

The Chanticleer

Volume 56, Issue 25

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

April 10, 2008

MORE ONLINE

Electoral debate

Listen to Jacob Probus as he delves even deeper into the subject of the electoral college @ thechanticleeronline.com.

ON CAMPUS



Ceremonious

Dozens of awards were doled out at the ROTC's Spring Awards Ceremony.

Story on Page 2

QUESTION of the WEEK

Which of the following safety

Survey tests student attitudes toward rec facilities

Bethany Harbison
Editor in Chief

Dr. Tim King, associate vice president for student affairs and enrollment management, who joined the Jacksonville State University administration last summer, calls himself an "information gatherer."

On Thursday, April 3, his latest information-gathering tool arrived in the e-mail inboxes of 2,500 JSU students, in the form of a 107-question survey seeking to delve deep into the current state of the university's campus recreation programs, facilities and staff.

"I have been hearing about issues with the recre-

ation center since I came here," King said.

So when Mark Jones, director of recreational sports, learned of the existence of a survey used to gauge student opinions from the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association, King jumped on the idea.

He said quality recreational facilities are instrumental in creating a better life for students — both current and prospective.

"In terms of recruiting and retaining students, research and literature have let us know that students today are drawn to recreational facilities, and they are a recruiting and retaining tool," King said.

The survey's questions cover a wide breadth of

recreation issues. Students are quizzed on their current use of facilities such as Stephenson Hall and Pete Mathews Coliseum, along with what factors prevent them from using such facilities more often. They may also rate such facilities (and the staff who mans them) on specific areas of criteria.

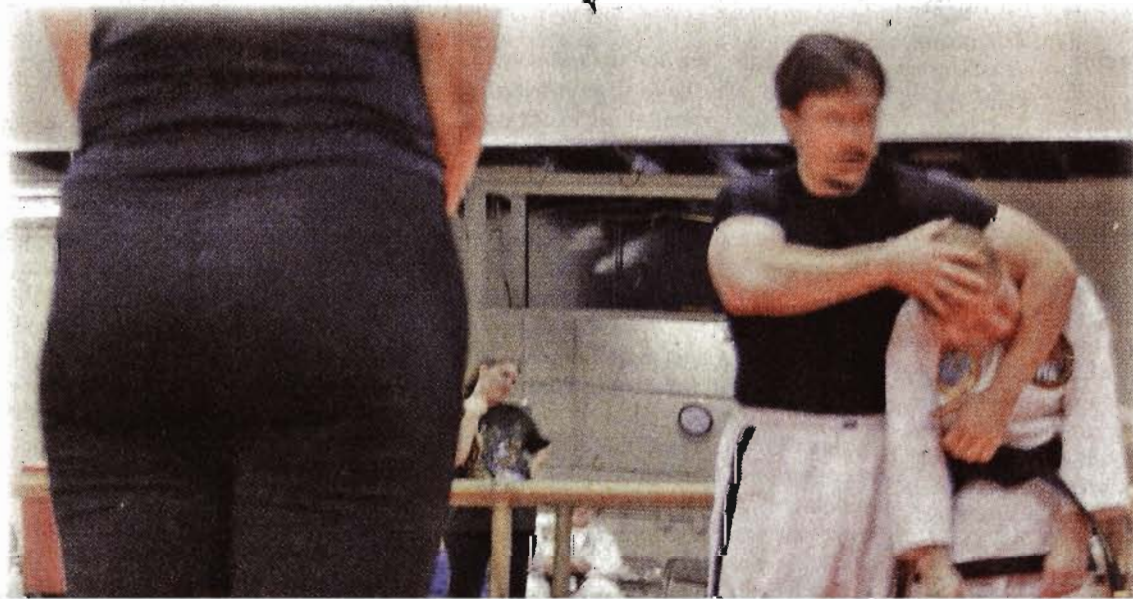
A chunk of the survey tackles the possibility of the addition of a student activity fee, which would be earmarked to help fund better recreational facilities and programs.

"It's an informational survey—one to help us see if we are meeting the needs of students, find out

See "Recreation," page 3

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY / PART 3 OF 3

Martial artists, students weigh in on the benefits and risks of choosing either ..



Holocaust survivor Jack Bass tells his story.
Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

Finding hope

Which of the following safety measures would you be most likely to employ?



- Avoiding dark areas - 39%
- Carrying a gun - 33%
- Carrying pepper spray - 18%
- Carrying a knife - 6%
- None - 3%



"I just try to use common sense when it comes to walking alone at night. I really try not to."

-Luara McKee
Senior

Next week's question:

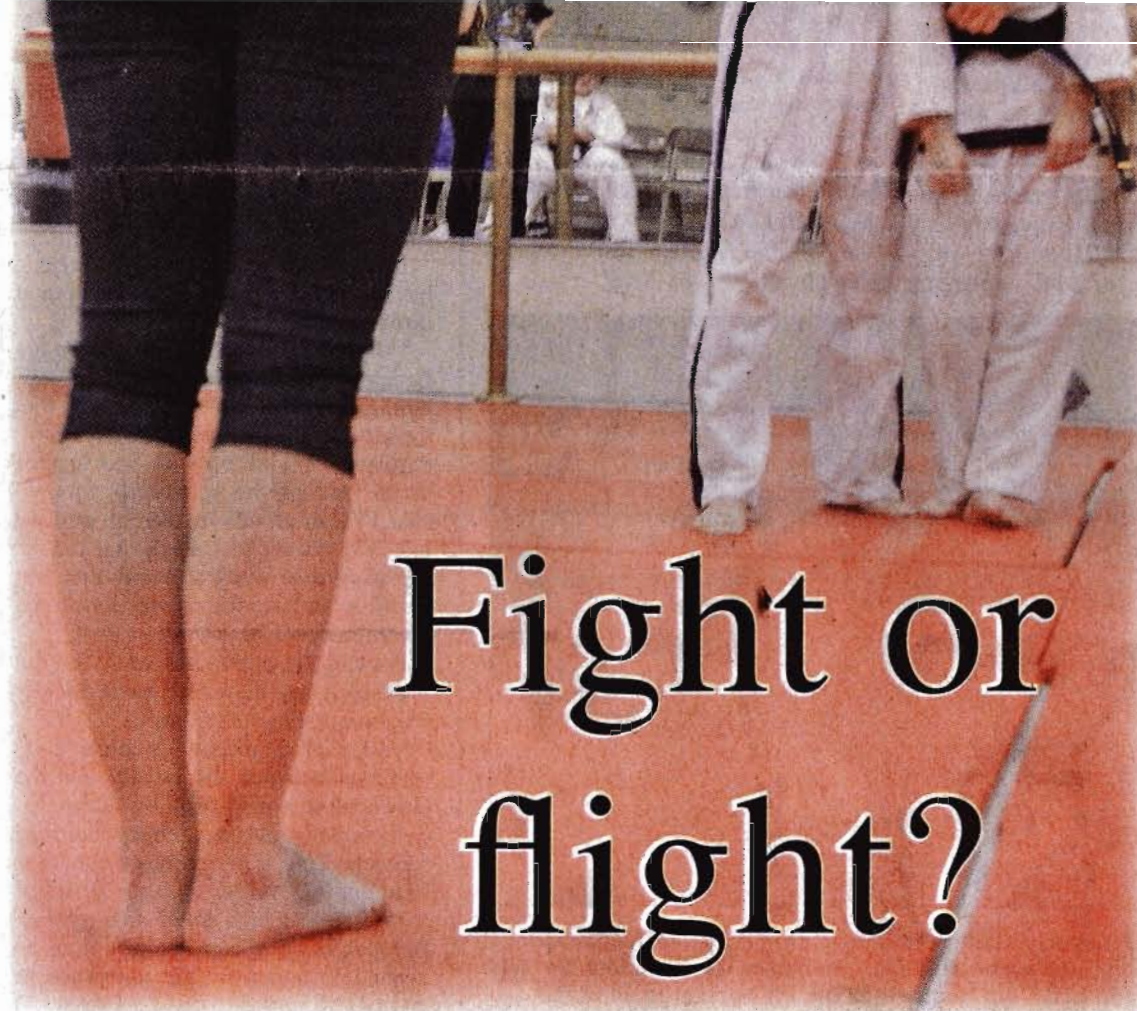
What are your plans for May and summer terms?

ONLINE @

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Student of the Jacksonville Taekwondo Academy Laura Ann Martin looks on as her self defense instructor, Ted Turgeon, demonstrates a technique with another student. Photo by Jordan Crowe

By Bethany Harbison
Editor in Chief

Fifty-eight-year-old Dr. Vance McLaughlin believes in the power and potential of martial arts. Had he not, he would never have invested 45 years of his life into learning, perfecting and teaching the craft.

But McLaughlin's passion for the sport is coupled with his concern for the safety of martial arts students, who may, he said, not weigh their own abilities realistically.

"When somebody comes with no ability to mentally get in the frame of mind within themselves, no physical ability and no speed — I'm supposed

to show them one little trick?" McLaughlin, now a JSU criminal justice professor, questioned.

McLaughlin referred to a phenomena he called "unconsciousness incompetence."

"In other words, we don't know we're incompetent," he said.

