

Baseball The return of Bert Smith propelled the Gamecocks to their first back-to-back wins this season.

# The Chanticleer

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Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

March 6, 2008

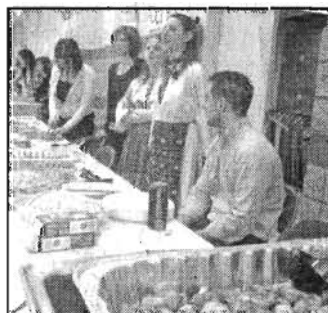
## ONLINE

### One and done

Women's basketball knocked out in first round of the OVC tournament.

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## INSIDE



### International affair

ISO Week features Taster's Fair, soccer game and more.

Story on page 3

## ON CAMPUS

### Up in flames

Dixon Hall bushes ignite. Story on page 2

## QUESTION of the WEEK

What's the best part about March?

## Forgettable season ends with LaPlante uprooted

By Jered Staubs  
Sports Editor

The tenure of JSU men's basketball coach Mike LaPlante came to an end Monday after eight seasons at the school.

Athletic director Jim Fuller announced that LaPlante's contract would not be renewed after the Gamecocks missed the Ohio Valley Conference tournament for the second consecutive season.

LaPlante had been aware of the possibility that this would be his last season for some time. He addressed the issue following JSU's season-ending 86-83 win over SEMO, and again Monday.

"I had an opportunity to meet with our team prior to the press conference, and first and foremost I'd like to thank them for the opportunity I had to coach them," LaPlante said. "I think today, on one side it's a sad day for myself and my family, but sometimes when one door closes

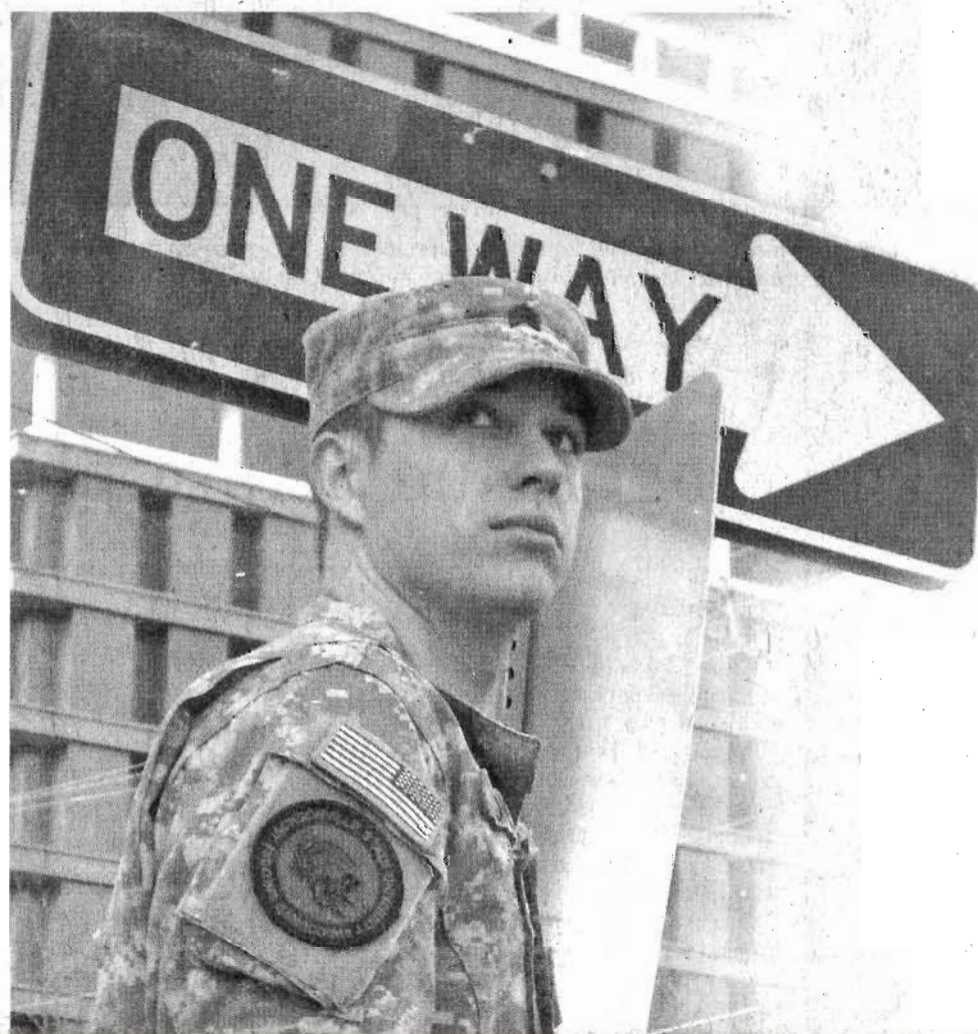
another door opens."

The Gamecocks had a tumultuous season on and off the court and finished the year 7-22, and 5-15 in OVC play. JSU was never expected to challenge for the top of the conference this season, but the nagging injuries to Erik Adams and Jeremy Bynum, combined with the dismissal of leading returning scorer Dorien Brown for academic reasons, left the team in a state of flux.



AD Jim Fuller announces Mike LaPlante's dismissal. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa

See "LaPlante," page 6



## SGA Election Results

*The voting is over, and the results have been tallied. For winners and more information, go ...*

ONLINE @

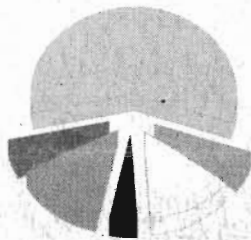
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## License to bill

*JSU delegates take home new awards, positions from C-LEG, a conference of Alabama college students*



What's the best part about March?



- Spring Break 59%
- March Madness 5%
- Spring Weather 14%
- Pi Day 5%
- Lousy Smarch Weather 11%
- Other 5%



"Spring Break is definitely the best. Panama City Beach, are you kidding me?"  
— Mary Maughan, Freshman

**Next week's question:**  
What are your plans for Spring Break?

**ONLINE @**

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Next January, Spc. Cory Horne, a sophomore majoring in criminal justice, will leave the familiarity of home behind as he deploys for Afghanistan to serve with the 167th Battalion infantry. Photo and illustration by Bethany Harbison / *The Chanticleer*.

# Soldiering on

*JSU ROTC cadet bound for Afghanistan*

**By Haley Gregg**  
Staff Reporter

For Spc. Cory A. Horne, serving his country — no matter the cost or consequence — is a way of life.

A sophomore at Jacksonville State University, 20-year-old Horne is passionate about his military obligations. As a member of the Army ROTC, he will deploy to Afghanistan in January 2009 with the 167th Battalion infantry to serve in a time of war.

"It's my duty and responsibility," Horne said. "I want to go. I had a choice to either go or stay, but I chose to go. I had rather fight them on their land than on ours."

Horne comes from a family of military

service members. His father, grandfather and uncles all served in various branches of the military.

"This is something that I have always wanted to do. It's in my blood," he said.

Horne, a criminal justice major, joined the JSU ROTC program after graduating from Trinity Christian Academy in May 2006. He began his military career at Fort Benning, Ga., by attending basic and advance individual training. Horne will attend additional training prior to deployment.

"The more training he has, the better I feel," said his mother, Andrea Horne of Oxford. Her son will serve a 15-month tour,

See "Soldier," page 3

# License to Bill

*JSU delegates take home new awards, positions from C-LEG, a conference of Alabama college students*

**By Bethany Harbison**  
Editor in Chief

On Thursday, Feb. 28, a delegation of 23 Jacksonville State University students from the SGA departed for Montgomery, Ala. to take part in the 14th annual Collegiate Legislature (C-LEG) conference.

Ten schools from across the state of Alabama gathered to present and debate hypothetical bills. Of the 62 bills on docket, 15 were written by JSU students — a number in which SGA Director of Publicity Shalon Hathcock takes pride.

