



# The Chanticleer

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Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

March 13, 2008

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Business and Education Career Expo allows students chance to meet potential employers.

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Football players offer their reaction, opinions on the proposed expansion of Paul Snow Stadium.

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## QUESTION of the WEEK

What are your plans for Spring Break?

## Riley nominates 2 for Board of Trustees vacancies

By **Bethany Harbison**  
Editor in Chief

Gov. Bob Riley has taken the next step toward filling the two empty seats on the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees.

Riley nominated Randy Jones of Madison and Thomas Dedrick, Sr., of

Tuscaloosa for the positions, but before the two can officially be considered board members, they must first be confirmed by a committee in the State Senate.

According to President Dr. William Meehan, the governor consults the existing board, Meehan himself and others before nominating, but the de-

cision is ultimately Riley's.

If appointed, Jones will fill the slot vacated by U.S. Rep. Bud Cramer's resignation, that of the fifth district, on the board. Meehan explained that Cramer resigned after a congressional rule changed, leading him to believe remaining in the position would be a conflict of interests.

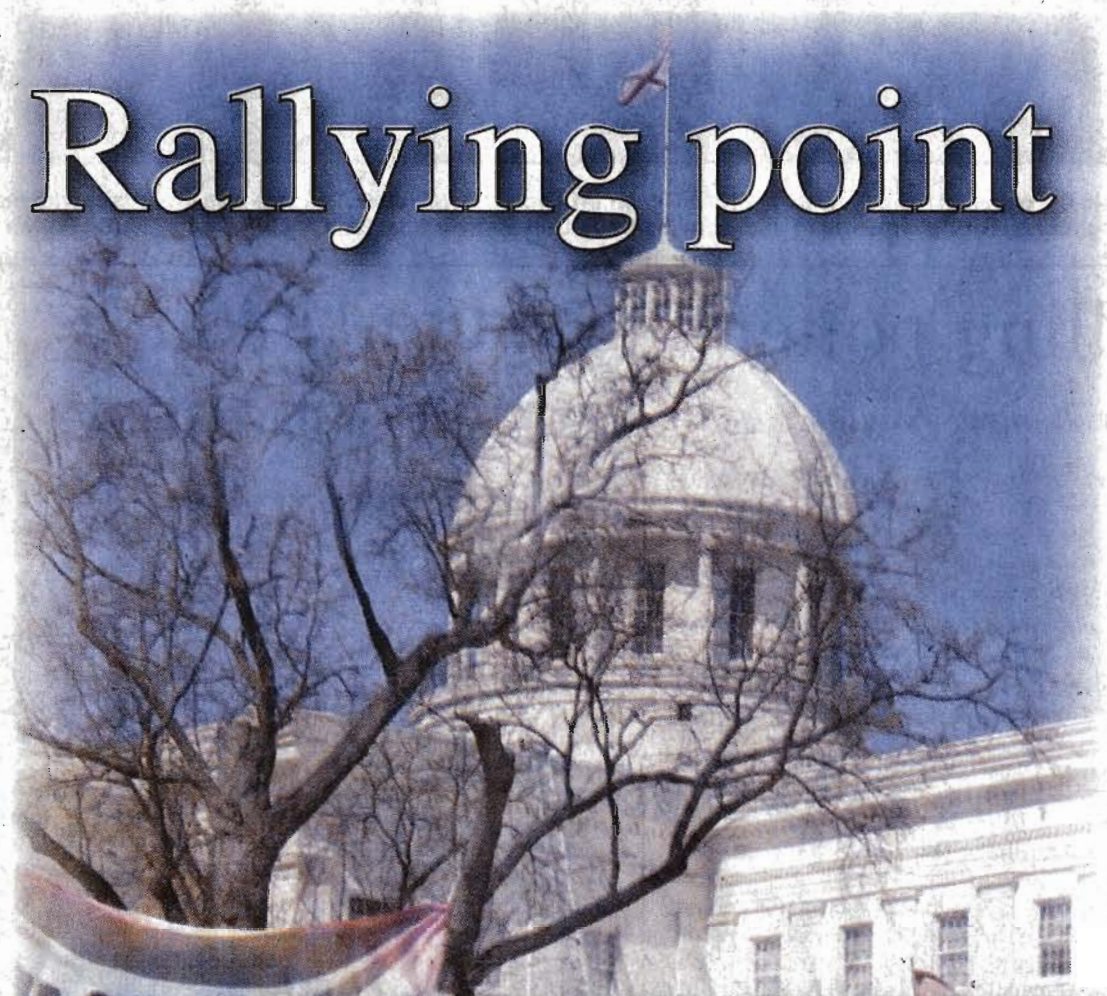
"He decided he could help the university more if he was outside of JSU," Meehan said.

Jones, Cramer's potential replacement, is a JSU graduate and the president of Randy Jones Insurance Agency.

See "Trustees," page 3

*As Alabama higher education faces a potential 14 percent budget cut, college students from across the state find a common ...*

## Rallying point



## Faculty Senate seeks to protect academic funding

By **Zach Childree**  
Campus News Editor

The Faculty Senate met on Monday, March 10, and after some questions about what constitutes a quorum, a quorum was established. One of the main issues discussed at the meeting was the Paul Snow Stadium expansion project. The Faculty Senate plans to issue a statement to the Board of Trustees encouraging them to remember academic priorities as they consider the cost of expanding Paul Snow Stadium. Members of the Faculty Senate approved the statement, which is not binding.

"We aren't in direct opposition to the stadium expansion," Rayburn said. "We are just requesting that they consider the academic impact of it."

Rayburn said while the building itself was not a bad idea, the faculty wants to make sure funds aren't funneled from academic areas to build it.

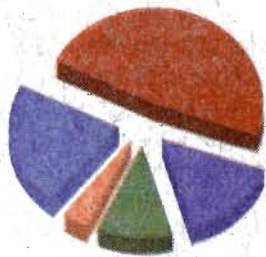
The statement approved by the Faculty Senate reads, "The faculty requests that the current plan to improve the football stadium and athletics will not negatively affect the support of academics."

The other issues brought up for discussion at the meeting were the following:

- Faculty sick leave and its proper reporting was mentioned. Representatives from the human resources department of the university were on hand to answer questions from the faculty about

## QUESTION of the WEEK

What are your plans for Spring Break?



- Staying home and resting up 48%
- Heading to a beach, any beach 22%
- Other 15%
- Working on projects for school 11%
- Going camping, hunting and fishin' 7%



"When I am not working, I will be at home resting as much as possible."

-Rochelle Dalton  
Junior

### Next week's question:

How will you participate in this year's March Madness?

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Photo by Timothy Long

**Zach Childree**  
Campus News Editor

The time was 7:30 a.m., a time when most college students are sound asleep in their beds. But on this day, March 6, 2008, four buses were parked in front of the Theron Montgomery Building loading up students for a trip to Montgomery, Ala.

However, this was no ordinary field trip.

These students had an agenda: to make their voices heard in the state capitol about higher education funding.

According to the Higher Education Partnership, the event's organizer, Alabama colleges are set for a 14 percent cut in state funding.

Tim Wyatt, a student at JSU, was not happy about the size of the cuts.

"We're here to show legislators that we will

not stand by and let them pillage funding from our coffers before we have them," Wyatt said.

Gordon Stone, a spokesman for the Higher Education Partnership, says that while some cuts in education funding are to be expected because of the economy, taking 14 percent from higher education will have negative effects in the long run.

"The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) shows that only 22 percent of Alabamians over the age of 25 have a Bachelors Degree or higher," he said. "Alabama's ranking is tenth from the bottom in Southeastern comparisons of adults with university degrees."

According to Stone, the fewer people that have at least a Bachelor's degree, the lower per capita income.

See "Higher Ed," page 3

## Meningitis-stricken student credits recovery to prayer

**Julie Skinner**  
Senior Writer

Cady Yarbrough is a high school senior who will be attending Jacksonville State University next fall. She has never heard of the deadly illness that commonly affects college freshmen or its initial symptoms.

"I don't know anything about it," Yarbrough said with a small laugh.

But after learning a few facts, she wanted to know where and how to get a vaccine to prevent catching meningitis.

Lauren Herring, a Jacksonville State University freshman, recently became ill with viral meningitis in late January of this year and was taken to the



Herring

hospital, where she was treated for three days.

Herring, a blonde-haired JSU Marching Ballerina and seemingly healthy girl who lives at the Wesley Foundation dormitory, realized after two weeks of being ill that she was feeling worse, had a painfully stiff neck and extremely sensitive eyes. She was not aware of the symptoms of meningitis.

Trying to shrug it off, she went to

her Diamond Girls practice, continued to go to class and even spent the weekend working at Camp Sumatanga. But finally, her body couldn't take it anymore.

"I didn't realize how serious it was," Herring said.

After her twin sister, Sara, took her to the Jacksonville Medical Center, the doctor had to perform a spinal tap to confirm that she did in fact have meningitis and discovered that she was also suffering from the flu.

