



# The Chanticleer

Volume 56, Issue 26

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

April 17, 2008

## MORE ONLINE

### JSU's top models

Check out Clark Barron's footage from the 3rd annual JSU Rocks the Runway @ thechanticleeronline.com.

## ON CAMPUS



### Young love

JSU art student Jessica Haynes juggles planning a wedding with life as a college student.

Story on Page 2

## FEATURES

### Work it out

Everyday activities can burn major calories, creating a healthier lifestyle.

Story on Page 5

QUESTION of the

## JSU board raises tuition, housing prices

By Bethany Harbison  
Editor in Chief

On Monday, April 14, the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees decided, in a unanimous vote on Resolution 515, to increase tuition for the first time in two years. Undergraduate tuition will shoot up 12.4 percent and graduate courses by 11 percent. The university's graduate and undergraduate distance learning courses will undergo a \$50 per credit hour increase, and the cost of residence housing will shoot

up 15 percent. The fee required when applying to JSU is also increasing from \$20 to \$30.

"These represent a significant increase that is not recommended lightly," President Dr. William Meehan said.

Meehan, in his address to the board, attributed the need for this year's steep price hike to the uneven cuts Gov. Bob Riley placed upon learning institutions across the state. Four-year colleges and universities like JSU

See "Board," page 3

*On Monday, April 14, JSU students gathered peacefully, presenting to the Board of Trustees their ...*



## Meehan addresses Faculty Senate

*Tuition increase, stadium expansion, transit system points of discussion*

By Zach Childree  
Campus News Editor

On the afternoon of April 14, the Jacksonville State University Faculty Senate met to discuss subjects such as the proposed stadium expansion, the increase in tuition, and the plan by the university to implement a bus transit system on campus.

President Dr. William Meehan addressed the faculty members, informing them of the events of the morning's meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Faculty members questioned Meehan about the transit system, and he assured the senate that funding for the transit system is coming from a grant and will not be fully funded by the university.

The faculty senate also discussed the tuition increase, and Meehan reminded them that tuition doesn't increase very often at JSU.

"We have not gone up in tuition in the last two years," Meehan said. "Jacksonville State University is the only institution of higher learning in the state of Alabama that has not raised tuition in the last two years."

The meeting was Dr. James Rayburn's last as president of the JSU faculty senate. Rayburn's term as president ends at the end of this semester.

Meehan took time in his address to praise Rayburn.

"I want to compliment Dr. Rayburn for the way he has represented our faculty this last year," Meehan said. "He's done a great job."



Everyday activities can burn major calories, creating a healthier lifestyle.

Story on **Page 5**

## QUESTION of the WEEK

What are your plans for May and summer terms?



■ Taking as many classes as I can handle - 40%

■ Working my butt off for tuition money - 33%

■ Other - 20%

■ Going home - 7%



"I am taking as many classes as I can in May term and working."

-Michelle Mauldin  
Freshman

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

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Students cluster in the parking lot behind Houston Cole Library, many bearing colorful signs which questioned the fairness of the proposed \$37 million stadium. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

# Differing priorities

By Zach Childree  
Campus News Editor

About 30 students gathered in the cold rain outside Houston Cole Library on Monday before heading up to the 11th floor to protest the planned \$37 million stadium expansion.

As the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees gathered, the students held signs and talked to people passing by about their view on the stadium expansion.

Student Sarah Adams said she thinks there are better things for which to raise money.

"I believe that \$36 million could

very easily be spent on something less frivolous and more useful," Adams said.

Campus police were on hand to make sure the student protesters remained peaceful. The group was allowed to attend the meeting, and board members welcomed the protesters.

President Dr. William Meehan said he was proud of the students.

"I believe the students acted professionally and in a peaceful manner," Meehan said.

Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom Jr. said students at JSU have a long tradition of voicing opinions.

"We believe that our students always have the right to speak their

opinion in whatever way they want to," Folsom said. "We welcome student input, and we welcome their ideas and advice."

Freddy Clements, a professor in the drama department who attended the protest, said the board seemed willing to listen to the students.

"I think the school has been good at the idea of allowing them to come in, sit at the meeting and take that into consideration," Clements said.

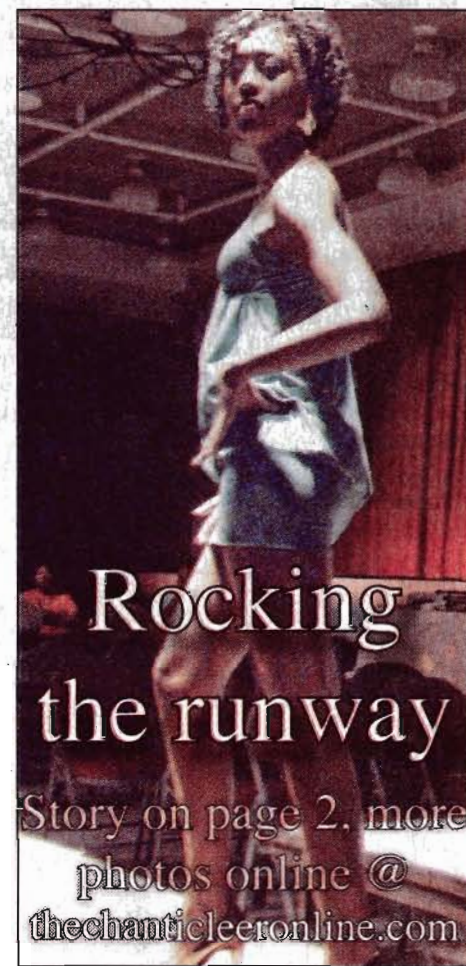
Kim Stark, one of the protest's organizers, said she didn't feel as though administrators were open to hearing the student's concerns.

"I think they acted like they were

See "Protest," page 3

Meehan took time in his address to praise Rayburn.

"I want to compliment Dr. Rayburn for the way he has represented our faculty this last year," Meehan said. "He's done a great job."



A student model strikes a pose. Photo by Jessica Rupprecht / The Chanticleer

## JSU site to receive makeover

University amid process of bringing Internet presence up to date

By Jacob Probus  
Senior Reporter

JSU's more than decade-old Web site is getting a facelift. The site has remained virtually unchanged since the early to mid-1990s, according to Graham Lewis, one of the remodelers. By mid-May, the team hopes to have the site in operation.

"The motivation behind the new Web site was acquiring new students," Tim Garner, director of marketing for JSU, said. "We have to communicate JSU's product, JSU's image, JSU's reputation, to that prospective student. The Web site is our first marketing line of defense that we have, and our website was outdated."

Those entering the new site will find three portals — one each for future students, parents and family, and alumni.

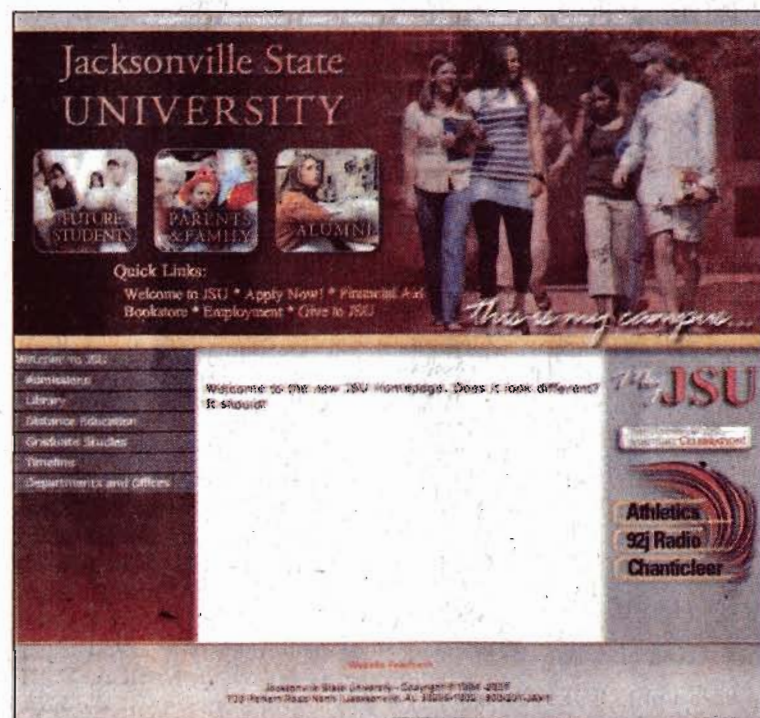
Lewis said these portals are intended to make the site more user-friendly.

"We are hoping this will better direct people that actually come in where to go," Lewis said. "If you click future students, this gives you a link list, basically of what a student coming in would want. If you go back and do parents and family, it's going to have stuff a parent would want to know."

Garner says parents of first-generation students can click on the parents and family link and virtually get a checklist to guide them through the process.

"When I came to Jacksonville State University, my mom had one of those little manuals, and she had to go through the whole thing to figure it out. She would

See "Web site," page 3



A look at JSU's new Web presence, which will continue to be found at [www.jsu.edu](http://www.jsu.edu). Illustration courtesy of Graham Wright / JSU



## Announcements

• CMENC and Kappa Kappa Psi Colony will host a cookout and fundraiser on Thursday, April 17 at 3 p.m. behind Sparkman Hall

• The JSU drama department and Alpha Psi Omega Fraternity present *Enchanted April*. The show opens April 17 and runs through April 20.

