

SGA passes new rules Bills restrict, create Homecoming royalty

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The Jacksonville State University Student Government Association met on Monday, October 13, to consider several new laws that will affect students.

Among the bills considered, Student Bill 47, a measure that would restrict candidacy for Homecoming Queen to biological females.

"I personally like it," SGA President Jennifer Nix said. "I mean, homecoming queen you think about females, and if you think about homecoming kings, you think about males."

The SGA also created the position of homecoming king,

which will take effect next year.

Senator Michael Finn, senate parliamentarian, recognized that the bill may be construed as discrimination against male and even Transgender students, but said that wasn't the bill's intent.

"It's just to keep frat. boys, and people who want to run as a joke, out of the race," Finn said.

Still, Nix said there was no procedure in place to confirm the gender of a candidate of either race.

"If you present yourself as a female, there isn't anything we can do about that," Nix said. "But, if you present yourself as a female and it's questionable, then we're go-

ing to ask you 'are you male or female?'"

Finn said some cases would be taken into special consideration.

"If they approach us, and have always lived as female on campus, then exceptions will be made," Finn said.

SGA Senator Doran Smith, who supported the bill, said while there is no procedure to confirm the gender of a candidate, a trust system will be used.

"At the moment we don't plan on checking any background records or birth certificates," Smith said. "But the idea is that if you are listed on your birth certificate as



Student Government Association Senator Michael Finn addresses the Senate on Monday night at the Theron Montgomery Building. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / The Chanticleer

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Rogers addresses JSU students about bailout plan

By Jennifer Bacchus
Special to The Chanticleer

Every seat in the auditorium was full and people still lined the walls. While many of those in room 101 of Merrill Building last week were there for extra credit or because their professor had mandated it, all of them were there to hear Congressman Mike Rogers (D-3rd District Ala.) discuss the recent emergency economic stabilization bill passed by the Senate on October 1 and by the House of Representatives on October 3.

"These are tough times, they're interesting times for the country. When I left Washington last Friday night we called the staff in because for two weeks the staff in Washington and the staff in three of my Alabama offices had just been inundated with phone calls about the economic rescue package," said Rogers. "I wanted to give them anatta boy and tell them what a good job they did, but I also wanted to emphasize to them that they're

otal point."

Rogers walked the students and teachers through the bill and the two weeks it took for passage, calling it "the most intense experience of my life."

The \$700 billion in the rescue plan will allow the United States government to buy bundles of mortgages from banks, split the bundles, sell off the good investments and hold the bad ones until they can be sold.

"What we have agreed to do, as the treasury department, is we'll take any bank, whether it be a big bank or a local credit union, if you've got toxic paper and you want us to buy it, we'll buy it. We'll decide what to pay for it and you have to guarantee, if we ultimately lose money, you reimburse us what we lose," said Rogers, adding that any profit made will go toward the national debt. "We're going to, I feel confident, at least get the \$700 billion back because we're not giving the money away. We're buying assets cheap."

market from what he called "toxic paper" that was preventing businesses throughout the nation from being able to take out the loans they needed for daily operations.

"This was about credit being available, not about these bankers. All of these mortgages that were made in recent years that were sub-prime and bad mortgages were being packaged with good mortgages, put on bank books and then sophisticated derivative sales were being made. As the housing market began to climb nobody knew what all this paper was worth," said Rogers, adding that banks eventually began to freeze lending. "I had business people calling, telling me, 'I'm going to be out of business in two weeks. I can't get anybody financed for a house, even if they've got great credit.'"

Rogers also discussed the nation's energy situation with the students, particularly the dependence on foreign oil.

