then they were ahead. It was really nerve racking but we’ve come out without a lot of emotion recently and we were able to top them,” Nichols said.

See “Volleyball,” 7
Cross Country opens season with win

By Will Payne
Staff Sports Writer

Coming out of the season opener this past Saturday, both the men’s and women’s JSU Cross Country teams can be nothing but optimistic for the upcoming 2007 season.

Gamecock runner Jeff Rhodes took the top spot with his first collegiate win in the men’s three-mile run, with a time of 14:43. He finished three seconds ahead of Abraham Kiprotich.

JSU cross country coach Steve Ray was pleased with his squad’s showing.

“Considering the work we had, they actually ran better than I thought we might,” Ray said.

Claiming the next three spots were all runners from JSU: Ryan McKay placed third with a time of 14:49, Marius Sava finished fourth with a time of 14:51, and George Kapkiai finished fifth with a time of 15:04.

“The top four guys ran very strong and finished within 20 seconds of one another,” Ray said.

Placing four runners in the top five was good enough for JSU to accumulate a total of 19 points and place first overall in the men’s meet.

The women’s team also had a good showing, finishing second overall. Kennesaw State took first place.

“The strange thing about cross country is that on every single weekend there can only be one winner,” Ray said.

“Does that make everyone else a loser? I don’t think so.”

Volleyball: Struggles

Continued from 6

it was so exciting to play in,” Vorbeck said. “I was really proud of how we did because I didn’t expect to play well at all just because I’m not really used to playing in college yet.”

Many of the freshmen are starting to get over the early game jitters and have started to settle in. The senior class has played a big role in encouraging the freshmen class no matter what.

“The team has helped so much with making sure we all feel comfortable around each other, especially the seniors. They have been really good about making sure that if I do mess up then it’s OK. Every play, I get more comfortable around them and I feel better about it,” Vorbeck said.

JSU will be back in action on Sunday, Sept. 9, when they will play host to Albany at Pete Mathews Coliseum at 2 p.m. Before the game, the volleyball team will be honored as the 2006 OVC Champions.

JSU Soccer opens season 0-2

By Jered Staubs
Staff Sports Writer

JSU’s women’s soccer team got off to a shaky start over the weekend, losing both games they played in the Wright State Fall Classic.

In the season opener Friday night, the Gamecocks’ youth and a flurry by Wright’s Amy Miller led to a 3-1 win by the tourney hosts. Miller scored three goals in a span of six minutes, two on penalty kicks.

JSU coach Julie Davis felt the first penalty awarded was a bit of home cooking, but the others showed the results of six freshmen playing their first game.

“Every goal we just lost track of the offense, and the third goal was just a bad foul we took in the box,” she said. “Our inexperienced showed for that little time period, but all in all I thought the freshmen played well.”

In fact, the lone Gamecock goal was scored by freshman Kaitlyn MacLellan. MacLellan gave JSU a glimmer of hope by scoring on a free kick outside the box in the 71st minute, but JSU could never come closer.

JSU was better in the finale of the Classic, but was unable to overcome a slow start in an eventual 3-2 loss to Evansville. The Gamecocks had second half goals from senior Courtney Moore and freshman Kim Kimmel, but were unable to overcome those three first half goals by the Purple Aces.

The ongoing controversy at the goalkeeper position does not appear headed for a permanent solution. Kate Kelly played the first and second games, while Elizabeth Seilsky played the second game, and neither dazzled.

Kelly and Seilsky made 11 and 13 saves, respectively, and both allowed three goals, so Davis said there was very little separation created over the weekend.

“They both faced a lot of shots and made some key saves to keep us in the games, but there’s room for improvement,” she said. “They both need to improve on second saves and demand more from the defense.”

Both likely see playing time in the first annual Gamecock Soccer Classic, to be held this weekend. Davis says that she has longed to host a tournament, and finally will have that opportunity in her third year.

“It’s never been done here, but we’re looking forward to it. It gives our team something to play for, besides just winning games. There’s going to be an All-Tourney Team, MVP, best offensive player, best defensive player, along with the winner and runner-up awards.”

JSU will host Youngstown State Friday and The Citadel on Sunday as they search for their first positive result of the young season.

GAMECOCKS BRIEFS

- Tracy Linton, JSU’s all-time leading rebounder in women’s basketball, Craig Holman, who pitched the Gamecocks to four straight NCAA Division II World Series, former football standout David Gulledge, and two-time All-GSC selection, and All-America defensive back Terry Harris will be formally inducted on November 9.

- Jacksonville State State kicker Gavin Halford was named the Ohio Valley Conference co-Specialist of the Week on Sunday after setting a JSU school record four field goals in the Gamecocks’ season opener at Alabama State.

- Former Jacksonville State standout relief pitcher Bill White has been added to the Texas Rangers active roster. He tossed Jacksonville State’s 16th no-hitter in school history on March 12, 2000, vs Alabama A&M after recording 12 strike-outs.

- From wire reports
Saturday is a rugby day

By Patrick Swafford
Sports Editor

Coming off an undefeated regular season and the Division III South division title, JSU's Rugby club, known affectionately as "Cock Rugby", opens the 2007-08 season at home this Saturday.

Cock Rugby finished one win away from the regional finals before falling to Wake Forest and ending their season.

"We did well last season," Rugby Club president Chris Steketee said. "We beat Sewanee, who was undefeated at home for about four years at their place. It was really funny because they had about 100 fans there. I've never seen 100 fans leave a field so quickly."

Before last season, Sewanee was dominating the division and JSU's win last year changed the landscape of the entire division.

"Unfortunately, this year, we don't have the benefit of being a sleeper team," Steketee said. "People know that we have the ability to win so they're going to be more likely to step up their game."

Rugby is not recognized as an official sport at JSU so the team is considered a club by university standards.

This year's fall schedule features three home games, including this weekend's season opener against Lee, whom Cock Rugby annihilated 80-7 last season.

Cock Rugby will also host Auburn on Oct. 6 and Mississippi State Nov. 3.

The team will also take part in three tournaments this year where they will face some of the South's biggest names.

Cock Rugby will play Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech and Auburn at the Georgia Rugby Union tournament and Tulane and Florida State at the Battleship tournament in Mobile.

Cock Rugby will kick off the fall season this Saturday at noon on the Intramural Field behind Rudy Abbott Field.

- Rugby rules to live by

The game of rugby involves 15 players on each side and each game consists of two 30 minute halves.

Unlike football, there are no downs and possession can literally change in the blink of an eye.

In football, teams can advance the ball with a forward pass.

In rugby, forward passes are illegal. Teams can pass the ball around by way of a lateral pass.

The only way a team can advance the ball forward is by kicking it.

However, once the ball has been kicked, it's live and can be picked up by anyone on the pitch.

Players can only be tackled if they hold the ball. Once in possession of the ball, then there's a pretty good chance someone's going to get the crap knocked out of them.

Teams score points by advancing the ball toward the goal area at the end of the field (more or less, it's the endzone) and grounding the ball. This is called a try and is worth five points.

After the try, the scoring team gets a conversion kick. If successful, it is worth two points.

Teams can also score by kicking the ball through the uprights with either a drop kick or a penalty kick. This is worth three points.

Finally, players don't wear pads in rugby. Protective head gear and mouthpieces are OK, but not much else.
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