**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 8**

• Student Christy Gentemenn reported harrasment at Rowe Hall.

• JSU employee Penny Mize reported theft of property from Stone Center.

**Wednesday, April 9**

• Joseph Hall was arrested on charges of harassment.

• Student Tonya Trahan reported unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle outside of Stone Center. Stolen property included a biology textbook.

**Thursday, April 10**

• David Cooper, Justin Cobb and Aaron Branham were arrested for driving under the influence of liquor.

**Friday, April 11**

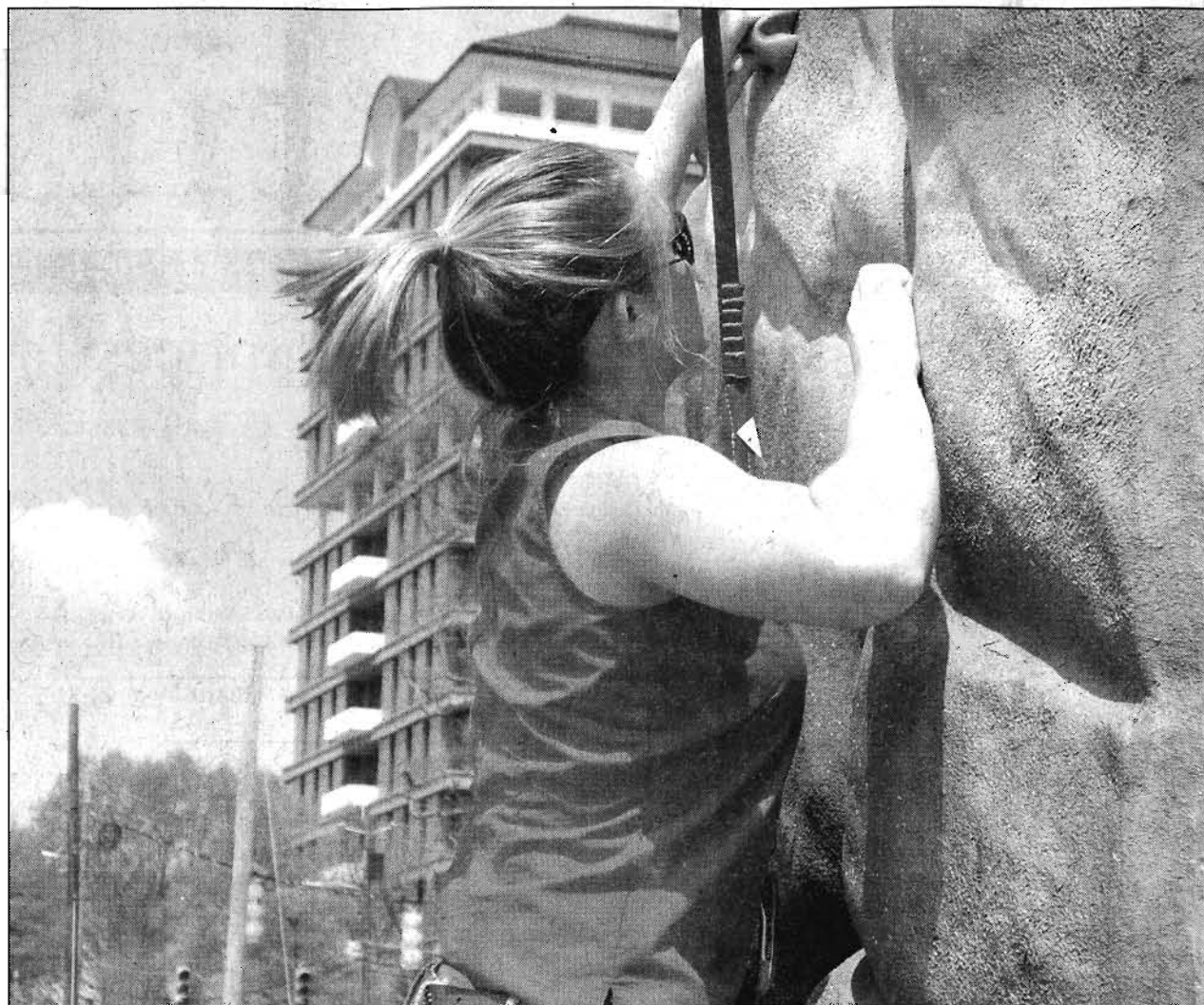
• Student Jerry Perkins was arrested for possession of crack rock and was also cited for resisting arrest.

• Daniel Palmer was arrested for harrasment.

**Saturday, April 12**

• Student Carl Dotson, Jr.

## Reaching new heights



JSU student Ashley Hellums climbs a rock wall in front of the TMB on April 9. The rock wall was part of the Gamecock Recreation Connexion event, which showcased local activities. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

## Price of young love

*20-year-old student counts costs of approaching wedding*

**By Julie Skinner**  
Senior Writer

When Jessica Haynes talks about her future wedding, her big brown curls almost bounce as much as she does.

"I'm just so excited," Haynes said, beaming.

Haynes, a 20-year-old college student majoring in graphic design at Jacksonville State University, has been faced with stress while planning her October wedding. She's also had to adjust to living with her fiancé, Brandon Johnson, 24.

Haynes has already put her planning in high gear after her

believe that you love somebody, you just know," Haynes says.

Rachel Rutledge, 19, is one of Haynes' five bridesmaids and works as a waitress at The Glass House. She sees their love like a fairytale.

"I think it's nice that two people found each other and fell in love so quickly, and now they're going to spend the rest of their lives together," Rutledge said, starry-eyed.

Haynes plans to finish her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the next two years and hopes to be hired as a graphic designer soon after. Right now, though, she can't think past the endless spending and planning she'll



## CAMPUS BRIEFS

• **Brandon Steward** was selected by the Human Resources Office as the JSU Employee of the Month for April.

• English Department Professor **Dr. Andrea Porter** was awarded honorable mention by the College English Association for her paper entitled "Jarhead and the Failure of the Vietnam Myth." The paper was one of three awarded honorable mention.

• JSU's mathematical, computing and information sciences department hosted hundreds of chess players and their supporters over the weekend for the 2008 **Alabama Scholastic Chess Championships**. The event allowed the MCIS department to showcase their webcasting technology, as well as video games programmed by computer science students. Individual state championships were awarded on Saturday April 12, and team championships were awarded on Sunday, April 13.

• Catalina Alupii, Amy Anderson, April Casey, Esther Clay, Kathryn Condit, Rachel Gordon, Dora Hayes, Carrie Johnson, Dung Le, Susan Middlebrooks, Kimberly Nelson, Vanessa Nelson, Kristi Pereira, Kristina Pittard, Lakita Varner, Ronald Walker, Claton Whittemore, Brandon Yopp and Raquel Zavaleta were inducted into the JSU chapter of **Beta Gamma Sigma** on



#### Friday, April 11

- Student Jerry Perkins was arrested for possession of crack rock and was also cited for resisting arrest.
- Daniel Palmer was arrested for harrasment.

#### Saturday, April 12

- Student Carl Dotson, Jr. reported theft of property in the lobby of Crowe Hall.

#### Monday, April 14

- JSU employee Janet White reported a stolen vehicle from the Bibb Graves parking lot.
- Student Darrell Lewis reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the Sparkman Hall parking lot.

#### Tuesday, April 15

- Student Jeffery Kretzschmar reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the Logan Hall parking lot.

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 17

- Pie in Your Face, Relay for Life, JSU Quad, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 19

- Fourth Annual Chief Ladiga 5K, Pete Mathews Coliseum, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Admission: \$15.00

#### Sunday, April 20

- JSU Gospel Choir Spring Concert, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 22

- Academic Preparation Day

#### Wednesday, April 23

- Midnight Snack & Karaoke in the Caf', Jack Hopper Dining Hall, 10:00 p.m.

beaming.

Haynes, a 20-year-old college student majoring in graphic design at Jacksonville State University, has been faced with stress while planning her October wedding. She's also had to adjust to living with her fiancé, Brandon Johnson, 24.

Haynes has already put her planning in high gear after her romantic and surprising engagement this past November. With a big smile and waving arms, she recalls the memorable night where Johnson painted huge blue letters on their white bedroom wall asking Haynes, "Will you marry me?"

Johnson, a graduate of Culinard, first met Haynes 15 years ago at church. After not seeing each other for quite a while, Johnson happened to go eat at The Glass House, the restaurant Haynes' parents own and operate in Munford, Ala.

After asking Haynes on a date, Johnson took her to eat at Fuji's and then to watch *Disturbia* at his house.

The rest is history.

After three months of dating, Johnson popped the question. He may not know every minute detail of the upcoming wedding, he knows what's important.

"The ceremony, reception and all that is important, but getting married to her, that's the best part," Johnson said.