"I looked like death walking," Herring said. "I was scared half to death."

With a hazardous sign on her hospital door that told everyone who entered to wear a mask and gloves,

Herring prayed for her life as she lay under multiple blankets to shield her sensitive eyes from the light.

"I really think it was the prayer that helped me," Herring said of all the locals who prayed for her recovery.

Her doctors did remark on her speedy recovery and were happy to hear that it was viral meningitis and not bacterial, a much more serious illness that spreads more quickly and easily.

In the hospital, Herring was treated with so many medications intravenously and so frequently that she couldn't remember what all they gave her.

See "Meningitis," page 3

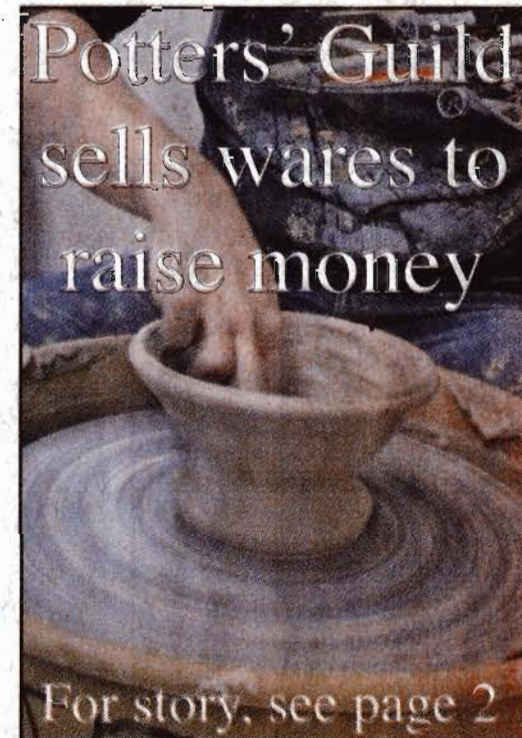


Photo by Harper Brown

reads, "The faculty requests that the current plan to improve the football stadium and athletics will not negatively affect the support of academics."

The other issues brought up for discussion at the meeting were the following:

- Faculty sick leave and its proper reporting was mentioned. Representatives from the human resources department of the university were on hand to answer questions from the faculty about sick leave.

- There was a discussion about student plagiarism and the new *SafeAssign* system on Blackboard. *SafeAssign* allows faculty to make assignments on Blackboard. Then the completed assignments are checked against a database of all papers submitted at JSU to catch plagiarism and improper citing of materials.

- There was a brief report about and discussion of the objectives of the Integrity Committee.

- Eight faculty representatives are up for replacement or reelection to the faculty senate.

## Announcements

• Phi Mu Fraternity will be hosting their 7th Annual Golf Tournament on April 5, 2008 at Cane Creek Golf Course. The tournament will be a three-man scramble, and the cost is \$60 per member or \$50 for JSU students. For more information and details on the event, or if you would like to participate, please contact Nicole Ochs at jsu3912m@jsu.edu.

### 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, March 4

• Student Ted Bagley reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the Self Hall parking lot.

### Friday, March 7

• University Police responded to a complaint of disorderly conduct in the lobby of Crow Hall.

### Saturday, March 8

• Joshua Walker reported theft of university property from Pete Mathews Coliseum. Items stolen included two long-range speakers.

• Student Antonio Bonner reported a theft of property from Campus Inn apartments. Items stolen include a laptop computer and a Sony Playstation 3.

• Jonathan Taylor was arrested at the University Police Department on a charge of harassment.

# Sweets en español



Students sample the wares of the bake sale in Stone Center on Thursday, March 6. The sale was organized with the hopes of raising money for the projects of Jacksonville State University's Spanish Club. Photo by Sharon Brewer

## Peddling pottery

*Snow puts damper on guild's sale*

By Jalon Turner  
Staff Reporter

Jacksonville State University Potters' Guild Organization held their fourth pottery sale Saturday morning, March 8, to raise money for department needs.

The sale, which was to be held on the quad Saturday morning, had to be moved inside the Gladys Carlisle Fine Arts building, where the ceramic students have a new facility which includes a gas kiln and several small

Fine Arts, is the faculty advisor for the Potters' Guild Organization.

"I do not remember when we had too much money to spend," Loucks said with a smile.

The money raised helps the class get new equipment such as pottery wheels, which are used to make clay pieces such as bowls, mugs and vases. They also hope to buy kilns, which are used to heat the pieces to a certain temperature, depending on the type of glaze used and the desired texture.

## Sakura-Union brings Japanese celebration to JSU

By Roya S. Hill  
Staff Reporter

Cherry blossoms, picnics and classmates are just a few of the attractions of Hanami, one of the most popular events in Japanese culture.

On Sunday, March 9, 30 JSU students turned out for the Hanami celebration, which was sponsored by the Sakura-Union.

During JSU's version of

After the guests finished eating, Taiki, one of the members of the Sakura-Union, pulled out his guitar and played two songs, one in Japanese and the other in English.

Guests then joined in for games of Frisbee, baseball and Rag Tag.

Rag Tag is a game where all of the players sit in a circle facing one another, and one player takes the handkerchief and drops it

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

• The Human Resource Office announced that Martha Dingler is the March 2008 JSU employee of the month. Dingler is a secretary in the Department of Education and Professional Studies.

• John-Bauer Graham has been appointed Jacksonville State University's Dean of Library Services. Graham previously served as Department Head-Public Services. His promotion took effect on March 1.

• WJXS TV24 premiered a new show *JSU Today*, which will focus on the life and happenings on the JSU campus. The show airs Monday at 9:30 p.m. and repeats Tuesday at 10:30 p.m. and Friday at 7:30 p.m.

• Longtime Jacksonville State University science and chemistry professor Dr. A.L. Studdard passed away Saturday, March 8. A memorial service was held Sunday, March 9 at First United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Ala.

• Users of JSU e-mail accounts are being warned that an e-mail with "Verify Your JSU Account" in the subject line is being sent out and is a hoax. Sean Ponder, director of academic computing and network support at the university has urged users not to follow the instructions in the e-Mail.

• Jacksonville State University President William Meehan sent out a message to all the work-

Items stolen include a laptop computer and a Sony Playstation 3.

• Jonathan Taylor was arrested at the University Police Department on a charge of harassment.

#### Sunday, March 9

• Student Rushuanda Johnson reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the Dixon Hall parking lot.

• Student Deandrae Day reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the parking lot of Crow Hall. A car CD player worth \$179 was stolen.

• Professor Mijitaba Hamissou reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the Houston Cole Library parking lot. Estimated damage to the vehicle was \$200.

#### Monday March 10

• Student Tim Wyatt reported a break-in of the Crow Hall lounge vending machine.

• Student Randi Crawford reported harassment at the JSU Amphitheater.

• Student Terrian Lacy reported theft of property from Sparkman Hall.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salts 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, March 13

• Blackboard Training: Adding Content and Assignments, Room 174 Self Hall, 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

• Youth Leadership Calhoun County, Gamecock Center 7:45 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

#### Friday, March 17-21

• Spring Holidays

ment needs.

The sale, which was to be held on the quad Saturday morning, had to be moved inside the Gladys Carlisle Fine Arts building, where the ceramic students have a new facility which includes a gas kiln and several small electric kilns. The move was due to the surprise winter weather early Saturday morning.

Students sold anything from coffee mugs and goblets to decorative bowls and platters, and all of the art pieces were crafted by the students.

Steve Loucks who graduated from Alfred University with his Master's of

ment such as pottery wheels, which are used to make clay pieces such as bowls, mugs and vases. They also hope to buy kilns, which are used to heat the pieces to a certain temperature, depending on the type of glaze used and the desired texture.

The money will also help send students to the 24th Annual Alabama Clay Conference, which will be in Huntsville, featuring artist Val Cushing.

Loucks said he is very happy with this year's class of students.

"This class is redefining the organization this year, which had been inactive for a year," Loucks said.

few of the attractions of Hanami, one of the most popular events in Japanese culture.

On Sunday, March 9, 30 JSU students turned out for the Hanami celebration, which was sponsored by the Sakura-Union.

During JSU's version of Hanami, the guests sat barefoot on a tarp beneath the red and white striped tent on the Theron Montgomery Building front lawn. Hanami began with an obento picnic. Some of the food served up by the Sakura-Union included rice balls, teriyaki chicken, macaroni, egg salad, sausage, a homemade strawberry shortcake and more.

in Japanese and the other in English.

Guests then joined in for games of Frisbee, baseball and Rag Tag.

Rag Tag is a game where all of the players sit in a circle facing one another, and one player takes the handkerchief and drops it behind the person he or she chooses to tag. The person then runs and tries to get in the tagged person's spot before they are touched with the handkerchief.

The Sakura-Union's purpose is to introduce real Japanese culture to JSU. The Sakura-Union is a JSU Special Interest Group guided by Mijitaba Hamissou, professor of Biology.

the university has urged users not to follow the instructions in the e-Mail.

