

**Basketball** After sinking to as low as dead last in RPI, the Gamecocks have won 2-straight. **Story Page 7**

# The Chanticleer

"To order a special dialing wand, please press the keypad with your palm now."

Volume 56, Issue 14

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

January 17, 2008

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## QUESTION of the WEEK

Which Democratic presidential candidate do you support?

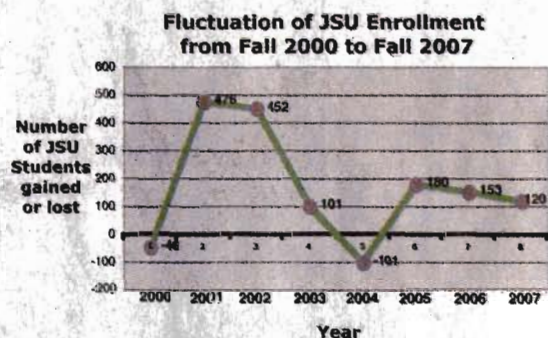
## Recession could boost enrollment

By **Bethany Harbison**  
News Editor

For Jacksonville State University, 10,000 is the magic number.

President William Meehan's goal of enrolling 10,000 students by 2010 is well documented, and the university says they have clear, step-by-step plans in place to transform this ambition into reality.

But as the economy's growth continues to slow, some economists say that Meehan's goal of 10,000 could receive an unexpected



Graphic by Bethany Harbison / The Chanticleer

boost from an unexpected source — a recession.

A recession is defined as two negative gross domestic

product (GDP) growths in two consecutive quarters, and symptoms normally include higher unemployment

rates, decreasing prices of consumer goods and fewer jobs.

How can a recession, the less intense (but still formidable) cousin of a depression, benefit anyone, much less a university?

Dr. Christopher Westley, professor of economics, explained that as more people find themselves out of work, the decision to return to school often becomes more appealing. People realize that, in order to compete for a smaller

See "Recession," page

## Quietly pursuing integrity

*Committee charged with keeping JSU's practices ethical*

By **Zach Childree**  
Staff Reporter

Very few people on campus know that an Integrity Committee, composed of faculty, staff and student members from various parts of the university, has been meeting to discuss plagiarism and ethics on campus.

But the meetings have not been kept secret.

Jerry Chandler, who leads the committee, doesn't like the idea of secret meetings.

"I don't want to be a part of anything that smacks of secrecy," Chandler said. "That goes against everything I preach and teach."

Dr. David LoConto, another member of the committee, said that openness is a goal of the committee.

"We hope to keep things as transparent as possible to let people know where the information is coming from," LoConto said.

According to Chandler, all of the committee's meetings are open to the public unless they are discussing something that could affect the good name and reputation of an individual.

The committee has been meeting since



Chandler

• ELECTION | 2008 •

## The college voter



## WEEK

Which Democratic presidential candidate do you support?



- Barack Obama 42%
- Hillary Clinton 28%
- John Edwards 22%
- Bill Richardson 6%
- Dennis Kucinich 3%

Editors note: Poll was conducted before Richardson withdrew from the race.



"I support Obama because of his different backgrounds. I think he can relate to all people."

— Javaris Smith  
Sophomore

### Next week's question:

Which Republican presidential candidate do you support?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

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JSU freshman Katie Freeman Photo illustration by Kevin Jeffers and Webb Dillard / *The Chanticleer*

By Kevin Jeffers  
Editor in Chief

JSU senior Jennifer Hopper plans to have her college degree and to be the teacher of her own classroom a year from now.

She also plans to have something to do with who is going to be the country's president at the time, knowing full well the livelihood of her career will depend on the Commander in Chief.

She doesn't care if he or she is a Democrat, a Republican, black or white.

"It just depends on the person," Hopper said. And she feels this year's campaign has lost focus on the issue most important to her, education.

"This year it's been all about gas prices, the war. They forget that the

children are the future, it seems," she said.

She, like many college-aged voters, knows that this year's presidential election will affect her more than ever. Arguably no time in recent history has there been this tight of a race on both the Republican and Democratic sides.

The issues that are important to Hopper — education, the economy, the war in Iraq — are typical of most college-aged voters.

A recent survey conducted by JSU sociology Professor Dr. Adrian Aveni's Sociological Methods course in the fall of 2007 found that, among a sampling of 330 JSU students, 43 percent identify themselves as Democratic in political affiliation, with 32 percent claiming to be Republican and 21 percent saying they were Independent.

Dr. Dan Krejci, Assistant Professor of political science at JSU, said while the sampling of students in the survey was relatively small, he feels it is a fairly representative sample of most college students.

"Most college-aged people would tend to be more Democratic because of the inherent ideology of the party," Krejci said.

Krejci said that the reason many people choose not to vote, particularly college-aged voters who are notoriously apathetic come Election Day, is simple.

"You don't do things that you're not interested in doing," Krejci said.

"People don't vote because they got other things in their lives going on that they consider more important."

If recent trends hold up, however,

See "Cover story," page 3

as possible to let people know where the information is coming from," LoConto said.

According to Chandler, all of the committee's meetings are open to the public unless they are discussing something that could affect the good name and reputation of an individual.

The committee has been meeting since mid-November under the commission of President Dr. William Meehan. Among the committee's charges is to establish guidelines for scholarly activity at JSU, as well as updating the current code of ethics. According to LoConto, one of the primary

See "Integrity," page 3

## Pawning off local business

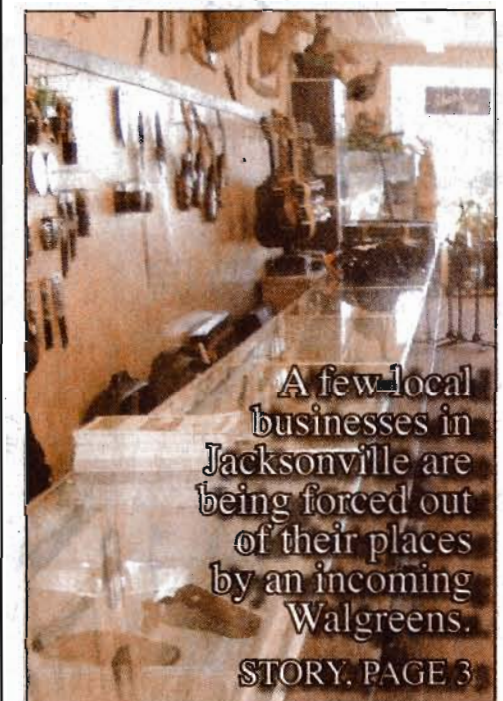


Photo by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*



Photo illustration by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*

## Banner nearing completion

By Chris Pittman  
Online Editor

The arrival of Banner has already made a huge impact on all aspects of JSU campus life.

The program handles many important functions such as class registration, financial aid, grade reporting and faculty scheduling. Banner is a major step forward in making the university more technologically sound.

The transition has not been perfect, however, as many

students have reported problems with class registration and financial aid. University officials say they are working hard to eliminate these glitches.

"We are extremely pleased with the program," Vice President for Information Technology Randy Harper said.

The project began in the middle of 2002. At that time, JSU used the Student Access System for registration, but the program was not aging well.

A large committee was formed with the focus of finding

a new administrative computing system. After searching many different outlets, the team recommended a commercial program.

"The entire process was very thorough," Harper said. "We talked and visited with many schools before deciding on going with the Banner program."

The transition to the Banner system required the support of the entire campus.

"Staff had to put in many

See "Banner," page 3

## Announcements

- Join Baptist Campus Ministries for a Welcome Back Party tonight at 8:00 p.m.
- A set of dental braces or retainer was found on Nov. 1, 2007 near the Panhellenic House. Call 782-5488 to claim.
- A blind student seeks to form a car pool to travel back and forth from the JSU campus to the Oxford/Anniston area. Will help pay for gas. Call Ted Nail at (256) 371-1024.
- A Ballerina interest meeting will be held in the Leone Cole Auditorium Tuesday, Jan. 22 from 5 to 9 p.m.
- WISE is holding a meeting tonight at 6 p.m. in Brewer Hall Room 330 for those interested in participating in Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues."

### 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, January 8

Rebecca I. Britton was arrested and charged with one count of Driving Under the Influence. Arrest occurred on Park Ave. and Mountain St.

Tuesday, January 1

Gadsden Community College student Lea Jeanette Rester was arrested and charged with one count of Driving Under the Influence. Arrest occurred on Hwy. 21 and Clinton at 2:35 a.m.

Saturday, December 29

Student Ebony A. Briskey reported an incident of harrasing communications from her ex-boyfriend.

# A crowning moment



Five ladies vied for the title of Miss JSU 2008 Friday night, but it was Lauren Moon, a junior majoring in history who took home the crown, cash, scholarships and prizes. Above, Miss JSU 2007, Jessica Andrews, crowns Moon while her fellow contestants look on. Sharonica Neeley (on the far right) was named First Runner-Up. Photo by Tamara Tellis / The Chanticleer

## JSU poses a \$100,000 question

By Jennifer Bacchus  
Contributing Writer

Four years into the most aggressive capital campaign in Jacksonville State University's history, the school has not only passed the initial goal of \$17.5 million, but is only \$5,262,000 away from the current \$25 million goal.

In hopes of getting a piece of the remainder, JSU President William Meehan and members of the institutional development office spoke to Jacksonville's mayor and city council during a work session prior to the December 20 city council meeting, asking them for a donation of \$100,000.

### University asks community for contribution

the school is currently looking into and which the student government association recently passed a resolution in favor of, will also be part of the plan.

"We've talked about a transportation system," said Meehan. "We have the support of the students now. The SGA has ordered that transportation plan. I would imagine between 2008 and 2009 we'll see that implemented on campus. Parking would be on the fringe of campus, making

designated is new tennis courts. JSU has considered putting in new courts with stadium seating and expanding the present courts into a complex with restrooms and a pro shop according to Jacksonville Parks and Recreation Director Bo Batey.

"They want to have a stadium-style court for championship games and competitive matches within their league and they need restrooms. There's not any restrooms and they need a pro shop, a place where their tennis man can have an office," said Batey, relaying information from a meeting he had with JSU Athletic Director Jim Fuller.