"We've got a problem with supply and we're too dependent on foreign oil. We have a problem with refining capac-

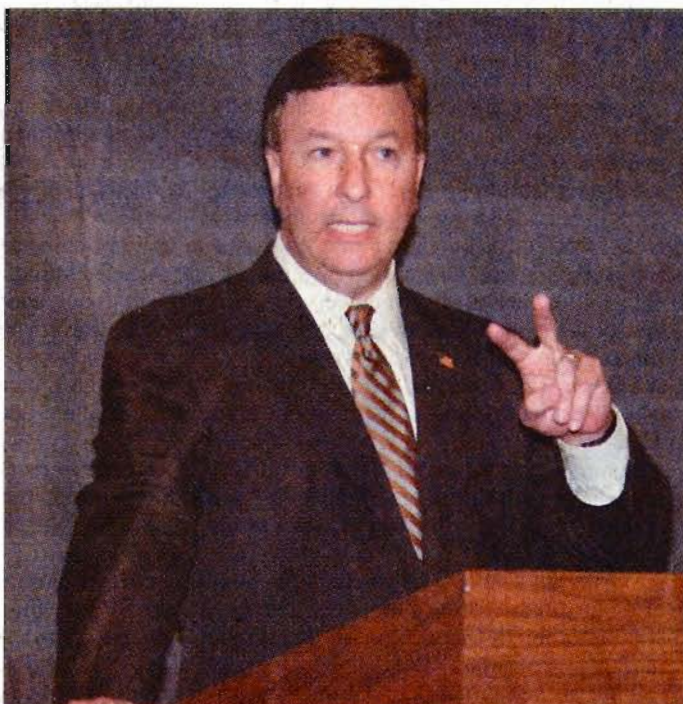




Photo by Anita Kilgore / The Jacksonville News

washington last Friday night we called the staff in because for two weeks the staff in Washington and the staff in three of my Alabama offices had just been inundated with phone calls about the economic rescue package," said Rogers. "I wanted to give them anatta boy and tell them what a good job they did, but I also wanted to emphasize to them that they're involved in this process at a historic time in our county's history. This is truly a piv-

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Rogers told the audience the bill was passed, essentially, to free up the credit

See "Rogers," page 2

Getting it Wright

Yearbook editor presents new Mimosa

By Julie Skinner
News Editor

The Mimosa, Jacksonville State University's yearbook staff, recently came out with the newest yearbook that compiles two academic school years. The book is the first in three years and represents a vast amount of work and transitioning.

Jason Wright, editor of the Mimosa, worked hard with his staff to put out the new yearbook and made sure to include a letter of apology to the students and staff of JSU.

"I apologize to students and staff of the University for our tardiness," Wright said. "We had so many problems and in the apology in the first page of the yearbook, I promise that next year will be better."

Problems with the yearbook staff began during the 2005-2006 year when the editor and staff at that time failed to complete the book and lost some information.

"They had a few staff members who finished most of their stuff," Wright said. "But it just wasn't compiled well, so the editor left," Wright said. "The next editor who came in, tried to fix it, but just couldn't get a handle on it and that staff didn't get to learn the knowledge they needed and didn't have enough time while trying to fix the old yearbook, so another year got behind and that editor left before the year ended."

Wright and his staff worked hard to complete the yearbook that covers the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 academic school years. Though they wanted to complete a yearbook that was up-to-date, they weren't allowed to do until the old one was completed.

"The new yearbook covers as much information as we were able to hold onto," Wright said.

Besides working with old information, the staff was also forced to work with old software. Jessica Stephens, the Mimosa's organizations editor, found the older technology to be hindering.

"We put in a lot of work, because we actually had to go back and do older work," Stephens said. "Unfortunately, we also had to work with older machines."

Though the setbacks the Mimosa's staff faced, the important factor is that the yearbooks are freshly printed and ready to be sold. They will sell for \$25.00 and will be available all year. The yearbooks will also be sold at this Saturday's homecoming football game by the stadium starting at 2:00 p.m.

Besides the newest yearbooks, Mimosas dating back to 1969 will also be sold for Alumni who never bought a college yearbook. These will be priced at \$15.00.

"Come out and buy one," Wright said. "It's good to have a tangible record for your memories."

Awards for Chemistry students

JSU chapter wins award from American Chemical Society

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

The American Chemical Society recently gave honorable mention to its Jacksonville State University chapter. The honorable mention was received due to the chapter's active involvement with promoting chemistry, presenting research, providing public service and for setting up a friendly social environment.