• Jacksonville State University President William Meehan sent out a message to all the workers from the recent JSU Preview Day. He thanked them for braving the winter weather in order to show new and prospective students the campus of JSU. In the message, Meehan says that it was the second highest attendance of a Preview Day in the past ten years.

- From wire, staff reports

## SENATE MINUTES

### Rundown of the Monday, March 10, SGA meeting:

- There was no old business and no new business proposed.
- The National Guard gave a presentation about their responsibilities to inform the SGA.
- Shalon Hathcock, the SGA director of publicity urged students to go online and fill out the NSSE.
- Britney Cunningham reminded students that the JSU STAR talent show is Thursday.
- SGA President David Jennings thanked the students who attended Higher Ed Day in Montgomery.
- Jennifer Nix announced that applications for director of publicity as well as Justices for the judicial branch are available.
- Rafael Ferrell was announced as Senator of the Month.

# Cooking against cancer

## Chili cook-off in Martin Hall raises money for Relay for Life

by Sharon Brewer  
Contributing Writer



Participants in the Second Annual Relay for Life Chili Cook-off sample the spicy offerings. LTC Chip Hester took home the title of Chili Champion. Photo by Sharon Brewer

Twelve cooks brought their offerings of chili to the Second Annual Relay For Life Chili Cook-Off in Martin Hall last Wednesday, March 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event's purpose was to raise money for Relay For Life, a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society.

"Cancer affects everyone. The camaraderie and great food is a great way to raise money for Relay For Life," said Kathy Campbell, who has been a member of the JSU Relay For Life team since its inception.

Participant Linda Turner explained that her husband was diagnosed with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia in December.

"Relay For Life is very personal for me," Turner said.

In the process of raising funds, the event brought people together to have fun and enjoy the food.

"My favorite part of the chili cook-off is all the different varieties of chili," Relay For Life volunteer Allysa Purdy said. "You never know what you are going to get. It's always a surprise."

The chili cook-off supporters and volunteers said they enjoyed the whole package.

"My favorite part is the fel-

lowship," Karen Gregg said. "That's what we call it here in the South."

As serious as the contestants were about raising money, they were just as serious about the competition and gaining the title of Chili Champion. Some were taking notes on how to best prepare for next year.

"It has been a lot of fun, and I am planning how to sabotage the (other) chili next year," whispered Lt. Col. Chip Hester.

"It is amazing how the competitive inner self comes to the surface in a chili cook-off," Dr. Ted K. said.

Steven Bray, the only student to be in the competition, said he enjoyed the competition, but that, in good fun, he also questions the outcome.

"I get to spank my teachers at making chili," Bray said.

Fun was a big part of the event, and several used the opportunity to poke fun at one another.

"(I like) healthy competition, and I am looking to see whose house I want to go to this weekend," said Joe Delap, who was seriously tasting the options and taking notes.

The event ended with the announcement of the 2008 winners. First place went to Lt. Col. Chip Hester, second went to Dr. Kelly Gregg and third went to Tracy Casey.

# Denim sale poor fit

Wintry weather relegates sale to Curtiss basement

By Katie Freeman  
Staff Reporter

On a cold and snowy Saturday, there was one warm spot on campus. In the basement of Curtiss Hall, the Panhellenic Council teamed up with Charity Denim for a jeans sale.

"Charity Denim is an organization that partners up with sororities and non-profit organizations to help them raise funds for their particular philanthropies or organizations of their choice through high-end denim sales," said Raina Greene, the Southeast event coordinator for Charity Denim.

High-end denim? For example, a brand new pair of True Religion jeans had a price tag with \$262 on it. Charity Denim charges \$100 for the same, unworn pair of jeans.

"We buy them directly from the manufacturer or a third party who has released to sell them for the manufacturer," Greene said. "Sometimes companies overproduce. Sometimes it's current goods, sometimes it can be last season."

Shalon Hathcock, a junior majoring in communications, explained exactly where the money would go.

"All the money that we make off the jeans is donated to all of our five philanthropies," Hathcock said. "Each organi-

zation has a different philanthropy from St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital to breast cancer research to arthritis research and speech and hearing research."

Charity Denim was established in 2004 and is based in Salt Lake City, Utah. They work with organizations from all across the country. Greene's responsibilities include working in seven states.

"Clemson recently sold 208 jeans," Greene said. "So they raised like \$2000."

Charity Denim has a Web site for organizations to visit, and they also send out letters to organizations to let them know about their services.

The Panhellenic Council's goal of selling 200 jeans may have been hampered by a location change due to the weather.

"I really wish we didn't have to change our location because we'd be right in the front, and it would be so much easier," Hathcock said. "It's so cold though, and the weather's so bad, we don't want to have to put anybody out there."

They were just thankful that University Housing let them use Curtiss Hall's basement at the last minute.

They are optimistic, though, and they hope to do it again in the fall.

"This is our first time doing this," Hathcock said. "Because, who doesn't like a pair of jeans?"

# Meningitis: \$92 vaccine better than paying ultimate cost, doctors say

Continued from page 1

Dr. Mark Ponder, a graduate of UAB medical school, explained that viral meningitis is much more common than bacterial meningitis among college students, but hardly ever deadly. Bacterial meningitis, on the other hand, often approaches 50 percent mortality in some cases.

"I virtually never see it. I've probably missed a viral meningitis or two; all doctors have," Ponder said. "Viral meningitis is probably more common than we realize. It is also not really a deadly illness; it just makes you pretty sick. Patients that have had viral meningitis often say it feels like a bad case of the flu."

Herring can relate to that.

Ponder explained that performing a spinal tap can sometimes do more harm than good if the illness is not in fact meningitis. However, if viral meningitis usually runs its course within a week or so.

Herring's sister, Sara, who worried for her sister but also for the health of those in the dorm, was not advised by a doctor to take any preventive treatments, because unfortunately, there is no

vaccine against viral meningitis, only the bacterial strains.

"It terrified me," Sara said, who put on a smile to be strong for her sister.

Nancy J. Edge-Schmitz works at JSU's Student Health Center as a registered nurse and the director of health services. Though she's never had a student with meningitis come for treatment at the student health center, she still takes the issue very seriously.

"College freshmen are at a six times greater risk for catching meningitis," Edge-Schmitz said.

She said this is likely because of the weakened immune system due to lack of sleep, not eating correctly and also from living in close contact in the dorms.

JSU, unlike some colleges, does not require the meningitis vaccine to be given to entering freshmen. Many parents and students aren't aware of the meningitis vaccine but are encouraged to get the \$92 vaccine from the Student Health Center during their freshman orientation.

Edge-Schmitz said the price of the vaccine is cheaper than most other health centers, but few of the entering freshman get the vac-

cine.

While some students may find \$92 for a vaccine to be a little pricey, learning of the complications from meningitis could be enough to change their minds.

Edge-Schmitz explains that some of the lasting affects that can occur after having meningitis are mental defects, loss of limbs, becoming deaf, having problems with one's nervous system, suffering seizures or strokes and loss of life.

The two types of vaccines, Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4) and Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) can both prevent the four types of meningococcal disease, including two of the three types most common in the United States.

According to the Web site WebMD, the most common symptoms among teens and young adults with meningitis are a high fever, headache, vomiting, trouble staying awake, seizures and a stiff, painful neck. Both Herrings plan to have their vaccines this summer to prevent ever catching bacterial meningitis.

"I don't want anyone else to go through that," Lauren said.

# Expo offers JSU seniors networking chance

By Shalon Montgomery  
Staff Reporter

On Thursday, March 6, organizations from across the country came to set up camp in the gym of Stephenson Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The organizations came to JSU to be a part of the "Making Connections: My Career, Your Opportunity" Business and Education Expo.

In all, 75 organizations and 350 students participated in

the four-and-a-half-hour expo.

The purpose was to allow graduating JSU students the opportunity to make business connections with local organizations.

This year marked the first time for the Business and Education Expo to be combined into a one-day event.

The expo was sponsored and organized by Career Placement Services.

"As educators, it is our responsibility, not only to provide our students with an

education, but also to provide them with employability skills and career opportunities," Janet White, director of Career Placement Services said.

Participants included The Alabama Department of Human Resources; Alabama Department of Conservation and National Resources, Sherwin Williams, Russell Athletics, Waffle House, U.S. Navy and the Birmingham School System.

The representatives received resumes, gave out information

about their companies and talked with JSU students.

"I am glad JSU offers an event like this," a JSU senior said. "It gives students a quick job interview."

White said the sole reason for the existence of CPS is to help JSU students.

"The theme of this fair is making connections, and we encourage all JSU students to stay in touch with Career Placement Services," White said.

# Trustees: Dedrick, Jones may replace Carlisle, Cramer

## JSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jamie (Red) Etheredge - First

Continued from page 1

"He'll be very good," Meehan said. "He knows the university, he already serves on the Foundation Board and he is a generous contributor to JSU."

are pending, the two will be invited to attend the meeting to be introduced but will not be able to sit on the board until the nominations are confirmed.