McLaughlin compared the potential dangers and benefits of self-defense to an inexperienced individual wielding a knife.

"It's a great thing, but I guess the idea is that it'd be like owning a knife and saying I'll be able to use this knife in a fight versus somebody who's been trained in it, has been in knife fights and is used to

See "Self Defense," page 3

Professors ponder electoral college

By Jacob Probus
Staff Reporter

The Electoral College was framed into our constitution by the founding fathers, but is the Electoral College good or bad for American democracy? Many people — 61 percent according to a Gallup Poll in 2000 after the Gore-Bush election — believe the Electoral College should be abolished. Three other Gallup Polls since 1944 have shown 60-70 percent approval for the discontinuation of the original system.

"The founders wanted there to be sort of a filter between the people and the executive branch so that there'd be a group of wise people that could reverse the will of the people if it needed to take place," explains Dr. Bill Lester, political science professor at JSU.

Many believe this was because the general public wasn't educated enough to make the decision. Glen Browder, political science professor emeritus and

See "Electoral college," page 3

Holocaust survivor Jack Bass tells his story.
Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

Finding hope amid horror

Holocaust remembrance seeks to rekindle stories of persecuted

By Zach Childree
Campus News Editor

The audience listened intently as the man on the stage recounted the horrors of the Holocaust he saw with his own eyes. The man was Jack Bass, an 84-year-old survivor of the Holocaust.

About 500 people attended the event, which was held at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center at Jacksonville State University on Thursday, April 3. The Holocaust remembrance, planned by the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee, has been an annual event for the past 27 years. The theme of this year's program was "Remembering Kristallnacht" or "The Night of the Broken Glass."

Dr. Steve Whitton, a professor in the department of English and a member of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee, said these events are important because there are few Holocaust survivors remaining.

See "Holocaust," page 3

JSU's Rush leaps into reality TV

By Zach Childree
Campus News Editor



Rush

The show is called *Paradise Hotel*, and it is filmed at an exotic, secret locale.

But, amid that exotic location is a familiar face.

Jacksonville State University student Aaron Rush, a business major, auditioned for a part on the reality program.

"In the audition process, everyone went in pretty casual or dressy clothes," Rush said. "When I went in, I looked like I was already going to paradise. I had swim trunks on."

Rush said the producers called him in for a second interview the next day. That interview was filmed and sent to the producers of *Paradise Hotel*, who picked him for the cast.

The show takes place on a remote tropical is-

See "Paradise," page 6

Announcements

- Baptist Campus Ministries invites all students to attend their weekly worship service, "Celebration," Tuesdays at 8 p.m. at the BCM.

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy:

Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed and limited to 50 words. Submissions must also include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at the Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall or e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com, by noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date.

The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and style.

Campus Crime

Tuesday, April 1

- Student Kenisha Staples reported theft of property from Campus Inn Apartments. Items stolen include 100 DVDs and a Hewlett-Packard printer.

Thursday, April 3

- Student Vera Mae Huguley reported fraudulent use of a credit/debit card at Fitzpatrick Hall.
- Student Niaja Salahuddin reported harassing communications from an acquaintance outside of Sparkman Hall.
- Student Heather Townsend reported a burglary at Curtis Hall. Items stolen were valued around \$178.

Friday, April 4

- Student Mojisola Ayawale reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Logan Hall. An English literature book worth \$95 was stolen.
- Student Robert Griffis Jr. reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Self Hall. A guitar and a mandolin were stolen.
- Student Tommy Ray II

Fixings and franks



Tuesday, April 1, members of the music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota, stood out side of Mason hall to sell hot dogs to raise money for the organization. Students purchased custom hot dog plates for \$4. Photo by Sharon Brewer

ROTC distributes spring awards

By Ryan Rupprecht
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, April 3, the Department of Military Science, and the Gamecock Battalion held their annual Spring Awards Ceremony in the lobby of Rowe Hall. The ceremony honored students involved in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Jacksonville State University. Cadet Major Christopher Payne, the Cadet Executive Officer, hosted the event and began the ceremony by welcoming guests such as the university's president, Dr. William Meehan, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Joe Delap, among others.

Other awards "are for up-and-coming cadets who have demonstrated the requisite potential to excel as leaders."

Presenting the numerous awards to the cadets were military science professor Lieutenant Henry "Chip" Hester and Meehan.

This year's prestigious George C. Marshall ROTC Award was presented to the Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Sudsberry.

Sudsberry received the award "in recognition of his leadership and scholastic qualities, which epitomize the career of General Marshall," Payne said.

As winner Sudsberry will also

Smartie party honors Greeks' good grades

Katie Freeman
Staff Reporter

Last week, the women of Delta Zeta held their first-ever Smartie Party. All of the Panhellenic women who did not receive midterm grades were invited.

"We just wanted to give people awards who make good grades," Delta Zeta President Shae Mann said. "It's just a way to celebrate good grades and come together."

There were refreshments and a drawing for prizes, which included iTunes gift cards, spa gift cards and others.

Gina Mabrey, advisor for Delta Zeta, handed out those prizes.

"The Greek community was really tossing around some ideas as to how to improve academic success on campus."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

- The Alabama Senate, by a vote of 27-0, approved Gov. Bob Riley's appointments of **Randall Jones** of Madison and the reappointment of **Jim Bennett** of Birmingham to the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees. Bennett currently serves in the governor's cabinet as state labor commissioner. **Randall Jones** replaces **Bud Cramer** of Huntsville.

- Classes in **Martin Hall** resumed their normal schedule on April 7, after the electrical systems that had been damaged were repaired.

- The **Alabama Academy of Science** recognized JSU students Stephen Fordham, Jacob Boydson, Haley Booker and Bryan Delaune for their winning entries in this year's Chemistry Undergraduate Research Competition. The academy also awarded Dr. Harry Holstein with the rank of Fellow of the Alabama Academy of Science.

- Career Placement Services presented speaker **FBI Agent Craig Bates** on April 8. Agent Bates, who is an alumnus of Jacksonville State University, discussed his experiences working with the FBI. Bates' speech was part of the Distinguished Alumni Speaker Lecture Series.

- The JSU Drama department and **Alpha Psi Omega** present *Enchanted April* starting on April 17 on the mainstage at Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. Proceeds from the event will go to fund Alpha Psi Omega

stolen.

- Student Robert Griffis Jr. reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Self Hall. A guitar and a mandolin were stolen.
- Student Tommy Ray II reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the parking lot of Dixon Hall. Items stolen were valued at \$870.

Saturday, April 5

- Student Christopher Bodine reported a theft of property at Pi Kappa Phi. A laptop worth \$2000 was stolen.

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

The Week in Events

Thursday, April 10

- Peacefest, TMB Front Lawn, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, April 11

- Operation Crimson Gift Blood Drive, TMB Auditorium, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 13

- Spring Chamber Winds/Wind Ensemble Concert, Leone Cole Auditorium, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday, April 14

- Trustee Meeting, 11th floor Houston Cole Library, 10:00 a.m.
- Candlelight Vigil Against Sexual Violence, TMB Lawn, 6:00 p.m.
- Symphonic Band Concert, Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 16

- Toga Party, Leone Cole Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
- Student Teacher Seminar, TMB Auditorium, 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

versity. Cadet Major Christopher Payne, the Cadet Executive Officer, hosted the event and began the ceremony by welcoming guests such as the university's president, Dr. William Meehan, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Joe Delap, among others.

"These awards are presented to seniors who will soon graduate from Jacksonville State University and receive their commissions as Army Officers," Payne said, explaining

presented to the Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Kevin Sudsberry.

Sudsberry received the award "in recognition of his leadership and scholastic qualities, which epitomize the career of General Marshall," Payne said.

As winner, Sudsberry will also participate in the national George C. Marshall Leadership Symposium at the Virginia Military Institute later this month.



Cadet Kevin Sudsberry, Cadet Battalion Commander of the Gamecock ROTC Battalion, addresses audience members as President Dr. William Meehan and LTC Chip Hester look on. Photo courtesy of ROTC

There were refreshments and a drawing for prizes, which included iTunes gift cards, spa gift cards and others.

Gina Mabrey, advisor for Delta Zeta, handed out those prizes.

"The Greek community was really tossing around some ideas as to how to improve academic success on campus," Mabrey said. "We really feel that the Greeks are supposed to be leaders on campus."

Mabrey explained how for Greeks, having good grades at midterm and throughout the semester.

"We have academic standards from a Greek standpoint that they have to uphold and we have seen in the past that those women who are having poor midterm grades wind up with poor grades at the end of the semester," Mabrey said. "That affects us overall, and we just really want to change that image. We want everybody to know that fraternities and sororities are concerned about grades."

Around 30 people showed up for, but organizers say they hope more faculty will be involved in the future.

"We were hoping to promote good relations between the faculty and the Greek community," Mabrey said.

Jessica Bearden, academics chairman for Delta Zeta, was optimistic about the future of the event.

"We're seeing how this goes," Bearden said. "Then we're hoping to expand to hopefully get more people involved."

department and Alpha Psi Omega present *Enchanted April* starting on April 17 on the mainstage at Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. Proceeds from the event will go to fund Alpha Psi Omega scholarships. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and military.