According to their website, the American Chemical Society is "a congressionally chartered independent membership organization which represents professionals at all degree levels and in all fields of chemistry and sciences that involve chemistry."

This past March, JSU had nine presenters at the American Chemical Society's convention in New Orleans.

"The award is meaningful because the national organization has student affiliates from all over the nation, some from the most prestigious universities in the world," Dr. Al Nichols, Professor of Chemistry, said.

"We are pretty unique," said Head of the department of physical and earth sciences Dr. Ted Klimasewski, who prefers to be



called Ted K. "We are likely to be very competitive at the undergraduate level with other larger universities."

The facts back up Ted K's assertion. According to Dr. Andrew Helms, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, students from JSU attend graduate schools at Georgia Tech, University of Alabama, University of Tennessee and Samford University. JSU also has a high rate of students who enter Medical, Pharmacy and Veterinarian

Schools. One shining example of a JSU graduate is working on her Ph.D. from Texas A&M, and receives a \$42,000-a-year stipend, which is a payment for an internship or apprenticeship.

"We take first generation students and help to make them more competitive in graduate schools and in the job market against graduates from (for example) Vanderbilt or UAB," Ted K said. "Where our students go is just one example of what makes our program so unique. Another example is the research conducted by are students," Ted K said.

Asides from the honorable mention received by Chemistry students from JSU, they have also won three awards in the past two years from the Alabama Academy of Science. In an average year, JSU sends 6 to 7 presenters to the AAS.

"There are two kinds of research," Ted K said. "There are scientific breakthroughs and there is research done that contributes to the well-being of science; JSU does the research that contributes to the well-being of science."

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Jered Staubs tells why his heart was trampled.

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QUESTION of the WEEK

How do you spend your free time?

- What's 'free time?' - 39%
- Watching TV - 29%
- Studying - 11%
- Hanging out with friends - 13%



Next week's question:
What are you doing for Halloween?

ONLINE @ thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

Mr. Isaac Chappell of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service in Calhoun County will be speaking at a seminar on Thursday, October 16 in the Merrill Building, Room 219 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. The seminar will be about identity-theft and is co-sponsored by JSU's Students in Free Enterprise.

Thursday, October 16, will be a chance to meet and greet with Jack Crowe, JSU's head football coach. The lunch provided will be complimentary and will need to be reserved no later than Wednesday, October 15. The luncheon will take place at 12:00–1:00 p.m. in the Coxwell J-Club Room at the Field House. Call Ashley Stedham at 831-5656 to reserve your lunch.

Campus Crime

October 7

- A theft of property was reported at Houston Cole Library. Items stolen include a red and black Samsung cell phone valued at \$150.00.
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Patterson Hall parking lot. Items stolen include an iPod valued at \$100.00 and a Garmin GPS system valued at \$150.00.

October 10

- A theft of property was reported at Delta Chi Fraternity House. Items stolen include a car key, room key, doctor's clinic key and a house key valued at \$10.00.