When will the nominations be official? Meehan did not dare venture a



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## Trustees: Dedrick, Jones may replace Carlisle, Cramer

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G.M. (Mack) Roberts - Second

James L. Coxwell, Sr. - Third

William Ronald (Ronnie) Smith - Third

Jim Folsom, Jr. - Fourth

**Randy Jones (pending) - Fifth**

Jim R. Bennett - Sixth

**Thomas Dedrick, Sr. (pending) - Seventh**

Randy Owen - At Large

*Editor's note: Dedrick and Jones (in bold) have yet to be confirmed by the senate.*

Continued from page 1

"He'll be very good," Meehan said. "He knows the university, he already serves on the Foundation Board and he is a generous contributor to JSU."

Dedrick is the likely candidate to fill the spot previously occupied by Gladys Carlisle, who served on the board for 23 years before passing away on November 5, 2007.

Dedrick currently works as a wealth-management adviser with Merrill Lynch. Meehan believes his experience in finances will be an asset to the board, as Dedrick has also worked with the University of Alabama's fundraising efforts.

The Board of Trustees convenes quarterly, and the next meeting is set for April 14. Meehan said because Dedrick's and Jones' appointments

are pending, the two will be invited to attend the meeting to be introduced but will not be able to sit on the board until the nominations are confirmed.

When will the nominations be official? Meehan did not dare venture a guess.

"That's up to the Senate," Meehan said.

Meehan described the job of a trustee as one of sacrifice — and one with no monetary compensation. Though trustees are reimbursed for direct expenses, they are paid no stipend or salary for the time they invest.

"As trustees, they are responsible for the direction of this institution, the financial health of this institution, making sure it is fulfilling its mission and improving the institution's goals and strategic plan," Meehan said.

## Higher Ed: Wyatt, Jennings ask students to speak out

Continued from page 1

"Low per capita income has negative implications to quality of life," Stone explained, saying taking 14 percent from higher education and only 3 percent from K-12 institutions was not a fair separation of the budget shortfall.

"We're not anti-K-12," he said. "We just don't think this is the best way to look at this shortfall."

Ben Haynes, a chemistry major at JSU, agreed with Stone.

"I don't think that K-12 should get less money, but more consideration should be made for higher education funding," Haynes said.

As students disembarked the buses in Montgomery to the sounds of both Alabama State University and Jacksonville State University bands, few realized the implications of the cuts and how it will affect them in the next academic year — but that was all about to change. Haynes said he learned a lot about the issues facing universities at the rally.

"I really wasn't aware of the budget problem," he said. "As a student, I was really inspired by the speakers."

Tim Wyatt reminded students they do have a voice in what happens on the state level.

"The legislators' websites have official office and home numbers for legislators," he said. "Call these legislators and encourage them to rethink (the separation of the shortfall)." Wyatt said if the budget for higher education is left as it is, students can expect to see tuition raises on campus, as well as an increase in the price of things like meals plans, text books and housing costs.

"It's almost like the legislators don't

realize how hard it is for the average student to attend college," Wyatt said. With the economy currently in recession, Wyatt said the middle class is bearing the brunt of it.

"Legislators seems to have forgotten that the majority of those students going to college are from middle class families," he said.

Haynes commented if tuition is raised, it will affect him.

"It puts me in a bind," he said. "(Higher tuition) leaves me with less money to pay for things like rent, and I'll have to pick up more hours at work."

Still, Haynes said, even if tuition is raised, he is determined to do well in his classes.

"My classes and grades won't suffer," he said.

As students arrived back in Jacksonville after attending the rally, SGA President David Jennings said he hoped that students would take the excitement of the day and make good use of it.

"What are you going to do now?" he asked. "Does the flame go out or do you spread the fire?"

Jennings encouraged students to contact their legislators, especially in the state House of Representatives, explaining it can be as simple as sending an e-mail or a personal letter. Jennings said in these communications, students should tell their legislators specifically how the cuts affect them.

With this year's rally over, Jennings said it is now up to students themselves to continue to make their voices heard.

"Students left with the fire and we want to make sure it keeps on."




2007-2008 SGA President David Jennings addresses the gathering of students at the state capitol in Montgomery. In his speech, Jennings referenced mascots from each participating school, drawing cheers from the crowd. Photo by Shalon Hathcock / SGA

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# The Chanticleer

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## OUR VOICE

# Raising the bar to keep students safer not impossible

In the space of a single week, Americans learned three new faces and three new names. Their images have been splayed onto television screens nationwide, and their stories became the subject of dinner table conversations across the country.

Eve Carson was the 22-year-old student body president at the University of North Carolina.

Lauren Burk was an 18-year-old freshman at Auburn University.

Katharine Wood was a 24-year-old English major at the University of Arkansas.

There is but one tragic tie binding these three names together in articles and newscasts across the nation — they were all brutally murdered on their college campuses.

And as those campuses, families and friends mourn the lives these three young ladies lived and lost, the nation's attention is turning to the issue of campus safety.

In an ideal world, a college or university campus would serve as a haven — a place where students can come, abandoning the familiarity of

slayings, the SGA Student Senate has been abuzz for weeks drafting bills and forming plans to make JSU a safer university. Their plans center on acquiring security cameras and ensuring that the campus is well-lit.

It is our hope here at *The Chanticleer* that JSU, a school so often touted by the administration as "The Friendliest Campus in the South," would not only take heed to student recommendations such as these but also actively seek ways to increase the safety on this campus themselves.

Better lighting, more frequent patrols by the University Police Department, additional security cameras and a renewed effort to increase students' awareness are not, even when combined, beyond the immediate reach of this university. We are not asking for a knee-jerk or fear-based reaction. Nor are we claiming that this university is not safe.

That judgment is not ours — or anyone else's — to make. But we do believe that here and elsewhere, there is always room for improvement.

And if ever there has been

**DAVE DILLON**

Political Cartoonist



# Media consolidation hurts public

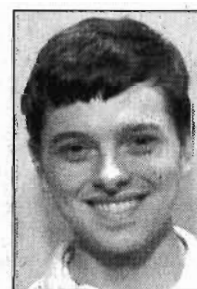
From time to time in Washington, certain concepts or buzzwords are treated like the answers to all the nation's ills. It could be "tax cuts," or "compassionate conservatism," but no matter what the phrase or its intent, for a while it will be the end of all our problems. Or so we are told.

Starting in the 1970s, the buzzword was "deregulation." For Republicans, it meant no government controls over certain industries — such as the media. For Democrats, it meant reducing government bailouts of foundering corporations. For corporate entities, it meant a godsend, a new way to increase market domination and profits.

However, for the public, media deregulation in particular meant — and still means — fewer choices for getting information and a stifling of minority voices.

Media deregulation began with a bang just over a decade ago, when Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The law made it easier for media corporations to own multiple newspapers, radio stations and television stations in a given market area. The legislation was



**Brandon Hollingsworth**

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they enabled corporations to tighten their leash on the media.

In 1945, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Associated Press v. United States* media mergers that narrow the channels through which information flows are unconstitutional. Yet today, such mergers are allowed with frightening abandon, reducing our media choices further and further still.

What it means for you is less news, less local ownership and less choice when it comes to selecting your preferred media outlets. Americans routinely decry

The Federal Communications Commission made it easier still in 2007, when Chairman Kevin Martin persuaded the panel to strike down a rule that forbade one company from owning a newspaper, radio station and TV station in the same city. Instead of protecting the public's interest,

iron-fisted corporate grips on their own channels here at home.

The silencing of local voices and dissenting voices is a tragedy, indeed. Today, one company can own many of the stations on your radio or TV dial, leading to homogenous programming and lousy public service.

With more TV channels available than ever before, satellite radio, terrestrial radio, podcasts, blogs and Internet news at your fingertips, you may think I'm wringing my hands over nothing. But take a closer look at who owns those channels. You'll see your choices dwindling rapidly.

Where do you go when there's nearly nothing left? How do you call one option a "choice"?

Do the research. Fact-check me. Make sure you know who owns the outlets in your area, and find out what stake they have in the community and the public.

With the FCC and Congress giving big media a free pass to run roughshod over the public interest, perhaps the only effective weapon left in our arsenal is accountability.

Demand it. Demand it from your

families and friends mourn the lives these three young ladies lived and lost, the nation's attention is turning to the issue of campus safety.

In an ideal world, a college or university campus would serve as a haven — a place where students can come, abandoning the familiarity of home, and find a new niche in a fresh place. In that perfect world, the focus on such campuses would be, simply put, on absorbing new knowledge and experiences.

But in the painful reality that composes the world of today, violence touches every aspect of life, and university campuses are no exception.

The renewed focus on promoting safety and preventing violence has touched Jacksonville State University. Even before these three most recent

are not asking for a knee-jerk or fear-based reaction. Nor are we claiming that this university is not safe.