- On Tuesday, April 8, JSU e-mail communications were down temporarily as new anti-spam and firewall protections were put into place.

- From wire, staff reports

SENATE MINUTES

The SGA Senate did not meet on Monday, April 7. The new senators will take office on April 14.

Retractions Mistakes from last week's issue:

- In Zach Childree's article "They have a dream," we said the JSU theatre production of *Other People's Dreams* was the first all-black cast in JSU history. Actually, it was the first all-black cast to take the mainstage since the 1984 production of *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*.

The Chanticleer regrets this mistake and apologizes to anyone who was affected.

More than child's play

Kids Carnival fundraises for St. Jude's Children's Hospital

By Roy S. Hill
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, April 5, sororities, fraternities and student organizations came together for the Kids Carnival, which took place on the TMB lawn at 10:00 a.m. The Alpha Xi Delta sorority sponsored this event to raise funds for the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

"I think this is a great event that the Alpha Xi Deltas have invented, and they are doing just what the Greek community needs to do," Freshman Forum adviser Mardracus Russell said of the event.

Jessica Younce, a freshman majoring in elementary education and an Alpha Xi Beta sorority member, was the leading force behind this event.

"We put together this Kids Carnival as a way to raise money with the proceeds going to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital," Younce said. "There is a contest going on between each organization. Whichever bucket ac-

cumulates the most tickets will get 10 percent of the proceeds made today."

Younce estimated that approximately 75-100 attended Saturday's carnival, Alpha Xi Delta's first event of its kind.

Among the booths of Panhellenic sororities and fraternities was the Freshman Forum, which was the organization garnering the most tickets, with their total of 71. Russell, along with the forum members was asked by Younce to participate in the carnival.

"We thought it would be a good idea and a good community service project," Russell said. "One of the things we are looking to do in the Freshman Forum to do is community service for the community."

Russell, who helped man the forum's bucket-toss booth, said the Greek community is not just about partying.

"They are about grades and academics and giving back to the community."

The sorority Zeta Tau Alpha, who had the second-highest ticket sales,

also participated in the carnival.

"Alpha Xi Delta is sponsoring the Kids Carnival event to benefit their philanthropy," said ZTA member Jessica Jansen, a senior majoring in biology. "Being a Panhellenic sorority, we're helping raise money. We think this something that would be good for the community."

Kappa Sigma's booth was ladderball throwing, and Delta Chi participated in the event by setting up a dunking booth. Drew Lindsay, a junior elementary education major, said he was happy to contribute.

"We're trying to help out any way we can," Lindsay said. "We do an annual Easter egg hunt for the kids, did that a couple weeks ago. We love doing anything for the kids."

Despite the mud and clouds, Alpha Xi Delta's event offered barbecue and games to those in attendance.

Self Defense: Avoid, flee from danger

Continued from page 1

seeing the blood and everything else," McLaughlin said. "But it is a whole different world. Just because I own a knife, that doesn't make me able to use it."

The optimistic, over-confident swagger one may gain from taking a few self-defense classes may in fact, according to McLaughlin, put some students at an greater danger by discouraging them from disengaging.

"There is no problem with running and screaming," McLaughlin said.

Jason Butler, a senior majoring in psychology and economics, explained how during his five years of training in KungFu, he was taught to avoid the confrontation if at all possible.

"(My first reaction would be) negotiation by all means," Butler, who reached the level of a black belt, said. "I would never start anything, and if I resorted to physical action, again, it will be a last resort."

For JSU senior Candice Garner, who is studying criminal justice and chemistry, her few years of karate training — during which she too earned a black belt — left her pre-

pared, but not overflowing with confidence in her abilities.

"Defending yourself could cause harm to you — more than if you ran," Garner said. "However, if running is not possible, then your only choice is to defend yourself in order to survive the situation."

While Garner does not keep products like pepper spray or a horn on her person, she said she does carry her keys clenched between her fingers with her hand in a fist — a technique she believes will aid her if she finds she is in need of defending herself.

Greg Wells, owner and instructor of Ki-HiHoDo Karate Centers in Oxford, Ala., emphasized that each student learns martial arts and self-defense skills at his or her own pace, and he explained how a dose of common sense can go a long way towards protecting oneself.

"Stay in well-lit, well-traveled areas. Have your cell phone always, and consider carrying devices like a whistle or a horn," Wells said. "Don't think about self-defense techniques if you've just started. And if your gut tells you it's a bad situation, then get the heck out of there."

Recreation: King says activity fee a possibility

Continued from page 1

what we can do to improve and to see if we are doing something we should work on," Jones said.

Students were also asked to venture their opinions on how much they would be willing to pay toward a student activity fee if one were ever to be instituted.

But King explained the survey's purpose was to gain a feel for student opinion — not to act rashly.

"In no way, shape or form am I proposing we should build a new recreational center tomorrow and start charging students fees," King said.

JSU president, Dr. William Meehan, has spoken out in opposition to the institution of any separate fees for students, saying that JSU's lack of additional fees is something of which to be proud.

King said his only intent is to seek the data of what students desire to see happen within campus recreation, and he would only begin to consider such a fee if both students and Meehan were in support.

"I would not do anything to undermine or circumvent his wishes or desires," King said of Meehan.

But Jones said the need for improved facilities and fields does exist. Stephenson Hall was built in 1938, Jones explained, ranking as one of the oldest buildings on campus.

The hall was renovated in 1988, but Jones said recreational and intramural facilities are now in need of expansion.

"My dream would be to have a facility located in such a way that it could be surrounded by intramural fields," Jones said, as he explained the need for lighted fields to allow intramural play to continue at night.

LAST-DITCH EFFORT • By John Kroes



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	8		7					1
1		8					2	
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04-10-2008

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Coffeehouse offers creative outlet

By Shalon Montgomery
Staff Reporter

As a part of Phi Beta Sigma Week, the fraternity held the Word of Mouth Coffeehouse on Wednesday, April 2, in the auditorium of the Theron Montgomery Building.

The Word of Mouth Coffeehouse was an open-mic event that allowed JSU students to share singing and poetic talents with peers.

The audience for the coffeehouse exceeded 80 people, and their attitudes were laid back, respectful and mellow — the exact atmosphere Phi Beta Sigma was looking for.

"The crowd we tried to attract was a laid back and mature group of people who wanted to express themselves in other ways," Phi Beta Sigma President Dervil Hamilton said.

The coffeehouse's host was Phi Beta Sigma brother Robert Copeland.

Copeland strived to keep a smile on the audience members throughout the show.

"He was a friendly guy," freshman Donnell Cole said. "He made the performers feel comfortable so they could just go up and perform."

Several performers took the stage Wednesday night, but for many of the audience members, the performance of the night came from local rap artist Young Hustla, who rapped his song "Paperboy."

"The performers were good, but Young Hustla was my favorite," freshman Majisola Auan-

wale said.

The coffeehouse wasn't just for entertainment though — Phi Beta Sigma also invited two speakers to talk to the audience about life after college.

The speakers were Sheryl Brruges, head of human resources at the Southern Research Institution in Birmingham and Phi Beta Sigma brother Lemuel Davis, an adjunct instructor at JSU. The two talked about subjects ranging from job interview techniques to the importance of plain old hard work. Mrs. Brruges even did a couple of mock interviews with volunteers from the audience. "I liked that Phi Beta Sigma had speakers there to talk about life after college," freshman Krystal Rumph said.

The architect of the Word of Mouth Coffee House was Hamilton.

"I got the idea for the coffee house from events that were held at the university I attended before I came to JSU," said Hamilton, who previously attended the University of Alabama. "We had events of this nature in brothers of Phi Beta Sigma houses before, but this was the first time we did it in this big of a setting."

With the success of Phi Beta Sigma Week, Hamilton said he feels confident about his fraternity future here at JSU.

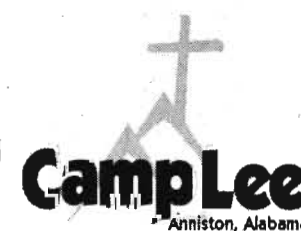
"Phi Beta Sigma is on the rise, and JSU can expect a totally new flavor out of us next semester," Hamilton said.

Electoral College: 270 votes needed to secure election

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day night, but for many of the audience members, the performance of the night came from local rap artist Young Hustla, who rapped his song "Paperboy."

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that it could be surrounded by intramural fields," Jones said, as he explained the need for lighted fields to allow intramural play to continue at night.

Electoral College: 270 votes needed to secure election

Continued from page 1

former U.S. congressman, said it was not necessarily that voters were ignorant or uneducated.

"It's that they (the founders) felt like the leaders knew more about what was going on. Plus it was mechanically, technically, impossible to involve the voters because they didn't have the communication abilities back then that we have today."

Many attempts have been made to change the original system. According to the National Archives and Records Administration, over the past 200 years, there have been over 700 proposals to reform or eliminate the Electoral College introduced in Congress.

According to Lester, abolishing the system would take an amendment to the constitution, ratified by two-thirds of the states.

"The small states have no incentive for agreeing to this because all it would do is give power and authority away to the large, more populous states," Lester said. "It will be our system, I would bet the ranch on that."