One such bill came from SGA President David Jennings, who proposed making theft of tax illegal, a measure that would make it a crime not to tip.

Hathcock, who attended the conference this year for the third time, explained that at least a few of the bills proposed at C-LEG are normally jokes, citing one that she once wrote that proposed to make wearing open-toed shoes with socks illegal.

But a number of the bills have more serious focuses — subjects such as legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes, reevaluating the tenure of educators and the rights of homosexuals. JSU Senator Tyrone Smiley's bill proposed instituting policies that would call for students to rent, rather than buy, textbooks.

"It's nerdy fun, but it really is a lot of fun," Hathcock said. "Two hundred people come together to discuss what they think is important for this state."

Alabama's lawmakers take notice of C-LEG, Hathcock said. Each Alabama senator has a speaker that he or she is



Hathcock

See "C-LEG," page 3

# AFTERdark sheds light



Dave Barnes plays at AFTERdark. Photo by Haley Gregg / *The Chanticleer*

**Haley Gregg**  
Staff Reporter

March 4, 2008, was a night filled with the sounds of music and a message. The event AFTERdark came to the Pete Matthew's Coliseum at Jacksonville State University, bringing with it musical guests Dave Barnes and Tedashii. Joe White, president of Kanakuk Kamps and the creator of AFTERdark, ended the night with the presentation of the cross, which portrayed the story of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ through the eyes of a Roman cross builder.

"Joe's part was really touching," said Ryan Wallace, a sophomore at Jacksonville State University. "It made me think about different things in my life, and I think I am going to start going to church more often now."

"It was not what I expected," said Ashley Tarquine, a junior at JSU. "When he started talking about how God is your father, it made me realize that God is always with me no matter what."

AFTERdark started in 2000 and has traveled to over 100 major college campuses, reaching 150,000 college students throughout the country. The program features

various musical acts and a message that White says is relevant to students. Its main purpose is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with as many college students as it possibly can.

"Our next goal is to reach one million college leaders in the next 10 years," said Brian Wang, who has been AFTERdark's event coordinator for three years.

According to Kimberly Kalla, a student leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, AFTERdark came to Jacksonville State University with the help of Josh

See "AFTERdark," page 3



## Announcements

• Honda Manufacturing of Alabama will interview for the summer and fall 2008 semester co-op program on March 12 in 105 Bibb Graves Hall. HMA seeks students majoring in technology and business, all concentrations. For more, contact Becca Turner, 782-5485 or bturner@jsu.edu

• The Lambda Pi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. would like to thank Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority for their Imagination Library donations, the open forum panelist and the JSU campus for your support during our Centennial skee-week!

• Coed AKAerobics: a fun, high-impact aerobics class will be held Friday, March 7 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at the JSU Coliseum (Dance Studio).

• Technology 101: A free, basic computer class will be held Saturday, March 8 from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Ramona Wood Computer Lab. Refreshments will be served.

### 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

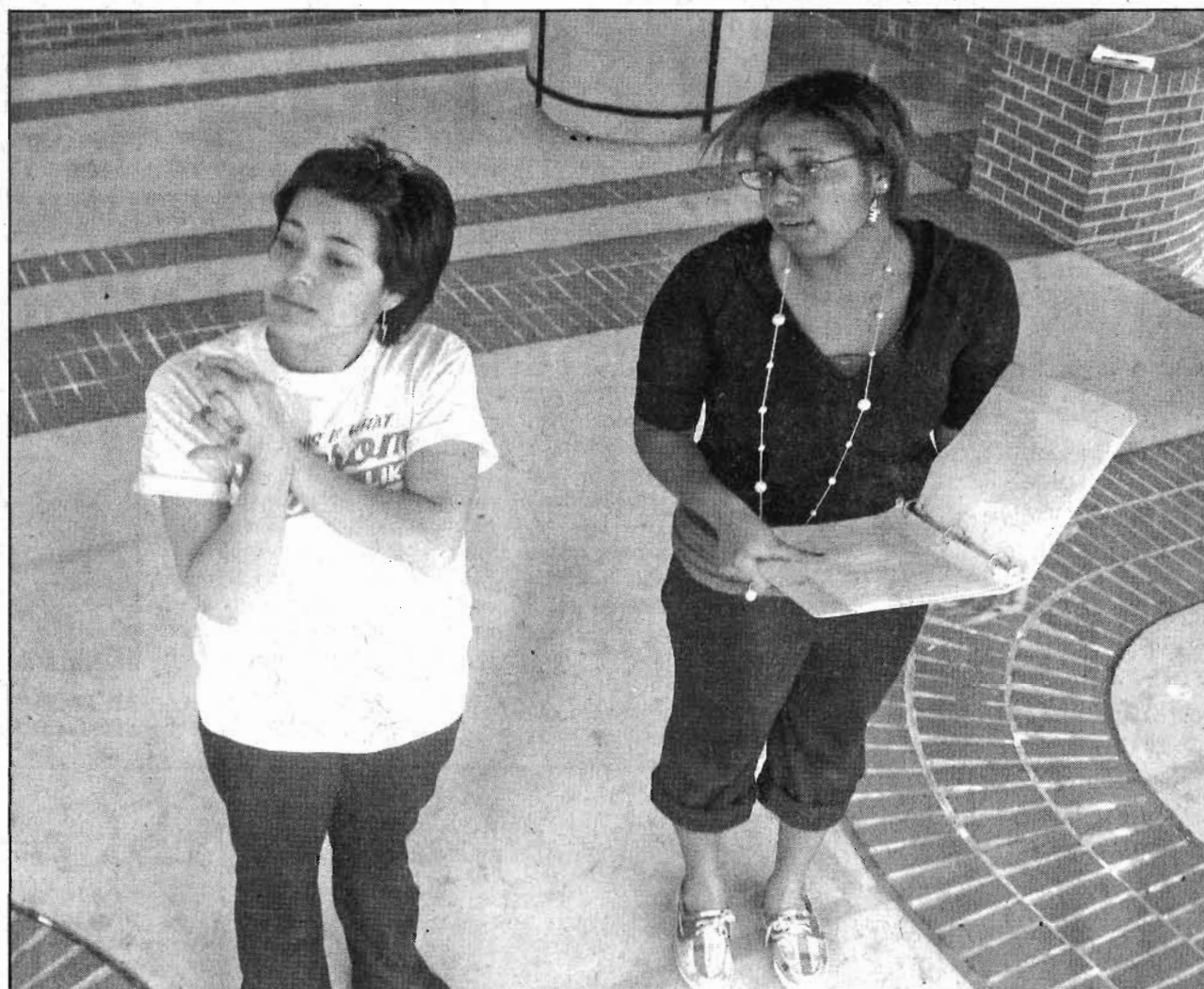
### Monday, March 3

- Student Venderius Holyfield reported harrasment at Daugette Hall.
- Student Joseph Burnett reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the parking lot of Crow Hall.

### Friday, February 29

- Student Alyssa Burkes reported a theft of property

# Original Breezeway cast



Melena Hamm and Meredith Huntley rehearse for the production of the one act play *Fourteen* on the breezeway in front of Self Hall. JSU One Acts will be preformed March 12 and 14. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

## Burning bush

*Dixon Hall bushes  
bursts into flames,  
no one injured*

By Bethany Harbison  
Editor in Chief

On Sunday, March 2, the bushes in front of Dixon Hall ignited. Resident Assistant Zac Sweeney, who was manning the hall's desk at the time of the incident, saw the flames and dialed the University Police Department. He then ran down the halls, alerting residents of the incident. Another student then pulled the fire alarm. With the residents evacuated, Sweeney broke through the glass housing the fire extinguisher and began spraying at the fire.

"I'm an RA so I'm somewhat trained in

## SGA presents R&B singer Rudy Currence

Roya Hill  
Staff Reporter

On Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 8:00 p.m. the SGA hosted R&B singer Rudy Currence.