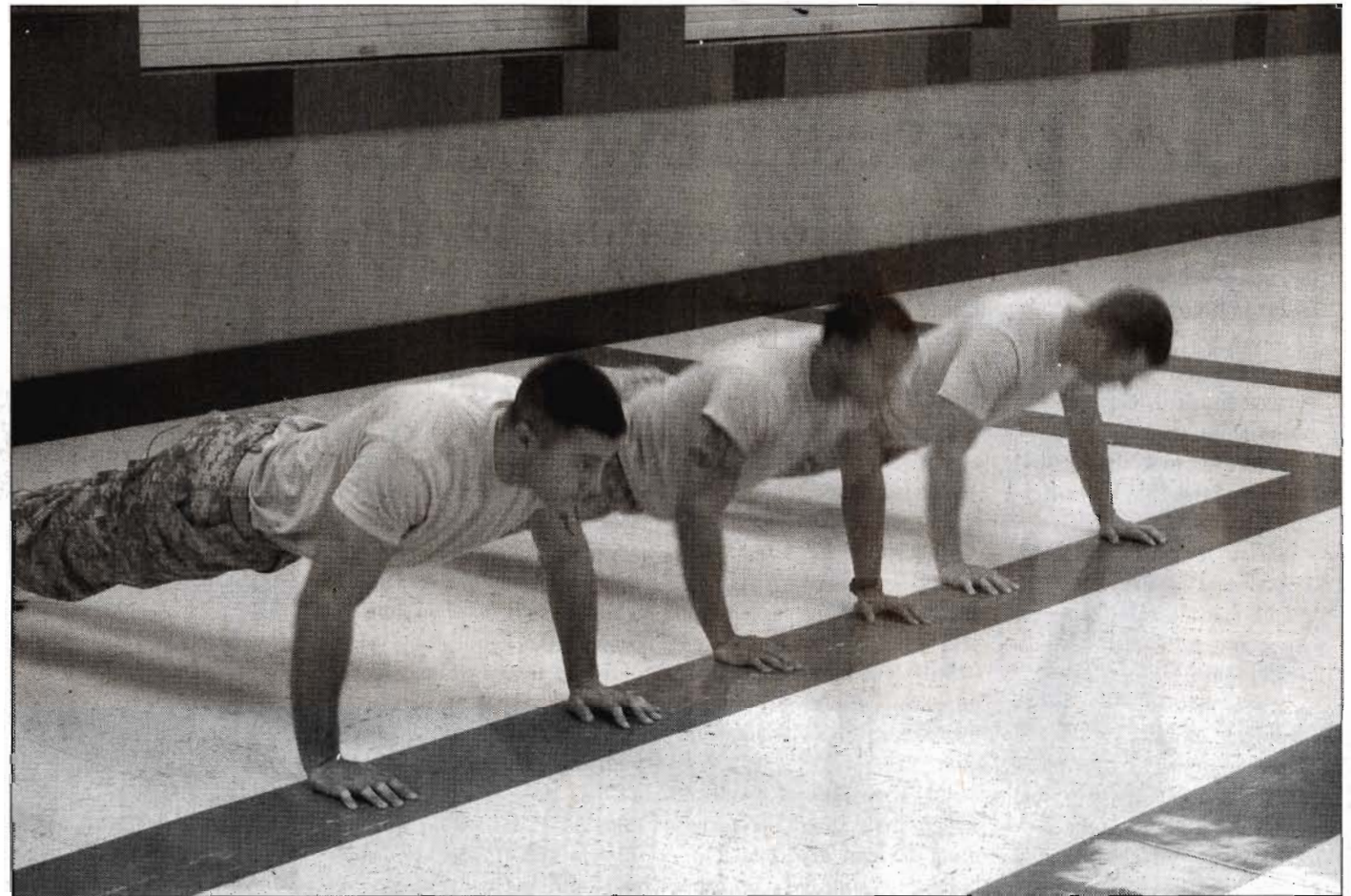
What's Happening

Thursday, October 16

- Homecoming Queen Elections, TMB Auditorium 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- SGA J-Day, TMB Front Lawn. 11:00 am – 5:00 p.m.
- Step Show Practice, Leone Cole Auditorium 4:30–10:00 p.m.
- University Picture Day/Annual Yearbook Sale, TMB 2nd floor 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 18

Picture of the week



Three ROTC trainees do push-ups during a training exercise. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week', email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com Photo by Alan Rhodes/ *The Chanticleer*

Taking on the tough issues

Stadium, summer classes among issues discussed at Faculty Senate meeting

by Allison Smith
Staff Writer

Last Monday, October 13, the Faculty Senate meeting was held for October. Every member present actively represented their departments. Many very significant topics were discussed and addressed with great precision. Everything from honors committee business to the new stadium was studied with great detail. Faculty welfare and departments awards were among the first things discussed.

The Faculty Senate President, Dr. Brent Cunningham, spoke about his interest in combination with other noted important school officials involving, the tuition waiver in the context of possibly working toward an automatic waiver system, which in turn would help more students who have strong academic standing receive money for school.