The National Popular Vote Bill, which has been enacted in Maryland and New Jersey, and is on the governor's desk in Illinois, creates a loophole. The bill would create an interstate compact, or contract between the states, which would require the states to award their electoral votes to the winner of the national popular vote. 70 percent of Americans would prefer the system to work this way, according to a Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation-Harvard University study. After all, this is the way almost every other democracy in the world elects its leaders.

"I guess on the plus side of it, it forces us to behave more like the United States, instead of the united individuals, because what it does is the winning candidate has to get that magic number of 270 electoral votes. In order to do that, especially if it's a tighter election, it matters how (the small states) are going to vote, and if we went on pure popular vote, there would be a lot more campaigning in the larger population areas, and a lot more of the rural, smaller states would be just fly-over territory," Lester says. "Now under the (current) system it forces the candidates

to do a little more accounting of where the electoral votes will come from."

Dr. Tim Barnett, another political science professor at JSU, explains that the Electoral College was created under the assumption that the states would use proportional distribution of their electoral votes. If a state had ten electoral votes and one candidate got 60 percent of the vote, that candidate would get six electoral votes. The remaining votes would be distributed in the same manner to the remaining candidates. He says the states due to competitive pressure adopted the winner take all system, where the candidate with the majority of the votes gets all the electoral votes. It is now left up to the states how they award their votes.

"It's theoretically possible that say, you barely win in Texas, you get all of the electoral votes in Texas, then your opponent crushes you in say Louisiana and gets 90 percent of the vote, and then they get all of (those) electoral votes, and the you win in Mississippi by a squeaker, but when you add them all up, you have less, but you have more, because you won more states," Lester said.

Holocaust: Bass recounts tales from time in camps

Continued from page 1

"We want to have them all tell their stories," he said.

Their stories are of the horrors of war and the way people such as Jack Bass survived.

"I consider myself lucky," Bass said. "We thought (those sent to the gas chamber) were the exception, but actually we were the exceptions because we were the ones that got to live."

Bass said there were between 500 and 600 people put in the camp at Auschwitz, and the rest were ushered into the gas chamber.

"When people were gassed, it didn't sound like people," Bass said. "It was a roar, like a lion. I could hear it. I can still hear it today."

According to Bethany Latham, another member of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee, the crowd who gathered to listen to Bass' story is much larger than the group who attended the first event in 1982.

"In the beginning, it was a short, small affair, attended by about 25 people," Latham said.

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which sanctioned the JSU event, was cre-

ated in 1980 by Congress. The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council provides for ways the United States can continue to remember the Holocaust. Latham said the JSU Holocaust Remembrance Committee was formed in accordance with this law. Still, event participant and JSU professor Dr. Russell Lemmons said eyewitness accounts reveal the human side of the story than facts and figures.

On that night, Jack Bass was willing to tell his story.

Bass said he knows there are those who deny that the Holocaust ever happened.

"For those who those who don't believe (in the Holocaust), I can show you the number tattooed on my arm, which was given to me at Auschwitz," he said.

Bass said the prisoners were given little on which to sustain themselves.

"We had to sustain ourselves on two slices of bread a day and a cup of watery soup," Bass said. "Anything that was in the kitchen that was inedible, like rotten cabbage, was put in our soup."

Bass told of prisoners who tried to escape the camps.

"There were some people that just couldn't take it and they would just run into the field to be shot down by (the soldiers)," Bass said.

WHO ELSE?

This year's Holocaust Remembrance focused mainly on the persecution of the Jews during the Holocaust. But Latham said the committee does recognize that other groups were arrested and killed during the Holocaust.

"The majority of those who were persecuted and murdered by the Nazis' campaign of genocide were Jewish," Latham said. "But they were not the only ones; other groups (e.g. homosexuals, Communists, the mentally ill) were also singled out for extermination. The discussion is different at each Remembrance program because it's directed by the experiences of the Holocaust survivor who's speaking, and Mr. Bass happens to be a German Jew."

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OUR VOICE

A better tomorrow for NBC's "Today"

On Monday, April 7, Kathie Lee Gifford returned to morning television, as she was installed as co-host of the fourth hour of NBC's *Today* show. Alongside Hoda Kotb, Gifford's job will be to make sure the populace has all the facts straight on the important topics of the day. Not Iraq, the economy or international affairs. You know, the significant stuff -- weight loss, makeup tips and fashion.

In an era we call the Information Age, it seems the only place information is forbidden is the modern-day *Today* show. While still accompanied by its iconic John Williams score and a voiceover intoning, "From NBC News, this is TODAY!" the show abandons nearly all traces of news after 7:30 a.m.

When *Today* was still a two-hour show (was it ever a two-hour show?), newscasts were delivered at the top and bottom of every hour. It wasn't unusual to see an in-depth discussion on AIDS (September 9, 1985), a 10-minute dissection of a presidential debate (September 24, 1976) or an entire hour dedicated to a substantive debate on racial integration (October 2, 1957).

These days, segments hardly last more than a few minutes, and the last in-depth piece we recall was devoted to an interview with Brad Pitt or some such. Newscasts have been relegated to filler slots only once an hour, mostly sandwiched between awkward nuggets of conversation with the ever-present, ever-screaming crowd at Rockefeller Center.

And the fourth hour (the Gifford/Kotb lovefest) is devoid of any semblance of news. No newscast, no weather update, not a paltry scrap of useful information to be had. Yet it still carries the NBC News banner.

Today is not the only offender of news sensibilities on the airwaves. But it certainly has the most of which to be ashamed. It is the world's first morning news program, with a rich legacy stretching back to 1952.

Its creator, NBC President Pat Weaver, envisioned a program which could take the viewers anywhere in the world, interview the newsmakers of the day and provide the viewer with an increased sense of the people and events shaping the nation and world.

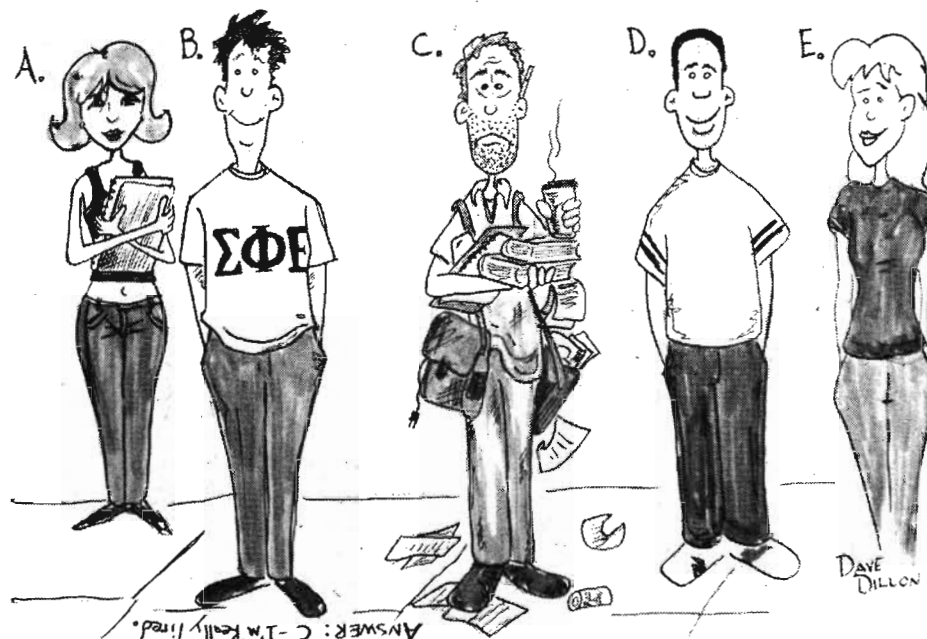
Fifty-six years later, the show demonstrates on rare occasions that it still can fulfill those high hopes. Days like July 7, 2005, when *Today* went live in all time zones for six hours to cover the London terrorist bombings.

DAVE DILLON

Political Cartoonist

Puzzler:

CAN YOU GUESS WHICH
ONE IS A GRAD STUDENT?



Violent event will eventually prove positive

By Dr. Timothy King

Earlier this week, I took my children, Alex (10), Davis (8) and Olivia (4), on a golf cart ride around campus. If you asked them, riding around in the golf cart is one of life's greatest treasures. All three were excited beyond words when I showed up at our quaint university rental with the golf cart. It could have been Christmas morning.

Why do I take them on rides around campus? I do it because JSU is my community, just as it is yours. JSU is my new family, and I want to experience all of it, meet new family members and immerse my wife and children in the JSU culture. It is important to me because family and community are vital aspects of JSU's tradition and heritage.

As we drove through campus, the scent of spring wafted through our senses, and I decided I must be the luckiest man on earth to have a loving wife, three wonderful children and a job at JSU, where community is always part of the experience — or so I thought.

As we rounded Trustee Circle and rode the crest approaching Dugette Hall, I saw a crowd of students, probably 100 or more, encircling a smaller group of students who shoving one another. At first, I thought the students were horsing around or wrestling.

But suddenly a fist flew, and a violent fight ensued. Bodies were flying about,

persed — just as UPD arrived.