Councilman George Areno questioned the justifications for donating, saying there were several places where the city could

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

- Miss Alabama **Jamie Langley**, who won Miss JSU 2006, will participate in the Miss America pageant Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m on The Learning Channel.
- **Phi Alpha Theta** collected 350 gift-filled shoeboxes and \$525 for the annual Guatemala Shoebox Drive. The money raised went toward offsetting the cost of shipping the shoeboxes. Coach Becky Geyer and the women's basketball team joined the effort as well, wrapping dozens of the boxes.
- Housekeeper **Ester Uesry** was named Employee of the Year for 2007 at the staff awards luncheon on December 17, 2007.
- The Office of Distance Education announced that it is now easier to set up a Blackboard test for use with Respondus LockDown Browser. Contact **Misty Cobb** for more information.

- JSU Department of Art has announced the opening of the **Juried Student Show** Tuesday, Feb. 6. The opening reception is from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Hammond Hall gallery. This annual exhibit has grown into one of the department's largest and most popular exhibits. The exhibit will run through Wednesday, Feb. 15.

- JSU Alumnus **Earl Wise** Named 1st Vice President & Commercial Lender of The Peoples Bank. Wise earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Jacksonville State University where

**Saturday, December 29**

Student Ebony A. Briskey reported an incident of harassing communications from her ex-boyfriend.

**Wednesday, December 26**

Student Taylor J. Woodrow reported an attempted burglary at the Phi Kappa Pi House. One window was broken during the 3:50 a.m. incident.

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, January 17**

- *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Performance Center of Mason Hall. 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Japanese Language School, Basement of Sparkman Hall. 8:30 p.m.

**Friday, January 18**

- *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Performance Center of Mason Hall. 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, January 19**

- *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Performance Center of Mason Hall. 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 20**

- *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Performance Center of Mason Hall. 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 22**

- "Discipline Without Stress," Dr. Marvin Marshall, TMB Auditorium. 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- Voter Registration Table, TMB 4th floor. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 26**

- Leadership Development Program Session, TMB Auditorium. 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- All Campus Mixer, Leone Cole Auditorium. 8:00-12:00 p.m.

In hopes of getting a piece of the remainder, JSU President William Meehan and members of the institutional development office spoke to Jacksonville's mayor and city council during a work session prior to the December 20 city council meeting, asking them for a donation of \$100,000.

"One of the things we need a capital campaign for is to make the difference between what the state appropriation has been and what the needs are," said Meehan. "This last year, even though we had a double-digit increase in our appropriation, it was still 34 percent of our budget."

The money would be payable over a five-year period beginning whenever the first payment is made. To be applicable for the current capital campaign, however, the first payment would have to be made before December 2008.

Referencing the university's master plan for the year 2025, Meehan told the council of his desire to see JSU become a more pedestrian campus, with parking along the fringes and plentiful sidewalks for students to walk on to class.

A public transportation system, which

will also be part of the plan.

"We've talked about a transportation system," said Meehan. "We have the support of the students now. The SGA has ordered that transportation plan. I would imagine between 2008 and 2009 we'll see that implemented on campus. Parking would be on the fringe of campus, making it more pedestrian-friendly."

Meehan expects to see JSU pass his goal of 10,000 students by 2010. Further growth would rely upon use of the funds from the capital campaign to provide additional buildings on campus for housing and classroom use.

In a finance committee meeting on January 10, the mayor and council convened again to discuss whether or not to donate the funds and what, if any, restrictions should be put on the use of their money.

"If we give anything, I'd want it tied into something that would benefit. Something like the crosswalk. I'd love to see a crosswalk across Pelham," said Councilman Truman Norred.

Another idea being tossed around as a project for which the money could be

they need a pro shop, a place where their tennis man can have an office," said Batey, relaying information from a meeting he had with JSU Athletic Director Jim Fuller.

Councilman George Areno questioned the justifications for donating, saying there were several places where the city could put the money to use. He did acknowledge the city should donate something to the university, however, and gave an alternative amount he felt would be more realistic for the city.

"I would like to throw in the thought of cutting the amount to two payments of \$25,000 apiece and give a \$50,000 amount. That would hurt us a lot less than if we give them everything they want," said Councilman George Areno.

Each council member has until tomorrow afternoon to call Mayor Johnny Smith with their opinion on the issue. Once Smith hears from each of them, a resolution may be put before the council.

Sissy Spence, development officer for JSU's Office of Institutional Development, said it would be the donation that mattered, not the amount given.

**Wise Named 1st Vice President & Commercial Lender of The Peoples Bank.** Wise earned his bachelor's degree in finance from Jacksonville State University where he graduated with honors. In 2002, he completed the graduate school of banking program at Louisiana State University.

•JSU Alum **Army Maj. Gen. James David Bryan** will be heading ManTech Defense Group. ManTech ranks No. 31 on Washington Technology's 2007 Top 100 list of the largest federal government prime contractors.

•The **Office of Distance Education** is sponsoring a webinar on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. This webinar, which is titled "Key Considerations in Taking Online Programs Global," will be held in Room 1103 A of the Houston Cole Library.

— From wire reports

## An opera in three acts



**George-Anthony Moore (Mr. Ford), Devin Lacey (Slender) and Jean Allen (Mrs. Ford) perform during Wednesday night's dress rehearsal for *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. The opera will run January 17-20 in the Performance Center of Mason Hall. The *Merry Wives of Windsor* is an opera in three acts by Otto Nicolai, and the story is based on Shakespeare's play, which bears the same name. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / *The Mimosa***

## XiXi's campaign for a monumental cause

By Haley Gregg  
Staff Reporter

To some, the generations of today may seem to be unaware of the sacrifices and contributions that our nation's past heroes have made.

Jacksonville State University's Alpha Phi Alpha's XiXi Chapter is recognizing one hero, named Martin Luther King Jr. — the leader of the 1960s civil rights movement and the man that set the standard that everyone should be treated equally regardless of their skin color.

Members of the chapter are raising money for the MLK Memorial in Washington D.C. set to be dedicated in 2009. The project has raised 87 million dollars of the 100 million needed through donations.

The memorial will be an appealing monument conveying three main essentials in Dr. King's life: democracy, justice and hope. It will have a stone wall with excerpts of his public addresses and sermons. This will serve as a tribute to King's vision for America.

President of the XiXi Chapter, James Roscoe, a junior majoring in public relations, states, "I want students to realize that this going on, people are trying to get this completed and this would be a huge thing and opportunity for African Americans to build a foundation in Washington."

This project is close to Roscoe's

heart.

"For me this means a lot because one of the main reasons I joined this fraternity was because of the different people in it and Martin Luther King stood out to me the most out of anyone," Roscoe said. "That's the reason why I am trying to push this project."

Roscoe wants everyone to join his fraternity and Phi Beta Sigma at the TMB on January 22 at 5:00 p.m. The two fraternities will be performing a reenactment of Martin Luther King's famous march at Washington D.C.

The march will start at the TMB, go around Trustees Circle and end at the Round House. Where JSU's own former member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Dr. David Zeigler will speak and a documentary will be shown of King's life. If students are interested in donating to the MLK monument, the XiXi's will have a table set up in the TMB before the march from 10:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m.

The XiXi's will be raising money through April and will present a big check to their board of directors who in turn give it to the MLK memorial foundation at their annual gathering in Jacksonville, Florida on April 3.

Students can also go online to [www.mlkmemorial.org](http://www.mlkmemorial.org) or [www.xixi906.com](http://www.xixi906.com) to give donations in order to "build this dream."

## SENATE MINUTES

Rundown of the Monday, Jan. 14, SGA meeting:

- Approved minutes from previous meeting.

- Held off on Student Bill 91, which seeks to limit allocations to \$500 per semester per organization, because the author, DeAnna Highfield was not present.

- Tabled a resolution which would call on the university to promote student body senators to faculty parking status.

- Held off on a resolution which would add a Homecoming King to the Homecoming festivities.

## Banner: Most of system's problems deal with registration

Continued from page 1

extra hours to set everything up," Harper said. "We have been putting information into the Banner system since October 2005, so many people have been doing double duty since that time."

The information and transcripts of every single student currently at JSU were added to Banner during this time. This procedure was done to eliminate glitches during the switch to the new system.

Two groups were formed in order to keep the entire process running smoothly. A Banner team was formed to handle that side of the equation along with a Luminis team, which handles the MyJSU portal. Luminis refers to the internal name of the online environment that MyJSU encompasses. The portal is an informational hub that connects the Banner system to items already in place such as Blackboard and the GEM e-mail system.

Banner is the world's most widely used collegiate administrative suite, according to creator SunGard's Web site.

JSU worked with other schools in the state during implementation. Alabama, Auburn, UAB and the University of South Alabama are among the other schools in the state on the Banner system.

"South Alabama has been one of our best partners," Harper said. "They have provided answers to several of the problems that we have encountered."

JSU still holds consulting conferences with these schools even after the implementation of the product. These meetings help to shape the future of the program.

SunGard also did their part in assuring a smooth installation.

"There was almost always a member of SunGard on campus during implementation," Harper said. "A SunGard employee told me that it was one of the smoothest implementations they had ever seen," Harper said.

The process, however, has not gone perfectly. Several problems snuck through the rigorous testing that has been done.

Almost half of the respondents to a survey conducted by The

A problem with class time conflicts has also caused a few glitches with scheduling.

"One of my class times changed, and my core class was dropped instead of my elective," JSU student Kayla Barnes said. "The core class only had one section and was very difficult to get into."

Several students have run into problems registering for the English Competency Exam.

"I could not find instructions online as to how to register for the ECE," JSU student Dusty Murphy said. "Luckily another student told me how to register. It was a pain."

The Banner team says it is doing all that it can to solve these problems.

"We listen to student concerns and work to fully address them," Harper said. "Students were a big part of the implementation, and we want the program to run as smooth as possible for them."

The biggest issue the university has faced is with the student expectation of a perfect system.

"The Banner implementation was a learning experience for everyone involved, and glitches were bound to happen even with such high preparation," Harper said.

There are several new additions to the program on the horizon.

The Luminis Content Management Suite will be implemented next year and will give better standardized Web pages for the entire university.

"Every department will be able to control the content on their page in an easy-to-use manner," Harper said.

The program will use templates, which means the person responsible for updating a department's page will not have to know HTML code.

"This will encourage more departments to keep their pages up to date," Harper said.

Still, students have not completely warmed up to the program.

"Many students are still adjusting to the change," Harper said. "The program will become more popular as time passes."

## New Walgreens bad news for some J'ville stores

By Bethany Harbison  
News Editor

Walgreens is coming to town, leaving the three Jacksonville businesses that sit on the future store's location to pick up the pieces.