A graduate of Furman University and a Mike Chek recording artist, Currence performed for a crowd of students in Leone Cole Auditorium. The concert wrapped up the SGA's Black History Month celebration.

During Rudy's performance, he brought fan and friend Mistee Braxton, a sophomore nursing major, on stage to sing with him to sing John

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SGA celebrated Black History Month with a number of events — *Profiles of Courage*, a play that served as a tribute to African American heroes, a coffee house featuring NFL star turned poet Travis Watkins and Wednesday

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

• Today is **Higher Education Day**. students will travel to Montgomery to lobby for more funding for higher education. The trip is sponsored by the Student Government Association.

• **The JSU Potter's Guild** will sponsor a ceramics sale on March 8 during Preview Day. The sale will feature items created by JSU ceramics students. The proceeds from the sale will send JSU students to the 2009 Alabama clay conference.

• A workshop **Dealing with Depression & Suicide Prevention: Creating Lifelines** was held yesterday. Speaker Susan Howell of the Mental Health Center in Anniston discussed methods of recognizing, preventing and dealing with depression and suicide.

• JSU faculty and staff held a chili cookoff in the lobby of Martin Hall yesterday. First, second, and third place prizes were awarded. The proceeds from the event will go to the **JSU Relay For Life** team and the **American Cancer Society**.

- From wire, staff reports

## The Week in Events

### Thursday, March 6

• Business & Education Fair, Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

• Greek Life Inductions, McCluer Chapel, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle in the parking lot of Crow Hall.

#### Friday, February 29

• Student Alyssa Burkes reported a theft of property from Patterson Hall. Stolen property included a laptop computer.

#### Wednesday, February 27

• Student De Dontae Pearson reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle. The vehicle was parked in the Crow Hall parking lot at the time of the incident.

#### Tuesday, February 26

• Student Antonio Jones reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle, which was parked in the Crow Hall parking lot at the time of the incident. Stolen property included a black 5G Apple iPod and a white Kangaroo hat.

• Student Dustin Adair reported theft of property from Pete Matthews Coliseum.

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.

## SENATE MINUTES

### Rundown of the Monday, March 3, SGA meeting:

• A student bill allocating \$300 to the JSU History Club was passed.

• After the weekly Senate meeting, a debate was held between SGA presidential candidates Moody Duff III and Jennifer Nix, along with the candidates for the three vice president positions also participated. The debate was moderated by Brandon Hollingsworth and sponsored by the Student Government Association. TV Services taped the debate.

desk at the time of the incident, saw the flames and dialed the University Police Department. He then ran down the halls, alerting residents of the incident. Another student then pulled the fire alarm. With the residents evacuated, Sweeney broke through the glass housing the fire extinguisher and began spraying at the fire.

"I'm an RA so I'm somewhat trained in emergency management," Sweeney said.

The fire department then showed up and finished dousing the flames.

"Most of the residents were scared as they were leaving the building, but once they got outside and saw that it was the bushes and not the building, they thought it was cool and were joking around about it," Sweeney said. "They applauded me jokingly as I put the fire out and did the same when the fire truck arrived."

Sweeney said that he and his fellow RAs evacuated the residents so that they would be safe in the event that the fire spread to the building itself.

No one was injured in the fire, and Dixon Hall, which traditionally houses Southerners' members, suffered no damage, though the bushes out front are now noticeably scarred.

"This was definitely the most exciting moment as an RA so far," Sweeney said. "It was a rush, but it was really fun and a really great story that I can tell for years."

and a Mike Curren recording artist, Currence performed for a crowd of students in Leone Cole Auditorium. The concert wrapped up the SGA's Black History Month celebration.

During Rudy's performance, he brought fan and friend Mistee Braxton, a sophomore nursing major, on stage to sing with him to sing John Legend's "Ordinary People."

"Rudy is an excellent singer," Braxton said. "His vocal talent is out of this world. He has his own style."

Brittney Cunningham, a junior majoring in elementary education, the vice president of the Student Government Association helped set up this concert. This past fall, Cunningham attended the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) and Rudy was one of the performers. The SGA booked him, and he agreed to come to JSU to perform. Cunningham said the booking process took about a month.

Though Currence mostly sang R&B, he also brought the crowd of JSU students to tears when he began performing gospel songs.

In addition to performing songs from his album, Rudy entertained the crowd by performing several

a number of events — *Profiles of Courage*, a play that served as a tribute to African American heroes, a coffee house featuring NFL star turned poet Travis Watkins and Wednesday night's Rudy Currence concert, among others.

renditions, including "Killing Me Softly," "Until the End of Time," "Don't Leave Me Girl," "Lean On Me," "Unbreakable" and Tupac Shakur's "I Ain't Mad At Cha."

Besides receiving the ASCAP Writer's Award in 2005, Rudy Currence has worked alongside many artists, such as Mya. He also wrote the track "Believe In Me" from the *Bourne Identity* soundtrack as well as a song from Tom Cruise's *Minority Report*.

Additionally, Rudy wrote and arranged, "Let's Play House," a track from KOCH Records recording artist Ray J's third album *Raydiation*.

His sophomore album, *Here With You*, is in stores now.

# Carving his niche

*Woodcarver teaches students how to see the art of seeing the potential of a block of wood*

By Ryan Rupprecht  
Staff Reporter

Last Tuesday, Feb. 26, local artist James Cohorn spoke to instructor Allison McElroy's Art Appreciation class about how he discovered his natural talent in woodcarving.

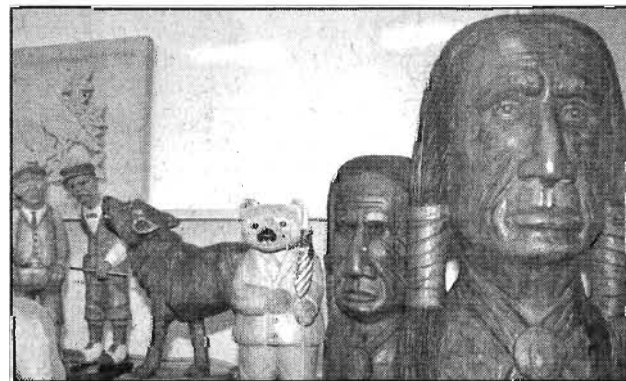
He stood in front of the class, delicately holding a small block of his favorite, basswood.

"What do you see?" Cohorn asked. "There's something in (this) block of wood."

Cohorn, a soft-spoken retired pastor, explains the simple idea.

"The imagination is unlimited in what could be in a block of wood...perhaps there is a soldier in there, a singer in there."

Cohorn has been putting a blade to wood as long as he can remember. As a



Cohorn brought a wide variety of his carvings to the lecture. Photo by Ryan Rupprecht / *The Chanticleer*

child, he would carve small toy trucks from blocks of wood and attach bottle caps to them for wheels. As he grew, he continued carving until in the 1970s when he moved to Gadsden and became interested in other forms of art. There, he attended art classes where he focused his attention on painting, which he believes has helped refine his

carving technique. In 2000, James started carving exclusively again. He says the "warmth and receptive nature of the wood" has always drawn him back to it. With him he brought a dozen or more of his pieces — a carving of an American Indian which he carved from a mailbox post, a carving of the Three Bears from the popular children's story,

Shirley Temple complete with an intricately carved head of curly hair and many other different animals and characters.

"Do you realize that each one of these came from a block of wood?" Cohorn asked. "So inside the wood there is something else."

Cohorn firmly believes "if you can see it, you can carve it." He said he has taught many senior citizens how to carve, and he laughed as he told the students that most of the women are actually much better than the men. He speaks to local church groups, senior homes and has a local woodcarving club that meets every Thursday night.

Although Cohorn does not sell any of pieces, he has given several to the Salvation Army to be auctioned for charity. At one auction, an Indian bust he donated brought in \$550.