My oldest son Alex asked if we could leave because he had seen enough, and my daughter climbed in my lap, clutching at my suit jacket lapels tightly and saying "I'm scared, Daddy."

And Davis made the most telling comment about the experience — "I hope we never see that again," he said.

What if a prospective student and family had been driving by when the fight occurred? What if someone from the media happened to be in the vicinity? For those involved, what if your loved ones had witnessed this fight?

Given today's sensitivities about violence on college campuses nationwide, I do not think a prospective family or a media representative would have interpreted what I saw as a simple disagreement between gentlemen. I cannot speak for anyone else's mother, but mine would have been very disappointed in me had I been in the middle of that fracas, and she would have asked, "Didn't I teach you how to settle differences without fighting?"

Some might argue that it is not a good idea for this piece to appear in *The Chanticleer* because it brings negative attention to JSU. I disagree. Healthy communities recognize their problems and deal with them appropriately. Calling attention to the fight I witnessed is the first step. The second is to challenge students to become vested in their community and

Team, along with support from faculty and staff, to help students become more responsible for their actions.

I believe a student-centered student conduct system will enable students to take the lead rather than sit by passively — or actively — as others engage in violent and other behavior that is contrary to the tradition of family and community growth so closely associated with the JSU experience. We have many more positives at JSU than negatives, and most of us consider JSU to be a safe environment.

It is. Highlighting this incident is not equivalent to a failing grade in safety. From a safety perspective, JSU is quite capable. We live and breathe safety in many ways, but we need our students engaged in the process too. Drawing attention to the fight in order to deal with it is what a healthy family does. It's ugly and uncomfortable for some. We'll work through that.

Others could care less and are indifferent. We'll help you get on board or help you find another community where you can be apathetic and acceptable. JSU is not a community for people who feel this way. Some are ready for the challenge to be more responsible. We'll help you become leaders who will assist the campus with effective change. Some students might not have experience with healthy conflict resolution, but it is my hope for all to learn this skill at JSU. It will take

stretching back to 1952. Its creator, NBC President Pat Weaver, envisioned a program which could take the viewers anywhere in the world, interview the newsmakers of the day and provide the viewer with an increased sense of the people and events shaping the nation and world.

Fifty-six years later, the show demonstrates on rare occasions that it still can fulfill those high hopes. Days like July 7, 2005, when *Today* went live in all time zones for six hours to cover the London transit bombings.

Today could still deliver that caliber of news coverage on a daily basis if it tried. By devoting more attention to its neglected journalistic credentials and less to supermarket-tabloid fluff, it would better serve its audience. There's no reason it couldn't be done — other than laziness.

It's time for the public to demand better coverage. And it's time for the *Today* cast and production crew to deliver.

BRIEF THOUGHT

Foreign partners boost state

This week, Governor Riley wraps up a weeklong trip to China. It was his third such visit since he took office. But he and his 60-person Alabama delegation weren't sightseers. They were there for business.

Since the delegation left Alabama last Friday, Apr. 4, they've spoken to Chinese investors, encouraging them to invest in Alabama businesses. The delegation is trying to stake Alabama's claim in the burgeoning Chinese middle class, offering sources to satisfy growing demand for consumer products.

And it may be working. China was the third most popular destination for Alabama-made goods in 2007, generating nearly \$809 million.

Drumming up international trade seems to be somewhat of a trademark for the Riley Administration. Riley's focus on bringing international business to Alabama has strengthened the state's economy and bolstered the sagging manufacturing sector.

Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom and Mexico all number among Alabama's biggest customers.

Riley and his contingent represent state business interests, schools and tourism. Their work in China may bring more business opportunities to the state. We hope other such success will stem from similar trips, such as a South American sojourn slated for later this year, or other missions yet to be planned.

Partially through such cooperation, we've already made big economic strides, and there's hardly reason to think we can't do more.

Reaching out to other countries is an excellent way to show Alabama's technological and manufacturing prowess, spurring investors to pump more money into the state and making Alabama a trustworthy name in the world's markets.

As we rounded Trustee Circle and rode the crest approaching Daugette Hall, I saw a crowd of students, probably 100 or more, encircling a smaller group of students who shoving one another. At first, I thought the students were horsing around or wrestling.

But suddenly a fist flew, and a violent fight ensued. Bodies were flying about, fists wailing, onlookers jeering and cheering — and my children were in as much shock as I was.

I immediately contacted the Jacksonville State University Police Department, and observers saw me on the phone. No sooner had I hung up than the crowd dis-

Some might argue that it is not a good idea for this piece to appear in *The Chanticleer* because it brings negative attention to JSU. I disagree. Healthy communities recognize their problems and deal with them appropriately. Calling attention to the fight I witnessed is the first step. The second is to challenge students to become vested in their community and refuse to allow antisocial behavior to rear its ugliness in our living and learning environment. There is no place for it in this atmosphere. Students have a responsibility to the community to hold one another accountable for their actions.

The third step is for the Student Affairs

can be apathetic and acceptable. JSU is not a community for people who feel this way. Some are ready for the challenge to be more responsible. We'll help you become leaders who will assist the campus with effective change. Some students might not have experience with healthy conflict resolution, but it is my hope for all to learn this skill at JSU. It will take time and tremendous effort, but I firmly believe we can achieve this goal.

Dr. King joined the JSU administration last summer as the associate vice president for student affairs and enrollment.

Exploring, examining the Hispanic opportunity

By Dr. George Lauderbaugh

During a recent engagement in Oxford, Anita Andrews, a speaker for the Alabama Eagle Forum, addressed the organization's perception that Hispanic immigration to the United States is a threat to American ideals of liberty. Andrews and others, including Harvard professor and author, Samuel P. Huntington and CNN Commentator Lou Dobbs, have been sounding alarm bells that unless the tidal wave of newcomers from Latin America, both legal and illegal, is not reversed the United States will lose its unique identity.

This will be followed by political chaos and the eventual fall of American civilization.

I emphasize the difference in political traditions between Latin America and the United States in my Latin America History courses. There is no question that the states of Latin America have struggled politically and have often fallen victim to rule by dictators. Moreover, the region has suffered from instability as evidenced by the often-kaleidoscopic change of governments during various periods.

However, despite this history, I do not view the influx of Hispanic immigrants as a threat or problem but rather as an

opportunity.

Let me explain.

First, the people who are immigrating from Latin America are rejecting the political and economic systems that have denied them the future that they seek for their families.

They are tired of governments that do not respond to the needs of the people and are frustrated with economic systems that have not adequately rewarded hard work, risk taking and creativity. Thus, they are bringing with them values and behaviors that are historically American, including a work ethic and a willingness to delay immediate gratification for the attainment of long-term prosperity.

A productive, hard working labor pool is an obvious benefit to any country.

Those decrying Hispanic immigration point to the burden the newcomers are placing on public services, especially our under-funded school systems.

Once again, I see opportunity.

I want the children of immigrants in school because it is in school that the unique American identity and value system is taught. It is also in our education system that immigrant children will acquire the skills, including mastery of the English language that will help them be successful and, ultimately, contribute to the economic viability of the United States. Unlike many, I advocate that His-

panics encourage their children to retain Spanish while at the same time becoming fluent in English. Of course the language of the United States must remain English in all official transactions and every immigrant who is serious about remaining in the United States understands this.

However, if we have a segment of our work force that is bilingual it will provide us with an opportunity to be more competitive in the Spanish-speaking world.

The Hispanic opportunity also applies to Jacksonville State University.

We offer a number of courses such as Modern Latin America and Latin American Civilization as well as Spanish classes that provide background and understanding of this fascinating and complicated region. In addition, our campus community includes faculty and students from Latin America as well as Latinos who have always considered the USA to be their home.

This is an excellent opportunity to explore the immigration debate through civil dialog rather than succumbing to fear and hysteria.

Dr. Lauderbaugh is an associate professor in the department of history and foreign languages

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.

Letters Policy:

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

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

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Music Corner

ALBUMS OF THE WEEK

Josh Gracin

We Weren't Crazy

Josh Gracin's new release *We Weren't Crazy* isn't bad. It's just not great. It sounds like almost every other new release from Nashville. All the songs sound as if they were cut from the same template. And his voice sounds like so many others from Music City. Judging from the album art and pictures it seems as though the singer is trying to depart from the Nashville norm, you just couldn't tell it from listening to the music.

"Invisible" is one of the better songs on the album. Lyrically, it's standard contemporary country, but it does have a fairly interesting arrangement. The mandolin is very prevalent in the mix and adds an interesting touch. The chorus loses some of the original sound though. "Favorite State of Mind" has a little hint of zydeco, traditional Cajun music, with the accordion having a predominant role. There's a bit of rock flavor to it as well. But once again, it loses its originality in the chorus.

"Livin' it up" has some interesting elements to the music as well. But it doesn't depart from the Nashville sound too much though. It's like a cross between a pop rock and pop country song, each with equal influence.

The album lacks much originality, but that's true with almost all new country albums. I'm sure the remarks would be quite different from a die-hard Nashville music lover. The plug-and-play songwriting formula used by most country songwriter teams makes money, but not fresh innovative music.