That judgment is not ours — or anyone else's — to make. But we do believe that here and elsewhere, there is always room for improvement.

And if ever there has been an area in which a university should not dwell in self-satisfaction, this is it.

Perfectly safe havens don't exist anymore. And if they do, they're rare.

And no amount of security measures, cameras and police presence can make an university — or its students — bulletproof.

But even if perfection is beyond our reach, is protecting our students not an aim worth seeking?

## BRIEF THOUGHT

# Shining a spotlight on safety

As a staff, we believe this topic not only to be one worth speaking out about, but that it is also one that deserves further exploration.

In the next three issues of *The Chanticleer*, upon our return from Spring Break, we'll be presenting a three-part series on student safety.

We'll investigate measures of self-defense, discovering the most common tactics and looking into how well — or if — they work.

We'll magnify the issues surround safety on this campus, seeking to learn if and how the recent national focus on campus safety is changing the plans here.

We'll also explore the recent discussion and upcoming legislature surrounding the idea of allowing students to carry guns on campus — and we'll find out if such measures could someday become reality here.

Join us on March 27 for the first of our three-part series.

information and a stifling of minority voices. Media deregulation began with a bang just over a decade ago, when Congress passed, and President Clinton signed, the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The law made it easier for media corporations to own multiple newspapers, radio stations and television stations in a given market area. The legislation was hailed as a way to foster competition, but has instead stifled it, as media companies buy, sell and merge at an amazing rate.

DO the research. Fact-check me. Make sure you know who owns the outlets in your area, and find out what stake they have in the community and the public. With the FCC and Congress giving big media a free pass to run roughshod over the public interest, perhaps the only effective weapon left in our arsenal is accountability. Demand it. Demand it from your elected representatives. Demand it from media owners. Without it, we're all in the dark.

dia mergers that narrow the channels through which information flows are unconstitutional. Yet today, such mergers are allowed with frightening abandon, reducing our media choices further and further still.

What it means for you is less news, less local ownership and less choice when it comes to selecting your preferred media outlets. Americans routinely decry state-controlled media outlets in foreign countries, yet seem satisfied with similar

## Budget cuts will increase tuition, hurt students

In February, the Alabama Legislature began the 2008 session with a proposed budget cut of almost 14 percent for higher education. The proposed cut for K-12 is about 2 percent, and the proposed cut for the community colleges is around 9 percent.

Obviously, higher education is being asked to endure a greater percentage of the cuts. The budget, of course, is still a work in progress, but if higher education is required to take a disproportionate amount of the cuts, there will be a very real impact on universities and our students.

If the proposed cuts are passed by the Legislature, the cuts could result in some classes not being offered as scheduled, so students in need of that particular class will have to delay graduation. Moreover, the budget shortfall could also mean a loss of additional faculty. Any new positions that were to be filled might be frozen until better economic times.

Obviously, the number and particular expertise of the faculty members will impact course offerings as well. The college educational experience includes more than just classroom activities.

Outside educational opportunities designed to enhance and broaden a student's education, such as a debate team or another similar opportunity, could very easily be on the "chopping block" if the proposed cuts are approved by the Legislature.

Additionally, the mere prospect of be-



Dr. Lori Owens

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ing able to afford college could be the most significant impact. Universities will have to make up the short-fall somehow. However, to fill the void in the education budget, universities would be looking at a 25 - 30 percent increase in tuition.

This type of an increase would be devastating to most of the hard-working families in Alabama who are already making sacrifices so their children can obtain a college degree.

The higher tuition would mean that some students simply could not afford to continue or begin their higher education endeavor. During difficult economic times, universities have often been the target of budget cuts because some have argued that universities can raise tuition to make up the difference.

However, raising tuition to this extent is not feasible. Significant tuition hikes make it more difficult for students to obtain a college degree. This not only has an impact on the individual student, but on the overall per capita income of Alabama.

The higher your level of education, the greater your income will be.

Reduced support for higher education

means that not only will individuals suffer, but so will the state. We are aware that in sluggish economic times, some adjustments are necessary. However, to disproportionately cut higher education is not only unfair, it makes no sense.

Four-year universities produce our engineers, educators, business owners, nurses, architects, public servants and an entire host of other very important members of society.

To unfairly cut higher education, diminishes these programs and the future of our state. Over the years, Alabama has made great strides toward reaching the regional average in terms of funding for higher education. If the proposed cuts are implemented then those recent advancements will be reversed.

Thousands of people gathered in Montgomery for Higher Education Day on March 6. However, that was only the beginning of our efforts. We have to address the proposed budget cuts before they are voted on by the committee.

Individuals in the higher education community should contact their members of the Alabama House and Senate *now* and let them know that the cuts to education funding should be fair and equitable.

After all, education at all levels is important and all levels of education should share in the good times and the bad times.

# The Chanticleer

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*The Chanticleer* is the newspaper of the Jacksonville State University community. Copies of *The Chanticleer* are distributed across the JSU campus weekly on Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters.

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

**Jim White**  
*Transnormal Skiperoo*

*Transnormal Skiperoo* is just as eclectic as the title. Jim White is a witty wordsmith with the ability to wrap those words around intoxicating melodies and incredibly cool arrangements.

The first three songs on the album are the best three songs on the album, and are very much Americana. "A Town Called Amen" is loaded with a shuffling beat, dobro and a really cool acoustic guitar riff. "Blindly We Go" is straight soul, with the heavy sound of the organ, an interesting melody and has beautiful female backing vocals. "Jailbird" is the best song on the album, it's balladly delicious. The lyrics are nothing short of literary in their wit and symbolism.

The album bounces from place to place after this. "It's Been a Long, Long Day" is very much a bluegrass tune, with the banjo being the main rhythm instrument and some fiddle in there to round it out. This one is once again lyrically genius.

"Turquoise House" is about eclectic as it gets. White sings that he wants to live in a turquoise house with a turquoise fountain and a turquoise yard and so on. Cool song, though.

Then you've got "Diamonds to Coal," a very bluesy rocker, "Crash Into the Sun," which has that California rock sound, and "Counting Numbers in the Air" which has a very Eastern sound, with hand drums, pan flute and sitar type guitar licks.

# A+

White's new album is a very interesting mix. It's full of great storytelling and brilliant lyricism. You have to check out this album — and this musician. A must listen.

— Jacob Probus



### ALSO IN ROTATION

**Grand Archives**  
*Grand Archives*

Today, indie bands are basically a dime a dozen, and this band that I tell you about today isn't much different, except for the fact that this type of band isn't worth a penny a dozen.

Grand Archives, a band that found its start in Seattle in late September of 2005, leads off with "Band of Horses."

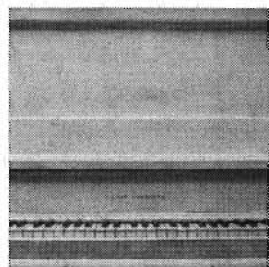
The band is signed with the famous Sub Pop Records label, but does not hold a candle to the record companies old bands, such as Nirvana.

This band, Grand Archives, is like sitting outside and listening to the wind blow.

It's like waking up in the morning and hearing that DVD menu repeating over and over and over and over again.

Every song is basically the same, and by that I mean every song sounds exactly like the next. I think this band was signed to fail, and then it will be used to be a tax write-off.

The singer doesn't try to be louder than the music, and the



## Simplicity becomes nation's newest trend

**By Samantha Critchell**  
AP Fashion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) Amid the deafening modern whirl of electronic devices, "it" bags, McMansions, reality TV and celebrity hijinks, something else has emerged: a craving for simplicity.

The status car has gone from hulking SUV to hybrid. The status bag is a canvas tote. The status shoes? Ballet flats. But no one's ready to dump the BlackBerry just yet — the 21st century search for simplicity is just a notch removed from our over-drive lives.

Getting rid of flash is the easy part: Sequins and loud logos are out of favor anyway, gone the way of body glitter and long red nails. The harder choices come when considering giving up the modern conveniences that got us here. And faced with a hard choice, most of us decide not to choose: We'll take the simplicity with a side of complicated.

Give us a family dinner around the table — so long as it's prepared by Whole Foods. We'll use canvas bags — and get in bidding wars for totes by Anya Hindmarch. And we'll wear pure, organic cotton — designed by Stella McCartney.

When superstar designer Tom Ford opened his 1930s-style, gentleman's-club store last year with an emphasis on made-to-order three-piece suits, he said he was trying to undo the fashion frenzy he helped create during his tenure at Gucci. The man who sent out some of the sexiest styles ever on a runway said he realized that he was more interested in making well-tailored clothes that last. And as he did in the '90s with Gucci, he might be leading the way. The question is: Will any of this stick?

Being less conspicuous could just be a trend, much like bling was five years ago. Consciousness, however, might last longer.

"It's not just one thing causing all this.

It's a perfect storm of trends interacting with one another," says Michael Solomon, director of the Center for Consumer Research at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. "There's the economy, there's what I think is this tsunami of eco-consciousness that we're just scratching the surface of, there's over-stimulation."