Ashton Porter, 20, is Haynes's long-



JSU student Jessica Haynes, a graphic design major, shares a moment with her husband to be, Brandon Johnson. Photo contributed by Jessica Haynes

time friend and fellow graduate of Trinity Christian Academy and maid-of-honor. Faced with the responsibility of planning a bridal shower and the perfect bachelorette party, she's been under some stress herself.

"Jessica doesn't want the party to be wild," Porter snickered. "But I was like no, we're getting strippers!"

Haynes says those close to her are excited about the wedding, but she has had some skeptics whispering behind her back.

"Some people thought that I was pregnant," Haynes laughs.

Haynes knows what she and Johnson have is special and doesn't let the comments bother her.

"You don't have to make yourself

found each other and fell in love so quickly, and now they're going to spend the rest of their lives together," Rutledge said, starry-eyed.

Haynes plans to finish her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in the next two years and hopes to be hired as a graphic designer soon after. Right now, though, she can't think past the endless spending and planning she'll have to do before October.

So far, Haynes has spent \$1,000 on her ring, \$1,000 on Johnson's ring, \$745 on her dress, \$200 on a special bra designed for her dress, \$1,200 on photography, \$700 on videography and \$150 on flowers. Food, however, won't be much of a problem with the asset of her parents' restaurant.

Haynes's biggest stressor has been dealing with the bridesmaid's dresses and trying to match them with her bouquet of fall colors, including orange, yellow, red and brown. Haynes has always dreamed of a fall wedding with vibrant colors and a wedding gown with antique lace.

Haynes said the couple's first fight focused on laundry.

"He thought you had to use bleach every time you washed white towels, and I just wasn't raised that way," Haynes chuckled. "After the whole thing was over, we laughed about it and agreed we had to mesh."

Kimberly Nelson, Vanessa Nelson, Kristi Pereira, Kristina Pittard, Lakita Varner, Ronald Walker, Claton Whittemore, Brandon Yopp and Raquel Zavaleta were inducted into the JSU chapter of **Beta Gamma Sigma** on April 11.

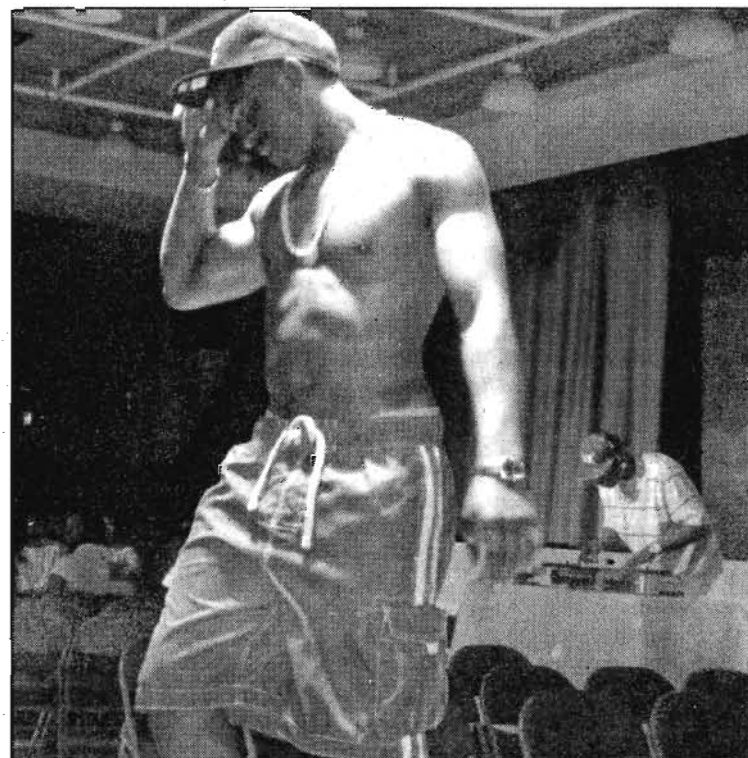
• The Fall 2007 issue of the **Houston Cole Library** newsletter *The Cole Train* is available for download online. The issue contains an in-depth introduction to new library dean **John-Bauer Graham**.

• According to **Dr. Timothy King**, associate vice president for student activities and enrollment management, 684 students have responded to the student activities survey that was sent to student e-mail addresses. 587 of the surveys were completed.

• Local rape crisis center **Daybreak**, announced its volunteers partnership with Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Volunteers from Daybreak will work with RAINN to provide support services for sexual assault victims online. Daybreak is also an affiliate of the National Sexual Assault Hotline. For more information about Daybreak and RAINN, visit [daybreakcenter.com](http://daybreakcenter.com) or call 256-237-6300.

- From wire, staff reports

## Fashion show raises cash for school supplies



A male model shows off his swimwear at Wednesday night's third annual JSU Rocks the Runway Fashion Show, presented by Common Sense Media. Photo by Jessica Rupprecht / The Chanticleer

By Ryan Rupprecht  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday night, April 9, Common Sense Media held their third annual "JSU Rocks the Runway Fashion Show" in the Leone Cole Auditorium. The show was coordinated by JSU senior Brandie Foreman and hosted by junior Fred Washington, Jr.

The night consisted of JSU students modeling spring and summer fashions donated by RUE21 in Oxford's Quintard Mall and the Purple Store in Jacksonville. Music was provided by hip-hop deejay and Anniston local, DJ Cool, with a musical performance by guest rapper L' Bronze.

Additional support came from other local businesses such as Landon Brooks Photography, located in the Quintard Mall, and Mary Kay makeup representative Tameka Smith, who provided products for the models. In attendance were people from as far away as Atlanta, Georgia and Birmingham, who said they came to support the students and help contribute to the group's fundraising efforts, which will go to a local elementary school. All the proceeds from the show this year will go to benefit Cobb Elementary students in Anniston.

According to Washington, the Common Sense Media group will donate the money in the form of "100 backpacks filled with essential school supplies."

## SENATE MINUTES

The SGA Senate did not meet on Monday, April 14.



# McCain addresses student loans and gas taxes

By Liz Sidoti  
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) - John McCain called Tuesday for the federal government to free people from paying gasoline taxes this summer and ensure that college students can secure loans this fall, proposals aimed at stemming the public's pain now from the troubled economy.

In the longer-term, the certain Republican presidential nominee said he would double the tax exemption for dependent children and offer people the option of choosing a simpler tax system.

"We know from experience that no serious reform of the current tax code will come out of Congress, so now it is time to turn the decision over to the people," McCain said in a sweeping economic speech at Carnegie Mellon University a week before Pennsylvania's primaries.

To help people weather the downturn immediately, McCain urged Congress to institute a "gas-tax holiday" by suspending the 18.4 cent federal gas tax and 24.4 cent diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He also renewed his call for the United States to stop adding to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and thus lessen to some extent the worldwide demand for oil.

Combined, he said, the two proposals would reduce gas prices, which would have a trickle-down effect, and "help to spread relief across the American economy."

Addressing the feared fallout of the ongoing credit crunch, McCain also said the Education Department should work with the country's governors to make sure that each state's guarantee agency — nonprofits that traditionally back student loans issued by banks — has both the means and the manpower to be the lender-of-last-resort for student loans.

Lawmakers, students and financial experts are worried that the credit crisis might make it more difficult for students

and their families to find loans. Nearly two dozen lenders have dropped out of the federally backed student loan program.

Students, McCain said, "should not be denied an education because the recklessness of others has made credit too hard to obtain."

Among other proposals, McCain said he would:

- Require more affluent people — couples making more than \$160,000 — enrolled in Medicare to pay a higher premium for their prescription drugs than less-wealthy people.

- Raise the tax exemption for each dependent child from \$3,500 to \$7,000.

- Offer people the option of choosing a simpler tax system with two tax rates and a standard deduction instead of sticking with the current system.

- Suspend for one year all increases in discretionary spending for agencies other than those that cover the military and veterans while launching an expansive review of the effectiveness of federal programs.

Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton said McCain's proposals offer "no change from George Bush's failed policies by going full speed ahead with fiscally irresponsible tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans," and amount to "a gift basket of new tax cuts for corporate America at a time when some CEOs are making more in a day than some workers make in a year."

The four-term Arizona senator packaged the fresh proposals with long-standing positions in a wide-ranging economic speech on Tax Day in which he faulted not only Democrats but also fellow Republicans for failing to practice prudent spending and fix pricey entitlement programs.

"In so many ways, we need to make a clean break from the worst excesses of both political parties," McCain said, adding "somewhere along the way, too

many Republicans in Congress became indistinguishable from the big-spending Democrats they used to oppose."

He also argued that Democratic rivals Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton would impose the single largest tax increase since World War II by allowing tax cuts enacted in 2001 and 2003 — and that McCain voted against but now wants to make permanent — to expire.

"Both promise big 'change.' And a trillion dollars in new taxes over the next decade would certainly fit that description," McCain said. Playing on the title of an Obama book, McCain added: "All these tax increases are the fine print under the slogan of 'hope.' They're going to raise your taxes by thousands of dollars per year — and they have the audacity to hope you don't mind."

The speech was part of McCain's ongoing effort to counter the notion — fueled by his own previous comments — that he's not as strong on the economy as he is on other issues. He also sought to fend off criticism from Democrats, including Obama and Clinton, that his small-government, free-market stances don't mesh with people feeling the pinch — particularly those hurting now.