— Jacob Probus

Switches

Lay Down the Law

Lay Down the Law, the new album from Switches, is a little generic. The tunes are catchy — but not all that original.

The band has a decidedly indie-rock sound. The music is rocking, and a bit of sarcasm maybe detectable in some of the lyrics. In "Snakes and Ladders," the chorus sounds as if it is mocking hair band rock.

"Lay Down the Law" is hard and edgy. The chorus is very memorable — they know how to write a hook. The drum work is cool, and the backup vocals remind me of a Queen album.

The lead singer does his best girl voice impression in "The Need to be Needed." "Message from Yuz" starts out sounding just like The White Stripes. The chorus sounds like it belongs on the Dazed and Confused soundtrack. The singer proclaims, "Rip out your heart and give it to me."

"Stepkids in Love" is one of the better songs on the album. It is very interesting to say the least. The main riff on the guitar is driving and blues tinged. The backup vocals are comical. They sound like a kid trying to sing as low as possible. The lyrics are darkly humorous about precisely what the title eludes. It's original.

"Killer Karma" is a really cool song. It has this soul R&B rhythm. The chorus is a rock anthem — you could picture legions of teenagers singing it. The melody is undeniable.

Lay Down the Law has a couple of really good tunes on it. Most of them are bland, but it certainly isn't a horrible album. The musicianship is good, and the songs are full of hooks.

— Jacob Probus

Your time or mine?

1,226 Georgians cross state line, juggle time difference to attend JSU

By Lauren W. Haney
Staff Writer

When choosing a college, students consider tuition prices, quality and atmosphere — but rarely time zones.

But for the 1,226 Georgian JSU students, the issue of time differences is one with which they have learned to deal. Even after the students are settled into Jacksonville, the final adjustment is often the hour-earlier time change in Alabama.

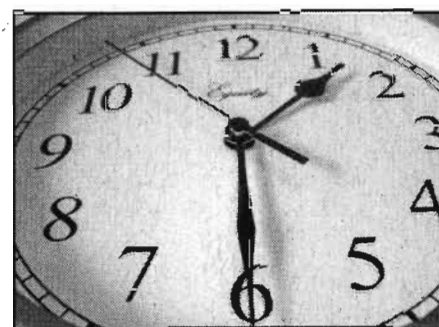
"It always takes ten minutes to try and explain to my mom what time I am talking about," student Katie Shepard said. "The conversation is always 'Your time or my time?'"

Alabama natives who choose Alabama universities tend to take the luxury of learning and living in one time zone for granted.

When picking up the phone to call Grandma, Alabama students don't have to stop and wonder, "What time is it there?"

Interviews with students about the difficulties caused by time zones revealed the time difference causes the most confusion with phone calls. According to students, this can create embarrassing one-sided arguments with a significant other, causing each to wonder why he or she did not call on time.

It also means a greater possibility of waking up Mom and Dad — but students



For those students who live and learn in separate time zones, the time is constantly on their mind. Photo by Kenny Boulahanis

also complain of Mom and Dad returning the favor early in the morning. This results in pre-planning of phone calls that usually result in a confusing conversation.

Another thing Alabamians take for granted is the ability to conduct all of their errands within one state.

"I have to make sure I leave in the morning and not have anything to do for the rest of the day especially with traffic," Zeta Phi Beta member Shamika Jessup said. "That hour doesn't seem like a lot, but it really is."

Jessup also said that after three years of attending JSU, she still keeps her car clock set to Georgia time. Since she "thinks" in Georgia time, she is usually

off due to being an hour early. Television shows are also a big concern to these Georgians and those hailing from other time zones. When adjusting to the difference, students often miss their favorite shows. It's especially frustrating when the program is filmed live, offering a lesser likelihood of a rerun.

As of Fall 2007, 1,114 of the 1,226 are from the ten counties that receive in-state tuition to the university — Bartow, Carroll, Chattooga, Coweta, Douglas, Floyd, Haralson, Heard, Paulding and Polk.

Karen Maxwell, one of four JSU recruiters, is assigned to work solely in the state of Georgia. The other three recruit in the rest of Alabama, Chattanooga, Nashville, the Florida panhandle and Jacksonville, Fla. In the past, Maxwell said she has recruited mainly in the in-state counties. Now she is working to recruit students from Cobb and Gwinnett County, efforts that have proven successful as well.

Maxwell said JSU's low tuition attracts students from Georgia and other areas, but students say they also love the atmosphere.

Going to a college with an hour-earlier time difference isn't always a bad thing though, according to students who said the difference can have its advantages.

Paradise: Rush says personality is key for reality TV

Continued from page 1

land resort, but Rush said due to contractual obligations, he could not reveal the location of the island.

"I can tell you that it's an undisclosed tropical location," he said. "I can't tell the amount of the prize and some production stuff."

The show has an odd numbers of contestants and each person has to choose one roommate at the end of each episode. Each week the contestant who isn't chosen as a roommate is voted off the show — similar to a version of musical chairs, but with roommates.

Also present was the standard reality show device of the confessional. On the show, each contestant has private time with a camera where they discuss their feelings about other cast members and situations. Rush said he wasn't surprised by anything the other cast members said

behind his back.

"I pretty much knew what they were going to say about me because of the way I portrayed myself and my personality," Rush said. Rush also explained how important for him to hold on to his values on a show where contestants strip and swim naked together.

"I'm a Christian," Rush said. "I'm very involved in church and in the Lord. I don't want to go into this industry without that aspect of my life."

Rush said he hopes the show will provide a way for him to share his faith. He also said he sometimes felt pressure to be more of a character for the camera.

"The majority of it is reality," he said. "There are certain instances where they may just want you to talk about a certain situation. Those are very seldom, but it's more reality than anything."

Rush said even with the pressure to be more of a character, there are some things

he won't do.

"As far as taking off my clothes — no, I'm not going to do that on camera," he said.

If other JSU students are thinking about auditioning for a reality show, Rush has advice for them.

"For any reality television, they're looking for personality," Rush said. "(They are looking for someone who really shows themselves and is not scared to let loose and have a good time — let loose meaning to have fun and enjoy themselves, not giving up your morals and values."

Rush said for students to not be surprised by what the producers choose to broadcast if they do find themselves cast in a reality program.

"What you see on TV in one hour of show is shot over two or three days," Rush said. "So much is cut out. They show you what they want to show you."

...day down the drain had a couple of really good tunes on it. Most of them are bland, but it certainly isn't a horrible album. The musicianship is good, and the songs are full of hooks.

— Jacob Probus

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Sports

GAMECOCK
BRIEFS

• The Jacksonville State women's tennis team won three consecutive matches over the weekend, extending its OVC winning streak to seven. The Lady Gamecocks opened with a 7-0 sweep over Southeast Missouri State on Friday, winning two of the three doubles matches and all six singles matches in straight sets. They followed that performance with a 4-3 victory over Murray State on Saturday. After dropping the doubles point, **Viviane Marani, Kimberly Ferris, Julianna Renesto** and **Eloah Lopes** won their singles matches to give JSU a slight advantage. The women finished out the weekend with a 6-1 victory over Eastern Illinois.

• The Jacksonville State men's tennis team also put together an outstanding weekend. The team defeated Murray State easily on Saturday, winning 7-0. The men had a much tougher time with Eastern Illinois on Sunday but squeaked out a 4-3 win. **Steffen Soloman** clinched the victory for the Gamecocks with a 7-5, 6-1 win over the Racers' **Chris Thomas**. The Gamecocks are now 5-2 in OVC play.

• The Jacksonville State track and field team combined for six wins and set three school records on Saturday to win the third annual **Gem of the Hills Invitational**, which the school hosts. The

Aiming for recognition

Dickinson thinking of training for 2012 Olympics

By Julie Skinner
Senior Sports Writer

Throw out innings and quarters because this sport doesn't use them.

Michael Dickinson will tell you that. He will also tell you, even though many people don't view the rifle team at Jacksonville State University as a sport as demanding as football, baseball or basketball, that the rifle team works just as hard as any sports team and exercises its wallets even harder.

"A lot of what I hear is that people say that the rifle team isn't a real sport because it's not as physically demanding, blah, blah, blah," Dickinson said. "We may not physically strain our bodies, but mentally, I'd say that it's probably one of the toughest sports there is."

A junior at JSU, Dickinson joined the rifle team as a freshman. Also part of the ROTC program and balancing schoolwork, he still finds time to practice rifle for hours every day and works out twice a week with the rest of the team at strength and development training with Ricky Rutledge.

Talk of participating in the 2008 Olympics was active, but conflict with the ROTC's leadership course required of all juniors in May, has prevented Dickinson from participating in small-bore tryouts. This has pushed his goal back to possibly participating in the 2012 Olympics in London.

"I plan on through the army ... being able to train through at least the 2012 Olympics," Dickinson said. "So I should have one more shot at 2012."

Dickinson won the NCAA Air Rifle National Championships in Alaska last year and received a bid to compete in the championship again this year in West Point, NY.