Solomon, who has written several textbooks on consumer behavior, also mentions the war and concern about America's place in the world with strong competition from China and India as factors in the new attitude.

"This has brought a neo sobriety. It's a fashion statement to be understated," he says. "It's a push back against the excesses of the last few years."

You don't necessarily want to carry the "it" bag since it's far more prestigious to pick up something unique that you obtained while on a remote trip somewhere, she says. "You don't want to be part of the pack. You pay for that."

## 10,000 B.C. debuts with \$35.7 million

**By David Germain**  
AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) Movie-goers went hunting for their inner caveman as they sat in the dark for the prehistoric adventure "10,000 B.C.," which led the weekend box office with \$35.7 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Warner Bros. visual effects spectacle, which follows a band of people struggling to survive amid woolly mammoths, saber toothed tigers and human marauders, also took in \$25.3 million in 20 overseas markets where it began rolling out Wednesday.

Opening in second place was Disney's Martin Lawrence comedy "College Road Trip," which pulled in \$14 million. Lawrence stars as an overprotective dad who tags along with his daughter (Raven-Symone) on her girls-only trek to choose a college.

Both movies put in decent numbers despite bad reviews. "10,000 B.C." came in well behind the openings of past blockbusters from director Roland Emmerich ("Independence Day," "Godzilla"), whose best debut came four years ago with "The Day After Tomorrow" at \$68.7 million.

"Those movies opened up in the summer. We're very strong for this time of year," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner.

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What's Being on

such as Nirvana.  
This band, Grand Archives, is like sitting outside and listening to the wind blow.

It's like waking up in the morning and hearing that DVD menu repeating over and over and over and over again.

Every song is basically the same, and by that I mean every song sounds exactly like the next. I think this band was signed to fail, and then it will be used to be a tax write-off.

The singer doesn't try to be louder than the music, and the guitar and other instruments cannot be distinguished. I mean, did this producer even record this on different tracks?

I don't recommend ever buying from this band or at least not this album.

**D-** My recommendation is that you go to their MySpace page and listen to the horrible sounds that they produce.

I can't conjure up anything positive to say about this album, and so I won't.

### Born Ruffians

*Red, Yellow & Blue*

Born Ruffians is a new Toronto band. I must say that we've been graced with a lot of Toronto bands in the last year, and they haven't always been graceful. Born Ruffians just released their debut album *Red, Yellow & Blue*.

A mixture of the same ole same ole — you know, electric guitar, bass, drums and a lead singer, but this time I think they got the mix right. This band is a bit refreshing, and by that I mean they are trying really hard to stand out from the usual indie-sounding music, but are still in the same genre.

I hate that the bands of the new are just considered indie and can't just be a new band. Please people of the world, stop putting every new band into the indie file folder, and let this band and other good bands stand out, or we will never again get a Nirvana, or a Led Zeppelin.

Born Ruffians may not make it to the big times, but maybe another band that tries really hard to bring something to the table will succeed, and our lives will simply change while driving in the car.

It's been years since I've heard a song, and thought to myself, "Oh my God, this is so good it's almost spiritual," and yes it can happen.

Music is life.

Born Ruffians have a really good sound, a great singer and even better lyrics, but they are still a disappointment to me. They have this song named "In a Mirror," and the lyrics are truth, funny and even smart, and I think it's their best song, but it doesn't change the fact that the band is another indie band and another indie failure.

I recommend you listen before you buy.

— Matthew Singleton

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## Sports

GAMECOCK  
BRIEFS

• The Jacksonville State softball team was scheduled to participate in the **Buzz Classic** at Georgia Tech over the weekend, but the tournament was canceled due to inclement weather. Heavy rains pounded the Atlanta area throughout the day on Friday and continued into the night. Snow flurries followed on Saturday morning, forcing officials to cancel the remainder of the tourney. The softball team opens up conference play this weekend against defending champion Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tenn. The two will play a doubleheader on Saturday and cap off the series on Sunday.

• Jacksonville State relief pitcher **Alex Jones** was named the **Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week** for his performance against UAB and Northwestern State last week. Jones, a junior from Hoover, Ala., picked up his first win of the season against the Blazers in JSU's come-from-behind victory last Tuesday. He entered the game in the top of ninth, striking out the side. Jones also picked up two saves in a doubleheader against Northwestern State on Saturday, pitching four innings of no-hit baseball.

• Jacksonville State forward **Cierra Duhart** was named to the **2007-2008 Ohio Valley Conference All-Newcomer team** last week. Duhart, a freshman from Hawkinsville, Ga., led the league in field goal percentage, shooting .578 from the field. She also ranked sixth in the OVC in rebounding, averaging 7.9

## Taking baby steps

*Women's basketball hoping to break into top half of OVC next season*

By **Jared Gravette**  
Assistant Sports Editor

When the 2007-2008 women's basketball season kicked off, Jacksonville State set their sights on making the conference tournament.

With the year now over, the Gamecocks can say that they accomplished that goal.

"That (making the conference tournament) was the main thing that we were shooting for when we started the season," JSU coach Becky Geyer said. "Even at the eighth seed, to make it into the tournament was a real big deal for us."

The Gamecocks missed the OVC tournament last season, winning only four conference games. This year's squad doubled that number, winning eight conference games and 11 overall.

"I think they made leaps and bounds — whether it was Jolie (Efezokhae) or Kelsey (Johnikin) — from their freshman year to their sophomore year," Geyer said.

"I think for our freshmen it was an opportunity for a lot of really young people to gain a lot of valuable time," Geyer added.

JSU played arguably their toughest competition late in the year, finishing the regular season with losses at Eastern Illinois and Southeast Missouri State.

The Redhawks defeated JSU by 43 points — the largest loss of the year for the Gamecocks — on the last day of the regular season to claim the Ohio



Women's basketball coach Becky Geyer talks to Cierra Duhart (left), a member of the OVC All-Newcomer team, and teammates earlier this season. Photo by James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Valley Conference regular season title and the number-one seed in the tournament.

JSU earned the number-eight seed, setting up a rematch with the Redhawks just three days later.

SEMO once again got the best of the Gamecocks, knocking them out of the tournament 67-45.

"We had some of our tougher competition at the very end of the season, and that is just kind of the way that the conference schedule worked out this

year," Geyer said.

Despite dropping their final four games, Geyer and the Gamecocks are convinced that their best days lay ahead.

"I think looking at the year overall, I'm happy with it. Could things have been a little better here and there? Absolutely."

"We had hoped to do better than just make it into the tournament and one game in, but I think it's a start and, it's a great start for our future," Geyer

added.

JSU's roster was chock full of freshmen and sophomores, and their entire squad should be back next season.

Efezokhae led the team in points, averaging 13.0 points per game. Freshman Cierra Duhart was close behind, scoring 11.3 per game on her way to being named to the OVC All-Newcomer team.

"I think our girls did a great job, especially with a team mostly made up of freshmen with a few sophomores and one junior. I think overall it was a pretty successful year," Geyer said. "I'm very proud of them. I think they worked really hard and they improved a lot."

The Gamecocks will get their three-point specialist, Eren McMichael, back next season. McMichael tore her ACL earlier in the season after leading JSU in scoring through the first 12 games.

According to Geyer, the goal now shifts to finishing in the top half of the league and competing for the conference tournament championship.

"It's going to be interesting, but I don't see any reason why we can't be a top-four team," Geyer said. "SEMO has a ton of kids back. Murray, who won it, has a ton of kids back, and Eastern Illinois has a ton of kids back and actually Tennessee State as well."

"I would think that we should definitely be in the top half of the league next year with as good of an as any-body else to win the conference."

## Relying on late-inning heroics

*Piazza, Jones come up big in doubleheader sweep of Northwestern State*

By **Jared Staubs**  
Sports Editor

Brian Piazza might share the last name of a famous



consistency, he has become very dependable.

"If you look at a successful baseball team, usually there's a guy that at the end of the

greeted rudely by the Bulldogs, who knocked him out of the game in the second inning.

**Ohio Valley Conference All-Newcomer team** last week. Duhart, a freshman from Hawkinsville, Ga., led the league in field goal percentage, shooting .578 from the field. She also ranked sixth in the OVC in rebounding, averaging 7.9 boards per game. Duhart finished with 226 rebounds, which ranks as the second-highest total by any freshman in school history.

• Jacksonville State women's basketball coach **Becky Geyer** announced several changes to her staff on Tuesday afternoon. **Brad Durchslag, Gerlon-da Hardin and Jamie Kellerman** have all decided to seek career opportunities away from the collegiate level and closer to their respective hometowns. All three had been at JSU for two seasons.

• Both the **Jacksonville State men's and women's tennis teams** opened Ohio Valley Conference play with wins over Tennessee-Martin. The women were swept in the doubles point but battled back to claim the match. The men swept the doubles point and won all but one of their singles matches. Both men and women will take the court again on Thursday to take on Samford in their second OVC contest of the year.