#### Thursday, March 6

• Business & Education Fair, Stephenson Hall, 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

• Greek Life Inductions, McCluer Chapel, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

#### Friday, March 7

• ENSR.AECOM Interviews, 3rd floor conference room TMB, All day.

#### Saturday, March 8

• Family Day/Preview Day, Stephenson Hall, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### Monday, March 10

• Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

• ZPB Sorority Stepshow JSU Amphitheater, 7:20 pm - 11:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, March 11

• Mike Reese "Safe Spring Break" Program, TMB Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, March 12

• Take The Lead...A Greek Experience Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

## Retractions Mistakes from last week's issue:

• In the article "AKA's present Skee Week" we incorrectly identified the president of Alpha Kappa Alpha as Anita Coachman. The president of the Lambda Pi Chapter of AKA is actually Jessica Peoples. Also, in the second to last paragraph, the second line should read "... said they will not stop helping ..."

*The Chanticleer* regrets the mistakes and apologizes to anyone who was affected.

# Flavors of the nations

*Taster's Fair serves up fare from students' native countries*

**Katie Freeman  
Staff Reporter**

Last week, the International Student Organization held the annual week of events that ended with the Taster's Fair.

"Every year, we have this week at the beginning of March and at the end of February. It's just a tradition," said Milic Zecevic, a junior majoring in finance. He explained that the Taster's Fair has been an annual event since the organization was founded.

"We had 300 people there, and we had 20 to 25 different countries represented," Zecevic said. He added, "I really liked the Vietnamese spring rolls."

It was not just food, though — there was music and entertainment at the Taster's Fair as well. Zecevic said that they also had a program where people played music and did traditional dances from their countries.

"We had some people playing

guitars, we had some Latin music," Zecevic said. "Then, we had the Nepalese dance and the Japanese traditional dance."

The Taster's Fair was only one event in a whole week of ISO's celebration.

The week kicked off on Sunday with a soccer game.

On Monday and Tuesday, they held a silent auction. The items being auctioned were brought from people's native countries and included things like cloths, sculptures, coffees and desserts.

"People bid on them and then later on we inform whoever wins, and actually this year we raised \$600, and all of our money that we raise basically goes to our scholarship fund for International students," Zecevic said.

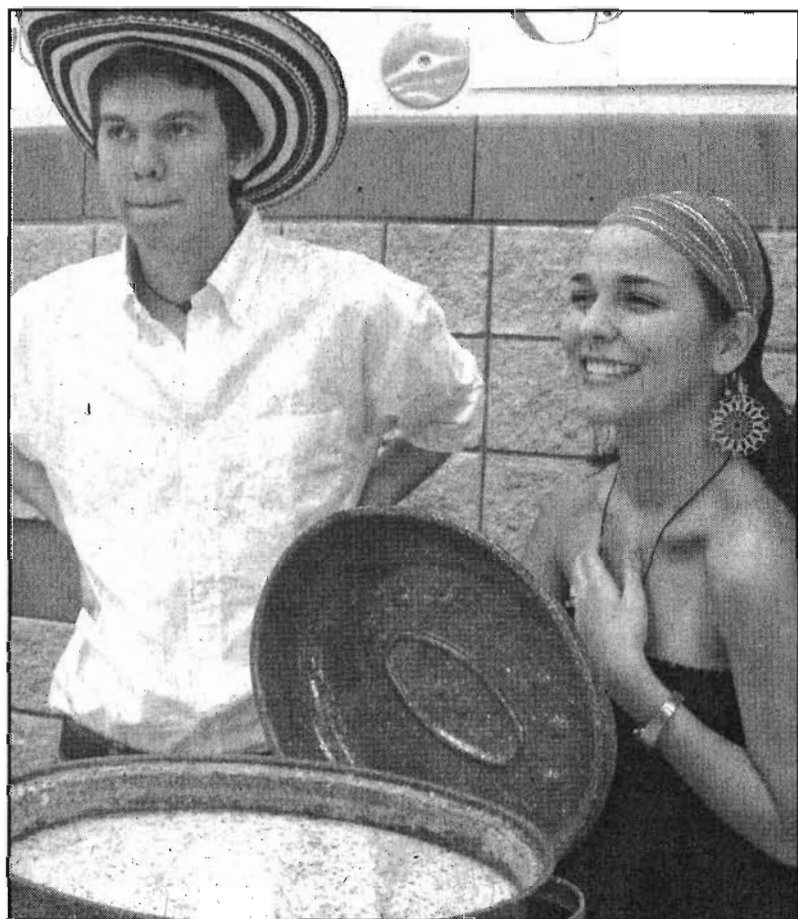
They also held a party that all JSU students were invited to on Wednesday.

The next day, the ISO held photo

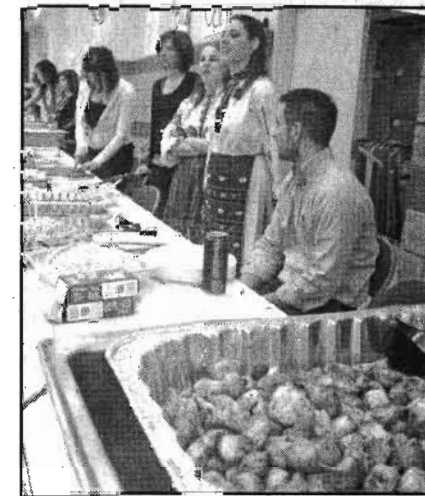
presentations.

"Basically, a photo presentation is like a presentation of any country," Zecevic said.

"It shows economy, religion, people and all that kind of stuff."



At ISO's Taster's Fair, international students offer up traditional foods from their home countries. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa



Students line up to serve the crowd. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Mimosa

## Soldier: Horne says while the war overseas is controversial, military still needs support

Continued from page 1

which can be extended. He will participate in convoy security, various missions, searching for weapons and the basic duty of patrolling.

"I want to put my training to use," Horne said. "I am excited about fighting, because that's really an infantry thing."

Horne's mother and girlfriend feel differently about his serving in war.

"It has been hard, and I try not to think about it too much," his mother said. "He feels like he has an obligation to his country, and if God has called him to go, then He will protect him."

His girlfriend, Heather Brown, is finding it difficult knowing that her boyfriend will be away for such a long period.

"It's the amount of time away that gets to me the most — and the fact is I'm scared, but he feels like he hasn't done his part if he doesn't go," said Brown, a student at Gadsden State Community College.

His goals are to finish his tour, get his degree and get commissioned as an officer to the rank of lieutenant. According to Horne, to "gain the respect" of the people that he will eventually be over, he needs to have

some kind of experience in combat situations.

"Who knows? My opinion might change when I come back because war is a terrible thing, and it tends to change people," Horne said.

Maj. Anthony E. Hughley, the inspector general and deputy director of contracting at the Anniston Army Depot, served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004 with the 4th Infantry Division.

"When I first got there, I wasn't happy, but me and my buddies starting thinking that everyone deserves a chance at freedom," Hughley said.

Hughley had a lot of close calls and lost three soldiers from his battalion due to improvised explosive devices, also known as IEDs, but he said he will never regret going.

His advice for new soldiers heading to war? Hughley said to remember to honor one's commitment.

"Give 100 percent focus and effort in your train up, and you will see the payoff in combat," Hughley said. "Not only are you doing this for yourself, but your battle buddy, squad member and fellow soldier is depending on you to be competent and dedicated so you both can complete your

mission and come back home safely."

Hughley also gave some encouraging words to the soldiers and their family and friends.

He wanted to make sure that the soldiers' families understood that the media doesn't always accurately portray the war in Iraq.

"It takes a special individual to be willing to defend freedom," Hughley said.

The war of today is controversial — with 3,973 U.S. soldiers killed as of Feb. 25, according to Iraq Coalition Casualty Count. It costs the United States \$275 million per day, according to National Priorities Project. Alabama's Army National Guard has had the nation's third-highest number of deployments with some 7,200 troops deployed since September 2001, according to WTVY News.