He made his remarks a day after he said he believes the country has already entered a recession, a label the Bush administration has resisted even as a credit crisis, a housing slump, soaring energy costs and rising layoffs combined to soften the economy.

The speech also came the same morning the Labor Department reported another worrisome sign for the economy: Inflation at the wholesale level soared in March at nearly triple the rate that had been expected as the costs of energy and food both climbed rapidly. Oil prices hit a new high, rising over \$112 a barrel for the first time.

## Board: Meehan given go-ahead to seek transit system

Continued from page 1

face an average of 14 percent cuts; two-year institutions will be cut by 10 percent and the Alabama Department of Education's funds were cut by 6 percent. Among four-year institutions, the cuts were skewed. Troy University was dealt the lowest cut of 10.23 percent, and the University of West Alabama faces the highest — 17.25 percent. JSU's funds will be reduced by \$6,591,697, amounting to 13.36 percent.

and we will still have to trim the budget," Meehan said, naming travel, positions and program expenditures as possible areas in which the university could cut costs.

Meehan explained while Jacksonville State University is one of the first schools in the state to announce its increases in tuition and housing, he believed they should not wait.

"We want our faculty and students to have time to prepare," Meehan said.

The trustees also voted unanimously to proceed with the development of a

NEW COSTS PER CREDIT	
HOUR	
In-state undergraduate	\$190
Out-of-state undergraduate	\$380
In-state graduate	\$250
Out-of-state graduate	\$500
Distance learning undergrad	\$240
Distance learning graduate	\$300

tuition and fees to cover the transit

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percent and the Alabama Department of Education's funds were cut by 6 percent. Among four-year institutions, the cuts were skewed. Troy University was dealt the lowest cut of 10.23 percent, and the University of West Alabama faces the highest — 17.25 percent. JSU's funds will be reduced by \$6,591,697, amounting to 13.36 percent.

Vice President for Administrative and Business Affairs Clint Carlson said in the meeting the additional funds raised from increases in cost to students would generate approximately 3.8 million, roughly half the sum of money lost in the cut.

In order to continue operating on a comparable budget—and cope with the budget rising costs of retirement and health insurance—the university needs \$45,884,645.

"We think (the increases) are reasonable,

Meehan explained while Jacksonville State University is one of the first schools in the state to announce its increases in tuition and housing, he believed they should not wait.

"We want our faculty and students to have time to prepare," Meehan said.

The trustees also voted unanimously to proceed with the development of a campus-based transit system, which would be made available to JSU students and citizens of the surrounding community.

Meehan said JSU was awarded a \$1,943,557 grant in September 2007 through the Federal Transportation Administration. The resolution authorized Meehan to provide the 20 percent institutional grant and engage a transportation consultant, and it also stated that the board will increase future

Out-of-state undergraduate	\$380
In-state graduate	\$250
Out-of-state graduate	\$500
Distance learning undergrad	\$240
Distance learning graduate	\$300

tuition and fees to cover the transit system's continuing costs.

In other business, the board approved the following:

- Resolution 516, which sought to replace Brewer Hall's flat roof system with a new pitched roof system during the summer of 2008, a project estimated to cost about \$250,000.

- Resolution 518, which sought to authorize Meehan to amend the university's annuity plan to include AIG-Retirement as a service provider.

## Web site: Will go live in mid-May but remain a process

Continued from page 1

have loved to have had a step one, step two, step three," Garner says. "It's like sending my kid to school 101."

A banner at the top of the page will have a graphic that rotates every time the page is loaded. Each one represents a different aspect of JSU. One is a photograph of a football player, and clicking on it takes visitors to the Gamecock Sports page.

"My hope for the second round of this is to have most of this interactive, flash based — Tim (Garner) was wanting to do some podcasting — just make it more fun," Lewis said. "You know, people visit and come back. You want them to come back and say, 'What's happening now?'"

The university's admissions office is working on a virtual tour of the campus dubbed You-niversity, according to Lewis, that

will eventually be included on the new Web site. A virtual tour of the library is also in the works.

The Web site is based off an entirely new system, called Luminis Content Management System, which was installed after winter break. The system is from the same company that created the Banner system the school uses.

Lewis said JSU is one of the first groups in the country to use the system.

"We are sort of a test group in that we helped find bugs for them," Lewis said.

"This will go live, hopefully (in) mid May, but it will only be six areas: the homepage, admissions, distance education, the library, financial aid, registrar, and housing," Lewis said. "We're just going to roll out the main things we thought people would visit, and then we're just (adding) on (the rest) as we finish."

## Protest: Students begin dialogue with administration

Continued from page 1

open to our views," Stark said. "After they heard them they were like 'Okay, we've got it, thanks.'"

Folsom said the students were misinformed about the proposed stadium expansion.

"We are in need of additional housing anyway, and a large portion of this is for student housing," Folsom said.

Stevie Dorrough, a drama major, said her main concern was that the stadium expansion would increase tuition.

"I'm not opposed to the stadium," Dorrough said. "But I am opposed to the raising of tuition."

Meehan said he understands students concerns about tuition.

"We know that student's aren't rich," Meehan said. "Many of them work and go to class at the same time."

Meehan said the stadium expansion has nothing to do with the increase in tuition, rather the cutbacks of \$6.6 million the university is facing. Meehan said, while there is going to be a tuition increase of 12.4 percent, none of that is going to the stadium expansion.

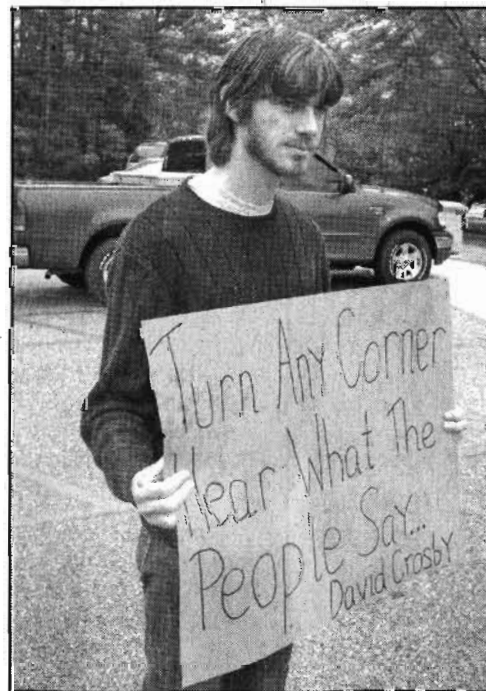
Adams said she realizes that the stadium expansion does have some good in it. "The dorm that supposed to be coming in we don't mind," Adams said. "And the parking lot, well, we all know we need better parking."

Meehan said only \$17.5 million of the \$37 million price tag is for the stadium. The rest goes to build a new 400-bed dormitory for students as well as more parking.

Phil Goodman, who spoke to the board on behalf of the students, said he understood the money for the expansion is coming from private donors.

"I'm saying that these private donors are giving to a cause that is not needed right now," Goodman said. "They could be giving to the cause of education which is needed."

Even with all of the controversy surrounding the protest, Stark said she hopes other students will feel encouraged to speak out about issues at the university. "Hopefully this has opened the door so that students feel more apt to do things," Stark said. "Rather than just talk about them."



A JSU student holds sign featuring a David Crosby quotation at Monday's protest. Photo by Zach Childree/ The Chanticleer

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## OUR VOICE

### Benedict's visit to U.S. highlights problems within Catholic Church

On Tuesday afternoon, April 15, Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Washington, D.C., to inaugurate his first papal visit to the United States.

While on paper the purpose of Benedict's trip is to help celebrate the bicentennial of the oldest Catholic dioceses, there is an unwritten reason: to help heal rifts within the Church here in the States.

The United States is the third-largest Catholic population in the world — at 67 million people. But the demographic landscapes are changing from an East-Coast based European Catholicism to a Latin American sort. Hispanics now make up nearly 30 percent of Catholics in this country, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Benedict faces an uncertain situation during his stay in the U.S. A recent survey, for example, found 63 percent of American Catholics disagree with the Church's stance on condom use.

A Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life poll says, "Catholicism has lost more people to other religions or to no religion at all than any other single religious group."