The football stadium was one of the biggest projects the group of faculty spoke about. Many well-founded concerns were presented by different members of the Senate, as well as possible alternative measures that could be taken in order to better voice their important input to the people directly involved in the planning of the stadium itself. The Senate, though working with

crisis many uncertainties were recognized and raised.

Some of the subjects addressed directly involved students at the university in the context of the university's high enrollment numbers and the distinction between students that are only using the distant learning program, as opposed to the ones actually attending classes physically at the university.

Scheduling of upcoming classes was also an important subject spoken about. Discussion on students and the scheduling of their future classes involved everything from the textbook adoption policy to working toward choosing the best option for the functionality of future exam weeks.

The Senate discussed several options for the exams days, taking into consideration graduation, grade due dates and dead day.

Summer classes and the significant loss of income in recent years involved with the difficult term and how to better organize the process for the future, was a prominent subject with the members.

During the last few summers, the school lost a drastic amount of money in the form of transfers. The faculty senate saw this as serious problem that requires a lot of attention and restructuring.

One of the main aspects of the summer scheduling being ad-

11:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

- Step Show Practice, Leone Cole Auditorium 4:30-10:00 p.m.
- University Picture Day/Annual Yearbook Sale, TMB 2nd floor 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 pm

Saturday, October 18

- Alumni Board of Governors General Membership Meeting, TMB Auditorium 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- University Picture Day/Annual Yearbook Sale, TMB 2nd floor 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 19

- A Preview of Things to Come, JSU's Little River Canyon Center. 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- United Nations Day Tea, International House, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Monday, October 20

- Alcohol Awareness Week, Theron Montgomery Building/TMB Lawn 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- SGA Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Freshman Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21

- SGA OC Meeting, TMB Auditorium 6:00 p.m.
- Election Informational Table/Bake Sale 4th floor TMB, 10:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.
- Blue & Gold Mixer w/ Sigma Gamma Rho Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 21

- Alcohol Awareness Candlelight Vigil, TMB Lawn. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

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turn would help more students who have strong academic standing receive money for school.

The football stadium was one of the biggest projects the group of faculty spoke about. Many well-founded concerns were presented by different members of the Senate, as well as possible alternative measures that could be taken in order to better voice their important input to the people directly involved in the planning of the stadium itself. The Senate, though working constantly to insure their concerns are noted, are not satisfied with the attention their important opinions are being given. Two of the more prudent concerns in connection with the stadium were the very large bond and the sewer system problem. The bond of course, is very expensive, and with the tremendous economic

Rogers: New sources of renewable energy needed

ity," said Rogers. "We're going to have to do more drilling, we're going to have to build refineries, we're going to have to build nuclear plants, all those things, but most importantly the real future is renewable energy."

Rogers would like to see more drilling along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic seaboard as well as in Alaska, but he feels the true key is to research and develop renewable energy resources.

SGA: dress code suggested

male then you couldn't run for homecoming queen."

Nix said biological males could run for homecoming king next year.

"It's not to discriminate against anyone, because now we have a homecoming king," Nix said. "(Biological males) can run for king. If you look like a male and you walk like a male, then you are a male and you can run for king."

Both the bill to restrict gender and to create the position of homecoming king passed the Senate.

Another bill presented to the senate would create a dress code for SGA senators. Smith said he thinks the bill is a good idea.

"I believe that business casual or professional is appropriate attire," Smith said. "I believe it puts forth a measure of professionalism."

Smith said he hopes appropriately-dressed Senators will

cause people to inquire about the SGA meetings.

"If we can get dressed up, other students will ask us 'hey why are you dressed up?' and we can tell them 'there's an SGA meeting today, you should come and join us,'" Smith said.

The bill was tabled until next week's meeting in order to make some provisions for Marching Southerners band members who are also in the SGA. There were some concerns about whether the Southerners would have enough time to change into appropriate attire after coming from band rehearsals.

Smith said he thinks some allowances should be made for those who are participating in other school organizations.

"The more you can do with your time, that speaks volumes about your character," Smith said. "It really shows the kind of person that you are."