"I would like to see people more worried about giving the soldiers their support rather than worrying about the numbers," Horne said. "People need to realize that even if they don't support the war, that those men and women have volunteered to go to these places so they can go on with their daily lives and not have to worry about their freedom."



Spc. Cory Horne and his girlfriend Heather Brown pose in formalwear for an Army ROTC event earlier this year. Photo special to the Chanticleer



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Spc. Cory Horne and his girlfriend Heather Brown pose in formalwear for an Army ROTC event earlier this year. Photo special to the *Chanticleer*

## C-LEG: Tanniehill one of 8 Outstanding Delegates

Continued from page 1

able to switch on to hear the students' debates. After the conference is over, the best bills (whether they pass or fail) are bound and sent to the legislators.

Eight Outstanding Delegates were chosen from the pool of 165, and JSU Senator JeLisa Tanniehill was among them.

"She knocked it out of the park," Hathcock said of the award, which was based on the weekend's debates, parliamentary procedure, dress and a number of other factors.

Out of the 14 C-LEG officer positions, JSU representatives now occupy five. Sade McCleney was elected publicity director, Moody Duff III as Speaker of the House, Michael Finn as Sgt. of Arms for the House, Destini Mayberry as senate clerk and Hathcock as conference coordinator.

Each participating school sends delegates to aid in the planning of next year's conference, and this year's representatives from JSU will be Kelsey Butler and JeLisa Tanniehill.

As conference coordinator, Hathcock will be responsible for planning next year's conference in its entirety — book-

ing speakers, arranging dinners, choosing themes and organizing retreats.

A communications major with a public relations concentration, Hathcock said her career ambition is to become a political events coordinator, and she knows her work in the SGA, along with her experience in C-LEG will prepare her well.

"I knew what I wanted to do when I came to college, and I picked my path," Hathcock said.

In addition to gaining experience and garnering awards, the 23 JSU delegates also networked with people from across Alabama.

"We've all grown to love one another, and we want one another to succeed," Hathcock said of the delegates' friendships. "You see them in such a concentrated amount of time that you develop close relationships."

C-LEG's roots can be traced back to JSU. Alumna Emily Hawk Raley of JSU, along with UNA's Michael Musselwhite, founded the organization in 1997, patterning it after Youth Legislature, a similar program that caters to high school students.

### 2008 C-LEG PARTICIPANTS

Alabama State University  
Birmingham Southern College  
Huntingdon College  
Jacksonville State University  
Troy University  
University of Alabama  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Montevallo  
University of North Alabama  
University of West Alabama

*Editor's note:  
Participating colleges and universities are listed in alphabetical order, not according to their performance at the College Legislature.*

## AFTERdark: Held by BCM, FCA and Wesley

Continued from page 1

Miller, a former Gamecock baseball player. He worked at the Kanakuk Kamp over the summer and thought AFTERdark would be a great program to have come to JSU.

"He got FCA, Baptist Campus Ministries and the Wesley Foundation involved and made this event happen," Kalla said. "I think it's the event of the year and I hoped it changed lives."

At the end of the program, White asked everyone to take the cards that they were given as they were walking in and write

down something in their life that they wanted to turn over to God. After a few minutes, White asked the audience to take their card to the stage and hand it to a worker who then in turn would nail it to the cross that White had made during his presentation — a symbol of how Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself on the cross.

"The part when the workers were nailing people's sin to the cross was really touching," said Brittany Gardner, sophomore soccer player at JSU.

### SUDOKU

Solution online @ [www.thechanticleeronline.com/sudoku](http://www.thechanticleeronline.com/sudoku)

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03-06-2008

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### JSU & Army ROTC

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# The Chanticleer

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## OUR VOICE

# Thanks, Kevin

A man whose name you probably don't know, but who had a major impact on the paper you're reading right now, has taken leave of this crazy newsroom for a bright future.

Kevin Jeffers was with the *Chanticleer* in different responsibilities for the past two years. However, in the last year as managing editor and then editor in chief, he inaugurated a renaissance for this tired paper. He almost single-handedly turned this publication into a real news source, and for that, we are forever grateful.

The Feb. 28 edition was Kevin's last as editor in chief. Taking on a task that sometimes seemed better suited for Sysephus than a college journalist, Kevin presided over design, content and personnel each week, every week. It was a thankless job, but one at which he excelled beautifully.

In March of last year, the *Chanticleer* was a laughing stock, nearly devoid of serious news and heavy on fluff. Few people read it, and even fewer respected it. One year later, thanks in enormous part to Kevin's contributions, the *Chanticleer* is vastly improved. From better quality news-stories, to serious editorials and better graphic layout, Kevin's stamp is all

colleagues in the newsroom deserve a share of the credit as well. But it was primarily his vision and drive for perfection that pushed the rest of us to do better.

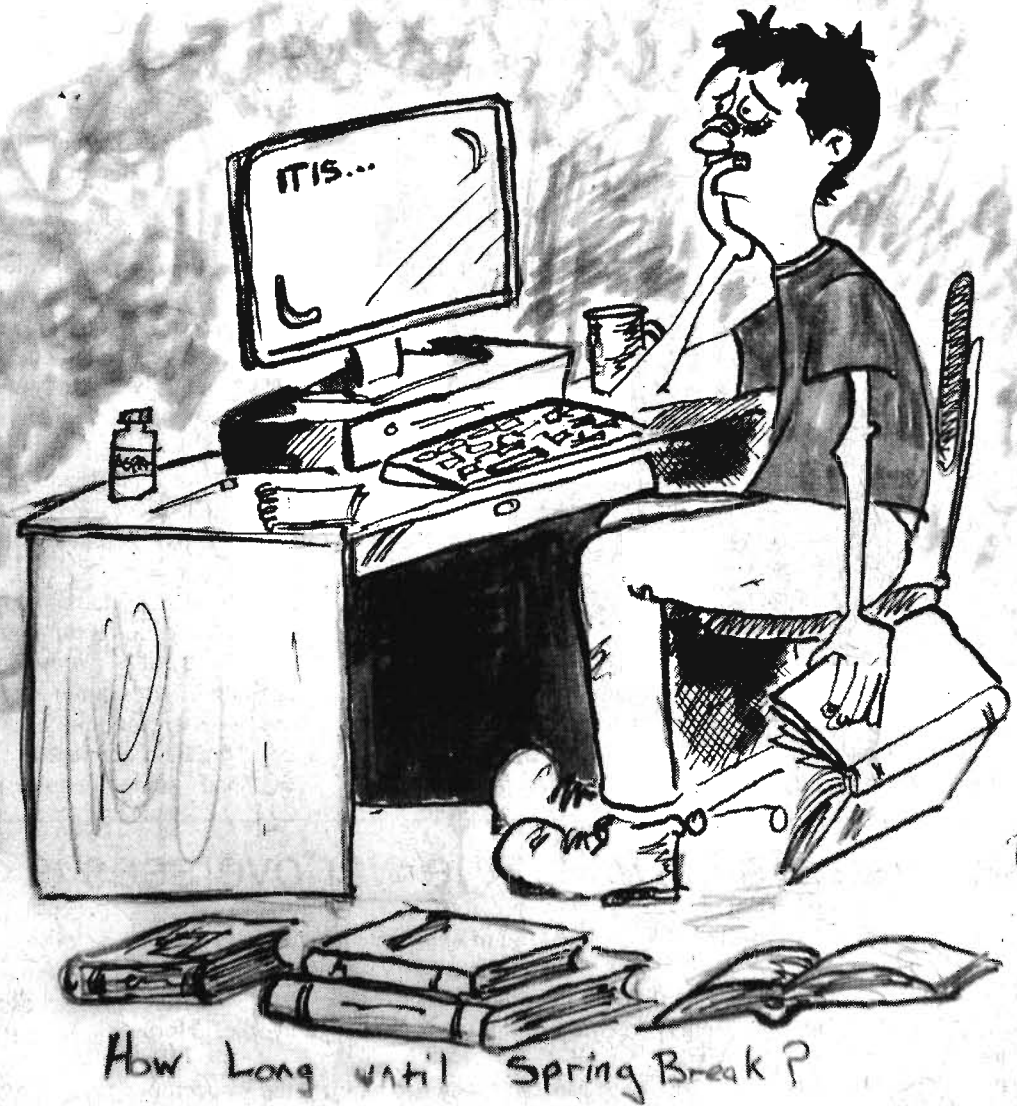
His enthusiasm and dedication to this paper was infectious, and it restored a sense of pride in the words and pictures that we selected to appear each week. Without his guidance and opinion, the *Chanty* would never have been the paper that it has become.