• Freshman **Martina Dessbesell**, a member of the Jacksonville State tennis team, was named the **OVC Co-Female Athlete of the Week**. Dessbesell, a native of Panambi, Brazil, went 2-0 during the week from for the Gamecocks.

• The **Jacksonville State soccer team** signed 10 players from the 2008 class. The group includes **Emily Bielaga, Lindsay Boehlmer, Casey Brettman, Ally Brosius, Charleen Gonzalez, Brenna Horrocks, Millie Parekh, Chelesa Pelletier, Kassie Ruff** and **Erica Wolfe**.

## Piazza, Jones come up big in doubleheader sweep of Northwestern State

By **Jered Staubs**  
Sports Editor

Brian Piazza might share the last name of a famous Dodgers' catcher, but he reminded his coach of another Dodgers' hero Saturday.

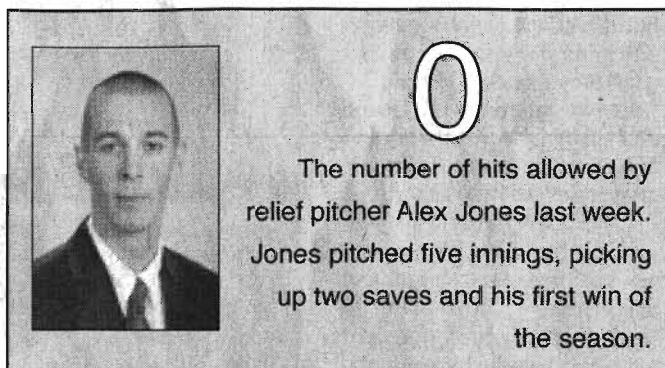
Piazza had been dealing with a hamstring injury and was unable to run, but told coach Jim Case he would be available to pinch-hit if called upon.

"It's funny, I asked him if he knew who Kirk Gibson was," Case said. "And at the end he was able to pull off a Kirk Gibson."

The senior, who said he is able to only able to trot or jog, got the call to pinch-hit in the eighth inning with two men on base and the Gamecocks trailing 3-2.

Similar to Gibson in the 1988 World Series, Piazza got a pitch in the heart of the plate and homered to right field.

"Coach joked about Kirk



The number of hits allowed by relief pitcher Alex Jones last week. Jones pitched five innings, picking up two saves and his first win of the season.

Gibson, but I kind of shrugged it off because I'm not really a power guy," Piazza said. "I was just trying to get a good pitch and put a good swing on it, but he just threw me one right down the middle."

The Gamecocks responded by coming from behind in both games of a Saturday doubleheader at Northwestern State. JSU trailed both games 3-0, but put together a five-run inning late in both games to win 5-4 and 5-3, respectively.

Alex Jones came in from

the bullpen and pitched the final two innings of both games, giving up no hits on the way to recording two saves. Jones had recorded a win earlier in the week against UAB, and for his efforts he was named OVC Pitcher of the Week.

"It's a big honor," Jones said. "It's something I've always kind of wanted, it's something every pitcher wants, to be seen as the best pitcher for that week."

Case feels that now that Jones has developed more

consistency, he has become very dependable.

"If you look at a successful baseball team, usually there's a guy that at the end of the game, when he comes in, the team feels the game is over," Case said. "Right now that's the feeling we have when Alex takes the mound."

Some of the other members of JSU's pitching staff turned in better performances than earlier in the season. Most notably, Nick Hetland (1-3) got his first win of the year in the opener of the doubleheader.

The transfer from Mississippi got the final out of the sixth inning and then struck out the side in the seventh and was awarded the win after JSU rallied.

The week didn't start so well for the Gamecocks, as they were crushed 19-1 in a trip to Athens to play SEC power Georgia.

John David Smelser made his first career start and was

greeted rudely by the Bulldogs, who knocked him out of the game in the second inning.

"Throughout the season we're going to have ups and downs, and we didn't pitch well obviously," Case said. "We've got to get a lot better if we're going to compete at that level."

After hosting Kennesaw State Wednesday, JSU will have a weekend series with Appalachian State. All games will be at Rudy Abbott Field.

"I think we're showing that we are still a good team," Jones said. "If we start out slow, it's by no means a sign of things to come."

Case agrees that JSU's best is yet to come.

"We've got several guys that are going to get going," he said. "Bert (Smith) isn't a .150 hitter, and Clay (Whittemore) isn't a .250 hitter. They'll get going."

# My Career My Success My JSU

**Dr. Greg Robinson**  
Distinguished Research  
Professor of Chemistry at UGA

*Chemistry majors welcomed*

February 19, 2008  
Martin Hall • Rm. 130  
12:00 Noon

**Federal Application Workshop**

*Reservations Required*

April 1, 2008  
Library Basement  
3:00 & 4:00 p.m.

**Special Agent Craig Bates**  
Washington D.C.

*Criminal Justice majors Welcomed*

April 8, 2008  
Brewer Hall

**Business & Education Career Expo**

*Professional Dress and Resumes Required*

March 6, 2008  
Stephenson Hall  
8:30 a.m. - Noon

**JSU** JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Hosted by Career Placement Services  
For More Information: [www.cps.jsu.edu](http://www.cps.jsu.edu) or 256-782-5482



Jared Gravette

chantysports@gmail.com

## Never play hide and seek in the dark

First of all, just a little bit of advice.

Never, and I mean never, play hide and seek in the dark, especially if you are in a pasture full of holes.

I made that mistake over the weekend, and you can probably guess what happened. I stepped in one of those monstrous craters and broke my foot.

Spring break is shot for me. Well, not completely. I'll be a couch potato, resting up and watching March Madness.

Does it get any better than 65 teams battling for the top spot in the country? I don't think so.

As a matter of fact, I think it's the most exciting two weeks in sports.

It's way better than the Super Bowl or the World Series ever thought about being.

The moments that make March Madness so special live on forever.

I'll never forget Christian Laettner's perfect night against Kentucky, Bryce Drew's buzzer beater to beat Ole Miss or the Fab Five's choke job in the Final Four.

Absolutely anything can happen during this tournament.

It was pretty obvious that Florida was the best team in the country the last two seasons, but it seems to be all up for grabs this year.

It looks like North Carolina, UCLA, Memphis and Kan-

# Springing into gear

## *J-Day brings excitement, mistakes to Paul Snow Stadium*

By **Jared Staubs**  
Sports Editor

On a field with very few familiar names, Marcus Dupree made sure no one had forgotten his.

The rising senior injected excitement into J-Day from the start, taking the opening kickoff back for a touchdown and electrifying those who came to watch JSU's spring football game.

"He's got great speed and quickness, and I think he's developed a real feel for the game," said coach Jack Crowe, who watched the game as a neutral party.

The man Crowe calls "Super Duper" is expected to be an integral part of the JSU receiving corps this fall and contributed in that capacity in the spring game.

Dupree, playing for the White team, was the target of many short passes that were designed to get him the ball in open space and then showed his prowess as a deep threat by catching a 40-yard touchdown pass for the White team's only offensive touchdown of the afternoon.

Dupree nearly ran another kick back for a touchdown as well, before finally being tackled by the kicker at the Red 42-yard line.

The special teams weren't flawless, as Gavin Hallford missed an extra point — though Crowe said the snap and hold made it difficult on Hallford — and Zach Walden had an eight-yard punt.

Still, both are expected to be among the best in the OVC at their positions next year, and Crowe said those mistakes are typical of a spring game. The spring game marks the midpoint of JSU's spring drills.

"There were a lot of mistakes, and it's not good for that to ever happen," Crowe said. "But we're changing a lot of people, moving a lot

gan to find some success as the game wore on. After throwing interceptions on consecutive drives, Green brought the White team back into the lead by hitting Dupree for a 40-yard touchdown with 1:52 remaining.

Green, a walk-on from Jacksonville High School, looked confident in charge of the White offense and showed sound decision making for most of the afternoon.

"He (Green) did some things that surprised the heck out of me," Crowe said. "I wouldn't discount him, he's really impressed me."

But Walker would make the last impact, as he threw a game-winning touchdown with 21 seconds left.

Walker hit James Wilkerson on a medium-range pass, but the rising junior receiver scampered all the way to the end zone for a 69-yard touchdown that gave the Red team a 20-15 victory. Walker finished the day with two passing touchdowns and a rushing touchdown, as he used his athleticism by rolling out of the pocket repeatedly.

While spring football games are normally an opportunity for players, coaches and fans to see how the team is progressing, it is also a chance for the players to gain bragging rights amongst themselves.

"The stakes are pretty high, we have a bet each year," safety Kenny Walker, who had an interception for the victorious Red team, said. "The loser gets weenies and beans, and the winner gets steak. I ate weenies last year, I wanted that steak this year."

Marquise Elston, who played for the White team, brushed off the defeat and focused on the positives.