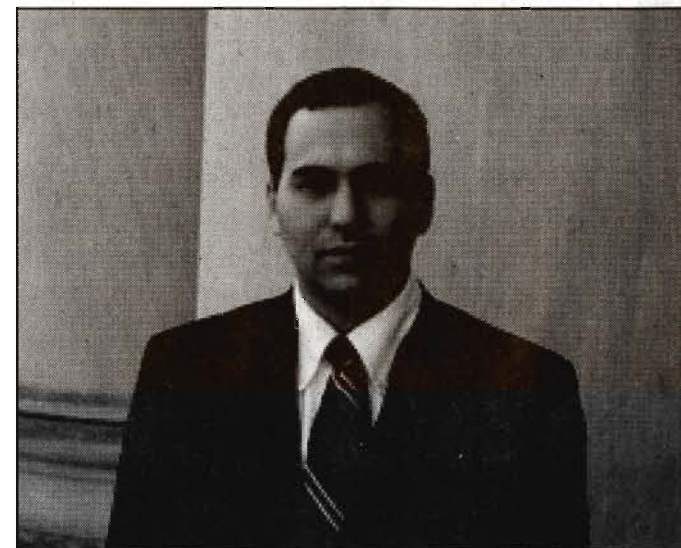
Summer classes and the significant loss of income in recent years involved with the difficult term and how to better organize the process for the future, was a prominent subject with the members.

During the last few summers, the school lost a drastic amount of money in the form of transfers. The faculty senate saw this as serious problem that requires a lot of attention and restructuring.

One of the main aspects of the summer scheduling being addressed presently is how to separate the terms and make a decision on how many terms to have during the summer.

Throughout the meeting, every member of the committee focused on how to benefit the University itself with heavy concentration on the direct result on the student body.

"We've got cars now that are battery powered. You can buy one, plug it up overnight and drive it 90 miles. I want to take that battery and go to a great research company in this country and say, 'Here's a battery that goes 90 miles. Make it go 400 miles and make it half the size and half the cost. How much money do you need?'" said Rogers, explaining that he doesn't believe the government is spending enough on research for renewable energy.



Josh Segall's congressional campaign is looking for energetic volunteers—a great opportunity if you are interested in politics and want to learn more about how campaigns are run.

