Students debate impeachment of Parks

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The Student Government Association heard a motion to impeach Vice President of Student Activities, Jacolby Parks, on Monday. The motion came after an incident on October 25 in which Parks was arrested.

Senator Bryant Whaley addressed the situation and asked for clarification from Parks about what the incident entailed and his involvement. Parks refused to discuss the incident.

Senator Eric Osborne then made a motion to begin impeachment proceedings saying Parks could then defend himself to the Student Judiciary Council behind closed doors.

"If the only explanation we're going to get is 'no comment' then I suggest we move forward with impeachment," Osborne said. "It isn't necessarily to remove him from office, but he goes before the judiciary to face charges."

The motion sparked heated discussion among the senators, though many said they had not heard of an incident involving Parks before Monday night.

Senator Michael Finn said he thought the SGA's time could be better spent on other issues facing students.

"At this time I do not believe the Senate has any reason to go with the impeachment process," Finn said. "Vice President Parks has not been convicted of any crime and at this time it should be kept in his personal life, not made public for rumors and hearsay to get started."

The motion wasn't seconded and died without coming to a vote.

Sources in the senate, speaking on terms of anonymity, said some in the senate were afraid to vote for the measure.

"We've been kept in the dark," Osborne said. "There was obviously something going on."

While the SGA does not have a code of conduct in its constitution or code of laws, the university does have rules for student conduct on campus. Nix said the university knew about the incident and the University Judicial Coordinator who reviews student misconduct, had ruled there was no basis to begin impeachment proceedings.

Another source involved in the SGA claims that President Nix acted to cover up the incident and keep it from other SGA members. Vice President of Organizational Affairs Destini Mayberry denied the charge.

"We haven't been pressured," Mayberry said. "It wasn't kept hush-hush."

Osborne said the fact that so many senators didn't know about the situation was evidence of an effort to cover up the incident.

"We've been kept in the dark," Osborne said. "There was obviously something going on."

The motion wasn't seconded and died without coming to a vote.

"We're going to get 'no comment' on terms of anonymity, said some in the senate were afraid to vote for the measure, as they feared retribution from the executive members of the SGA."

See "Parks," page 5

Hammett named dean
Plans to continue College of Education and Professional Studies' standard

by Doran Smith
Staff Writer

For those of you who don't know, there is a new sheriff in town when it comes to the College of Education and Professional Studies.

On the first of October, Dr. John Hammett became the dean of Jacksonville State University's founding academic program. He accepted the promotion, a step up from his previous position of associate dean of the college.

Hammett started his climb up the higher education ladder when he was appointed to the University of Southern Mississippi to earn a Ph.D. in Exercise Physiology. He then became an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina at Aiken, only to return to JSU after three years to develop the University Wellness Program.

Hammett is in touch with the students is important to keeping their interests in mind.

When listing ambitions that Hammett wishes to meet as dean, the first he mentioned is to complete the additions and renovations to Ramona Wood Hall.

"We would like to do more for education," Hammett said, "not just in educating our students but by being a hub or a resource for school systems all around us; the physical structure will help."

While Hammett would...
By MJ Ortiz

Staff Writer

Christmas arrives to Guatemala sailing in a giant shoe box from a far away land. At least that is what disadvantaged children think when they receive their little piece of Christmas joy in a shoebox filled with what most people would think of as ordinary things.

It is a labor of love that started 14 years ago. According to Dr. George Lauderbaugh, associate professor of history at Jacksonville State University, it all began when Homer Wilson -- the founder of the drive -- visited Guatemala and was touched by the poverty affecting children in many recondite areas of the country.

This real-life Santa Clause did not have a sleigh, he had a truck, and with the help of family and friends, he stuffed shoeboxes with small gifts, and drove from his house across the Mexican borders into Guatemala.

Over the years and as if out of a Christmas story, this Santa drew to himself helpers to gather more boxes for the needy children.

Wilson does not travel by truck anymore.

The shoe boxes are put in a container and are driven by a truck to Miami where they are shipped to Guatemala.

"This is the 7th year we've done the shoe box drive with Homer," Lauderbaugh said. "The ladies in the basketball team came to help us; the coach likes to keep them busy."

Many JSU organizations and members of the Jacksonville and surrounding communities have joined Lauderbaugh and Wilson in their efforts to share joy with these children.

This year, Phi Alpha Theta -- a society to which Lauderbaugh is advisor -- will honor the JSU organization that donates the most to the drive in a plaque that will be displayed in the Office of Student Life.

There are many ways to contribute to the cause.

According to Dale Karns, the drive chairman, Fort McClennan Credit Union has donated a free bank account where donations are being accepted. The money raised will be used to purchase items to assemble shoe boxes.

Walgreen's and Dollar General are also participating.

See "Shoeboxes," page 5

INDEX

On Campus 2
Opinions 3
Features 6
Sports 7-10

Fall Fashions
Adri Hayes talks about the latest fashion trends for the colder weather.

Page 5

2008 Basketball Preview
Check out our special section on the 2008 Basketball season.

Page 7

Next week's question:
Should SGA officers be held to a higher standard than other students?
Jacksonville State University will illuminate the four stars on top of the Houston Cole Library on November 11, in honor of Veteran's Day. They will stay lit until Sunday, November 16, and won't be lit again until the official campus lighting ceremony entitled, “JSU in Lights” on Monday, December 1.

Volunteers are needed for the Midnight Snack in the caf hosted by the SGA. This will be held in the caf and breakfast will be served. It will take place on December 10 from 10 p.m. - 12 a.m. You can find a volunteer form through JSU’s newswire website.

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**Campus Crime**

**November 3**
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Sparkman Hall. Items stolen include a blue Wachovia check book and a blue Bank of America check book.