Rifle meets consist of two different events using two different guns, air rifle and small-bore. Small-bore is where the shooters use .22-caliber firearms that shoot actual bullets. Air rifles shoot compressed air. Each collegiate match lasts for two hours with 60 shots apiece. The shooters shoot all 60 shots in air rifle standing up, while in small-bore, the 60 shots are divided into 20 shots lying down, 20 shots standing and 20 shots kneeling. The average shooter will compete for four hours.

"After I get done, my feet hurt," Matt Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie, a sophomore at JSU, just finished his second year on the rifle team. For him, it's his feet and eyes that suffer the most after a match.

"You get dehydrated standing up there," Mackenzie said. "And when you get dehydrated, your eyes are the first thing to go."

Ron Frost, who coaches JSU's rifle team and was named Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year in 2005, said that the team's dedication to the sport is what sets them apart from other teams.



Coach Ron Frost accepts the Ohio Valley Conference rifle championship trophy as team members look on following the team's recent tournament. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

"In many cases after they've actually tried it for a while, they're like, it's so boring, you know, shooting at a little dot on a piece of paper," Frost said. "And they get discouraged by that."

Aside from just being able to perform well, the rifle team requires a lot of money, another reason that people shy away from the sport.

"It's very expensive," Dickinson said. "That's why you just don't see too many people come and try out, because you have to have your own stuff."

Rifles cost anywhere between \$1,500 and \$2,500, a custom suit costs around \$1,000, special shoes that

targets that sends readings from the targets to a computer in the room directly behind the range. These electronic readings aid in evaluating how good a shot is.

For instance, a 10.9 reading is a perfect shot. Frost and the rifle team are hoping to be the first in the Ohio Valley Conference to have the electronic target lifts so that they're not lifted manually.

"We're hoping to get the funding for the electronic target lifts," Frost said.

For those who are in love with the sport, rifle is worth the criticism, the costs and the dedication.

The Jacksonville State track and field team combined for six wins and set three school records on Saturday to win the third annual **Gem of the Hills Invitational**, which the school hosts. The Gamecocks finished first as a team, amassing 170.50 points. OVC rival Samford finished in second place with 122 points.

• **Amber Wiley** broke the Jacksonville State record in the pole vault competition. The freshman from North Bend, Ore., won the event with a vault of 10-06.00.

• **Megan Ziarek** broke the school record in the 3000-meter steeplechase. The senior from Muskego, Wis., finished the event in 11:40-21 to finish in first place overall.

• **Crystal Estes** broke her own school record in the shot put competition. The sophomore from Harvey, Ill., finished in third place after a throw of 40-01.25.

• **Kendra Wise** finished first in two events over the weekend. The senior from Athens, Ga., won both the hammer throw (154-11) and the discus competition (130-02). Her performance in the hammer throw was 24 feet better than any other competitor.

• **Tasha Petree** finished first in the javelin competition. The sophomore from Red Level, Ala., finished with a throw of 98-05.

• **Nolinda Garner** was the final member of the track and field team to finish first in her respective event. The junior from Town Creek, Ala., won the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:00.81.

— From staff reports

Mackenzie, a sophomore at JSU, just finished his second year on the rifle team. For him, it's his feet and eyes that suffer the most after a match.

"You get dehydrated standing up there," Mackenzie said. "And when you get dehydrated, your eyes are the first thing to go."

Ron Frost, who coaches JSU's rifle team and was named Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year in 2005, explained that potential team members often don't know the dedication that is required of them.

Sometimes people find themselves bored with the strategy of the game.

Aside from just being able to perform well, the rifle team requires a lot of money, another reason that people shy away from the sport.

"It's very expensive," Dickinson said. "That's why you just don't see too many people come and try out, because you have to have your own stuff."

Rifles cost anywhere between \$1,500 and \$2,500, a custom suit costs around \$1,000, special shoes that aid with balance cost around \$200 and other things, such as ammunition, have to be bought as well.

The shooting range where the team practices, located in the lower floor of Rowe Hall, has electronic

For instance, a 10.9 reading is a perfect shot. Frost and the rifle team are hoping to be the first in the Ohio Valley Conference to have the electronic target lifts so that they're not lifted manually.

"We're hoping to get the funding for the electronic target lifts," Frost said.

For those who are in love with the sport, rifle is worth the criticism, the costs and the dedication.

"We're just like every other sport, we just don't have to lift heavy weights and we don't have to run after people," Mackenzie said. "It's 90 percent mental."

My better is better than your better

Ledbetter hits two home runs in doubleheader sweep of ECU

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Mary Beth Ledbetter entered the weekend with the lowest batting average among Jacksonville State starters, but she came through big time during Saturday's doubleheader against Eastern Kentucky.

Down 5-4 in both games of the doubleheader, Ledbetter catapulted the Gamecocks (23-9, 12-1 OVC) into the lead with two home runs.

"I was just trying my best to get a base hit. I wasn't planning on hitting a home run, but I think it was big for the team. Both of them were kind of game changing," Ledbetter said. "We were down 4-5 both times, and I just think both of them brought the team up. They boosted our morale a lot."

In the first contest of the day, the Gamecocks and the Colonels exchanged runs throughout the first four innings. In the bottom of the fifth, JSU loaded the bases for Ledbetter.

The sophomore from Southside, Ala., crushed a grand slam to center field, giving the Gamecocks a three-run cushion they would never relinquish.

Ledbetter's second home run of the day came in the nightcap. Down 5-2 in the

bottom half of the seventh, Courtney Underwood started the inning with a single. Allie Barker followed up with a double, putting runners at second and third base.

The Colonels retired the next two Gamecock batters, but Jackie Jarman came through with a clutch two-out double, scoring both Underwood and Barker.

Eastern Kentucky chose to pitch to Ledbetter one more time, which proved to be a very costly mistake. Ledbetter made the Colonels pay, blasting a walk-off homer that gave the Gamecocks a 6-5 victory.

"Mary Beth was a difference maker on Saturday," JSU coach Jana McGinnis said. "When their coach yelled from the dugout, she had a 2-2 count on her and runners on base. Their coach yelled from the dugout, 'You want this one' because she didn't want to pitch to Chrissy (O'Neal)."

"I'm thinking, yeah, throw one up there and Mary Beth is going to jack it, and she did. The pitcher just threw one in there and Mary Beth connected on it with a good smooth swing, and that was the ballgame."

Ledbetter finished the day 3-for-6 with two home runs, six runs batted in and three runs scored.

"Their coach yelled from the dugout, 'You want this one' because she didn't want to pitch to Chrissy (O'Neal). I'm thinking, yeah, throw one up there and Mary Beth is going to jack it, and she did."

— Coach Jana McGinnis



Mary Beth Ledbetter jogs past JSU head coach Jana McGinnis after hitting a walk-off home run against Eastern Kentucky's pitcher Kalyn Fox Saturday evening. Ledbetter finished the day 3-for-6 with two home runs and six RBI. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

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## Psycho T can sneeze with his eyes open

Hey, I was wondering, does Tyler Hansbrough play with heart?

Maybe someone could tell a story of how hard he plays. Because that angle hasn't been touched.

It's a good thing Derrick Rose doesn't play with heart. That guy could really be something someday if he only gave a crap.

It's a good thing Brandon Rush never worked to improve his natural ability. If he had Hansbrough's work ethic, he would score 56 points a game.

Constantly, it is either stated or inferred that Hansbrough is the hardest-working player in college basketball. How are these people measuring this?

I love Jay Bilas saying Hansbrough is a better competitor than Micheal Jordan. Dick Vitale said Hansbrough displayed the most desire of any player he had seen in his years of covering basketball (since the 1970s). Insane.

Look, I appreciate that Hansbrough works hard. I appreciate that he is clean cut. I especially appreciate that he is one of very few elite college basketball players to stay for four years.

But for all the hard work, for all the shortcuts not taken, for all the heart, Hansbrough blocked 14 shots in 39 games this season.

Fourteen.

He plays center. For the University of North Carolina.

The hyperbole (emphasis on the first four letters) that announcers and "experts" throw in Hansbrough's direction are nauseating. It's

# Sweeping towards OVC title

## Softball completes fourth consecutive sweep over OVC opponents

By Jared Gravette  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State softball team continued its hot streak over the weekend, sweeping yet another Ohio Valley Conference opponent.

With a three-game sweep over Eastern Kentucky, the Gamecocks (23-9, 12-1 OVC) have now won 11 consecutive OVC games.

JSU defeated the Colonels twice on Saturday behind the powerful bat of Mary Beth Ledbetter.

Ledbetter hit a grand slam to put the Gamecocks ahead in game one of the doubleheader and followed that performance with a walk-off shot in the nightcap.

Ashley Eliasson was just as impressive on Saturday. The freshman from Vallejo, Calif., picked up a save in the first game of the day and pitched a complete game in the nightcap to pick up her sixth win of the season.

Things got off to a rocky start for the Gamecocks on Sunday, as Melissa Dowling only made it through one inning, giving up seven earned runs. However, JSU didn't quit and fought back to win 8-7, securing its fourth consecutive sweep over OVC opponents.

"I'm so proud of our team because there were several times in all three games that we could have quit or buried our heads, but they didn't. We had to come from behind and win ballgames, and that says a lot about this team and the grit that they play with," JSU coach Jana McGinnis said.