Call 256-237-2372, or
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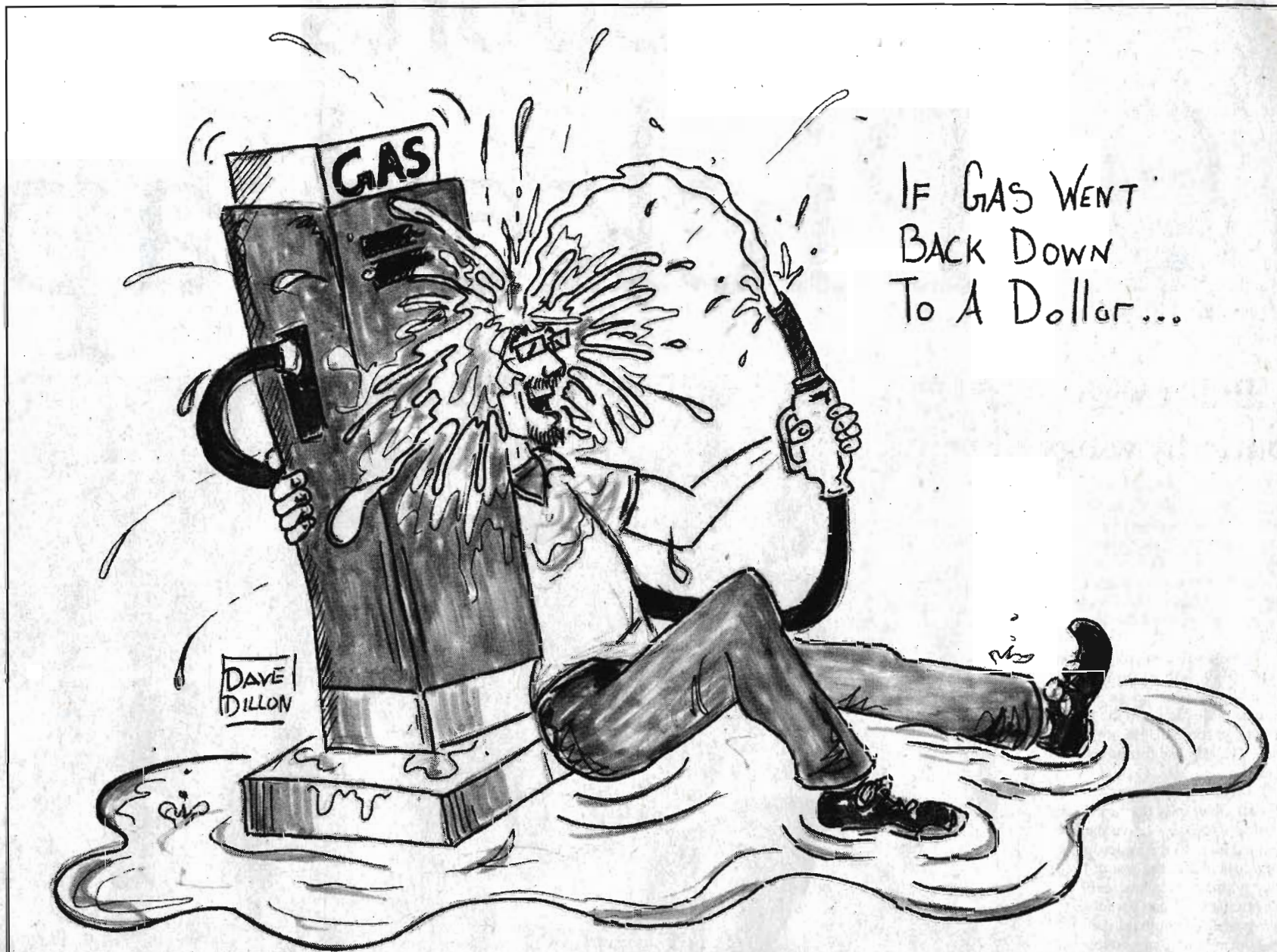
How many times have you wanted to strangle somebody? A bit abrasive, I know, but we all go through times in our lives where we have wanted to completely rid the world of someone's existence.

Do not dare claim that it has never happened to every single person on the planet. There have been several times in my life where I've wished that somebody didn't exist. It's not that you necessarily wish them any harm, but rather wish they simply didn't exist.

On a very general topic for instance, the world would be a much better place without Paris Hilton. That seems like such a "go-to" remark about her, but there are definitely points to support the theory. Why in the world is she famous? Why are all people that fall into her same category famous? And seriously, if I hear the word "Socialite" used one more time, I may go on a rampage.

Aside from the aforementioned tirade, there have been several instances when we realize that we wish that certain people would just disappear. Why should we have to deal with these people that, for some reason, decide to make our lives hell. We've all felt this anger and sometimes hate, but what do we do with it? Do we stoop to their level and buy into the game, or do we step back and be the bigger person? Who knows? It's all a judgment call.

Here is a great example. Everybody knows that I'm as far left without falling off when it comes to politics. Obviously, I'm voting for Obama. No big deal. If you don't like it, get over it. This is America. Anyway, I seriously heard somebody in my history class say that he's not voting for Obama because he thinks



Help raise breast cancer awareness

by M.J. Ortiz
Staff Writer

It's October, and it is time to start thinking hard and long about your Halloween costume. It is also time to start cracking your knuckles and worrying about surviving mid-terms.

Those are important things to do, but it is also time for all of us to put in our little grain of sand and help construct something bigger for humanity. That's right, this is a special month. It is Breast Cancer awareness month. It is a special time to remember those lost in the battle, the survivors and all others who share a special relationship through cancer, one way or another.