**November 4**
- A theft of property was reported. Items stolen include a set of keys belonging to a Chevrolet Impala.

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**What's Happening**

**Thursday, November 13**
- National American Indian Heritage Month "Cultural Demonstration." TMU Auditorium, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Academy Wellness Panel, 1101G

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**Picture of the Week**

Chrissy Canida (left) and Caitlin Johnson (right) donate blood to the American Red Cross on November 11. If you would like to see your photo as ‘Photo of the week’, email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com Photo by Mandy Pearson/ The Chanticleer

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**Drunken nights turned sour**

**MJ Ortiz**

Staff Writer

Sure, it was a fun night. Nothing went wrong. Well, aside from the drunken call to wake up a random victim from the phone book. Then, you see the flashing red and blue lights from a policeman behind you. You have to pull over. Its OK, you think. They'll just ask some questions — drivers' license and registration — and then everybody will be off and on their way. Not so much.

Now, it is off to an unforgettable night in jail, and that inevitable feeling of claustrophobia that only reaches an apex when it is mixed with the smell of urine that's emanating from the rusty metal toilet on the wall. White said. “I didn’t even fight them, I knew I was going to jail. Afterwards when I woke up, I met a lady who had just stabbed her husband with a screwdriver. The worst was telling my parents what happened to me and where I had been.”

That’s not all. After the DUI, the time came to figure out how to get a ride to and from school. There’s also the matter of having to go to court and pay the fines and the cost of court, which in turn will assign you to a referral program and monitoring sessions with an officer. These matters aren’t free, either. Driver’s insurance will go up. Then there are the fines to get the driver’s license back, and the lines at the DMV office. Photo by Mandy Pearson/ The Chanticleer

Forever, morally and legally.” Shaffer gave a recent, local example to reiterate this point. On Halloween in Weaver, a trick-or-treating 4-year-old girl was run over by a driver who turned out to be drunk.

The girl was released from the hospital on Monday, but not without severe, life-altering damage. The UPD records about 20 to 25 arrests for drunk driving each year. While this number may not seem high, it only accounts for arrests made by UPD officers.

When combined with Jacksonville City Records, arrests in the city are much higher. Many students complain that there is no transport system in place in Jacksonville. John Chancellor, general manager of Pelham's bar, says he of people money and piece of mind; plus it could increase safety in the streets on the city. Shawn Giddy, chief of police at the UPD, said, “(The police) are not out to get people. (Their) priority is to take care of students, faculty, staff and visitors.” The police may arrest anyone that looks suspicious, anyone holding keys even though they are not driving or anyone walking while they are intoxicated, according to Giddy.

"It is easy to see for someone who has not been consuming alcohol," Giddy says. "But we can always tell. If (people) are going out, it is important to be responsible, if they are of age, they need to know before hand how to get home, and have a plan."
will be off and on their way. Not so much. Now, it is off to an unforgettable night in jail, and that inevitable feeling of claustrophobia that only reaches an apex when it is mixed with the smell of urine that’s emanating from the fancy metal toilet on the wall. Jacksonville State University student Lindsay White knows this state of affairs all too well. “When it happened to me, I didn’t even realize I was driving until they pulled me over,”

...
CNN’s election night ‘hologram’ was misleading trick

By Leslie Small

Election Day, as we all saw a week ago, can bring out the best in people. However, it can also bring out the weirdest. While switching between all the major networks and “Indecision 2008” last Tuesday, I landed on CNN and did a double take.

Wait, did they actually just “beam” a correspondent in via hologram?

For those of you who haven’t heard, I’m usually not one to media-bash, especially after I’ve seen what even the youngest journalists go through to get the news and get it right. But I’m also a media consumer, and I expect a lot from the people that bring me my news. I expect that they won’t throw anything else that day, “aware” of alcohol. I went to Pelham’s.

Upon deciding to do a story about this article would be quite an intense journey, I decided to confront several college students in a real-world environment and ask them what alcohol awareness meant to them and what they were doing to make sure that others around them were also aware of such dangers caused by alcohol.

I decided it would be best if I went to the bar in the middle of the afternoon to speak with students. I figured that if nothing else, students that ventured to the local watering holes in the middle of the afternoon would definitely be aware of the effects of alcohol. It made sense considering the fact that if one is willing to go to a bar at 2 p.m., chances are that they’re quite aware of these effects.

My first interviewee was a 20-something year-old female whose name will remain anonymous. After introducing myself as a local journalist, I asked if she minded if I asked her a couple of questions about alcohol awareness.

She asked, “It’s kind of odd to be doing research for your article about alcohol awareness at a bar, don’t you think?” I responded by explaining to her that if there is any place where people are aware of alcohol in Jacksonville, it is Pelham’s. She seemed to think this was funny.

I’m not sure why, but I assumed that she didn’t think a bar was the best spot. We carried on about alcohol, and she revealed that she had been in a car accident a couple of weeks ago where she was the passenger. I’m sure her friend was “aware” of alcohol.

Budget cuts, hiring freezes and layoffs are plaguing newsrooms around the country. For prospective journalists, the economic downturn isn’t anything new -- we’ve been facing a dismal job market for years.

I’m not suggesting CNN “spread the wealth” to the more needy print media, just that it use its money to serve the public rather than simply boost its ratings.

Newspapers have a thing or two to learn, as well. Much of the industry’s response to plummeting advertising revenue is to do anything and everything to turn a profit.

If you haven’t noticed it, it’s because you haven’t been paying attention. Front-page ads, an obsession with multimedia, corporate-sponsored columns and content tailored to higher-income areas are just a few of the symptoms of a media system losing its focus.

I’m usually not one to media-bash, especially after I’ve seen what even the youngest journalists go through to get the news and get it right. But I’m also a media consumer, and I expect a lot from the people that bring me my news. I expect that they continue to pursue better business models, but that they also never forget to put the reader or viewer first.