Certainly, there were times when the atmosphere in the newsroom became a little tense on those long Tuesday nights we readied the paper for publication. But if there was tension it was only because we were all striving to do better than our forebears, and in the end we all reached the apex we sought.

So now, Kevin is off to better and brighter things in print journalism. We hope he is rewarded with the success he has earned.

Bethany Harbison, who over the past year has risen from a staff reporter to news editor, will take over as editor in chief beginning with this edition. We're going to try to continue the paper in Kevin's mold, giving you the coverage and opinion that you've

**DAVE DILLON**  
Political Cartoonist

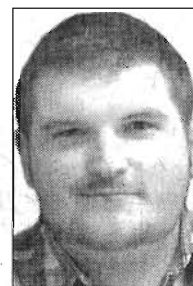


# Even when donating blood, gays face discrimination

A few weeks ago, my editor and I were going through ideas for stories, and she asked me if I would possibly attend a blood drive, give blood and write about my experience. I told her I would love to give blood and help out my fellow citizens, but I can't for one simple reason.

I'm gay.

She was surprised at my answer because she, like many Americans, was unaware that the Food and Drug Administration has had a ban on sexually active gay men donating blood since 1985.



**Zach Childree**

chantycampusnews@gmail.com

allowed to do.

We can't give blood, we can't serve openly in the armed forces and we can't marry the person of our choice.

But what's the big deal? It isn't a big deal if things like equality and justice don't mean anything to you. I'm not saying that there is a

remember that blood donated isn't just assumed clean. It is tested for disease before entering the system.

Also remember that HIV/AIDS isn't just a gay disease.

In fact, according to the Center for Disease Control in 2002, heterosexual transmission rates constituted 35 percent of new infections up from 4 percent in 1989.

I'm not saying that heterosexuals shouldn't be allowed to give blood. I'm saying that the fact you are attracted to the opposite sex doesn't make your blood

even fewer respected it. One year later, thanks in enormous part to Kevin's contributions, the *Chanticleer* is vastly improved. From better quality news stories, to serious editorials and better graphic layout, Kevin's stamp is all over this paper.

His ideas about what a paper should be formed the basis of our transformation beginning in August, 2007. First to go were useless fonts and poor layout choices. Then came a renewed emphasis on hard news and sometimes-controversial campus matters. Slowly but surely, this publication began to resemble a real newspaper:

Success in this business is rarely a one-man story. Kevin could not have done it alone, and for that reason, his

over the past year has risen from a staff reporter to news editor, will take over as editor in chief beginning with this edition. We're going to try to continue the paper in Kevin's mold, giving you the coverage and opinion that you've come to expect from this staff. While we won't always succeed in reaching the lofty bars he set, we're sure going to try.

In the final analysis, perhaps Kevin Jeffers' biggest contribution to this paper was simply caring. Much like Charlie Brown's pathetic Christmas tree, all this paper needed was a little attention to thrive. And boy, did it thrive.

Thank you, Kevin. Your job is done, but ours continues as we live up to the bar you raised.

citizens, but I can't for one simple reason.

I'm gay. She was surprised at my answer because she, like many Americans, was unaware that the Food and Drug Administration has had a ban on sexually active gay men donating blood since 1985.

When you go to give blood, the nurse (or trained professional, hopefully) makes you fill out a form that asks you questions about your history.

"Have you ever used intravenous drugs?"

"Have you ever visited Africa?"

And then the big one — "Have you had sexual intercourse with a person of the same sex?"

I could lie and check the 'no' box, but that kind of defeats the purpose of being honest about my sexual orientation.

There are a lot of things that average Americans take for granted that your average gay guy or gal simply is not



Zach Childree

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But what's the big deal? It isn't a big deal if things like equality and justice don't mean anything to you. I'm not saying that there is a

rash of homo blood donors just itching to donate blood. I am saying that we gays just want to be treated equally and fairly.

If we want to give blood, don't assume that we have AIDS just because we happen to be gay. It's not just gay people that want the FDA's ban on gay blood lifted.

According to a study published in 2000 by the Liberty Education Forum, a centrist think-tank, the American Association of Blood Banks recommended to the FDA that the restraints on gay men donating blood be lifted or at least eased.

Before you get up in arms about HIV contaminating the blood supply,

Disease Control in 2002, heterosexual transmission rates constituted 35 percent of new infections up from 4 percent in 1989.

I'm not saying that heterosexuals shouldn't be allowed to give blood. I'm saying that the fact you are attracted to the opposite sex doesn't make your blood any healthier than mine.

So maybe someday when the FDA realizes that its been institutionalizing a fear of gays, we can all sit together at a blood drive, munching chocolate chip cookies and donating our blood to save our fellow man.

That will be a good day indeed.

Crap. Now I'm craving chocolate chip cookies.

*Beginning this week, Zach Childree, a sophomore majoring in communications, will be serving as the Campus News Editor*

## Put this in your pipe and smoke it

Last week's editorial, about marijuana legalization, attracted more comments than any other editorial to grace this page in the last year. We're happy for it. It means people are reading, and what they read inspires them to write. We like feedback, and we got it in spades. In an ordinary week, it would not be unusual for us to receive one (or fewer) letters to the editor.

This past week, we received six, five of which were responses to the marijuana editorial. Most were polite and argued their points in a semi-coherent way. Others were disrespectful and crude in their heavy-handed criticism of our words. The thing that strikes us as most interesting, however, is that of the five letters responding to the pot piece, four were written by shills working for various marijuana-legalization advocacy groups on the West Coast.

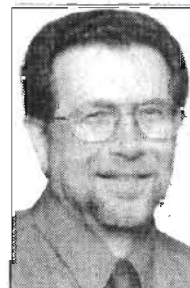
We appreciate the comments and we're glad people are reading and responding to our pieces, but for people to hurl accusations of propaganda at us and then admit to being propagandists themselves — well, that's a little confusing to us. So you'll forgive us for not printing those letters this week. The media serve as mirrors, reflecting culture and society back to you, the readers. We are not a megaphone for someone else's platform.

## New ways to control aggressive behavior

*Cranial electrotherapy stimulation may help reduce stress-related problems*

Many people are familiar with the benefits provided by pharmacological treatments. However, other treatment possibilities do exist that have fewer negative side effects. Our research has focused on cranial electrotherapy stimulation (CES) as a treatment for reducing stress related problems in offender and law enforcement populations. In a recent study, a 19-year-old jail inmate (not in Calhoun County) was treated with CES for violent behavior. He had been sent to the jail with the stipulation that if he completed the Substance Abuse Treatment Program (SATP) he could go home rather than to prison.

On two occasions, he was thrown out of the SATP program for violent and aggressive behavior, which included attacking an officer. The CES program



Dr. Ronald Mellen

mellen@jsu.edu

was begun as he entered into the SATP program for the third and final time. The inmate had a positive attitude about this treatment treatment.

Long story short, the inmate not only graduated from SATP but was appointed dorm leader in the process. The

combination of the inmate's good efforts, the SATP program and CES proved to be a successful meld.