"We really wanted to win, but it's about players making plays and showing the coaches what they can do," he said.

Crowe agreed with Elston



ABOVE: Maurice Dupree runs in the open field. The senior showed off skills both as a return man and as a receiver.

BELOW: Red quarterback John-John Walker scrambles out of the pocket. The replacement quarterback threw two touchdown passes and ran for another in the Red's 20-15 victory. Photos courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com



happen during this tournament.

It was pretty obvious that Florida was the best team in the country the last two seasons, but it seems to be all up for grabs this year.

It looks like North Carolina, UCLA, Memphis and Kansas will likely hold down the top four seeds, barring any setbacks in their conference tournaments.

But I don't necessarily believe that anyone of these teams should be a clear-cut favorite.

It could be Duke, Tennessee or even Wisconsin.

I definitely wouldn't sleep on Texas either. In fact, they might be my pick to win it all.

It was just five years ago that Carmelo Anthony led Syracuse to a national title as a three seed. I think the Longhorns could actually pull off something similar.

They have arguably the top point guard in the country in D.J. Augustin and have a solid core built around him.

Texas has already proven to be a giant killer this year. They have already beaten UCLA, Tennessee and Kansas this year. Who else can say that they have defeated three top five teams? Nobody can.

One thing is for sure. The Indiana Hoosiers won't be cutting down the nuts. They are garbage.

Another lingering question is who will be this year's George Mason?

I'm not sure any mid-major team will make it to the Elite Eight again, but I would look out for Kent State.

The Golden Flashes are currently first in the MAC with a 25-6 record and won at St. Mary's in their Bracket-Busters game.

One thing is for sure, it's going to be exciting, and my eyes will be glued to the TV for two weeks.

Another reason that I love the tournament is that everybody who's anybody fills out a bracket, and it's all about bragging rights (and cash).

Filling out a perfect bracket is next to impossible, even though I'm sure Jered Staubs thinks he can do it. But don't worry people, he's an idiot.

In fact, I personally guarantee that my bracket will be far more accurate than anyone in *The Chanticleer* office with the same first name as mine. Bring it on Shtawbs.

Crowe said those mistakes are typical of a spring game. The spring game marks the midpoint of JSU's spring drills.

"There were a lot of mistakes, and it's not good for that to ever happen," Crowe said. "But we're changing a lot of people, moving a lot of people around, and those things are going to happen."

The special teams led to most of the suspense for the first three quarters, as both teams struggled to find consistency under the direction of quarterbacks Riley Green and John-John Walker.

Green (White) and Walker (Red) were the only quarterbacks available after the recent dismissal of last year's primary starter Cedric Johnson. Walker, who had not played quarterback since his sophomore year in high school, is expected to return to receiver in fall when JSU's two heralded freshmen quarterbacks, Marques Ivory and Casey Weston, come to camp.

But Green and Walker be-

Marquise Elston, who played for the White team, brushed off the defeat and focused on the positives.

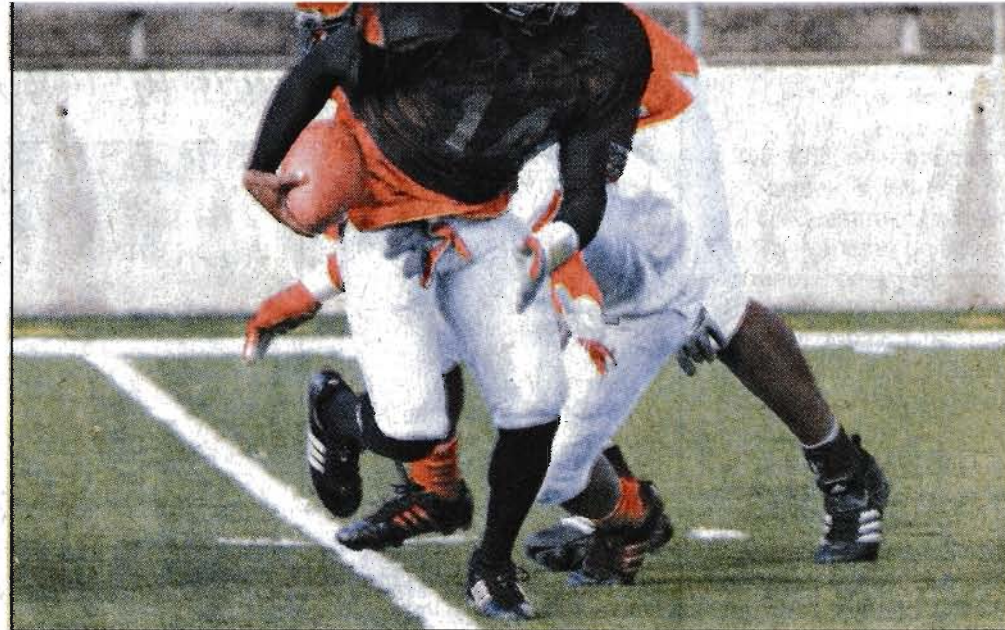
"We really wanted to win, but it's about players making plays and showing the coaches what they can do," he said."

Crowe agreed with Elston that there were important things to be taken from the game than the final score.

"The main thing is I was looking for players who will be able to step forward and make plays," Crowe said. "I don't think there's a part of our team that's on schedule, except maybe up front defensively."

The strong defensive front had its way with an offensive line that has been injured and has not had much time playing with one another. As a result, none of the numerous backs who received carries were able to find consistent success.

Last season's primary starter at running back, Daniel Jackson, struggled to find



holes, and his biggest openings came when he took direct snaps from center.

"That's something we're going to continue to do this year," Crowe said. "Now, that may be a place we can get John-John the ball, and let him do things with it."

The team is winding down its spring practice, and only will be practicing three more times (as of press time Tuesday night) before a break that will last until summer practice.

"We'll still be doing a lot in between now and then,"

Walker said. "We'll be doing a lot of working out, a lot of 7-on-7s, that kind of thing."

"The team's kind of young, so we've got to do a lot of team functions to get to know each other," Elston added.

# Looking forward to a change

## *Players react to proposed stadium expansion*

**By Julie Skinner**  
*Senior Writer*

The expansion of Paul Snow Stadium has been the center of conversation among the student body at Jacksonville State University, including the football team, who feel the change would benefit everyone in the long run.

While in the past the stands at football games have hardly been packed, the football team hopes that the addition will bring bigger crowds and an acceleration of school spirit and pride.

Rylee Zalanka, who just completed his freshman season as an inside linebacker, hopes to move to the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I) soon and is excited about his future days playing for JSU, especially inside the new stadium.

"We've all worked pretty hard, and we're ready to make that next step," Zalanka said. "I know that a lot of people say we can't fill our stands right now, but I don't think we're really looking at what it is right now, but looking more towards the future."

Zalanka explained that he thinks schools like Alabama and Auburn already have fees in place to help pay for athletics, while JSU, being one of the cheapest universities to attend, is at a disadvantage with not as much extra money to spend.

Coach Jack Crowe isn't concerned with the players being too affected by the change.

"They didn't come here with a promise, and I don't think it affects how they play," Crowe said.

He does think that the new stadium will attract people who don't usually come, and that a little promotion wouldn't hurt, either.

"We do nothing to promote attendance here," Crowe said, "but I can tell you what I was told, whatever your walk-up is, with promotion you can quadruple it."

He gave the example that if we sell 6,000 tickets - which is a pretty standard estimate for JSU home games - to people who walk up, with a better promotion plan in place, the tickets sold could leap to 24,000.

Zalanka believes that the move to the FBS would increase attendance immediately.

"Especially when we move to Division I, that's going to drive a lot of people to the games because we'll be playing Troy again and bigger teams that people know about," he said. "We'll be able to compete a little bit more for Alabama and Auburn fans in this area."

Brandt Thomas, a rising junior defensive lineman, echoed those thoughts.

"I think we're in a tough position, having to compete with schools like Alabama and Auburn Saturday in and Saturday out," he said. "After a while, I think it will bring better players in, more fans in and be an overall good addition for the university."

With promotion, more high-profile opponents and a little extra school pride, everyone involved seems to feel the stands could fill up more than ever when the new stadium is built.

More than anything, the idea is golden in the eyes

of the athletes, their dedicated fans and those who love JSU sports in general.

Not everyone loves the idea because the stadium expansion is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$36 million, and the football team is well aware of their opinions. Most common is the belief that the stadium expansion will increase the expenses of the average student at JSU, though Crowe believes that is false.

Thomas knows that some of the students have doubts and some are disappointed that they won't be here to see the stadium completed.

"I can see where some people would have their doubts about it and I won't sit here and say we don't struggle to fill up the stands and that's partly our fault," Thomas said.

"But don't rush the judgment just yet, let's give it a chance and see how it goes."

*"I think we're in a tough position, having to compete with schools like Alabama and Auburn Saturday in and Saturday out. After a while, I think it will bring better players in, more fans in and be an overall good addition for the university."*

— Brandt Thomas