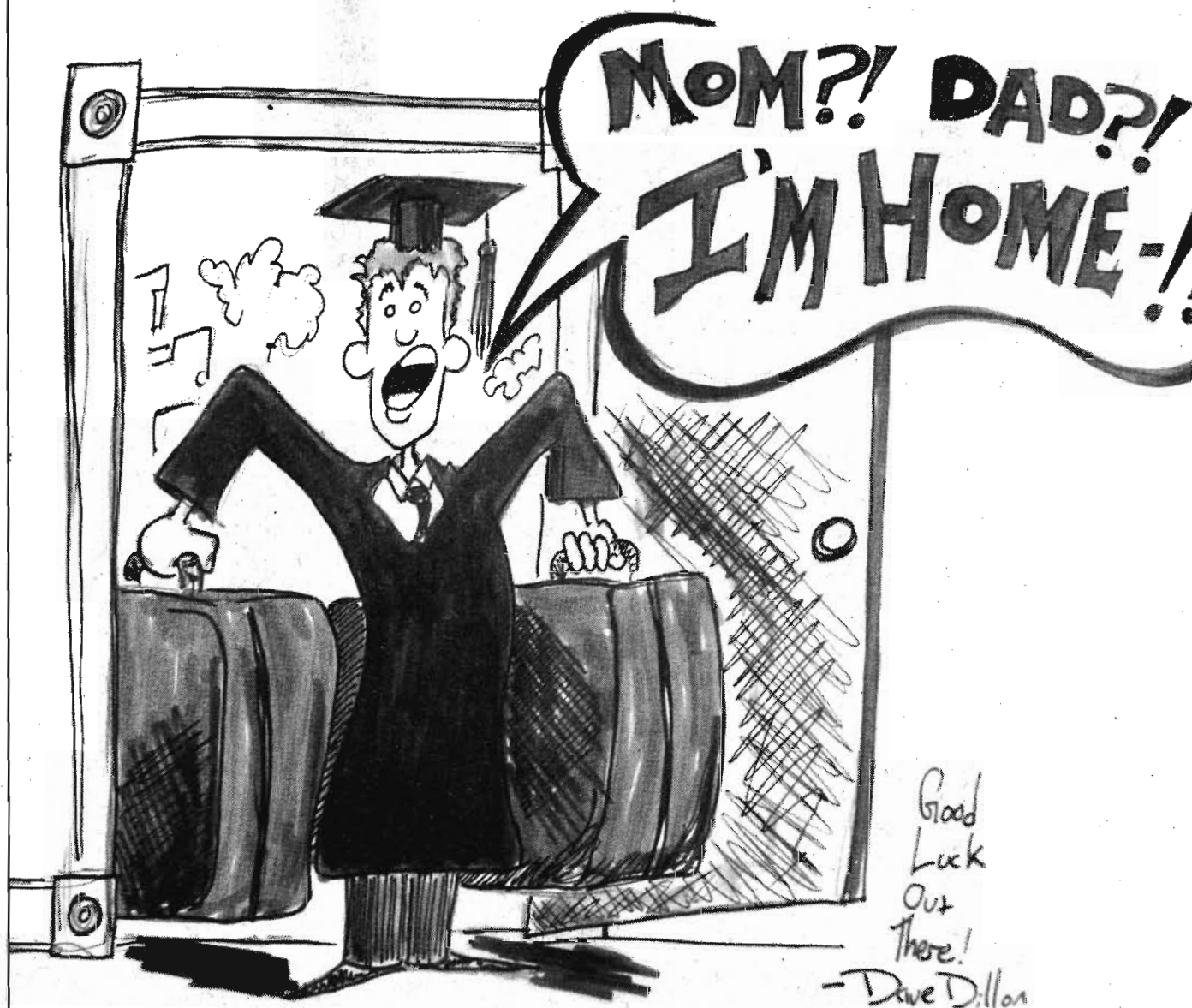
For the scholarly and generally non-confrontational Benedict XVI, the problems his American flock faces are formidable.

As the Church begins its recovery from the clergy sex abuse scandal, for instance, the Pope has his work cut out for him. Already, there are rumblings in Boston — the epicenter of the abuse debacle — about Benedict's omission of the city from his itinerary.

Despite his statement of being "deeply ashamed" of the sex abuse scandal, victims are unhappy with what they see as

**DAVE DILLON**

Political Cartoonist



## Embracing love beyond these pages

By the time this paper reaches your hands, staining your fingertips charcoal gray, the eyes and pens of this staff have scanned these pages dozens of times. We have poured our time and hearts — and, in my case, tears — into creating and placing each page, each article, each picture as best we can.

Yet each week, in some way, we fall short of the mark. A misplaced line here, a typographical error there, something here, something there.

It's inevitable.

But just as inevitable, just as seemingly certain as it is that you will find a fumble within these pages, is the fact that before

mothers' wombs.

No matter how genuine or well-meaning our efforts, they will never be enough. On my own, I can never be enough. I can never be just right. I can never fulfill the expectations of the people around me.

And, far, far more importantly, I can never come near to fulfilling the bold, beautiful dreams dreamed for me by my

a man who lived and died and rose again more than 2,000 years ago.

Does my hope ever falter? Yes, absolutely. But never because God fails me or doesn't listen or is unfair — no, the fault always lies with me.

Always.

Each day, I come up short. Each day, I sin, and each day, I disappoint the God who saved and loves me.

But because of the depth of His love, a love so strong that He could, that he would die the most painful of deaths to save me from myself, He forgives me for my shortcomings. He wipes them away.

After the presses churn out newspaper



**Bethany  
Harbison**

chantyeditor@gmail.com



As the Church begins its recovery from the clergy sex abuse scandal, for instance, the Pope has his work cut out for him. Already, there are rumblings in Boston — the epicenter of the abuse debacle — about Benedict's omission of the city from his itinerary.

Despite his statement of being "deeply ashamed" of the sex abuse scandal, victims are unhappy with what they see as Benedict's physical avoidance of the issue.

While Benedict is undoubtedly up to the intellectual challenge, long-term solutions will likely prove elusive, at least for now. The warm greeting he received on the tarmac upon landing at Andrews Air Force base on Tuesday afternoon indicated a friendly opinion of the pontiff.

Indeed, his approval ratings among American Catholics registers at 70 percent, according to *U.S. News*.

However, permanent solutions to the Church's problems demand more than good poll numbers.

Overcoming them will be an interesting dilemma, and how Benedict, along with American bishops and cardinals, addresses them may say a lot about the kind of papacy his will be.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Parking lots not the problem

A recent *Chanticleer* editorial stated that the majority of JSU students are against expanding the stadium and in favor of expanding the parking lots.

They're wrong about the parking lots.

Take a look at the lots above the Stone Center, behind the library and in front of the coliseum during peak class hours. If it's a clear day you will see a vast expanse of unused asphalt shimmering in the hot sun. If it's a rainy day you will see sheets of water flooding off the impervious surfaces into storm drains and out to sea, rather than replenishing our drinking water springs and local forests.

Do we really want a world with better habitat for cars, or would we like better habitat for people?

JSU could become a more walkable and bicycle-friendly community. We could meet our friends under the shade trees, enjoy prettier walking paths away from the traffic and take core classes in buildings that are closer together.

Or we could keep driving from class to class to fast food restaurant, mindlessly surrendering to poor health, lethargy and a degraded world. It just depends on what kind of life students decide is worth creating.

-Susan DiBiase

For each week, in some way, we fall short of the mark. A misplaced line here, a typographical error there, something here, something there.

It's inevitable.

But just as inevitable, just as seemingly certain as it is that you will find a fumble within these pages, is the fact that before the sun slips into the horizon today, I will fall short in my own life, slipping into sin.

It's certain.

As humans, we are creatures wrought with imperfection.

Look at our lives. Listen to the words we throw at one another. See the wars we wage.

For coupled with our inherent intentions to be "good" lies something far more sinister — something borne deep inside our hearts before we escaped our



**Bethany Harbison**

chantyeditor@gmail.com

And, far, far more importantly, I can never come near to fulfilling the bold, beautiful dreams dreamed for me by my God — no matter how hard I try.

But the news isn't all grim.

For all of us, there is hope on the horizon. For me, that hope is within my heart.

It is that hope, that promise of a life, a meaning beyond this flawed existence that keeps me going.

It is that hope that helps me turn the proverbial cheek, even when it pains me.

My hope, dear friends, is in something, someone far bigger than I. My hope is in

never be just right. I can never fulfill the expectations of the people around me.

I sin, and each day, I disappoint the God who saved and loves me.

But because of the depth of His love, a love so strong that He could, that he would die the most painful of deaths to save me from myself, He forgives me for my shortcomings. He wipes them away.

After the presses churn out newspaper after newspaper, the damage is done. The errors are there, in black and white — or CMYK color — for all to see, dissect and mock.

So be it.

For me, what matters far more than the contents of these columned pages is being free from the imperfections and failures written upon my heart.

In a week, these pages will be discarded, tossed aside, forgotten.

Latch on to something that lasts.

## JSU Show Choir strikes wrong chord

On Friday, April 11, I attended a JSU Show Choir performance. The show was a mash-up of tunes from Broadway shows. Being a musical lover myself (no comments about stereotypes please), I figured it would be a fun show to see. Then the choir got to the song "La Vie Boheme" from the musical *Rent*. I've heard the song many times and was astounded to hear the show choir sing a version completely devoid of any "boheme."

Anything that might have been considered offensive was simply cut out of the song. They might as well have changed the lyrics to being about puppies and kittens.

If you've never seen *Rent*, let me break it down for you — it's not a pretty show.

Jonathan Larson, the writer of *Rent*, crafted a story about love and loss in the time of AIDS.

His musical featured gay and lesbian characters — when it wasn't very popular. *Rent* is essentially gay and



**Zach Childree**

chantycampusnews@gmail.com

felt wrong: All the "gay" parts were cut out too. Because *Rent* deals with issues that don't make for good jazzy musical numbers.

Ripping all the queer parts out of queer literature isn't a new concept. Tennessee Williams had to hide his gay characters from audiences using subtle nuances and slang that only those "in the know" would recognize.