The Jacksonville Planning Commission has approved the plans for the block containing Gamecock Jewelry and Pawn, Norge Village Laundry and a local beauty shop.

Once the property changes hands, the three businesses will be demolished to make way for Walgreens.

Curtis Sessions, who has owned Gamecock Jewelry and Pawn since the summer of 2006, said that

the Walgreens rumors had been circulating for six months. It wasn't until mid-November, however, that Sessions knew for sure.

That was when the building's owner visited the pawnshop to let Sessions know that he was selling out to Walgreens.

Sessions received the news with mixed emotions.

"I like this location," Sessions said. "This business has been here over ten years."

While Sessions has yet to be informed of an exact demolition date, he has already begun the process of securing a future home for his business.

"The prices of real estate in Jacksonville are high," Sessions said. "We finally found a place that



Gamecock Pawn, with its signature mural on the side, will soon have to relocate. Photo by Bethany Harbison / The Chanticleer

was reasonable."

The new location will be on US Highway 204 near Starmart, and Sessions is excited about the new future for his business.

"We like it here, but this is a good opportunity," Sessions said. "(The new location) is going to be ours."

## Cover story: Young voter turnout could break records

Continued from page XX

this could be a record-breaking year for young-voter turnout.

In the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries, record-numbers of younger voters showed up at the polls. The youth movement helped to sway the outcome in Iowa, specifically, to Democratic hopeful Barack Obama.

In fact, more so than any other candidate this election year, the 46-year-old Obama has seemed to have struck a cord with young voters. Krejci agreed.

"(Obama) is young, he has all these big ideas and promises hope and change, not that that is anything new in politics," Krejci said. "But he reminds me of Kennedy in the way he has garnered attention as a young candidate."

The field of candidates is still wide open. The Democratic side is a two-horse race between Obama and Hillary Clinton, with John Edwards as a darkhorse. On the Republican side, one of Mike Huckabee,

John McCain, Mitt Romney or a few others could realistically win his party's nomination.

Clearly, there is still a long way to go before we know who will be our president.

How we vote, Krejci said, will be affected more than anything else by one's ideology.

"People vote because of an interest. Whether that interest is whatever issue, say the war in Iraq, depends on the voter."

Jennifer Hopper has a friend going overseas to fight in March.

"It's going to be very scary," she said. Does that make her support the war more or want a quicker troop withdrawal, a pivotal issue that is sure to affect the outcome in November?

"I don't know," she said. She is like plenty of voters her age in her indecision. Not just on the war, but on the whole presidential race in general.

Whether luckily or not, at least there are still plenty of options from which to choose.

## Recession: Economic outlook could help JSU

Continued from page 1

number of jobs, they need

have helped JSU's enrollment peak and that the recession that may lie ahead could have a



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had ever seen," Harper said.

The process, however, has not gone perfectly. Several problems snuck through the rigorous testing that has been done.

Almost half of the respondents to a survey conducted by *The Chanticleer* said they had problems registering for classes.

One of the most troubling problems deals with registering for a class in which a student is currently enrolled in its prerequisite. The Banner system will simply not allow the student to register for that class.

Still, students have not completely warmed up to the program.

"Many students are still adjusting to the change," Harper said. "The program will become more popular as time passes."

The university feels confident that Banner is the key tool it needs.

"Banner provides better support for our faculty and students," Harper said. "The university will be better off with this system."

## Integrity: Committee's goals include defining plagiarism

Continued from page 1

goals of the Integrity Committee is to figure out what exactly constitutes plagiarism, a charge that holds extra weight at JSU since Meehan's plagiarism snafu from the summer of 2007.

Meehan's name appeared on published articles in the *Jacksonville News* that were ghostwritten by longtime JSU employee Al Harris. Three known articles were plagiarized from a health Web site.

"We can't really condemn plagiarism if we don't have a working definition of what it is," LoConto said.

But is this committee looking for individual plagiarists? Chandler says no. "This is not an inquisitory committee. We are not engaged in witch-hunts."

Dr. David Steffy, who is also a member of the committee, agrees. "(The goal of the committee) is not to police the works of the university."

While the committee may not be seeking out individuals, Steffy said that students and faculty may not entirely understand violations of the current code of ethics.

"I don't think everyone is aware of the seriousness of the repercussions when the code of ethics is violated," Steffy said.

Steffy said he hopes that the committee can clarify any confusion that might exist and state very clearly what is expected of faculty and students.

Chandler said that the committee exists to create the same rules and procedures for everyone on campus.

"(We want to) harmonize the way faculty, staff and students attribute information," Chandler said.

The committee hopes to set JSU as an ethical leader among other universities in dealing with the issue of plagiarism.

"We want to make Jacksonville State University a light on a hill," Chandler said. "We want to make sure that if we do copy someone, we tell people where we got it."

The committee will not be recommending punishments for student plagiarism. Individual professors will decide the course of action to take on a situation-by-situation basis.

As far as the lack of press coverage regarding the committee meetings, LoConto thinks that the findings of the committee are more newsworthy than the meetings themselves.

"There is probably not going to be a lot of press about it until we're done," he said.

Still, LoConto believes the committee is doing good work.

"I think we've made some considerable strides," he said.

While a completion date for the committee has not been set, according to Chandler, they hope to present their findings to Meehan at the end of the spring semester.

But even with the recent concentration on preventing plagiarism among students, Chandler, who teaches in the Communications Department, still deals with the issue. Recently in his COM 200 class, Chandler said a student completely copied a paper from the Web site Wikipedia.

And he said caught it quickly.

"I know I look dumb, but I'm not that dumb."

## RECESSION: ECONOMIC outlook could help JSU

Continued from page 1

number of jobs, they need more education and more training.

"Suddenly when a recession occurs, out of work people also have a lower opportunity cost of going to school," Westley said. "The decision to go to school costs them nothing in lost income."

Recent college graduates may also be more likely to return for more schooling sooner in a recession, according to economics professor Dr. Doris Bennett.

The most recent recession occurred from 2001 to 2002, and, according to data provided by the JSU Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, it may have played a role in the enrollment boost.

From 1999 to 2000, JSU's fall head count lost 46 students, falling from 8,048 to 8,002.

But in 2001, enrollment increased by 476 to 8,048. Then from 2001 to 2002, the head count shot up to 8,478, an increase of 452. By 2003, the spike ceased and enrollment only increased by 101, topping off at 9,031 (graphic on page 1).

Myriad factors influence enrollment, but Dr. Bennett said there is a strong possibility that the last recession could

have helped JSU's enrollment peak and that the recession that may lie ahead could have a similar effect.

"It would be good for us, but in general, recessions aren't good for everybody as a group," Bennett said.

Meehan said that though recessions may benefit university enrollment, they could also leave schools with less money and more students.

"Because much of the funding for K-12 and public colleges and universities comes from sales tax and income tax, it can also be a negative," Meehan said. "The education trust fund is very sensitive to economic downturns."

Meehan also explained that because the federal government is saying this recession will last only six months, any enrollment growth might be unsustainable. And no matter when or if this recession descends, Meehan said JSU would meet the goal of 10,000.

"I think we've made plans to reach our goal of 10,000 students without the aid of a recession," Meehan said. "We hope that, with those plans in place, we will be recession-proof or recession-neutral."

Could this recession shake up or speed up said plans?

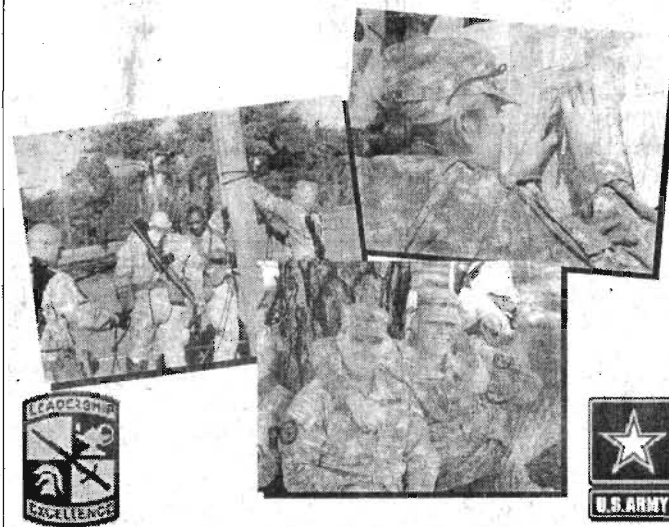
"(A recession) really is a double-edged sword," Meehan said. "I think we'll just have to wait and see."

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# The Chanticleer

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## OUR VOICE

# A rare opportunity for Alabama voters

**F**or the first time in a long time, Alabama will have a significant role in the selection of the nation's presidential candidates.

Last year, the state Legislature approved a proposal moving the state's presidential preference primary to February from the political backwaters of early June.

The last time Alabama held sway in a presidential primary season was the spring of 1984, when state Democrats helped throw the nomination to Minnesota Senator Walter Mondale.

Now, 24 years later, Alabamians will go to the polls to again help choose who will lead each party into the November elections and, eventually, the White House.