JSU proved that you can never count them out on Sunday. Down 7-1 midway through the second inning, the Gamecocks slowly chipped away at the Colonels' lead.

JSU's biggest inning came in the fifth, as five Gamecocks touched home plate. The majority of the damage came from junior Allie Barker and senior Alana Hicks. Their back-to-back home runs knot-



Freshman Ashley Eliasson pitches Sunday against Eastern Kentucky. Eliasson won two games over the weekend to improve her record to 7-2. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

ted the game at seven, setting up Rachel Fleming's game-winning single.

Eliasson was brilliant in relief of Dowling, pitching six shutout innings to earn her second win of the weekend.

"I'm proud of Ashley. She didn't give up any earned runs. She held them there until our offense could just peck away, scratch away some runs," McGinnis said.

The Gamecocks will travel to Morehead State this weekend for another three-game series. The Golden Eagles are currently in second place in the conference, and Ledbetter is determined to keep them there.

"I think we were a good team last year, but this year everybody is doing their part," Ledbetter said. "I think we can continue on, and I'm pretty sure we're going to get first place."

## Two out of three ain't bad, is it?

### Gamecocks still yet to complete a sweep during the 2008 OVC season

By Jered Staubs  
Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State baseball team has a problem, but it's one that most teams would not mind having.

"Most people would be happy with a 6-3 OVC record," catcher Andrew Edge said. "We're not disappointed per se, but we know we can do better and go ahead and close out that third game. We keep talking about finishing



for him to be disappointed but he came in and pitched well."

Hetland entered the game in relief of Jason Zylstra, who recently entered the starting rotation, and pitched the final 2 2/3 innings. When the Gamecocks came back in the ninth, he was credited with his second win of the year.

In the second game, Tootle continued his stellar form, tying his career-high with 10 strikeouts, as the Game-



this season.

Fourteen. He plays center. For the University of North Carolina.

The hyperbole (emphasis on the first four letters) that announcers and "experts" throw in Hansbrough's direction are nauseating. It's not helping anyone.

It's a disservice to the other premier players in the nation. It's a disservice to the other players on the North Carolina team — at least two of whom will be drafted before Hansbrough, by the way.

It makes me dislike Hansbrough, and for that I am resentful. I should like him, I really should. But I want him to fail because of the hyperbole bandied about.

The race card is played too often, but it is legitimately an issue here. The fawning over Hansbrough and other white players is subliminal racism. It's racist against the black guys who are better but don't get near the same publicity, but it's racist against the other white players too.

The intonation is that white players don't have the natural talent, so they have to work twice as hard to be good.

A couple years ago, Brandon Roy was the best player in the nation, but J.J. Redick won player of the year. People repeatedly talked about Redick being "one of the best shooters of all time." Despite being totally false, it got to the point where it was accepted as fact. Ugh.

Another thing, do you ever hear a black player called "cerebral?" Ever?

In a word, no. You hear "cerebral" about 50 times a season, but it is, without exception, aimed at a white player who looks like he would be more comfortable in the library than the national college basketball scene.

John Stockton was my favorite basketball player of all time, and announcers constantly addressed how "cerebral" he was. That's fine, he was a great decision maker.

But how about current Jazz point guard Deron Williams? He's an All-Star, plays for the U.S. National Team and runs the offense very well. But all the compliments he receives are about his physical tools.

Was Derrick Rose not cerebral in taking Memphis to the final game? Was Stephen Curry not cerebral in taking Davidson to the Elite Eight?

Just wondering.

The state's basketball team has a problem, but it's one that most teams would not mind having.

"Most people would be happy with a 6-3 OVC record," catcher Andrew Edge said. "We're not disappointed per se, but we know we can do better and go ahead and close out that third game. We keep talking about finishing off the series with a sweep and we're spending extra time practicing finishing games."

The Gamecocks (13-16, 6-3 OVC) have won two out of each of their three conference games in each of their three series to date.

"Going into the weekend, you want to win two of three, but after winning the first two, it's disappointing not to get that sweep," coach Jim Case said. "Winning two out of three put us in pretty good shape. When you look back at the weekend, two out of three is a pretty good result and it leaves us near the top of the conference."

After taking two of three from conference-leading Samford, JSU sits in the middle of a tightly contested pack of teams. Seven teams are within 1.5 games of Samford's 6-2 record.

Edge did get the Gamecocks off to a good start in their most recent series against conference-leading Samford. He hit a game-tying home run in the ninth inning of the first game of a Saturday doubleheader, which the Gamecocks ended up winning 7-6.

After Edge tied the game at 6 with his first career home run in 142 at-bats, Jake Sharrock and Todd Cunningham singled to put the winning run in scoring position. After Bert Smith walked, Steven Leach singled up the middle to score Sharrock.

"That's something we've been able



Andrew Edge rounds third base after hitting his first career home run against Samford. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

to do, to give ourselves a chance when we're down late in the game," Case said. "We haven't always been able to come back, but we've never given up."

"Normally though, we've at least been able to get the tying run to the plate. Sometimes we've gotten it done, sometimes we haven't, but at least we've been giving ourselves a chance."

It was the third consecutive series that the Gamecocks have won a game in their final at-bat. In all, JSU has won five games in its final at-bat

this season, and three of those came in walk-off fashion.

The Gamecocks' pitching continues to improve, as Edge has witnessed from behind the plate.

"With the position I play, I take care of the pitchers, and I've seen a lot of improvements," Edge said. "Ben (Tootle) has been great all year, but some of the other guys are stepping up. Especially Nick Hetland, he had been struggling as a starter, but he went in the bullpen and came up huge for us this weekend. It would have been easy

the starting rotation, and pitched the final 2 2/3 innings. When the Gamecocks came back in the ninth, he was credited with his second win of the year.

In the second game, Tootle continued his stellar form, tying his career-high with 10 strikeouts, as the Gamecocks coasted to an 11-4 win. Cunningham led the team with a 3-for-3 day, as the Gamecocks scored in five of the six innings in which they came to the plate.

The Bulldogs were able to salvage a sweep in the final game of the series with a 9-6 win.

The normally reliable Alex Jones (4-2) got the loss for the Gamecocks after allowing four runs in only 1/3 of an inning.

Samford scored six runs in the eighth inning of the series finale to maintain its status atop the conference and break an 11-game losing streak to the Gamecocks.

John David Smelser put together his best start of the season, going six innings and recording a career-high eight strikeouts. Because of the Samford rally, Smelser (0-3) was not credited with his first win of the season.

The Gamecocks led by as much as a 5-1 margin, but Samford's Michael Rutledge sparked a Bulldog rally that led to the 9-6 final.

The Gamecocks will return to action with a home series against SEMO this weekend. Both the Saturday doubleheader and the single game Sunday are slated to begin at 1 p.m. at Rudy Abbott Field.

All three games will be broadcast on 91.9 FM.

# Only one quarterback left in town

## *Weston departs Gamecocks for community college, Ivory ready to take the reins*

**By Jered Staubs**  
**Sports Editor**

The question marks at quarterback continue to mount for JSU after recruit Casey Weston announced his decision to enroll at Northwest Mississippi Community College.

The move was the latest in a series of odd moves that have left the Gamecocks thin at the position.

Weston and Marques Ivory were expected to compete for the backup position, but then appeared to be the primary replacements when Cedric Johnson was dismissed from the team.

Despite being now in a po-

sition where the job is his to lose, Ivory almost felt disappointed at not having a rival.

"I think there is more pressure (when there is someone else trying to take the position)," Ivory said. "If there is someone to compete with, you have to beat them out. It makes you work harder than if you are doing it yourself."

While coach Jack Crowe has not announced that Ivory will be the starter, there is little reason to expect anyone else to win the position.

The two quarterbacks who participated in J-Day were Jon-Jon Walker and Riley Green.

Neither is expected to seriously compete for the start-

ing job — and Walker is expected to move back to his old position of wide receiver — though Crowe has said more than once that Green has really impressed him.

Weston's roster slot was filled by Brooks Robinson, who was expected to be a walk-on, but he has now been awarded a scholarship.

Weston told the *Anniston Star* that JSU was his only offer, but that he wants to play at a higher level.

"My coaches were telling me that's what I needed to do, that I was crazy if I don't take that caliber of offer from a team like that," he said.

"It just kept eating at me and I couldn't get it off my

mind. I wasn't ready to give up on my dream to play some kind of SEC ball or level like that."

That last statement might come as a slap in the face of those who consider JSU on the verge of moving to the highest level of NCAA football.

"I'm not trying to go to junior college to go back to Jax State," he said. "Nothing against them, they're one of the best I-AA programs you can get, but I'm not going (JUCO) to try to go back to a I-AA. If that's what I'm forced to do I will, but that's not what I'm looking at."

Ivory was rated higher than Weston by various recruiting outlets, including Scout.

com and Rivals.com, but has no plans to follow Weston's dreams of playing football at a higher level.

Ivory said that he is ready to fill the sudden void.

"I want to come in and succeed," Ivory said. "It's going to be a learning experience, coming in as a freshman new to the system, but I expect good things."

Still, for a school that has made liberal use of the two-quarterback system in recent years, going into fall practice with only one set quarterback must be an unwelcome departure.