The CES unit we used was the Alpha-Stim SCS. It is a handheld unit that uses ear clips to deliver a very mild electric current to the brain. The current

is at a level that encourages brain cells to increase production of serotonin. Serotonin helps the individual remain calm in difficult situations. As frequency of treatments increase, the greater the likelihood of permanent positive change; although, this is not always the case.

The Alpha-Stim unit was used in an earlier study with 11 Calhoun County sheriff's officers. After 20 sessions, the officers showed reductions in depression, anxiety, hostility and nine other scales on the Brief Symptom Inventory.

The human body and brain are electric and chemical in nature. A mental health community that provides both treatment options will improve the quality of life for many individuals.

*Dr. Ronald Mellen is an associate professor in the department of criminal justice.*

# The Chanticleer

*Student newspaper of JSU since 1934*

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

### Letters Policy:

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



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# Sports

## A taste of something extra

*Softball wins four out of five at the Ole Miss Red and Blue Classic*

**By Jared Gravette**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State softball team took a huge step forward over the weekend at the Ole Miss Red and Blue Classic.

The Gamecocks (11-7) swept through the first two days of the tournament, winning three of their four games in extra innings before falling to host Ole Miss 2-1 on Sunday.

"We were very upset with ourselves after the Kennesaw State game. We thought we should have had a better showing," JSU coach Jana McGinnis said. "So, this weekend was key for us. We needed to show improvement, and we did. We met our goal."

On Friday, JSU played a pair of extra-inning games against Belmont and Troy.

In the opener, the Bruins took a 3-1 advantage into the bottom of the seventh, but senior Rachel Fleming hit a clutch two-run homer to knot the game at three.

Fleming suffered a facial injury earlier this season after a ball hit her near the eye during the Georgia Southern Invitational. She put together her first big game of the season against Belmont, going 3-for-3, including the home run.

"She's had some setbacks, but now she's back healthy. She's still wearing her face mask," McGinnis said. "We need Rachel producing, and she produced this weekend."

"I call her a triple-threat player because she can hit for power, she can slap or she can bunt," McGinnis added. "She was a triple-threat player this weekend."

The two teams exchanged runs in the eighth inning, but junior Melissa Dowling (7-4) shut the Bruins down in the top half of the ninth.



**Jacksonville State junior Melissa Dowling had a big weekend from the circle over the weekend at the Ole Miss Red and Blue Classic.** Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Pinch-runner Amy Brown scored the game-winning run for the Gamecocks in the bottom half of the inning after a wild pitch from Sammi Parks.

Against Troy, the arm of Ashlyn Williams silenced JSU's bats in the early going. Williams only allowed one hit through the first seven innings of the game, a home run off the bat of Courtney Underwood.

The game went into extra innings tied at one, but the Gamecocks put up four runs in the eighth, sealing a 5-3 victory.

JSU played three extra-inning games throughout the weekend — something McGinnis thinks will help her team down the road.

"We were put in some tough situations. We had extra-inning games, and we proved to be successful in it," McGinnis said.

On the second day of the tournament, the Gamecocks relied heavily on sophomore Nikki Prier in wins over Stephen F. Austin and Louisiana Tech.

Prier got JSU started with a solo home run against the Jacks, and Dowling shut down the opposition. Dowling pitched all seven innings for the Gamecocks, allowing only two runs.

Against the Lady Techsters, Prier once again got JSU going, hitting a two-run homer in the first inning.

She finished the day 3-for-6 with two home runs and four RBI.

"Nikki didn't hit well on Friday, and that night she said, 'Coach, I'll be there tomorrow.' That's a characteristic of a good player. Everybody is going to have their off-games."

The game against Louisiana Tech went into extra innings,

but the Gamecocks once again walked off the field on top after scoring two runs in the eighth inning.

JSU came into Sunday's tilt with Ole Miss just one win away from the tournament championship, but missed opportunities plagued the Gamecocks.

JSU stranded 10 runners throughout the game, seven of whom were in scoring position.

"Against Ole Miss, I thought our team played a very good game overall," McGinnis said. "If you were watching the game, you would have said that we outplayed them, but the score didn't show it."

"We didn't come up with the timely hits that we should have," McGinnis added.

Dowling put together another outstanding pitching performance, scattering two runs over seven innings.

## Bert's back

**By Jared Gravette**  
Assistant Sports Editor

After missing the first five games of the regular season, Bert Smith came up big on Tuesday night against UAB, leading the Gamecocks (3-6) to a 6-5 victory.

Down 5-3 in the bottom of the eighth inning, JSU pushed two runs across the plate to knot the game at five.

Alex Jones entered in relief and promptly stuck out the side in the top of the ninth.

Blake Seguin stuck out to start the ninth for the Gamecocks but reached base when strike three got away from UAB catcher Allen Aubin.

Josh Sanders moved Seguin to second with a sacrifice bunt, setting the stage for Smith.

Smith launched a ball to deep center just out of the reach of Cody McMurry, plating the game-winning run.

"I thought he was going to throw me three sliders because he struck me out with two sliders before," Smith said.

"The first pitch was a slider, and I thought he was going to come back with a slider. But he threw a fastball, and I was able to get the bat head on it," Smith added. "It felt great. It just felt great being in the game."

The Gamecocks pitching woes from the early part of the season appear to be a thing of the past.

On Sunday against the College of Charleston, Ben Tootle allowed just one run through six innings of work in the Gamecocks 2-1 victory.

"We are competing our tails off, and it started with Ben Tootle on Sunday and it continued tonight," JSU coach Jim Case said. "There were a lot of things that weren't great, but we kept battling and that's what I was proud of."



**Jared Staubs**

chantysports@gmail.com

## Making the best of a bad situation

I think it's been pretty well documented, at least from those who care what I think, that Mike LaPlante should have been given another year after this season in which anything that could go wrong did.

But that's neither here nor there. What I want to talk about is the future of the program.

It seems JSU is willing to give high school coaches a chance, and in my opinion that is the right way to go with this team. The Gamecocks are so young that a high school coach is going to have an almost seamless transition in his first year.

The name on everyone's lips is Hoover's Charles Burkett. I admit, he makes sense for the position, with his ties to the school and the area. And to be named coach at Hoover, he probably knows what he's doing.

But there are two other high school coaches I would love to see get a fair look from the new JSU search committee.

I've had the privilege of watching Butler's Jack Doss and Madison Academy's Andy Blackston in action at Pete Mathews Coliseum for the high school regional playoffs the past two seasons, and both have thoroughly impressed me.



I've had the privilege of watching Butler's Jack Doss and Madison Academy's Andy Blackston in action at Pete Mathews Coliseum for the high school regional playoffs the past two seasons, and both have thoroughly impressed me.

Doss has actually been mentioned as a candidate, and his resume took a strong boost when he took an underwhelming Butler team to the 5A state championship.

Butler was a quality team, but it did not have the talent to win the state championship without brilliant coaching.

In the first game of the Northeast Regional, Doss and company erased a 17-point third quarter deficit against a Talladega team that boasted two future JSU athletes.

Doss made the on-the-fly adjustments that turned Talladega's mood from gloating to frustrated. While Talladega's players were interacting with the crowd during timeouts, Butler's players were hanging on every word out of Doss's mouth, and they eventually made it pay off.

Madison Academy's Blackston recently led his team to its third consecutive Class 3A state championship.

Now, he has some great players, including 7-foot-tall center Bawa Muniru, who is from Senegal.

JSU's lone true big man, Amadou Mbodji, is from Senegal. That transition wouldn't be smooth?

The thing that stood out about Madison Academy was their relentless defense, which I can't really put into words.

Blackston already has OVC ties. At Austing Peay, he was a graduate assistant under Dave Loos — the best coach in the OVC — and later become the women's basketball coach.

In that role, he took the Governors to the top of the conference and came within two points of knocking off #2 seed North Carolina in the first round of the 2003 NCAA tournament.

Now, he has created a 3A powerhouse. The next logical step is coaching men collegiately, and JSU makes perfect sense.