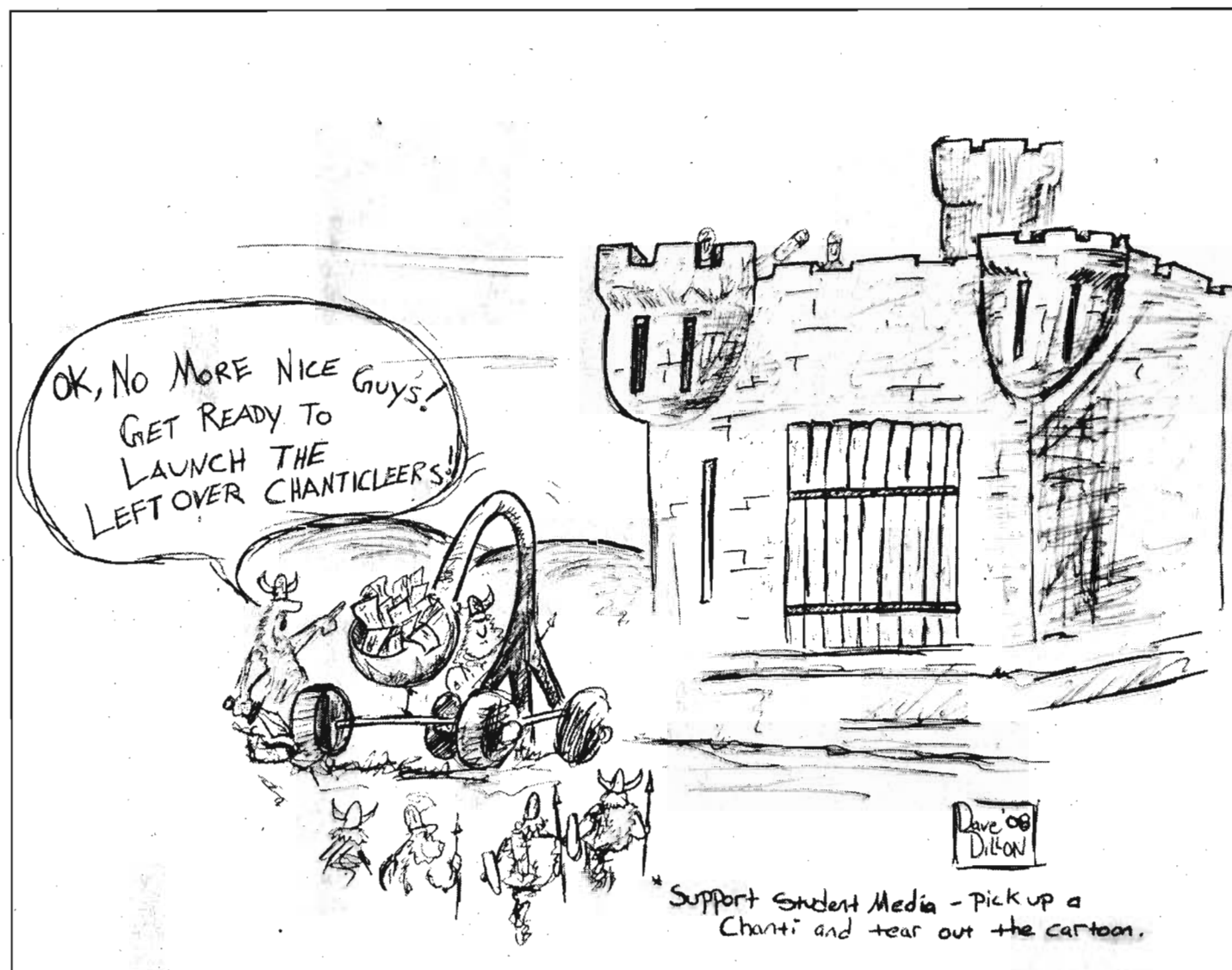
But we're far from alone. 23 other states will be competing for the attention of the candidates and the media. The pundits call it "Super Duper Tuesday," a not-so-subtle reference to the sheer number of states and voters participating. At first glance it would seem that

whose candidates had already been chosen by others?

Things will be different next month. After Iowa and New Hampshire, the races are far from decided.

Consider that Alabama is in the Central Time Zone, two hours ahead of the West Coast. Voters in California and elsewhere will see Alabama's results up to two hours before their polls close. Depending on how Alabama and other Central Time states swing, it could depress or inflate turnout for a particular candidate or party. Put another way, if Alabama selects Candidate A, a supporter of Candidate B watching the results out west would possibly be less likely to go out and support a contender they feel may be a lost cause.

The weather also influences turnout. If it's rainy or cold on the West Coast, a very real chance, turnout will be depressed. Sometimes, no matter how fervent the persuasion, people just do not want to get wet. It could be the difference between a photo



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# Maybe skeptical, still hopeful

Call it the "Audacity of Skepticism." I'm just not sure that all this talk of change emanating from the 2008 presidential candidates is what it's cracked up to be.

It's not that I don't believe that the nation needs a little fresh blood. I believe change is exactly what Americans need right now. It's just hard for me to believe that any one man or woman will be inaugurated on January 20, 2009, and immediately set about to move the entrenched bureaucracy toward the innovation and imagination the United States so desperately needs in its corridors of power.

We've heard this song before. I'm the candidate of change. I'm the outsider. I'm not part of the Beltway elite.

Except, of course, they are. If they were not seasoned politicians they would not get the job in the first place. Outsiders and insurgents do not win primaries. Candidates with pollsters, street teams and focus group-



**Brandon Hollingsworth**

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too. Pander to the left in the spring, moderate in the summer and appeal to the undecided centrist in the fall. As long as the primary system is in place, they always will.

Candidates must play the game along with everyone else, lest they be relegated to the dustbins of history.

Playing the game doesn't end with the conventions. It

follows the president-elect into the White House. Change is not something to which the federal government adjusts easily, and influential Congressmen and special interest groups don't help.

You can't reduce the USDA's bloated

Washington Beltway, what one person, what single entity, could possibly exact the changes proposed so easily on the campaign trail?

At heart, I'm an idealist. I want to believe that the national funk that has plagued us for the past seven years will suddenly lift and, through the fog, will come the brighter future we're all hoping will be around the next corner.

In my brain, I'm a realist. If the new president wishes to be re-elected in 2012, he or she won't rock the political boat to the point of capsizing. To do so would be the end of their career, to leave a legacy that barely goes further than an obscure answer on some *Jeopardy!* episode of the future. And they know it.

Let me be clear: I do not think change is impossible. But I do think change on a large scale takes time and patience. Let us not be deluded into believing one candidate can

media. The pundits call it "Super Duper Tuesday," a not-so-subtle reference to the sheer number of states and voters participating. At first glance it would seem that Alabama's results would fall under the weight of larger states such as New York, California and Georgia.

Suddenly, Alabama's votes wouldn't seem to matter all that much.

However, as the New Hampshire primary demonstrated, solid outcomes are impossible to predict with great levels of certainty. Factors large and small will play decisive roles in the final numbers, and larger populations in other states do not necessarily mean Alabama's battle is lost before it begins.

Alabama's inconsequential June primary was disheartening to all but the most stringent political diehards, leading to anemic turnout at the polls — and why not, for an election

turnout will be depressed. Sometimes, no matter how fervent the persuasion, people just do not want to get wet. It could be the difference between a photo finish and a landslide.

It would be easy to say that with 24 states holding primaries on the same day, Alabama would become lost in the fog again, as it has been for the past quarter century.

But make no mistake. This is not a dead-end June primary based on formality. This is the real deal, and the voice with which Alabama's voters will speak — one that has been silenced for over 20 years — has the opportunity to be heard in Democratic and Republican camps alike, by candidates and by the press.

Our hope is that Alabama experiences a similar upswing in younger voters that benefited certain candidates in Iowa and New Hampshire.

## BRIEF THOUGHT

It's easy for a skeptic to look at a Barack Obama and claim he has little to no experience, specifically perhaps with international affairs.

But when you look at what is fundamentally wrong with America, there is no more perfect a candidate. What this country needs, more than anything else, is healing. We are a nation of blue or red, right or left. Obama has, since he first made his intentions to run for the presidency known, preached change, hope and unity. Not so oddly enough, all the other candidates are now falling in line and in love with the notion of change. They see the appeal he garners with it.

Ideally, voters will remember whose idea it was in the first place. The healing process must begin sometime. Let us not continue to facilitate the divisive nature of our government.

Except, of course, they are. If they were not seasoned politicians they would not get the job in the first place. Outsiders and insurgents do not win primaries. Candidates with pollsters, street teams and focus group-tested messages do.

Ask a political scientist, and he'll tell you that Republican contenders cater to the conservative base during the primaries, and then moderate after the conventions, placating the center until the election in November. Guess what. Democrats do it,

House. Change is not something to which the federal government adjusts easily, and influential Congressmen and special interest groups don't help.

You can't reduce the USDA's bloated farm subsidies without being labeled anti-farmer. You can't pull back on troop levels in Iraq without being labeled anti-military, anti-American or far worse. You can't push for universal health care without being called a socialist.

In the status-quo environment inside the

on some *separately*: episode of the future. And they know it.

Let me be clear: I do not think change is impossible. But I do think change on a large scale takes time and patience. Let us not be deluded into believing one candidate can work the magic that the others cannot.

Change originates not just in the White House, but on the bench of the Supreme Court, in the columned halls of the Capitol and in the minds of 300 million Americans.

Without those factors, promising change is proffering the audacity of false hope.

# This guy asked *me* for advice

By Webb Dillard

In 2003, my wife and I took a Caribbean cruise. Cruises are great fun. If you've been, then you know what I mean: the food, the sun, the relaxation. My favorite part of cruising, though, I would have to say, are the people.

One evening, I was introduced to an Englishman named Ken. As he put it, he was on "holiday" for two months. I was impressed with the guy from the start. He was probably in his late 50s. We talked about everything: George Bush vs. British Parliament, soccer vs. college football (we agreed to disagree), Jack Daniel's vs. Cutty Sark (I won because I hate scotch.) The two of us were inseparable for most of the cruise (whenever our wives permitted).

One evening, Ken turned to me and asked about a previous conversation he happened to overhear. The day before, I had mentioned to my wife how fun it would be to have my stepfather



Webb Dillard

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aboard. Ken was intrigued by the comment.

"Do you talk with your real father?" Ken asked.

"Sure do," I said. "Love him dearly."

Ken has two sons, he told me. Up to that point, he'd had little or no contact with them in 15 years. His sons were 25 and 20. Ken divorced their mother years ago when the boys were small. His ex-wife moved far away, and always told the boys their dad didn't want to see them. Evidently, the boys believed their mother, because both developed a strong resentment towards Ken.

He asked me — that's right, me — what could he do. I was 28 at the time and felt extremely honored that a man of Ken's age

and accumulated wisdom would think I might be able to provide some sort of solution or insight.

I told Ken I'd never had a perfect relationship with my father or my stepfather. (What relationship is perfect, right?) I also explained that the adults in my life made decisions that have affected me to this day. Did I have a say in any of the decisions? No. But I would have never decided to have my dad live in Florida, and my mother stay in Indiana. What kid would?

Ken started to understand his sons' side of the story. I told him he would have to reach out to his boys. He needed to sit and talk with them about the choices that were made when they were young. No matter whether they were right or wrong, or whether it hurt Ken, he would have to explain the choices he made that affected his sons so much. The last thing I told Ken was this: "They are your sons. Even though they are mad at you, deep down, I'll bet their anger is stemming from the love they

have for you. You are their dad."

After our conversation we walked back to our cabins. Ken expressed how thankful he was for my advice. I told him it wasn't anything he wouldn't have done for me.