But, this isn't the 1950s.

We don't have to hide gay characters

from audiences anymore. If the song was so offensive that the JSU Show Choir had to shave off most of "La Vie Boheme," then why perform it?

I understand that Dr. Renee Baptiste, the director of the choir, didn't edit the song herself. It was bought from a company that publishes music arranged for show choirs.

Still, I think choosing to perform such a betrayal of queer literature was a poor choice.

If the choir had performed a song from Ragtime with the parts about black people cut out, there would be outrage.

Imagine *The Diary of Anne Frank* without Jews, or *The Lion King* with all the references to Africa cut out.

It's that level of betrayal.

I hope that, in the future, all groups — on this campus and off — will take this into account when doing songs from *Rent*, or any other musical.

If you can't portray the spirit of the song and stay true to its meaning, don't do the song at all.

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### The Chanticleer

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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](mailto:chantyeditor@gmail.com).

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



## Music Corner

### ALBUM OF THE WEEK

#### Frightened Rabbit Midnight Organ Fight

Scottish indie-rock band Frightened Rabbit's sophomore release, *Midnight Organ Fight*, is rich and textured musically, lyrically and creatively. The melding of interesting instrumentation, Celtic influence and the Scottish accent in the vocals, along with lyrics that are thought provoking and provocative, create a musical mixture that is interesting and innovative. "Modern Leper" contemplates life through the eyes of people crippled in many ways, physically and emotionally. The lyrics are deep, sang over music that is rhythmically interesting and stirring.

"Old Old Fashioned" is musically reminiscent of Paul Simon's folk/rock stuff. "Give me soft static with a human voice underneath," the singer sings. The theme is going back to the way things used to be. The bass drum beats steadily — thump, thump, thump — perfectly connecting the rest of the band and forcing compliance from the listener.

"Keep Yourself Warm" is pointedly honest about life and love. "You won't find love in a hole, it takes more than f\*\*king someone you don't know to keep yourself warm," the singer proclaims in a soul-piercing falsetto voice. The sharp lyrics are sung over the somber music strengthened by the organ. This new album is wonderfully witty. The lyrics are satiric and sarcastic at times, pretty and ponderous at others.

**A+**

— Jacob Probus

### ALSO IN ROTATION

#### Willie Nelson One Hell of a Ride

Willie Nelson is one of the greatest, most prolific song writers America has ever produced. His song writing career spans more than half a century. His new box set *One Hell of a Ride* is a picture-perfect slice of that career, containing 100 songs.

The first song on the first disc — and the first song Willie ever recorded — is "When I've Sung My Last Hillbilly Song," recorded in '54 or '55. For some reason, Willie can't remember. The last song on the last disc is the song reprised in '07, aptly titled "When I've Sang My Last Hillbilly Song." The next song is the most raucous, funky live version of "Whiskey River" ever recorded. This profound collection of songs spans his 54-year music career. It personifies everything Willie Nelson is about, from his 14 No.1 hits to the emotionally rich and thoughtful songs that never made it to radio.

**A+**

— Jacob Probus

## Fitting in fitness

### Experts recommend 1 hour of exercise 4 days a week

By Chris Foshee  
Contributing Writer

Countless hours spent with one's nose in a book may burn mental energy, but the mind and body need exercise to perform at their peak. College students often spend a great deal of time in their sedentary pursuits. With high school gym classes behind them, most college students struggle to find time to exercise.

According to Student Support Services of Gadsden State Community College, college students are expected to study three hours for every hour they spend in class. If the average student takes 15 hours of classes a week, that leaves 45 hours dedicated to studying — and that is not counting the 56 hours of sleep they're supposed to be getting.

When classes, sleeping and studying are taken into account, the average college student is left with only 52 hours of spare time each week. And students often choose to dedicate time to other activities such as clubs, jobs and Greek life.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote that to be successful in academic studies a person should, "give two hours, every day, to exercise; for health must not be sacrificed to learning. A strong body makes a strong mind."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, however, recommends one hour of exercise four days a week.

"I make sure to dedicate at least one hour of exercise every other day," 22-year-old senior Zack Blume said. "I also make sure my body gets plenty of exercise during regular activities. After all, your body is a temple."

In a formal research study at Tufts University, researchers discovered students who reported exercising at least three days a week were more likely to report better health and attitudes. Regular exercise may help performance in the classroom and in social situations.

**IN 30 MINUTES ...**  
a 150 lb. individual will burn the following number of calories by engaging in the following:

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General Weight Lifting - 117  
Water Aerobics - 135  
Talking on the phone - 36  
Basketball (1/2 court) - 279  
Standing - 40  
Sex - 144  
Playing guitar - 108  
Driving - 72  
Washing a car - 153  
Jogging - 238  
Football - 328

—www.healthstatus.com

"There are countless reasons why to exercise," JSU exercise science professor Donna Hey said. "Among many, you feel better about yourself. Self-confidence is an important factor to someone's life."

Free time may be a rarity for college students, but better health can be achieved through just changing a few everyday activities around. One could bike or walk to class instead of driving. Students might also try parking further away than normal to enhance more walking — or perhaps taking the stairs instead of the elevator.

JSU's available exercise options include physical education classes, such as weight training, martial arts, yoga and aqua aerobics.

"I love my aqua aerobics class," 19-year-old sophomore Kayla Garrett said. "It's a great opportunity to get in exercise and it's a lot of fun. You get three credited hours for playing in a pool. You can't beat that."

## AT THE MOVIES

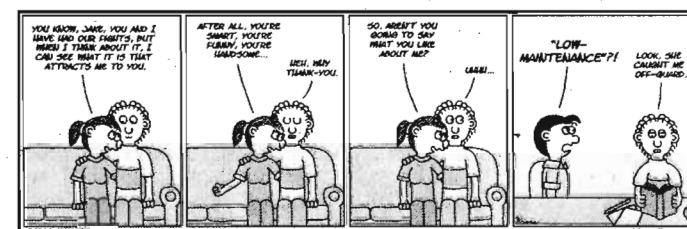
### Weekend box office top 5

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The slasher remake *Prom Night* took the biggest slice of the weekend box office, debuting with \$20.8 million.

The top five movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Media By Numbers LLC are:

1. *Prom Night*, Sony Screen Gems, \$20,804,941, 2,700 locations, \$7,706 average, \$20,804,941, one week.
2. *Street Kings*, Fox Searchlight, \$12,469,631, 2,467 locations, \$5,055 average, \$12,469,631, one week.
3. *21*, Sony, \$10,470,173, 2,736 locations, \$3,827 average, \$61,738,420, three weeks.
4. *Nim's Island*, Fox, \$9,111,667, 3,518 locations, \$2,590 average, \$25,391,566, two weeks.
5. *Leatherheads*, Universal, \$6,276,665, 2,771 locations, \$2,265 average, \$21,976,580, two weeks.

### LAST-DITCH EFFORT • By John Kroes



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		7			5		6	
6			1				2	
8			5				3	
	5			8		9		
	6			2	1			7
	1				3			9
	2		7			3		
		4		5	2			6

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about, from his 14 No.1 hits to the emotionally rich and thoughtful songs that never made it to radio.

— Jacob Probus

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## Sports

GAMECOCK  
BRIEFS

• Jacksonville State's **Nick Hetland** was named **Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week** on Monday. The senior from Apple Valley, Minn., had his best outing of the year on Saturday, pitching 6 1/3 innings of relief in the Gamecocks' 16-6 victory over Southeast Missouri State. During that span, Hetland allowed only two singles and struck out seven to record his third win of the season.

• Jacksonville State's **Steven Leach** was named **Ohio Valley Conference co-Player of the Week** on Monday. The sophomore from Decatur, Ala., hit .778 in the Gamecocks' three-game sweep over Southeast Missouri State. Leach hit his first career home run and drove in six during the weekend series.

• Jacksonville State golfers **Mercedes Huarte** and **Portia Abbott** were named to the **All-OVC first team** on Monday. Huarte, a senior from Chacabuco, Argentina, led the Ohio Valley Conference with a 77.0 stroke average. Abbott was third in that category with a 78.0 average.

• Sophomore **Ashley Cox** and freshman **Laura Cutler** also received honors for their performance this year. Cox was named to the **All-OVC second team**, while Cutler was named to the **All-OVC Newcomer team**. Cutler also received **OVC co-Freshman of the**

## Over the hump

*Baseball manages 1st sweep, moves to 2nd in OVC*

By **Jered Staubs**  
Sports Editor

The JSU baseball team put together a clinical weekend at the plate to earn its first season sweep of the year.

After defeating SEMO three times, the Gamecocks (16-16, 9-3 OVC) have moved into sole position of second place in the OVC, a half game behind Samford.

"When you sweep, that gives you an opportunity to win a championship," head coach Jim Case said. "You can't go wrong with two out of three, and it's going to get you in the tournament if you do that, but if you can sweep every now and then, then you have a chance to win a championship."