This election brought us to a new reality...
Letter to the Editor

If there is one thing that I agree on with the editor of this newspaper, then it is this: injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Those are the words of Martin Luther King Jr. However, I think they mean something completely different to me than they do to Zach Childree, the editor of the Chanticleer.

That statement is the last week's opinion part of the newspaper. Zach Childree wrote how this election was biased for fair-minded people...like him. I am under the impression that he finds others that disagree with him, "UNFair-minded" people. Those are NOT his words, but I would assume that is what he would think. If I am wrong, may he correct me.

I would be considered to be one of those "UNfair-minded" people. I do not agree with his opinion at all. If you did not read it, he wrote about the rights that were taken away from gay and lesbian couples in California, and the new law that was passed in Florida and Arizona regarding the same thing.

To him, he saw the country as making some progressive steps forward (as in electing the first African-American president, which is truly quite impressive) but at the same time taking steps backward as well (referring to the laws that banned gay and lesbian couples from marrying).

I want to say one thing: That is only his opinion! As I write this, I want to say something else: This is only my opinion!

While I am quite proud of my country, in that we did not discriminate based on race, I am quite sad that someone was elected that did not share any of my beliefs. I did not vote for Obama. Not because he is black, but because he does not stand for the majority of the things that I support.

I will support him because I complained for so many years about how no one supported President Bush even when they disagreed with him. Therefore, I do not do exactly what I wanted them to do, support a president that I do not agree with. Though I do find it absurd that people would even vote for someone based on race, not on what they stand for. I am not just speaking about voting for Barack Obama, but for John McCain as well. Enough about that. Let's get back to what this is all about.

I will quote Dr. King again, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. I very much agree with this! However, I see injustice as, not in revoking rights to gays and lesbians, but as murdering innocent babies. I am very much pro-life. I believe that it is murder to have an abortion. To me, abortion is a threat to justice everywhere. It is an injustice because the babies do not have a voice—they cannot save themselves.

That is the ultimate injustice. I see the fact that this country allows abortions to take place as the exact same way Zach Childree sees the banning of homosexual marriages, backwards.

I normally do not share my opinions with people, but I have been noticing that the opinions in the Chanticleer are becoming more and more out of touch with what I believe, so I decided to actually put my opinion in as well.

I know that many people will not agree with me, because it is not very popular to believe the way that I do. However, I do know that many will whole-heartedly support what I say.

I am not angry. I am not even upset that I have a different view than the editor. What I would like to see though, is other opinions that truly reflect the reader's opinions—not just the liberal ones.

Lindsey Mathis

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 office in Room 180, Self Hall, or to the mailing address on the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyletter@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. Rebuttal letters will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.
Appetizers

Calamari Soffrito | Deep sea squid, soft fried with shaved parmesan, red pepper, and Italian parsley. Served with roasted garlic marinara and a sweet basil vinaigrette. $7.95
Ravioli | A healthy portion of cheese ravioli, golden fried and topped with Pecorino Romano. Served with our fresh homemade marinara for dipping. $6.25
Garlic Mozzarella Bread | Our homemade pizza dough brushed with olive oil and garlic topped with mozzarella and romano. Served with our homemade marinara for dipping. $5.25
Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes | Served on a bed of sautéed spinach over roasted tomatoes and calamata olives topped with lemon garlic butter sauce. $8.95
Fresh Spinach & Artichoke Dip | Spinach and artichoke hearts in a creamy homemade cheese sauce. Baked until golden brown and served with warm ciabatta bread. $7.50

Insalata (salads)

Insalata Misto | The classic Italian salad with red onion, cucumber, radish, black olive and fresh tomato with your choice of house vinaigrette, balsamic vinaigrette, ranch, esperanza dressing. $6.00 (Side $2.95)
Classic Caesar Salad | Fresh hearts of romaine, served with garlic croutons, and shaved parmesan. $6.00 (Side $2.95)
Antipasta Salad | Imported Italian meats, calamata olives, artichoke hearts, gorgonzola and roasted sweet pepper on a bed of fresh greens served with balsamic vinaigrette. $8.95
Add to any salad:
Lemon Basil grilled shrimp Gulf shrimp basted with fresh lemon basil and spice then grilled to perfection $5.95
Grilled Chicken Tender grilled chicken breast marinated with olive oil, fresh lemon and spice. $5.95

Zuppa (Soup of the day)
Served with warm ciabatta bread. Soup, salad and bread. Bowl $3.50

Soup, salad, & bread ( lunch only)
A bowl of our homemade soup of the day paired with your choice of side salad and bread $6.25

Submarine Sandwiches (served before 4 pm only)

Italiano | Genoa salami, capicola ham, pepperoni, topped with provolone then oven baked. Dressed with an Italian vinaigrette, greens, red onions and roma tomatoes. $7.95
(1)
Parmigiana | Our hand breaded breast of chicken fried to a golden brown topped with marinara, mozzarella and parmesan then oven baked. $7.95
Meatball | Our traditional Italian meatballs made with beef and pork. Topped with marinara, mozzarella, parmesan and then oven baked. $6.95
Steak | Thin sliced steak, grilled peppers and onions, topped with a white cheddar sauce and oven baked. $8.95

All sandwiches are served with a choice of a side salad or pasta salad submarine soup for $1.00 more.