Four months later, Ken emailed from England. Apparently he had sat down with his younger son and talked. The older son really didn't seem interested in talking, but Ken and his younger son patched up years of hurting. A few more months passed, and I got another email. In it, Ken told me he and his son had become attached at the hip. They took a "holiday" together to Egypt. They went down the Nile, visited The Valley of Kings, the pyramids, etc.

Since 2003, Ken has kept in touch. He sent gifts for the birth of my daughter, and again for her first Christmas. He also sent me a letter thanking me for help getting at least one of his sons back into his life.

# 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

**Rivers Cuomo**  
*Alone*

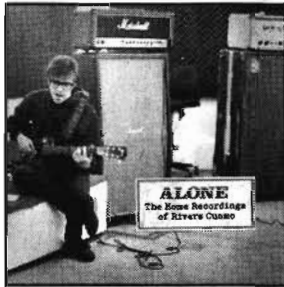
Weezer fans have been waiting since 2005 for a new album. With the release of *Alone: The Home Recordings of Rivers Cuomo*, Weezer fans will have something to hold them over until the upcoming release in Spring 2008.

Containing home recordings and many unpolished demos from 1992 to 2007, *Alone* is not the typical Weezer album, but a look back in Weezer history, featuring early versions of Weezer favorites like "Buddy Holly" and unfinished tracks from ill-fated Rivers Cuomo rock musical, "Songs from the Black Hole."

Some songs appear to be written by a completely different Rivers than the one Weezer fans have grown to adore but still have that glint of complete Cuomo authenticity. Recommended tracks that are definitely worth a good listen include: "Blast Off," "Little Diane," "Wanda" and "Long Time Sunshine." I highly recommend giving this unique contribution from a truly unique artist a listen, and I guarantee you will not walk away without a smile.

**B+**

— Corey Martin



## ALSO IN ROTATION

**The Motion Sick**

*The Truth Will Catch You, Just Wait ...*

The Motion Sick: Are they another trendy punk band or another disappointment for those who truly love music? In the beginning when God created music, wasn't it created to inspire, to share stories and to bring people together?

Well, this band was not created to do anything mentioned above. This band was clearly put together by another good producer and a better publicist to generate another buck out of the pocket of today's youth. They were named Band of the Month by *Spin* magazine, and if the magazine wasn't paid off, then I recommend that you never read it, because they clearly don't know good music.

The Motion Sick got its start in Boston, Massachusetts. *The Truth Will Catch You, Just Wait* is their second album, and just like the rest of today's artists, the second doesn't hold a candle



## COLLEGIATE COOKING



Photo by Abby Lockridge / The Chanticleer

## CHILLY NIGHTS CHILI

**By Abby Lockridge**  
Staff Writer

You've just come out of your last class of the day. You're cold from the walk to your car or apartment or dorm, and you're pretty hungry. You may be pondering the possibilities of dinner. What you really

need during these blustery winter days and chilly winter nights is a nice piping hot bowl of warmth for dinner. Lucky for you, I have just the recipe for a simple meal that will warm you up, fuel you for the next day of classes and studying and make you feel right at home. Additionally lucky, it won't put a dent in your funds. I created this recipe

a few months ago with college students just like you and me in mind. Costing less money per person than a value meal at any fast food chain, this recipe is healthier, tastier and guaranteed to make you warmer and more satisfied. It's also great for watching the game, think Superbowl here. The stats and recipe follow.

### STATS:

- 1 cutting board, any size
- 1 kitchen knife
- 1 medium to large soup or stock pot, nonstick if you have it.
- 1 spatula
- 1 ladle or big spoon
- 1 dinner plate
- Bowls and spoons, any kind

### TIPS:

- Serves: 4 one-helping bowls or 2 really hungry guys.
- Approximate cost per recipe, even if you're buying the Mrs. Dash for the first time: Fewer than eight dollars.
- For recipes like this, buying the store brand canned goods is perfectly fine, there's essentially no difference in taste, but you will save money.
- 1 spatula

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 pound very lean ground beef, with a fat content of 7% or less.
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 tsp. olive or vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper
- 1 15.5 oz can kidney beans, light or dark, drained
- 1 15.5 oz can pinto beans, drained
- 1 10 oz can Rotel, mild, medium, or spicy upon taste preference, undrained.
- 1 14.5 oz can petite diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 1/2 Tbsp Mrs. Dash Southwest Chipotle seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1 can vegetarian vegetable stock, reduced sodium, or 1 1/4 cups water, you can add more depending on your desired consistency.

1. In your medium to large soup or stock pot, over medium-high *greasy. It's always best to go ahead and drain it.*

named Band of the Month by *Spin* magazine, and if the magazine wasn't paid off, then I recommend that you never read it, because they clearly don't know good music.

The Motion Sick got its start in Boston, Massachusetts. *The Truth Will Catch You, Just Wait* is their second album, and just like the rest of today's artists, the second doesn't hold a candle to their first.

Their first album, *Her Brilliant Fifteen*, as horrible as it can absolutely get, was truly an album that depicts the heartache of a young man who loved and lost.

In their new album, Michael Epstein, the lead singer (or should I say the lead talker) lays out his lyrics that sound like they were written by a 13-year-old child. "I can walk on water if it's frozen," lyrics from "Walk on Water," are one example of why I couldn't keep this album in my stereo for more than one rotation.

The album as a whole is a web of idiotic phrases and even promises of money and fame from their newly acquired contract with a company that I won't mention.

The Motion Sick have been compared to famous bands like Modest Mouse and Bright Eyes, and when I listen, I hear a lot of Radiohead and 50's bubblegum music.

Besides a completely original sound and talent, they have everything that these bands have. If you throw a little publicity and money at any band, they can have a short career, and that's exactly what has been done in this case.

This band should sell their equipment and use what little fame and money they have to get acting jobs while everyone is still looking their way.

**D-**

—Matthew Singleton

### The Great Debaters Soundtrack

Music from & Recorded from the Motion Picture

*The Great Debaters*, the film in which Denzel Washington both starred in and directed, may have gotten some good reviews at the theater, but the album can't be spoken of as highly.

The album features Alvin Youngblood Hart, Sharon Jones, Billy Rivers and The Carolina Chocolate Drops on a number of songs — most in fact — causing the album to start off strong, but eventually sound a bit monotonous with its constant melody lingering like a two-hour jolly rancher in your mouth. It needs some diversity to break up the constant tunes of blues and soul.

While the album in its entirety may not be wonderful, there are definitely a few songs to take a look at. "Delta Serenade" by David Berger and The Sultans of Swing starts off with some wonderful horns and stays at a snappy beat forcing your feet to tap and your fingers to snap. "The Shout" by Art Tatum is also enjoyable with the ever enjoyable fast piano playing, and just who can overlook the "Rock n' Rye" also by David Berger and The Sultans of Swing?

If you enjoy blues and a laid-back café-style sound you may be interested in buying this album, but please don't expect much diversity. It tends to roll on like a one long song with very little variety to break it up.

**B-**

—Julie Skinner

goods is perfectly fine, there's essentially no difference in taste, but you will save money.

• 1 spatula

1. In your medium to large soup or stock pot, over medium-high heat, add oil to the pot and brown ground beef and chopped onion.

*TIP: If your pot is nonstick, there's really no need to use the oil. You'll save several calories by eliminating it here if your pan has a nonstick coating.*

2. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Break up the meat and stir every few minutes until it is completely brown and the onion is tender.

3. Once the meat is browned, line a dinner plate with three paper towels. Drain the meat and onion onto the paper towels, and pat gently to absorb excess grease from the meat. Transfer right back into the soup pot.

4. Add Mrs. Dash, cumin, and chili powder.

*TIP: While you may have purchased lean ground beef with a fat content of about seven percent or lower, it will still render or give off a significant amount of grease which will only make the chili*

lean vegetable vegetable stock, reduced sodium, or 1 1/4 cups water, you can add more depending on your desired consistency.

*greasy. It's always best to go ahead and drain it.*

5. Add the undrained cans of Rotel and diced tomatoes and the tomato sauce. Also add the drained cans of pinto beans and kidney beans.

6. Add stock or water and bring to a simmer.

7. Simmer for 20-30 minutes on low heat, stirring occasionally.

*TIP: While the chili is simmering, read that story for literature or study your biology notes.*

8. Spoon chili into serving bowls and garnish with cheese, sour cream, taco chips or crackers. Enjoy!

*P.S. If you're interested in recipes to help you use up that other 1/2 pound of ground beef, stay tuned.*

## FILM REVIEW

# The Bucket List delivers laughs

By Stephen Bagley  
Staff Writer

*The Bucket List* is for anyone who believes Morgan Freeman could get an Oscar for reading the phone book and that Jack Nicholson is in fact The Joker.

You may have seen the preview for it on television or before some other movie that isn't nearly as good. These aren't your average grandpas just waiting to roll over and kick the bucket, though.

Jack Nicholson plays the part of a hospital owner named Edward Cole who, despite his abundant funds and incredibly standoffish nature, turns out to be a total jerk.

When he is diagnosed with cancer, he is placed in a room with Morgan Freeman's character, Carter Chambers. Carter is a mechanic who has been in and out of the hospital for a while, so he tries to give some friendly advice to Edward. The laughs just keep on coming like sacks of bricks as the two unlikely friends team up for a

whirlwind tour of the world, fulfilling their wishlist of things to do before they depart.

The script itself leaves a bit to be desired, but Freeman and Nicholson manage to pull the very best out of what they have to work with.

Nicholson is capable of delivering the most mundane lines with a wicked, sarcastic humor that Freeman is perfect for rebutting.

Much like Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium, which was released a few months ago, *The Bucket List* is more a story of life than the death we see on the surface. If you are capable of laughing yourself to tears, you will love this movie.

The Academy should go ahead and deliver the Oscars now, because I doubt anything else this season will be capable of moving you as much as *The Bucket List* will.

So skydive, don't walk, to your local cinema to catch a showing of *The Bucket List*.

**A+**

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

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## Sports



Jared Gravette

chantysports@gmail.com

## Should I stay or should I go now?

At the end of every college football season, many diehard fans from around the country shift their attention to the NFL Draft.

What becomes the number one question?

How about, is our best underclassman going to bolt for the NFL?

Underclassmen leaving early could shatter teams' hopes of being crowned national champions at the end of the season, but those who choose to stay often reap the benefits.

Just ask LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey, who is now a national champion and will likely be the number one overall pick in the draft.

It happens more and more with every year that passes.

As of Monday, 36 underclassmen had already decided to leave their respective schools for the fame and fortune of the NFL.