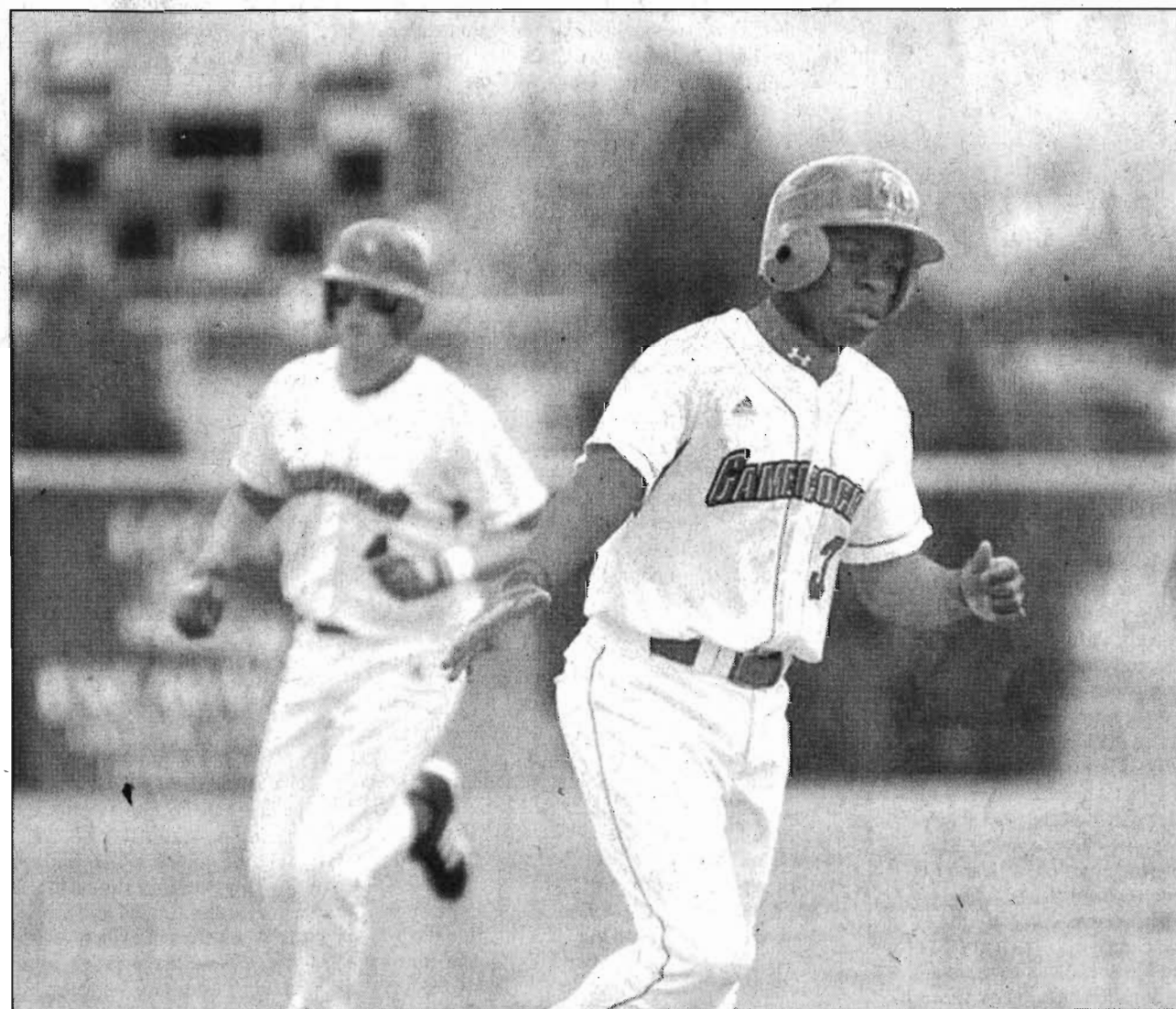
The opening and closing games of the series followed a pretty similar script — SEMO took a decent early lead, but JSU's offense kept wearing on the Redhawks' pitchers, and the Gamecocks were able to win rather comfortably.

In the opener, the first game of a Saturday doubleheader, SEMO jumped out to a 6-1 lead after scoring three runs in each of the first two innings off JSU starter Jason Zylstra. The Gamecocks scored 15 runs in a row to earn the 16-6 win.

Bert Smith, Clay Whittemore and Steven Leach each had three hits, and Smith drove in four runs. Each member of the starting lineup scored a run in the win.

While the Gamecocks poured in the runs, Nick Hetland (3-5) pitched 6 1/3 1/3 innings and

See "Sweep," page 8



Bert Smith (right), who had eight hits on the weekend, and Steven Leach round third base after Leach hit his first career home run, a three-run blast in the fourth inning of a 10-7 win over SEMO Sunday afternoon. The Gamecocks won all three games against the Redhawks. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

## BASEBALL STATISTICS AS OF APRIL 14

Batting Average	
Steven Leach	.367
Todd Cunningham	.355

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received honors for their performance this year. Cox was named to the **All-OVC second team**, while Cutler was named to the **All-OVC Newcomer team**. Cutler also received **OVC co-Freshman of the Year** honors.

• Both the **Jacksonville State men's and women's tennis teams** defeated Morehead State last Friday only to fall to Eastern Kentucky a day later. The women defeated Morehead 5-2 behind a strong performance from **Viviane Marani**, who has won her last nine matches. Both squads lost 4-3 to EKU. The losses snapped the women's eight-match winning streak and the men's five-match streak. Both the men and women finished in third place in the regular season standings. The OVC tournament begins on Friday in Nashville, Tenn.

• Jacksonville State track and field athletes **Megan Ziarek** and **Crystal Estes** set school records for the second consecutive week in the **Spec Towns Track and Field Invitational** at the University of Georgia. Ziarek, a senior from Muskego, Wis., lowered her own school record by 13 seconds in the steeplechase. She finished first in the event with a time of 11:27.37. Estes finished fifth in the shot put competition, breaking her own school record with a throw of 41-11.50.

• Jacksonville State's **Nolinda Garner** finished won the 400-meter hurdles. The junior from Town Creek, Ala., finished with a time of 1:01.57.

— From staff reports

## BASEBALL STATISTICS AS OF APRIL 14

Batting Average	
Steven Leach	.367
Todd Cunningham	.355
Clay Whittemore	.352

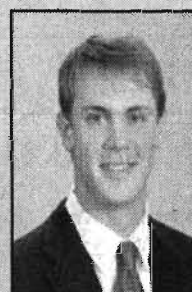
Runs	
Todd Cunningham	33
Bert Smith	24
Steven Leach	20

RBI	
Clay Whittemore	33
Steven Leach	27
Brian Piazza	17

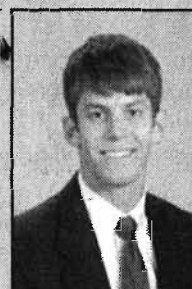
Wins	
Ben Tootle	6
Alex Jones	4
Nick Hetland	3

ERA	
Brian Booth	2.77
Alex Jones	2.84
Jordan Beistline	2.84

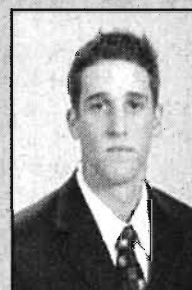
Strikeouts	
Ben Tootle	51
Nick Hetland	37
Alex Jones	37



Cunningham



Whittemore



Tootle

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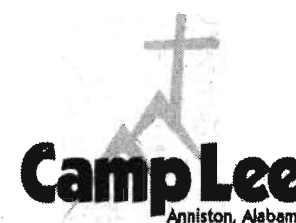
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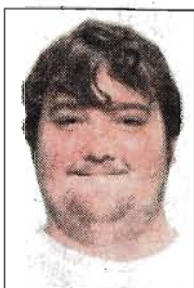
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Jared Gravette

chantysports@gmail.com

## Don't Phil it up

In all seriousness, how long does it take to hire a basketball coach?

Jacksonville State University has been without a coach since March 3 — almost six weeks ago — when it was announced that Mike LaPlante's contract would not be renewed.

The athletic department has been holding interviews with four finalists — Charles Burkett, Phillip Pearson, Tim Maloney and James Green — throughout this week and last in an attempt to fill the void left after LaPlante's departure.

Burkett was an assistant at JSU in 1995 before beginning a very successful high school coaching career at Saks. He has since moved to Hoover to coach the Bucs.

Maloney is currently the associate head coach at UMass and has served as an assistant at Florida, Buffalo and Eastern Kentucky throughout his career.

Green is the current head coach at Mississippi Valley State and also has head coaching experience at Southern Mississippi.

In my opinion, any of these guys would make a better hire than Pearson, who has spent nine seasons under Mark Gottfried at Alabama.

JSU reached for an assistant coach eight years ago when

# Dominance discontinued

*2nd-place Morehead takes two of three on milestone weekend*

By Jared Gravette  
Assistant Sports Editor

After breezing through the early portion of their OVC schedule, the Jacksonville State softball team met their match last weekend against Morehead State.

The Gamecocks (25-11, 14-3 OVC), who entered the weekend ranked ninth nationally in scoring, struggled to score runs all weekend, dropping two of three against the Eagles.