Pasta

Fire Roasted Chicken Penne | Served with smoked bacon Tuscan Chicken, artichoke hearts, fresh tomatoes and red onion in a light lemon cream. $12.95
Pettuccini Alfredo | Classic Alfredo with romano cheese, shaved parmesan, and fresh basil. $8.95 Add grilled chicken $2.95 grilled shrimp $4.95
Pasta Carbonara | Thicker sliced dandie prosciutto ham, folded with fresh peas, shaved parmesan, thick sliced wild mushrooms, in a parmesan cream sauce. $14.95

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Served in an individual or a family size.
Calzones $6.00, Individual cheese $6.00 (.75 per topping), Family-style Cheese $4.00 (.25 Per Topping)

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Pepperoni, Bacon, Portobello Mushrooms, Artichoke Hearts, Button Mushrooms, Spinach, Bell Peppers, Feta Cheese, Grilled Chicken, Red Onions, Grilled Gulf Shrimp, Grilled Onions, Prosciutto Ham, Sliced Italian Sausage, Green Olives, Jalapenos, Black Olives, & Oven dried Tomatoes
* Counts as two toppings
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Entrees (served after 4pm only)

- Fillet of Fresh Gulf Grouper | Grilled to perfection then served with crawfish, fresh corn and mushroom glaze over a fried polenta cake and seasonal veggies. $21.00
- Seafood Risotto | Classic Italian Risotto, with bay scallops, Gulf shrimp, mussels and clams. Served with oven roasted tomatoes fresh basil, and shaved parmesan. $19.00
- Grilled Black Angus Ribeye | A 15 ounce hand cut ribeye rubbed with fresh herbs and olive oil, garlic mashed potatoes and seasoned veggies. $22.00
- Chicken Parmigiana | Breast of chicken, seasoned with Italian bread crumbs, pan seared, topped with whole milk mozzarella, shaved parmesan, and fresh basil, over angel hair pasta, tossed with our house marinara. $15.00
- Gulf Shrimp Toscana | Jumbo Gulf shrimp grilled with lemon, garlic, and spices, served over parmesan polenta and garlic ciabatta, topped with shaved parmesan and fresh basil. Served with seasonal veggies. $18.00

Desserts

- Tiramisu | Coffee soaked lady fingers with marscapone, whipped heavy cream, and Grand Marnier. $5.95
- Cheesecake | Grand New York cheese cake topped with seasonal berries. $6.50
- Lemoncello | Italian sponge cake in a sweet lemon cream with powdered sugar and creme anglaise. $6.95
- Triple Swiss Chocolate Cake | With whipped cream and seasonal berries. $5.95
- Cannoli | Italian pastry filled with chocolate chip stuffed cream filling, served with Citrus anglaise sauce and fresh berries $5.95

Children’s Menu (under 10 only, please)

- Fried Ravioli served with marinara $4.25
- Pasta with butter $5.99
- Pasta with marinara $4.75
- Pasta Alfredo $5.99
- Add a meatball for $1.75
- Kids fountain drink $1.75

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Effina’s A Tuscan Grille
Hammett: From Page 1

He has just recently been involved with developing a Professional Development School program in the Jacksonville City School System. He was also involved in implementing education dual-enrollment courses at Oxford High School.

Along with progressing building plans, Hammett wants to see all of the programs in the college nationally accredited.

“Our programs in Exercise Science and Wellness, Recreation and a few programs in Family and Consumer Science have not been accredited yet,” Hammett said, “but they’re working on it.”

Parks: University ruled no disciplinary action needed

was no need for disciplinary action toward Parks.

Osborne said the motion was not a personal attack on Parks.

“I’ve been subject to questions from members of the Freshman Forum asking me what really happened [with Parks],” Osborne said. “Senator Whalley gave Vice President Parks an opportunity to defend himself, but he felt he did not need to dignify us with an answer.”

Osborne said he didn’t feel any pressure from the SGA leadership and that he wasn’t afraid to speak up.

“Our main job is to represent the students,” Osborne said. “Sometimes the SGA worries too much about popularity.”

Finn said the SGA shouldn’t have spent time on the issue.

“We are there to represent the student body and Monday night we were very self-focused,” Finn said. “We have much larger issues that we need to be taking care of.”

Osborne said the motion was an effort to be honest with the students the SGA represents. “We have been elected by the students and they need to know if these elected officials are not upholding the integrity of the office,” Osborne said. “I think the biggest show of integrity is someone who is willing to answer for their actions.”

Parks, a sophomore, was not a personal attack on Osborne, he said.

Both agreed the experience was different than the television portrayal. During the showcase Mackenzie was out of her friend’s line-of-sight and was unable to hear them.

“Once I got up on stage, for the rest of the show I couldn’t hear a word that host Drew Carey said. The noise from the audience was just too intense,” she said.

“The audience is really a lot smaller than it looks, the announcer was all mixed-up but we couldn’t hear anything. They just used flash cards and kept telling us to applause,” Pergram said.

Some of the funnier moments made it onto the small screen including and confused exchange between Carey and a nervous Mackenzie.

After winning the showcase, which included an Electra Craft party boat, living room furniture, and a set of ice coolers, Mackenzie said that her Cal Poly business training kicked in.

“My first thought was to sell it. I couldn’t pull that with my vehicle so I couldn’t really use it anyway,” she said. “I had just taken a class on taxes and I was really worried about how I was going to pay on the value of this income,” she said of the boat.

Fortunately, the studio offered her a cash prize instead, which she said would partly go to pay off student loans. Mackenzie kept the other prizes.

“Nikole always has a smile on her face and just a great personality to be around. It was just a really cool experience for all of us,” Pergram said.

Change of season, change of clothes

By Adri Hayes
Staff Writer

With the change of season, it is also time for a change in wardrobe. And with this season’s trends why not?

This fall, along with the staples such as the trench coat, cardigan and dresses; we also have vintage looks, which include inspiration from the fall fashion item that is new on the scene is the brilliant-colored tiered dress which can be paired with a blazer, preferably black or gray to make the color stand out more.

Purses are also getting a make over. It’s out with the straw bright colored summer purse and in with the saddle bag which is inspired by the designer and practical.

Amid poor economy, even mighty Harvard struggling

By RODRIGUE NIGO
Associated Press Writer

BOSTON (AP) - Despite amassing an almost $37 billion endowment, Harvard University is warning that the economic slowdown has reached America’s richest university.