Both Blackston and Doss have left an impression on me, and have left little doubt in my mind that they can make an immediate impact.

power, she can slap or she can bunt," McGinnis added. "She was a triple-threat player this weekend."

The two teams exchanged runs in the eighth inning, but junior Melissa Dowling (7-4) shut the Bruins down in the top half of the ninth.

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"We are competing our tails off, and it started with Ben Tootle on Sunday and it continued tonight," JSU coach Jim Case said. "There were a lot of things that weren't great, but we kept battling and that's what I was proud of."

## LaPlante: Failed to take Gamecocks beyond semis of OVC tourney

Continued from page 1

The Gamecocks dealt with other injuries throughout the season, and freshman J.J. Wesley was suspended for the final five games after an off-court incident. Those factors, combined with the team's youth, contributed to JSU's poor record.

The team suffered the ignominy of being considered among the worst teams in the entire nation, according to various RPI services, and finished the year with a more impressive resume than only 2-26 North Florida and 0-29 New Jersey Institute of Technology, according to kenpom.com.

Though the past two years were not what anyone involved wanted, there were high marks during LaPlante's reign. LaPlante replaced current Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon in 2001 and got off to a flying start.

In his first season, LaPlante won more games than any first-year coach in JSU history. The 2002-2003 team went 20-10, the best record by a JSU team in almost a decade.

That season came when the Gamecocks were still in the Atlantic Sun Conference. Since moving into the OVC, JSU has failed to be competitive for prolonged periods.

Fuller and LaPlante agreed that JSU is lacking in certain areas that are necessary for the team to become an elite OVC program.

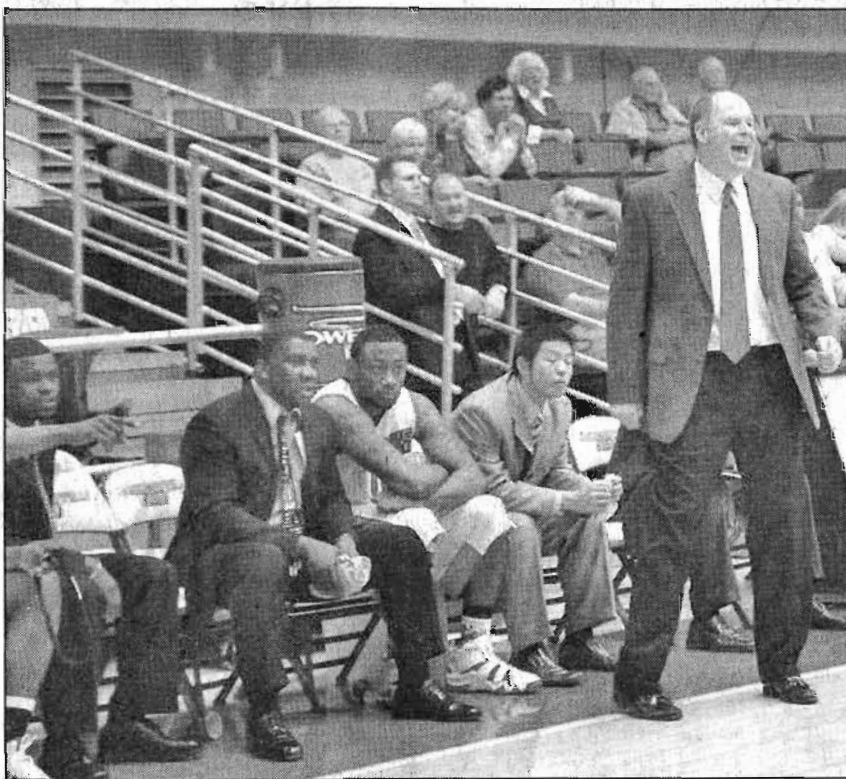
"The men's team is just not where it needs to be to compete in the Ohio Valley Conference," Fuller said. "Is part of that the facility? I think yes, it is. Is part of it budget? Yes, it is. Is part of it salaries? Yes, it is."

JSU, which has proposed a \$36 million investment to improve the football program, has been unable to garner the same type of monetary devotion to the basketball program. LaPlante's final salary of \$106,522 was second lowest in the conference, and the school's total basketball spending was approximately half that of the top four teams in the conference.

JSU lost at least two certain commitments to other OVC programs, largely because its facilities have not been competitive with those of the other schools in the conference.

"Winning is not, to me, the full issue," LaPlante said. "We've won here. It's a matter of sustaining success ... and that's going to be the challenge no matter who sits in that chair."

JSU has lost 20 or more games in



Mike LaPlante screams instruction from the sidelines during JSU's 73-61 win over Eastern Kentucky earlier this year. Current interim head coach Antoine Pettway (far left) looks on from his seat. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

three of the past four seasons, but signs late in the season pointed to a possible turnaround. JSU won three of its last four OVC games and was competitive in multiple games in which it was installed as a double-digit underdog.

DeAndre Bray, who will be one of two seniors on the team next season, expressed his mixed feelings about playing for a new coach.

"I was playing for him," Bray said. "(Bringing in a new coach) really doesn't change anything. It's going to motivate us more, to play for him still."

Speculation was rampant that LaPlante was coaching his last game at JSU prior to Saturday's victory over SEMO, which was JSU's lone road win of the season. The team had been aware of rumors surrounding LaPlante for a prolonged period, and wanted to end the season on a high note.

"I had heard rumors, but I didn't think it was his last game," leading scorer Nick Murphy said. "We wanted to win (the SEMO game) for him, but we didn't really think it was his last game. We also wanted to win it and bring momentum into next year.

"Next year we need to be more about discipline, we've got to change that," he continued.

The team's grades were another factor that contributed to LaPlante's demise, as along with Brown's dismissal for academic reasons, the team had a collective 1.85 GPA.

"We've got to do better in recruiting quality student-athletes, but we've still got to make sure we're bringing players in here," Fuller said.

The poor academic record, combined with his 95-137 career coaching record, meant that the strong finish wasn't going to be enough to save LaPlante's job.

LaPlante came to JSU after serving as an assistant at Auburn University. His recruiting skills were well documented, as he helped the Tigers register four top 20 recruiting classes.

That recruiting prowess extended to Jacksonville. JSU's young team had players win OVC Freshman of the Week five times this season, and JuCo transfer Jonathan Toles won OVC Newcomer of the Week twice.

LaPlante feels confident that those players will do well in his absence.

"I will always have a very special place in my heart for Jacksonville State," he said. "Like I told the players in the locker room, my hope and dream for them is, whether it's in spirit or whether I can be here in person to see them cut down the nets here in the gym.

"I don't have any regrets, the only regret may be that I don't get an opportunity to coach that group of young men. I really and truly believe they have the pieces in place to be very successful."

Fuller will be naming a search committee later this week, which he expects to consist of various JSU representatives, including Bray, who was elected by his teammates to represent the Gamecocks.

The committee will begin searching as soon as possible, as the recruiting season is in full force.

For the time being, assistant coach Antoine Pettway is the interim coach. Pettway's primary project for the immediate future is to embark on recruiting trips. JSU has secured two prospects for the fall, but the team needs two more players.

While he realizes recruiting is a difficult task with no head coach, Fuller says Pettway will tell prospects of the general goals of the JSU program.

Fuller did not name individual candidates for the opening, other than to say that both other assistant coaches — Don Moye and Joel VanMeter — had expressed possible interest in the position. Pettway does not feel he is yet ready to assume a head coaching position, though LaPlante said Pettway would make a good head coach in the future.

Other names rumored to be interested in the vacancy are Montevallo coach Danny Young, University of Alabama assistant coach Phillip Pearson, Southern Union coach Ron Radford, Alabama-Huntsville coach Lennie Acuff, Butler High School coach Jack Doss, and Hoover coach Charles Burkett.

*"It's going to motivate us more, to play for (Mike LaPlante) still."*

— DeAndre Bray