The guys that make college football so special, gone without even playing four years of college ball.

A quick look at the running backs leaving school early this year should give some indication to how drastic the allure of the NFL really is.

Texas' Jamaal Charles, West Virginia's Steve Slaton, Clemson's James Davis, Illinois' Rashard Mendenhall, Rutgers' Ray Rice, Central Florida's Kevin Smith, Oregon's Jonathan Stewart and Arkansas' dynamic duo of Felix Jones and Darren McFadden

# Rising from the ashes

## JSU out of OVC cellar

By Jered Staubs  
Sports Editor

They say that sometimes success won't come until you hit rock bottom.

The JSU men's basketball team must have taken that message literally.

After a nine-game losing streak left JSU dead last in the national RPI rankings — 341<sup>st</sup> out of 341 Division I teams — the Gamecocks responded with consecutive wins over Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State.

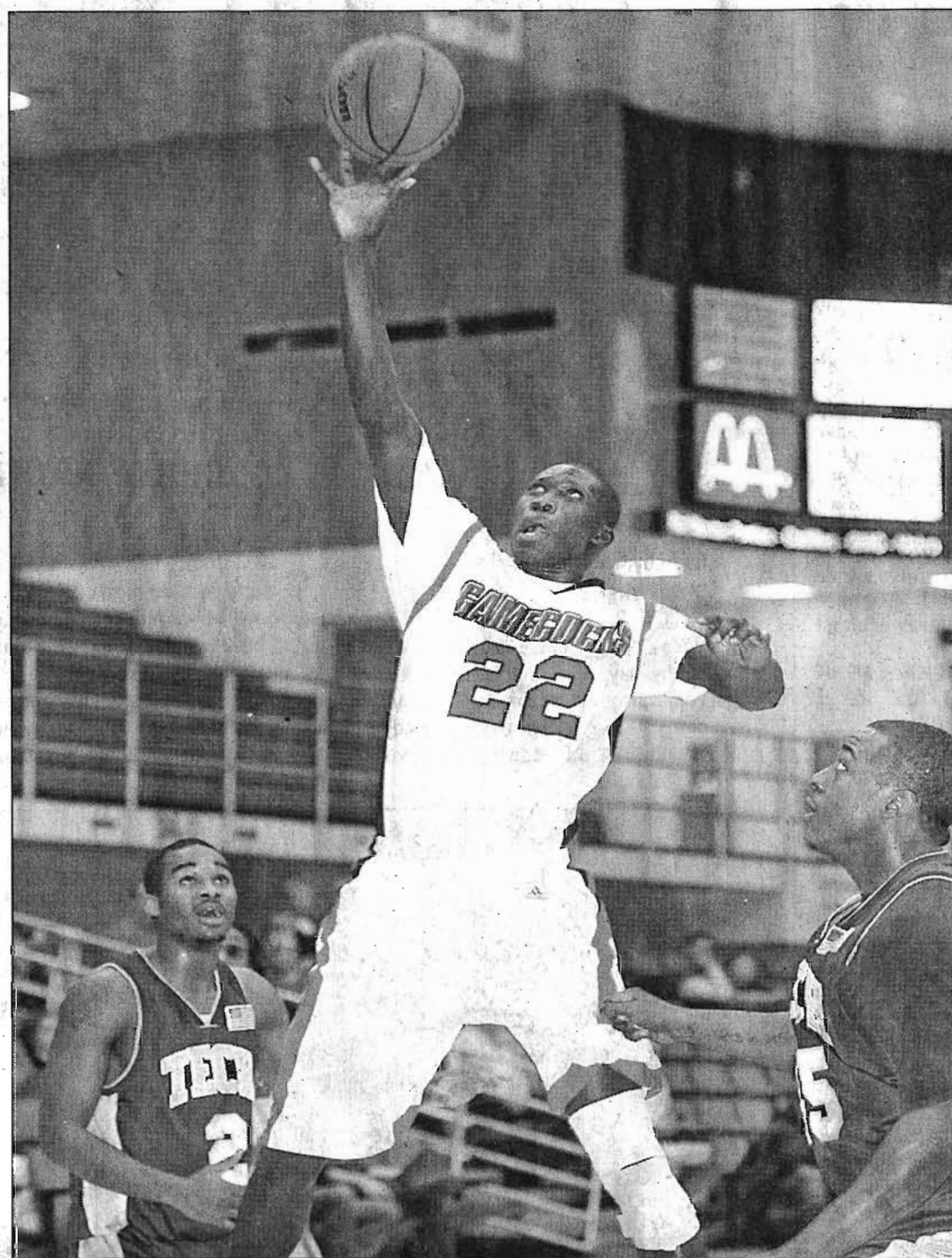
"If we would have lost 10 in a row, I couldn't walk on campus," said Amadou Mbodji. "Everybody would say, 'Man, these basketball players, they suck,' so we had to get that win."

Even with the impressive performance, Tennessee Tech was not going to gift JSU its first conference win. The Golden Eagles out-rebounded JSU 48-31 and put pressure on JSU to make plays down the stretch.

For the first time in the conference schedule, JSU was able to make enough to get the 79-74 win.

"It's been a tough year," guard Jonathan Toles said. "We've been losing by three, two, one, all the numbers you can count, but we kept playing hard and we just stuck together and found ways to win."

The main difference was that JSU was able to make free throws down the stretch. While Tennessee Tech with



ABOVE: Amadou Mbodji pours in two of his career-high 19 points in JSU's 79-74 win over Tennessee Tech. The sophomore made 15 of his 19 attempted field goals in the Gamecocks' first two conference wins of the season. BELOW: Jonathan Toles drives to the hole against Tennessee Tech. Photos courtesy of Bill Wilson / The Anniston Star

## Diverse group leads revival

By Jered Staubs  
Sports Editor

Rewind to a couple years ago. Amadou Mbodji was in the Senegal, being recruited by a school in Jacksonville, Alabama, a place he didn't know.

Nick Murphy was a kid from the Bronx trying to establish a name for himself at Harmony Prep in Cincinnati.

Jonathan Toles was trying to figure out whether he was going to qualify academically for bigger name schools.

J.J. Wesley was in high school and on his way to leading LeFlore High School to the state championship.

Now, the four have combined with JSU veterans Will Ginn and DeAndre Bray to give JSU fans hope for the rest of this season.

"That's recruiting, baby," coach Mike LaPlante joked. "That's always been a part of what we've done, recruited guys from all over the country."

And beyond.

Serbian Iljia Kalajdzic was on the roster the past couple years, but never really made an impact.

But now, the Gamecocks are centered — literally and figuratively — around a sophomore from Senegal.

Mbodji has made a quantum leap this year. After averaging only 2.3 points and 3.7 rebounds in 19 games last year, Mbodji has excelled at both ends of the court, especially in recent wins.

The big man, known to his coach and teammates simply as "Du," has already climbed to second on the career block list at JSU, and is one of only two

West Virginia's Steve Slaton, Clemson's James Davis, Illinois' Rashard Mendenhall, Rutgers' Ray Rice, Central Florida's Kevin Smith, Oregon's Jonathan Stewart and Arkansas' dynamic duo of Felix Jones and Darren McFadden have all played their last college football game.

What are the Razorbacks without Jones and McFadden? One of the worst team in the SEC? That sounds about right.

I'm sure several of these guys will have outstanding NFL careers, but some are bound to be busts. It happens every year.

Not to pick on the Detroit Lions — that's like shooting fish in a barrel — but they drafted junior wide receiver Charles Rogers out of Michigan State with the second pick of the 2003 draft. Two years later, they used another top 10 pick on USC wide out Mike Williams, who also left school early.

Where are they now?

You can't always bank on a successful career just because NFL scouts say you are going to be good.

So, should these future stars be allowed to leave school early without completing four years of college football?

It would certainly enhance the talent pool, as far as the NCAA is concerned, if they were forced to stay. However, there are a number of reasons why these guys choose to leave.

Injury concerns and financial gain are probably the most important factors that a potential NFL draft pick must consider.

So, should these kids be allowed to make their own decision based on their individual needs or should they be forced to play out their full four years of eligibility?

Personally, I think they should stay put. A potentially career threatening injury is a long shot. And aren't these kids in school to get a degree in the first place?

A college education gives them something to fall back on if football doesn't work out.

I don't see this rule changing soon, but it is something to think about. The NCAA needs to make some changes.

Hopefully one day, we will see college football's elite in a playoff system where the best players on the field are the seniors, who have experienced at least four years in the atmosphere that is college football.

you can count, but we kept playing hard and we just stuck together and found ways to win."

The main difference was that JSU was able to make free throws down the stretch. While Tennessee Tech with its free throw shooting in the second half, JSU was able to convert 14 of 18, including six in a row to close out the game.

Coach Mike LaPlante said that while free throw shooting had been a handicap all season, his team never lost confidence in being able to close out the game.

"We weren't nervous, we've been in this situation so many times, we just finally made the plays to win," he said. "We did a good job of executing our inbounds plays, got some important defensive stops, and got the right guys to the free throw line."

The players were relieved to get the so-called monkey off their backs, and celebrated by swinging 5'5" point guard DeAndre Bray around in the locker room.