President Drew Faust said Monday the school is looking at ways to cut spending and will review compensation costs, which account for nearly half of the budget.

Harvard also is reviewing its ambitious expansion program, including plans announced early last year to expand across the Charles River from its Cambridge campus into Allston, she said.

The university is considering the steps because the economic slowdown may reduce federal grants and the school’s substantial endowment, Faust said.

“We need to be prepared to absorb unprecedented endowment losses and plan for a period of greater financial restraint,” she said.

Harvard’s efforts to address the economic downturn mirror what is happening elsewhere in the country, including other Ivy League schools.

Graduate and professional schools will keep financial aid budgets at current levels.

In the fiscal year that ended June 30, Harvard’s endowment posted an 8.6 percent return and grew to $36.9 billion. However, the school lost 12.7 percent on its U.S. stock portfolio and 12.1 percent on its foreign equity portfolio during that time.

Faust warned in her e-mail that “we must recognize that Harvard is not invulnerable to the seismic financial shocks in the larger world. Our own economic landscape has been significantly altered.”

The school still intends to implement initiatives to make education affordable to students from low- and middle-income families, and will ensure that those with income below $60,000 will pay nothing to send children to Harvard College. Those earning up to $180,000 can expect to pay no more than about 10 percent of their income, she said.

Graduate and professional schools will keep financial aid budgets at current levels.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker in Providence, R.I., contributed to this report.
Harvard U. study: Americans don't trust media on politics

By Marianna N. Tishchenko

Most Americans do not trust media coverage of the 2008 presidential campaign, citing media bias and misguided focus as their primary concerns, according to a poll released by the Harvard Kennedy School last week.

The poll — which was co-sponsored by the Merriman River Group — found that 89 percent of U.S. citizens agree or strongly agree that the news media focuses too much on trivial issues, 77 percent agree or strongly agree that the news media is too liberal, and 82 percent agree or strongly agree that media coverage has too much influence on whom Americans vote for.

More specifically, 45 percent say the coverage is both too liberal and too conservative, 25 percent say that the media is too liberal, and five percent say that it is too conservative. "These findings suggest that the news media is at a crossroads in shaping their political coverage and winning viewers' trust," Seth A. Rosenthal, the study's leader author and a fellow at the Kennedy School, said in a statement. "At a time when Americans are demanding better leaders, their mistrust of the media's coverage of the presidential campaign is troubling."

The study also cited that 62 percent of the 997 American citizens surveyed said that they were skeptical of media campaign coverage, and that "some percentage" of those individuals believed that reporters oftentimes fail to separate their opinions from facts.

In fact, 42 percent said that negative media had influenced their vote against a candidate while only 28 percent said it had influenced their vote for a candidate through positive coverage.

Political pundits did not find the results of the poll surprising. "This doesn't strike me as unexpected," said Elaine Kamarek, a lecturer in public policy at the Kennedy School. "The media hasn't been trusted for some time."

The study concluded by examining which news sources Americans trusted most for election coverage. About 40 percent said cable television, while 18.9 percent pointed to over-air television news and 10.6 percent said print media.

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Music Corner

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

4:13 Dream
The Cure

The 90's were an important time for the band, seeing as participation in a few movies gave a much-needed popularity that eventually pushed them into the new century. Many years later, after touring around the world, this century has seen only two CDs from The Cure, one of them being the most recent one. Robert Smith (being the only original member) produced "4:13 Dream" to try and create an entirely new classic hit for the band. The CD was done in record time, for fans had been waiting for it nearly all year. The CD has been out since October and is readily available for download on such services as Itunes. Two songs to look for (as they are my personal favorites), are "Underneath The Stars," which is the opening song and, "The Scream." The entire CD is very easy to listen to and seeing as the holiday season is coming up it would make a great gift to new or current fans of The Cure. Although I recommend the CD, I would recommend seeing them on stage more. Their performance brings the music alive in a way no recording can, and if you have the chance to see them, I'd recommend it.

— Alan Rhodes

Boston U. student sued by RIAA speaks out

By Kim Wexler

He may be facing charges for breaking the law in cyberspace, but a Boston University student being sued for illegally downloading music online is basing his defense on a decidedly low-tech legal document: the U.S. Constitution.

Harvard Law professor Charles Nesson and a team of Harvard law students are defending BU graduate student Joel Tenenbaum against a $1 million lawsuit brought against him by the Recording Industry Association of America. The RIAA filed its claim against Tenenbaum, who is pursuing a master’s degree in physics, in the U.S. district court in Boston, alleging he illegally downloaded 816 music files and distributed them to millions of people through the peer-to-peer file sharing application Kazaa. Only seven files were specified in the case, however.

Officials from the RIAA did not respond to phone messages left at its Washington offices by press time.

Nesson argued that the process the RIAA uses to prevent copyright infringement is excessive and unconstitutional. His case challenges the Digital Theft Deterrence and Copyright Damage Improvement Act of 1990 on the grounds that the statute is a criminal statute, but the recording industry is unconstitutionally prosecuting Tenenbaum as a civil case in a federal court. The RIAA has cracked down on illegal downloaders during the past five years, directing much of their efforts toward college students, who they claim “are more prone to engaging in this illegal activity than the population at large,” according to a March 2007 RIAA press release.

In the press release, RIAA President Mitch Bainwol said music fans know right from wrong when it comes to illegal downloading.

“No matter how much we adapt, though, any new business model must always necessarily rely upon a respect for property rights,” he said in the press release. “That’s why we must continue to enforce our laws.”

Tenenbaum, who was a teenager when the RIAA first threatened to fine him, said the record companies are acting like a private police force. “They have all the power to corner citizens and then demand as much money as they want,” he said. “It’s absurd, because most of the time it’s just one private citizen attempting to defend himself against a team of high-powered attorneys.”