In the first game of Saturday's doubleheader, JSU took the field for the 1000th time, looking to win the program's 600th game. However, the Gamecocks would have to wait, as Alex Gjevre silenced their bats in a 2-0 Eagle victory.

Gjevre pitched all seven innings for Morehead, striking out eight and allowing only three hits. With the win, the Eagles snapped JSU's 12-game OVC win streak.

"She (Gjevre) is probably the best pitcher in the OVC as far as spotting her pitches. She is very smart, and she kept us off-balance like any good pitcher does," JSU coach Jana McGinnis said. "The very first game we played against her, I thought we were very passive as hitters. We were letting her get the early strikes, and then we were not battling with two strikes."

The Gamecocks would record their 600th win in the nightcap of the doubleheader, defeating the Eagles 3-2. The milestone victory comes in the programs' 21st season and its 14th in Division I.

"It's nice. It's nice because I can remember when they played their first game, and now I've been around to see their 1000th game," McGinnis said. "I was a basketball player here when they played their first game and I had friends on the team, so I can remember seeing their first game. It's just good to have been around and been a part of that and to see how the program has grown."

JSU jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the second inning of the nightcap after a Jackie Jarman RBI double and a Chrissy O'Neal RBI single. The Gamecocks would add another run in the fifth on a Rachel Fleming home run.

Melissa Dowling pitched a gem through the sixth inning only allowing one hit, but the Eagles fought back, putting up two runs in the bottom of the seventh.

After cutting the deficit to one, Morehead's Courtney Seiler came to the plate with the winning run at first but fouled out to end the game.

Dowling pitched all seven innings for the Gamecocks, earning her 16th win of the season.

Morehead took the final game of the series 5-1 on Sunday, pulling themselves within two and a half



Jacksonville State head coach Jana McGinnis talks with senior Rachel Fleming during Wednesday's Blackout game against Samford. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

games of the first-place Gamecocks.

The Eagles sent Gjevre to the circle once again. JSU hitters did a much better job the second time around but couldn't come through with runners in scoring position.

Gjevre pitched 14 innings over the weekend, allowing only one run on nine hits. She recorded both wins for the Eagles and was named OVC Pitcher of the Week for her efforts.

"On Sunday, we did a better job, but we just couldn't come up with the big hit," McGinnis said. "We had runners in scoring position in every inning but the third and the seventh. So, we were getting runners on. We just couldn't come up with that big hit."

"That was very frustrating and very disappointing because we've got hitters one-through-nine that I expect to come up with those big hits," McGinnis

added. "I thought Jackie Jarman and Whitney Elder played very good. We just didn't have enough players that had good weekends."

JSU lone run of Sunday's tilt came on a Jarman double in the top of the fifth inning.

The Gamecocks split a doubleheader with Middle Tennessee on Tuesday, leaving McGinnis just one win away from 500 for her career.

"Honestly, it (winning my 500th) will just make me proud of all of the players that I've had the opportunity to coach," McGinnis said. "Honestly, I couldn't imagine myself, 10 years ago, being around to see 500 wins. I've been very lucky to coach players that want to win."

"I'm not into 500 wins. If I felt it was time to go, if I couldn't do this job and get this program where it needed to be, I'd quit at 499. It's not about me and it's not about the wins. It's about the program."

## DOWN THE STRETCH

SOFTBALL

BASEBALL



coaching experience at Southern Mississippi.

In my opinion, any of these guys would make a better hire than Pearson, who has spent nine seasons under Mark Gottfried at Alabama.

JSU reached for an assistant coach eight years ago when they brought in LaPlante from Auburn, and that didn't work out very well.

That aside, Pearson's current program at Alabama is in shambles. Why Gottfried and his coaching staff are still in Tuscaloosa after missing the NCAA and NIT tournaments two years in a row, I will never know.

But to add insult to injury, Alabama is likely losing the majority of their team. Alabama's two best players — Ronald Steele and Richard Hendrix — have already declared for the NBA draft with Alonzo Gee yet to make a decision.

Rumors have also been swirling around that the Crimson Tide may lose at least three other players to transfers.

Really, it's getting so bad that JSU could probably beat Alabama next year if they were on the schedule.

Alabama has had some of the most talented athletes in all of college basketball over the last six or seven years.

With players like Gerald Wallace and Mo Williams coming through the program, there is no reason the Crimson Tide shouldn't have made a Final Four.

The furthest Alabama has ever gone in the tournament is to the Elite Eight. That team wasn't as talented as some of the previous teams under Gottfried, but the leadership and grit of Antoine Pettway put them over the top.

If JSU wants a coach with ties to Alabama, why not Pettway? He knows what it feels like to play in big games and the leadership aspect is certainly there.

Nothing against Pearson, he could turn out to be a great head coach, but I hope he can figure out how to use the athleticism of his players because Gottfried still hasn't figured that one out.

The Gamecocks have good athletes on their roster. Nick Murphy, Jonathan Toles and others are great basketball players, and JSU needs a coach who knows how to use their skills to put wins on the board.

Morehead State's final game of the series is on Sunday, pulling themselves within two and a half

expect to come up with those big hits," McGinnis

it's not about the wins. It's about the program."

## DOWN THE STRETCH

### SOFTBALL

The Gamecocks have been nothing short of dominant in Ohio Valley Conference play this year.

After splitting a two-game series with Tennessee Tech, the Gamecocks won their next 12 OVC contests before falling to Morehead State last weekend.

JSU has nine conference games remaining on the schedule against the trio of Eastern Illinois, Austin Peay and Southeast Missouri State. EIU is the only team in the group with a winning percentage above .500 against OVC opponents.

With the Gamecocks already up 2.5 games in the standings and the toughest part of their schedule behind them, they should cruise to a regular season title.

It appears that Morehead State might pose the biggest threat to knock off JSU in the OVC tournament behind the arm of Alex Gjevre.

However, the Gamecocks always seem to find a way to win when their backs are against the wall.

Nikki Prier, Allie Barker, Rachel Fleming and Chrissy O'Neal have been clutch performers all season long, and they should be hoisting the OVC championship trophy in mid-May.

— Jared Gravette

### BASEBALL

JSU has seemed to find a lineup that is capable of getting back to the OVC Championship Game for a fifth consecutive year. Todd Cunningham and Bert Smith provide high batting averages and excellent speed at the top of the lineup, and the power hitters have started to drive in more runs.

It has turned into almost an automatic win when Ben Tootle takes the mound, and that is always a valuable asset. But neither Jim Case nor Gamecock fans can be too confident when anyone besides Tootle takes the mound.

But JSU does possess probably the best bullpen in the conference, largely because of sidearmers Brian Booth and Alex Jones.

The difficult non-conference schedule has left JSU prepared for anything the OVC has to throw at it. The 7-13 non-conference record included some ugly losses, but it also prepared the Gamecocks better than beating up on inferior teams. That could loom large in the OVC tournament.

JSU has as yet to lose a conference series this year, and has already taken two of three from conference-leading Samford. If the Gamecocks can find someone to step up as a quality number two starter, the team is capable of emerging as the class of the OVC.

— Jared Staubs

## Sweep: Gamecocks twice rally from large early deficits to win three

Continued from page 7

allowed only two hits and no runs to earn the victory. It was Hetland's second consecutive victory since being moved to the bullpen.

The Sunday finale again saw JSU's starter get hit hard, as John David Smelser gave up four runs in his three innings of work. But OVC Player of the Year Whittemore tied the game with one swing of his bat with his first career grand slam.

"You know, I'd never really thought about (not having ever hit a grand slam)," Whittemore said. "To be honest, I wasn't expecting to hit any home runs in the game. The biggest thing for me was getting us back even and getting the momentum back in our favor, and we carried that momentum the rest of the game I felt."

The momentum certainly carried to the next inning, when the Gamecocks scored another four runs largely on the strength of Steven Leach's first career home run.

Leach had gone the first 196 at-bats of his career

without hitting the ball out of the ballpark, but after Jake Sharrock, Todd Cunningham and Smith singled — Leach pulled a three-run homer to right field, and the Gamecocks never were seriously threatened again in their 10-7 victory.

In between the two offensive outbursts, Ben Tootle (6-2) recorded another victory — his sixth in his last seven starts — in a 4-3 Gamecocks' win. He allowed three runs in eight innings, and Alex Jones pitched a scoreless final inning to earn the save.

Brian Booth (2-0) took advantage of the Gamecock rally to earn the victory. Booth allowed only three base runners in his three innings of work — though one was a two-run home run — and Case said he was a major key in the victory.

"I thought when (Booth) came in, he settled the game down," Case said. "The game up until that time, it seemed like we were behind in the count. He came in with the attitude of, 'I'm going to attack the strike zone,' and that helped us get back into



Clay Whittemore (second from right) is greeted by teammates after hitting his first career grand slam, which erased a 4-0 SEMO lead. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

the game."

Jones came in and pitched the final two and two thirds innings to finish off the sweep. He allowed no hits or walks and struck out four.

The top three hitters in the

Gamecocks' batting order each had huge series. Smith finished the series with eight hits in 13 at-bats, and both he and Leach scored six runs and drove in five more in the three games.

The Gamecocks will look to continue pounding out runs as they resume non-conference play against Troy and Alabama State this week.