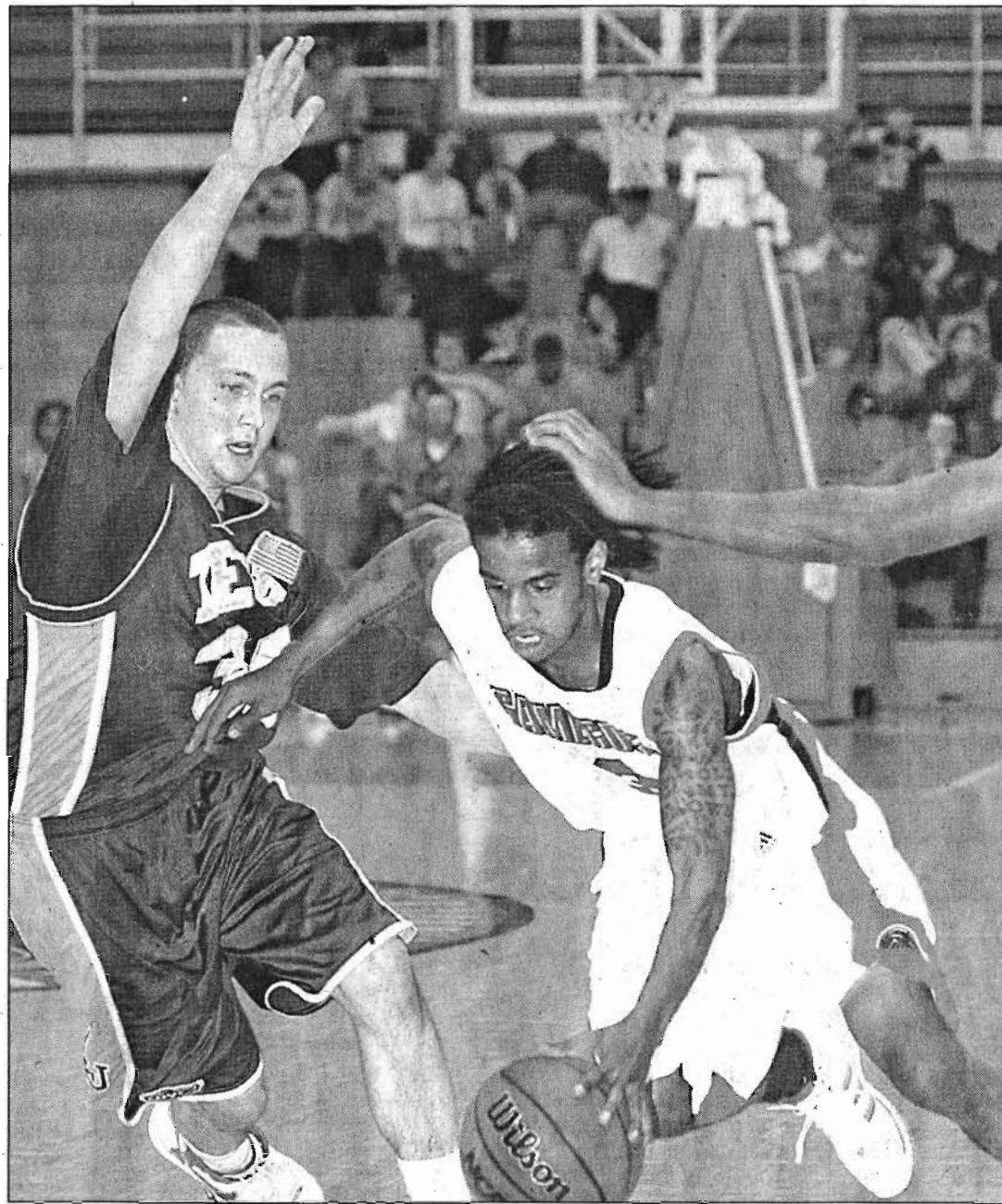
After the start to Saturday's game against Tennessee State, it looked like the Gamecocks may have celebrated too much, as they immediately fell behind 13-2.

But JSU never panicked, and after a well-timed timeout, the Gamecocks made a 14-2 run of their own to take the lead.

"It was important that we came right back with that little run," Toles said. "One of these days we're going to be the team that gets up early."

See "Winning Late," page 7

**ABOVE: Amadou Mbodji pours in two of his career-high 19 points in JSU's 79-74 win over Tennessee Tech. The sophomore made 15 of his 19 attempted field goals in the Gamecocks' first two conference wins of the season. BELOW: Jonathan Toles drives to the hole against Tennessee Tech. Photos courtesy of Bill Wilson / The Anniston Star**



## Girls match win total from last season

**By Jared Gravette**  
Assistant Sports Editor

After losing leading scorer Eren McMichael for the season two minutes into the Alabama game, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team struggled, dropping three of its next four games.

The Gamecocks took a big step forward Saturday afternoon defeating Tennessee State 77-70.

With the win, JSU (7-10, 4-4

OVC) matched its overall and Ohio Valley Conference win totals from last season and also notched its first conference win at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

"I think either way, tonight is a turning point," JSU head coach Becky Geyer said. "It's probably, to us, as big as beating Troy and Southern Miss. That was a turning point for us to go into Samford. We played a complete game tonight."

"Did we lose a few at home in a row? Absolutely, but there is a lot of basketball left and we

just have to win every game we can get."

The initial 15 minutes of the contest was a battle. In a first half that saw a total of 10 ties and nine lead changes, the Gamecocks sputtered down the stretch.

Behind the inside presence of Tiffany Jackson, who scored nine points in the final five minutes of the half, the Lady Tigers finished on a 14-6 run putting themselves up 42-34

See "Duhart," page 7

only 2.3 points and 3.7 rebounds in 19 games last year, Mbodji has excelled at both ends of the court, especially in recent wins.

The big man, known to his coach and teammates simply as "Du," has already climbed to second on the career block list at JSU, and is one of only two OVC players to make over 60% of their field goal attempts this year.

"Du is good in the post and he's a great shot blocker," Toles said. "He won the game for us (against TSU) with a shot block. It's good to have that behind you."

Murphy is a true freshman who LaPlante and his teammates say shows many of the qualities of a veteran.

"He still makes freshman mistakes every once in a while," LaPlante said, "but he's a playmaker with the basketball. He has a knack for being in the right place at the right time."

He also displays the confidence and toughness for which players from the Bronx are known.

After being hit in the throat with around seven minutes remaining against Tennessee State, Murphy headed to the locker room. Minutes later, he was back on the floor, and LaPlante could not wait to put him back in the game.

Despite being in obvious pain, Murphy made some game-changing plays in the final minutes.

Would the Gamecocks have won if he stayed in the locker room? Hard to say.

But with the leadership shown by junior college transfer Toles, you wouldn't have bet against it.

After the injury to Murphy, Toles was the catalyst for the

See "Diversity," page 7



Becky Geyer gives instruction to sophomore Jolie Efezokhae and teammates. Photo courtesy of The Anniston Star

## GAMECOCK BRIEFS

• Jacksonville State junior guard **Jonathan Toles** was named Ohio Valley Conference Newcomer of the Week. The junior college transfer averaged 17.7 points, 3.7 assists and 3.7 rebounds in three conference games. After failing to score in double figures for the first 13 games of the season, Toles scored double figures in each of the next three games.

• Jacksonville State guard/forward **Nick Murphy** was named OVC Freshman of the Week. The Bronx native averaged 13.7 points to go along with 5.0 rebounds as the Gamecocks won two of three conference games.

• Jacksonville State point guard **DeAndre Bray** ranks eighth nationally in assists with 6.7 per game and sixth nationally in assists-to-turn-over ratio at 3.34.

• Jacksonville State forward **Cierra Duhart** was named OVC Freshman of the Week after averaging 17.6 points and 8.6 rebounds last week. Duhart currently leads the OVC in field goal percentage. This is the second time this season that Duhart has brought home the award.

• Jacksonville State forward **Jolie Efezokhae** poured in 30 points on January 5th at Austin Peay. For her efforts, Efezokhae was named OVC Co-Player of the Week. She was the first Gamecock to reach the 30-point mark in 50 games. Rebecca Haynes was the last JSU player to score 30, on February 2, 2006 in a win over Eastern Illinois.

• Jacksonville State women's basketball leading scorer **Eren McMichael** suffered a season-ending torn ACL early in the first half of a 63-54 loss to Alabama at Coleman Coliseum. McMichael was averaging 11.5 ppg in the 12 games she played.

# Willett leaves for greener pastures

By **Jered Staubs**  
Sports Editor

Daniel Willett's meteoric rise up the world of golf has left his former school hamstrung, but coach James Hobbs isn't complaining.

"For us, for a school like Jacksonville it helps us that Danny went here," Hobbs said. "We're a mid-tier school by any stretch of the imagination, but now these international players are going to say, 'Well, Danny went there, and he had success, maybe I need to think about going there too.'"

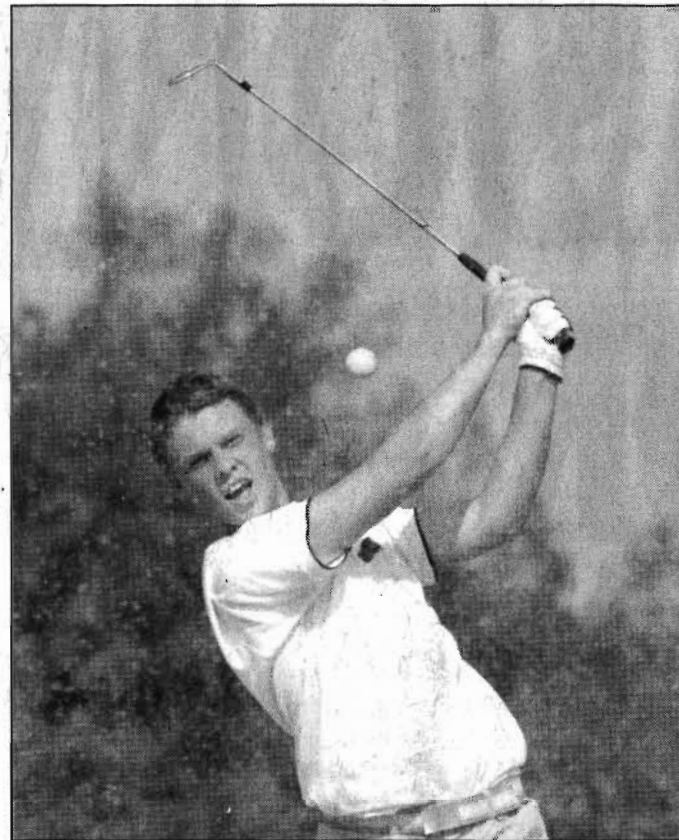
Willett has had plenty of success in the two and a half years since he enrolled at JSU.

He made an immediate impact as a freshman before having an outstanding sophomore season that culminated in his winning the Ohio Valley Conference Individual Championship in April.

Still, Hobbs was expecting Willett back this fall, but summer success left the British native with more desirable alternatives.

Willett won the English Amateur and then ran away with the South of England Championship — winning by an unheard of 10 strokes — and also put together impressive finishes across the amateur world.

In a match play event, Willett



Former JSU golf sensation **Daniel Willett** blasts out of a bunker while playing for the Gamecocks last year. Photo courtesy of Steve Latham / JSU

defeated Rory McIlroy, who was the lone amateur to make the cut at last year's British Open. That win was a driving force for Willett's selection to the Walker

Cup team.

The Walker Cup is basically the amateur version of the Ryder Cup, and Willett's inclusion all but ended his college career.