Before Nesson took his case, Tenenbaum said he was defending himself with the help of his mother, a lawyer who specializes in copyright and Internet law. “It was a stressful period,” Tenenbaum said. “I am extraordinarily lucky to have professor Nesson helping me now.”

Tenenbaum said an entire generation has grown up downloading music, and his case is not unusual. “I’m not some aberration of society,” he said. “The way record companies handle it is corrupt. They are essentially running two businesses: selling CDs and suing people.”

John Kellog, the Chairman of Music Performance at Berklee College said he works with many artists and sees first-hand how much money and work goes into producing albums. Many artists struggle to make music without payment, he said.

“The first thing that comes to my mind when I hear of illegal downloading music is piracy,” he said. “It’s just stealing somebody else’s hard work.”

Wonderdrug records owner Ken Cmar said people who download music illegally are contributing to the “downward spiral” of the record industry.

“The bottom line is this: If you are illegally downloading music it’s theft and it’s against the law and you have to take responsibility for it if you get caught,” he said.

Cmar added that U.S. copyright laws are “outdated,” and should be changed to fit with new consumer needs.

“People don’t want to pay for music these days,” he said. “They don’t feel like they have to. The RIAA needs to stop suing people and start figuring out a way to make a profit while not charging consumers on every song they download.”

Police: U. Minnesota student lies about bomb threat to get out of class

By Conor Shine

Miner said it appeared that the student had planted the bomb threat to avoid a misdemeanor offense. University spokesman Dan Larson said he hopes this does not lead
A Hundred Million Suns
Snow Patrol

Snow Patrol, seems to be one of those bands you
have never heard of unless your already a fan. Ac-
tually, more of us have heard
their music than we think.

They have a few particular
songs that strike the ears
such as "Signal-Fire" which
 came off the movie "Spide-
man 3".

Snow Patrol comes from
Ireland and only recently
has some of their hit mu-
sic has crossed over to
the mainstream. While they
originally wanted to strive
for indie rock, they have
recently crossed over into
alternative rock with an
deeper sound.

Even though we have
heard them in a more lim-
ited sense, they have accu-
mulated a diverse range of
applause from Europe.

Their record "Final Straw"
actually hit four platinum
awards including nomina-
tions for the BRIT Award.

Their latest album "A Hun-
dred Million Suns" seems
to me to be more indie rock
than alternative, but still will
find mass appeal to anyone
who has liked their first al-
bumb. Two songs to look for
on this CD are "Take Back
the City" and "Crack the
Shutters" which should be
on anyone's essential mu-
sic list.

I like them for their back-
ground music quality. These
songs are best listened to
while you are on your way
somewhere, with someone
you care about (as they
would appeal to your part-
tner), or even while you go
out running.

Snow Patrol is expected
to tour in America soon.

Their current tour list in-
cludes Scotland and Brit-
ain. The album "A Hundred
Million Suns" is already
available for purchase at
any store or I-Tunes and I
know I am eagerly awaiting
the released music videos
from their concerts. Will the
soft tune to their music find
their way onto your iPod?

- Alan Rhodes

By Conor Shine
Uwire

A bomb threat phoned in
around 7 a.m. Tuesday was
deemed false an hour and
half later, but not before one
building on the University of
Minnesota's West Bank cam-
pus was evacuated and anoth-
er was locked down.

Classes in Anderson Hall
were evacuated at around 8
a.m. and the Hubert H. Hum-
phrey Center was in the pro-
cess of being evacuated when
the threat was deemed false.

University police Deputy
Chief Chuck Miner said a
female student phoned in the
threat stating she overheard
"three Somali males" discuss-
ing bombs in the two buildings.

University police Chief
Greg Hestness said upon in-
vestigating the claim police
found that the student who
reported the threat was "be-
ing untruthful."

Hestness said police didn't
know about the threat's
credibility, "but we wanted to
err on the side of caution."

The student has not been
formally charged, but authori-
ties are investigating charges
of filing a false police report, a
misdemeanor offense.

University spokesman Dan
Wolter said that even if no
criminal charges are filed, the
student could still face disci-
pline from the University.

He said the disciplinary pro-
cess is managed by the Office
for Student Conduct and Aca-
demic Integrity but it's too ear-
ly to know how this particular
case will be handled.

The student's choice to
identify the men in her re-
ported threat as Somali was
"idiotic", and the threat was
reported to the University. The
situation was "unfortunate" and
said he hopes this does not lead
to other issues in the campus
community.

By Paul Cordes, David In-
trowitz and Tiffany Smith

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reported to the University. The
situation was "unfortunate" and
said he hopes this does not lead
to other issues in the campus
community.

A TXT-U alert about the
incident was not sent, but one
was ready to go, said Terry
Cook, director of Emergency
Management at the Univer-
sity.

There were doubts about the
credibility of the claim, Cook
said, and while the alert was
being prepared, police con-
firmed the threat was false.

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That is the question both the JSU men’s and women’s basketball teams must answer if they are going to achieve success in the Ohio Valley.
That is the question both the JSU men's and women's basketball teams must answer if they are going to achieve success in the Ohio Valley Conference this season. Read about new coach James Green and the men's team on page 8 and read about Becky Geyer's Lady Gamecocks on page 10.
Attitude Adjustment

That’s what the Gamecocks must undergo to improve on and off the court

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

The past year has seen Jacksonville State University undergo a period of transition in several ways, and the men’s basketball program is no exception.

After a disappointing last four years — which saw the Gamecocks lose 20 or more games three times and only qualify for the conference tournament once — the school decided not to renew former coach Mike LaPlante’s contract.

Enter James Green, who took Mississippi Valley State to a Southwestern Athletic Conference title and an NCAA tournament berth last year.