### 2008 JSU GOLF SCHEDULE

2/17-18 UNT Puerto Vallero Golf Classic

2/25-26 All-American Intercollegiate

2/29-3/2 USF/Ron Smith Intercollegiate

3/17-18 Grub Mart Intercollegiate

3/24-25 Carter Plantation Intercollegiate

3-31-4/1 MTSU/Aldila Intercollegiate

4/7-8 ASU Indian Classic

4/21-23 OVC Championship

The ten-man team lost to the Americans, and Willett went 0-2-2 in his matches, but he was asked to join the English Elite Squad.

After spending a week on campus, Willett was gone and Hobbs was left without his best player.

"You can't blame him, there

were a lot of incentives for him to do that," Hobbs said. "But it was a big loss for us because we weren't able to recruit anyone to replace him.

JSU is the defending OVC champions, but to repeat that feat this season it will require some of the new faces to perform at the highest level.

Most prominent is Gonzalo Berlin. The native Brazilian moved to Spain for educational and athletic reasons, and Hobbs is happy he was able to lure Berlin to JSU.

"Gonzalo has basically done the same thing that Danny did as a freshman," Hobbs said. "He's come in as a freshman, played in every tournament, and put together some very good finishes. We knew he was a good player, but he's still been a pleasant surprise."

Most recently, Berlin shot a 6-under 207 in the 54-hole Sam Hall Invitational in Hattiesburg, MS, which was the third best individual score among the 11 teams.

The other members of the team that day were Marcus Harrell, who finished 12th, Johann Lee, Julian Colmenares, and Michael Watson.

Hobbs will be looking for important contributions from those golfers, as well as a litany of underclassmen, when the team resumes play in mid-February.

## Duhart: Stepping up in McMichael's absence

Continued from page 6

heading into the locker room.

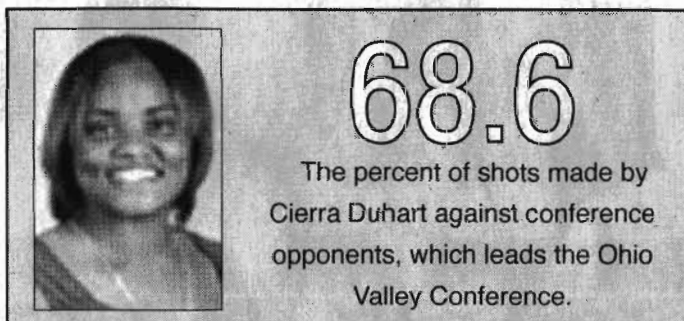
In the second half, it was Jax State's turn to make a run of its own.

In the first fifteen minutes of the final period, JSU outscored the Lady Tigers 37-16, giving the Gamecocks their biggest lead of the night at 71-58 thanks in large part to defense and free throw shooting.

JSU recorded seven steals and eight blocked shots in the second half alone.

Tack on an 84 percent success rate from the charity stripe, and JSU was able to hold off the Tigers.

Freshman Cierra Duhart



8-10 from the field, racking up 19 points, grabbing eight rebounds and blocking two shots, one of which came on a critical possession late in the second half.

With her performance against TSU, Duhart has now

Gamecocks.

Despite losing to Tennessee Tech 71-68 on Thursday night, Duhart led the Gamecocks with 20 points and nine boards.

"When we came back from Christmas break, Coach Geyer told me that she needed me to step

on the offensive side," Duhart said.

Thursday night's game was close throughout, and JSU had a chance to send the game to overtime in the final seconds. However, Kelsey Johnkin's three-point attempt fell short as time expired.

The Gamecocks have had trouble closing out games of late, which makes their victory against TSU on Saturday even more important.

"We have been playing pretty good basketball, we just haven't been finishing," Geyer said.

"There is no doubt that there is some frustration there. Just like Tech, that was a game that we really could have won, and we

couldn't gut it out like we needed to.

"I think today to be able to really put them away and be in a position where we were in control the last six minutes is a lot different than the other games we have seen here lately," she added.

The Gamecocks are hoping to retain some of the momentum they built Saturday, as they hit the road next week to take on Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State.

"This game was real big for us because Tennessee State was above us in the standings. It was real big because we really need to take it on the road," Duhart said.

"We've got two games on the road next week, so we need to

Eren McMichael suffered a season-ending torn ACL early in the first half of a 63-54 loss to Alabama at Coleman Coliseum. McMichael was averaging 11.5 ppg in the 12 games she played.

• Jacksonville State senior outfielder **Clay Whittemore** was named to the 2008 **Louisville Slugger pre-season All-American baseball team**. Last season, Whittemore earned OVC Player of the Year honors after leading the conference in hits, doubles and RBI.

• Jacksonville State kicker **Gavin Hallford** was named to the **Associated Press All-American Team** on December 12, 2007. He tied the OVC record for field goals in a season with 22 and led the NCAA with 2.0 field goals per game. Hallford is the 44th player to earn the honor in JSU history, and the seventh since the Gamecocks joined the OVC.

• JSU is welcoming the largest spring recruiting class under Jack Crowe's tenure, with 11 players enrolling at the school. The group consists of six junior college transfers (**Roosevelt Ross, Devon Hayes, Jeff Cameron, Morrell Jones, Reggie Wade**), three FBS transfers (**John Houston Whiddon, Devon Freeman, and Jamison Wadley**), and two greyshirts (**Jasmine Gates, James Shaw**).

• As of **January 12**, all 11 schools in the Ohio Valley Conference are now equipped with instant replay technology. The replay will be used by game officials to determine close calls and time issues. Replay was used in the final minute of the game between JSU and Tennessee State to put 1.5 seconds back on the clock.

• The Jacksonville State men's basketball team will appear on national television against conference leaders Austin Peay. The game between the Gobs and Gamecocks will be on **ESPNU** on Thursday, January 24th. at 7:30.

— From staff reports

shooting. JSU recorded seven steals and eight blocked shots in the second half alone.

Tack on an 84 percent success rate from the charity stripe, and JSU was able to hold off the Tigers.

Freshman Cierra Duhart continued to play her best basketball of the year, shooting

8-10 from the field, racking up 19 points, grabbing eight rebounds and blocking two shots, one of which came on a critical possession late in the second half.

With her performance against TSU, Duhart has now put together consecutive big-time performances for the

Gamecocks. Despite losing to Tennessee Tech 71-68 on Thursday night, Duhart led the Gamecocks with 20 points and nine boards.

"When we came back from Christmas break, Coach Geyer told me that she needed me to step up because we have a player hurt. So, she needed me to become big

more important.

"We have been playing pretty good basketball, we just haven't been finishing," Geyer said.

"There is no doubt that there is some frustration there. Just like Tech, that was a game that we really could have won, and we were in a position to win. But in the last five or six minutes, we

road next week to take on Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State.

"This game was real big for us because Tennessee State was above us in the standings. It was real big because we really need to take it on the road," Duhart said.

"We've got two games on the road next week, so we need to take the momentum that we have from this game (with us)."

## Diversity: Players coming together from across the globe

Continued from page 6

JSU attack. The junior drove the lane relentlessly and shot 12 free throws in the final 5:21.

He also had crucial steals and assists in the final minutes and was in position to gather the rebound after Mbodji's block.

"Normally it takes all year for a JuCo transfer to get to the level you want," LaPlante said. "JT is starting to understand this level, how hard he has to play both

offensively and defensively, and he's progressing faster than an average JuCo player."

Toles gave credit to Wesley and Ginn, the two best shooters on the team.

Wesley has been perfect from the line in 16 attempts this season, including six — all in the final minutes — in the wins over Tennessee Tech and Tennessee State.

The rule of thumb is that you don't want freshmen shooting free throws in pressure

situations, but few if any of Wesley's free throws even hit the rim.

"You're seeing these guys adjust to this level," LaPlante said. "If you take their numbers for the last six or seven games, they're rock solid."

The teammates believe it has taken a while to get acquainted with each others' styles of play.

"We've got guys from all over," Toles said, "and we're getting to where we

know each other."

Mbodji says the chemistry the teammates have off the court has helped them understand each other on the court.

"We've really got a connection," he said. "They're always making jokes about how I talk and stuff and I'll make jokes about JT being from Alabama."

"It took us no time at all to get to know each other, I'm an open person and it wasn't hard to get to know them."

## Winning late: Gamecocks find a way to avoid last minute miscues in wins

Continued from page 6

After that initial lead, JSU stayed in front for most of the game, but never led by more than eight. As Tennessee State pressed, JSU was called on to make plays down the stretch.

Again free throw shooting played a large part — the Gamecocks made a season-high 28 — but if not for the defensive play of the year, it would have taken overtime to decide a winner.

Trailing by two with 8.1 seconds left, Tennessee State turned to its best player, Bruce Price, who drove the lane and looked to have a lay-up before Mbodji came over and got a piece of the shot.

Two more free throws by Toles sealed the 83-79 win.

"Coach told us (Price) was going to drive and for JT to pressure him and I would come over and block the shot," Mbodji said. "That's what I did, I waited for him to leave his feet and I blocked the shot."

Mbodji currently ranks second in career

blocked shots at JSU, and says that breaking that record is a goal of his.

Even if he does one day, he will never have a more crucial one than this game-winner.

Despite the horrendous start to OVC play, the Gamecocks' focus has remained on qualifying for the conference tournament. Now riding a two-game winning streak that suddenly seems to be an attainable goal.

In a league with only three teams with a winning record in conference, JSU (4-12, 2-6 OVC) is only two games out of 4<sup>th</sup> place and potentially hosting a first-round home game.

Of course, there are many games to win and several teams to pass before that becomes a reality. For now, the Gamecocks can focus on winning their first road game of the year, as they travel to Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State in the coming week.

"I said after (the Tennessee Tech game) that we were about to go on a winning streak," Toles said. "Now we've got to go on the road and keep doing what we're doing."

### OVC MEN'S STANDINGS

Team	OVC
Austin Peay	7-1
SEMO	6-2
Murray State	5-3
Eastern Kentucky	4-4
Morehead State	4-4
Samford	4-4
Tennessee Tech	4-4
UT-Martin	4-4
Tennessee State	3-4
<b>JSU</b>	<b>2-6</b>
Eastern Illinois	1-8

### OVC WOMEN'S STANDINGS

Team	OVC
Eastern Illinois	7-2
SEMO	5-2
Samford	5-2
Murray State	5-3
Tennessee State	4-3
<b>JSU</b>	<b>4-4</b>
Morehead State	4-4
Eastern Kentucky	3-4
Tennessee Tech	2-5
Austin Peay	1-6
UT-Martin	1-6

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