Green says that as much as the team must improve on the court, the Gamecocks off-court performance must improve even more.

“There’s two things that we have to improve, and that’s APR and RPI,” Green said. “Those letters are out there for this program.”

The RPI stands for Ratings Percentage Index, which is the NCAA’s system for ranking the 341 Division-I teams. Last season, the Gamecocks were ranked 341st for stretches during the season before finishing 339th.

The APR is the Academic Performance Rate, in which JSU has woefully underperformed the past couple seasons. The Gamecocks have also had various off-court issues that led to mid-season and post-season dismissals of players.

As a result, eight of the 14 current members on the roster have never played for the Gamecocks, including five true freshmen and one redshirt freshman.

The team has two seniors who will be counted on to lead the young team, guards DeAndre Bray and Jonathan Toles.

Bray was involved in the committee to locate a new coach, and said that Green made an impression on him almost instantly.

“He sounded like my high school coach, Floyd Mack,” Bray said. “He’s a disciplinarian and he’s made us more accountable for everything. If anybody does something Coach doesn’t like, the whole team might have to run.”

Toles added to Bray’s endorsement of the new coach.

“Everybody’s accountable for themselves, we’ve got to be,” Toles said. “We’ve got to be in class and everywhere on ‘Gamecock time,’ which is ten minutes early.”

Another change JSU basketball fans will see is a renewed commitment on the defensive end. Green stressed that most of the team’s goals will be on that end of the court, and the players are aware that the coaches expect at least equal energy defensively.

“We might not be as up-and-down this year because we’re going to use a lot of energy on the defensive end,” Toles said. “It’s totally different at least on the defensive end of the court.

Even last year, Toles was considered the defensive stopper on the team, and Green says he will likely guard the other team’s best perimeter player most nights.

“Since last year, I’ve always taken the opportunity to play defense first,” Toles said. “I look forward to playing (South Carolina’s Devan Downey) and guys like that. I like having the chance to show what I can do against players like that.”

Bray believes there are reasons for everyone involved with the team to expect the team to compete in his senior season.

“I think we’ve done a lot of good things and a lot of things that haven’t been so good,” Bray said. “But so far the good has outweighed the bad. If we keep playing the way we’ve been practicing, we can be a good team. I think we can get in that top four (in the OVC) and host a first-round game in the tournament.”

But Bray believes there are reasons for everyone involved with the team to expect the team to compete in his senior season.

“Jered Toles makes a steal against West Georgia in JSU’s exhibition win. The Gamecocks are placing a renewed emphasis on the defensive end this year, and Toles will be counted on to be a defensive stopper. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Green is also optimistic about the future, but realizes there may be growing pains.

“This year, what we have to do is set the tone for how competitive we are going to be,” Green said. “How hard we play, how smart we play, hopefully that will translate into wins this year. If not, I think because of the carryover, when we start practice next year, we will be that much further down the road.

“Realistically, if you look at a guy like Nick Murphy, who’s a sophomore, by the time he’s a senior, I think we can be in the top half of our league. I’ll be really disappointed if we’re not.”

1. Brandon Crawford
   F         Fr. 6-6  205 Montgomery, Ala.
2. Stephen Hall
   F         Fr. 6-6  225 Birmingham, Ala.
Senior guard DeAndre Bray will be counted on by the new coaching staff to lead the team on and off the court, as he led the team in assists last year and will be instrumental in directing the offense again this season. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Sitting down with the new coach

James Green visited with the staff of The Chanticleer to answer some questions about the upcoming season

On building the program:
“Traditionally, just being honest, we haven’t been a powerhouse in our league. So how do we catch up to those guys? You have to sign the best players you can sign, but chances are you have to sign more of them.

We may not have the best player in the league always, but we can have the best six or seven. I’m not saying that’s going to happen right away, but I think in time that will happen.”

On how uptempo JSU is going to be:
“We’re going to play the odds. What we want to do is get the best shots we can get, by the right people to make those shots.

We’d like to establish ourselves inside first, and we feel we’ll make more shots from the perimeter after we’ve established ourselves inside. Most of our goals within the game will come on the defensive end.”

On repairing the team’s off-court image:
“I think in all programs, but in particular a program you’re trying to build, I think you get there faster if you have young men who will do the right thing off the court.

They will bring that to the court. You’ll have better listening, their determination will be better, they take pride in everything they do, and that’s what we try to do in all the programs we’ve been in.

On the team’s leaders:
“DeAndre has been a vocal leader and I believe has a guy who has led by example and is starting to lead with his words too. Nick Murphy has been a leader for us all preseason.

Believe it or not, John Barnes, our freshman point guard who comes, from a very disciplined program, has shown very good leadership. He’s surprised us a little bit for a freshman who’s trying to adjust himself.”

On the freshman class:
“I think we did well in areas of character and players. I think we have a very good freshman class and as they continue to grow the next couple years, I think that will be how we can become a good program.”

On improving rebounding:
“We work on rebounding in a drill every day and we emphasize rebounding throughout practice. In how we want to play, we value it as a crucial part of that.

You have to have stops on the defensive end, and what we consider a stop is when we secure the ball. If we play good defense for 20 seconds and they’re able to get an offensive board, then it’s all for naught.

We’re not a big team, so we have to concentrate on position.”

On the team’s lone true big man, Amadou Mbodji:
“I’ve really enjoyed working with Dou, and our assistants have as well. His attitude is so good, he wants to be better, and we feel like he’s made improvements in the short time that we’ve been here and that he will continue to make improvements.

We’re still working on his footwork and his balance in the offensive area, but he will be a big part of what we do.

I don’t think you’ll be able to measure what these games will do for us always immediately after the games. But I think that somewhere down the road, these games will make a difference in who we become. In the last half of season two and going into year three, I think these games will have really helped us.”
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Ready to contend

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After sneaking into the conference tournament last year, the Lady Gamecocks are looking for more.

After two seasons of finishing at the bottom of the Ohio Valley Conference, Becky Geyer began turning the Jacksonville State women’s basketball program around last season, leading the Gamecocks to an OVC tournament berth. JSU finished last, swining eighth place, and expectations are even higher this year. The Gamecocks were picked to finish fifth in the preseason poll, but players and coaches alike think they can exceed those expectations.

“We did make the OVC tournament last year,” Geyer said. “We were the eighth place team in, and I think that was a good start for just getting some experience in tournament play.

“We were preseason picked fifth, and that is a good spot for us. I think we are going to be one of those teams that have the ability to beat anybody in the OVC. I think teams are really going to dislike playing us. If we come out and we are ready, we are going to be a hard team to beat. We could knock off some of those top four teams in front of us.”

The Gamecocks return practically everyone from a very young squad that somewhat overachieved last season. JSU is still considered a young team — comprised mostly of freshmen and sophomores — in comparison to the rest of the league, but the experience level has improved drastically.

“Even if it was just a year, we’ve all gained experience and are starting to mesh well,” Jolie Efezokhae said. “We are now more of a team that people should be fearing because we’ve got this experience now.”

Efezokhae returns as JSU’s leading scorer and most experienced player. The junior forward from Buford, Ga., averaged 12.7 points per game last year and was selected as a Preseason All-OVC selection for the 2008-09 season.

From all accounts, Efezokhae will likely be even more of a threat this season. According to Geyer, she improved her game over the summer and will be relied upon heavily from a leadership standpoint this year.

“She embraces that role. She’s got a lot more experience,” Geyer said. “She has worked really hard on her game this summer, and you could tell against Miles College. She did a nice job pulling up in the lane and shooting a jumper, as opposed to before she would always try to take it all the way in no matter how many people were there.”

Efezokhae certainly showed up in the Gamecocks’ exhibition win over Miles College last Monday, scoring 33 points and grabbing 13 boards in JSU’s 102-62 blowout victory.

Kelsey Johnikin and Cassi Stuart are back as well, and both bring experience to the point guard position.

The Gamecocks also return every member from a very talented freshman class. Included in that was Carmine, who had her injury cut her sophomore campaign short.

Unfortunately for JSU, Duhart will likely be out for the first two weeks of the season due to personal reasons, but Carmine has improved drastically and will help the Gamecocks in the post during Duhart’s absence.

“Honestly, Candice Carmine was probably the most improved player on her. We haven’t really gotten to see Chase (Ogden) play that much because she is injured, but I think this is a good little freshman class.”

With an influx of new talent and the experience gained from last season, the Gamecocks are hoping to sneak up on the top teams...
Cassie Stuart are back as well, and both bring experience to the point guard position.

The Gamecocks return every member from a very talented freshman class that included Danielle Beneby, Parris Hollingsworth, Zenobia Pitts, Candice Carmine, Charlease Williams and Cierra Duhart.

Hollingsworth, Pitts and Williams are all expected to be apart of the Gamecocks’ starting five along with Efekoziai and Johnkin.

More importantly, JSU’s defense stepped up as well — allowing only 284 yards of total offense — after giving up an average of 420.5 yards in its previous four contests.

Despite a decisive victory over the Golden Eagles, JSU coach Jack Crowe knew there was no time to celebrate, immediately turning his attention to Tennessee State.

“We’ve got to put one behind us and move forward for a very important game at home, but I think that we left our last game feeling pretty good about closing out with a win,” Crowe said. “I think the work that our team put in to preparing for Tennessee Tech paid off with a pretty good second half of execution.”

“Right after that game was over with, we started looking ahead to this one (against Tennessee State), because we’re playing a really fine football team.”

The Gamecocks and Tigers are very comparable on offense.

JSU currently leads the Ohio Valley Conference, averaging 419.6 yards per game, but Tennessee State isn’t far behind. In fact, the Tigers are ranked second in the OVC, averaging just under four yards less than the Gamecocks.

Tiger running back Javarris Williams has been spectacular this season, averaging 103.7 yards per game and scoring 15 rushing touchdowns behind a huge offensive line led by Cornelius Lewis.

“Javarris Williams is leading the league in rushing and Antonio Heffner was a pre-season All-Conference player and is leading the league in several statistical categories behind a large offensive line — weighing 280, 299, 332, 350 and 346 pounds,” Crowe said.

Those are massive offensive linemen. Left tackle Cornelius Lewis is 6-foot-5 and weighs 332 pounds and is a transfer from Florida State. Many of these players are transfers from premiere programs.”

The Gamecocks’ quarterback won’t be the only signal caller on the field Saturday that transferred from a primetime SEC program. Everybody in Jacksonville has heard at least a little about Mr. Perrilloux, but Antonio Heffner was an also an SEC recruit, playing at South Carolina for two seasons.

Heffner presents a threat both throwing Perrilloux and the JSU offense will have to make sure they know where Clifford Eugene is on every play. Eugene, a transfer from Ohio State, leads the Tigers in tackles (54) and interceptions (3) this season and is just one of 11 former Division-I players on the Tennessee State roster.

“Those are massive offensive linemen. Left tackle Cornelius Lewis is 6-foot-5 and weighs 332 pounds and is a transfer from Florida State. Many of these players are transfers from premiere programs.”

With an influx of new talent and the experience gained from last season, the Gamecocks are hoping to sneak up on the top teams in the OVC and make even more progress towards a conference championship.

“I think we are kind of an underdog among that group of teams in the fact that we really have just as good of an opportunity, in my mind, at the OVC,” Crowe said.

JSU must contain the tandem of Antonio Heffner and Javarris Williams on Saturday to have any chance of making the FCS playoffs. Photo courtesy of Sam Jordan / Tenn. State Univ.