The awareness program started in October 1985 and took place during only one week as people realized of how critical it was to inform people about breast cancer. Now, the program has become the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization. They are the promoters of October as breast cancer awareness month, and they provide instruction to millions of people and raise money with other breast cancer institutions to support breast cancer research.

According to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization, breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the United States. After lung cancer, it is the second leading

Although breast cancer is more common in women, men can also develop the disease. According to the Susan G. Komen Organization, less than one of every 100 cases of breast cancer in the United States are diagnosed in male patients.

There are several types of breast cancer, and they are divided into two main categories. These are noninvasive cancers and invasive cancers. The main difference is that noninvasive cancers do not spread to other tissues. The disease has been found to have a strong relationship with female hormones such as estrogen and progesterone.

It is unknown what causes breast cancer or what cures it, yet there

People can help raise awareness in their workplace, in their community and in schools, etc. Here at JSU, many clubs, organizations and offices help raise awareness. Among some of them, Zeta Tau Alpha sorority collects pink yogurt lids, the Rugby team organizes fundraising games, offices over campus sell drinks and snacks, and the JSU bookstore has specialty products that support breast cancer awareness month.

If you want to help, there are many ways you can do it. Remember what Tolkien meant when he said that "Even the smallest thing can change the course of the future."

Go on, get yourself a nice and tasty yogurt from Yoplait and save

Everybody knows that I'm as far left without falling off when it comes to politics. Obviously, I'm voting for Obama. No big deal. If you don't like it, get over it. This is America. Anyway, I seriously heard somebody in my history class say that he's not voting for Obama because he thinks Obama is a terrorist.

I'll just let that soak in for a minute.

He said that he's not voting for Obama - because he thinks Obama is a terrorist. So, what was his reasoning for calling Obama a terrorist?

Get ready for this one, he looks at me with this "Uhh, Hello?!" look on his face and says, "Hello? O-Bama? O-SAMA?"

I couldn't believe the stupidity coming out of this oxygen thief's mouth.

Is this really happening? Are people in America so completely idiotic to think that Obama could be a terrorist? Oh, let's not forget that his middle name is Hussein. Oh lord, let's kill Obama now because it's possible that the super-human love-child of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden could be President of the United States of America.

Are you kidding me? Even right now as I'm typing this out, I'm seriously having a hard time comprehending such idiocy.

Let me point out something. If you are so moronic to suggest anything like what I just mentioned, you are a racist. You are racial profiling, and you are what's wrong with America.

You are an embarrassment to people like myself and many others around me that take pride in living in a place where everybody is meant to be equal. If you cannot see past something like the color of someone's skin or if you simply assume something about a person solely based on his or her name, I feel sorry for you.

There, I said it. If you are so unintelligent that you believe something like him being a terrorist - or anything along the same lines - seriously reconsider how you view yourself as a human. Then, think about what other people think of you. If you can't see past everybody's little differences like something so simple as their name, life is going to be very lonely.

We have to stop this kind of stupidity. In the big picture, no one is white, no one is black, and no one is any ethnicity. We are all humans - so start treating each other like it.

help construct something bigger for humanity. That's right, this is a special month. It is Breast Cancer awareness month. It is a special time to remember those lost in the battle, the survivors and all others who share a special relationship through cancer, one way or another.

This month, people whose lives have been touched by the disease directly or indirectly come together with friends and supporters in order to get closer to the day when a cure can be found.

with other breast cancer institutions to support breast cancer research.

According to the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month Organization, breast cancer is the most common form of the disease in women in the United States. After lung cancer, it is the second leading cause of death. The Organization accounts that about 178,480 women in the U.S. were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007 only, and even worse is the fact that about 40, 460 will die from the disease.

cancers. The main difference is that noninvasive cancers do not spread to other tissues. The disease has been found to have a strong relationship with female hormones such as estrogen and progesterone.

It is unknown what causes breast cancer or what cures it, yet there are some steps that can be taken in order to help prevent or to diminish the threat of developing the disease. These steps include healthy eating, regular exercising and reducing the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

cancer awareness month.

If you want to help, there are many ways you can do it. Remember what Tolkien meant when he said that "Even the smallest thing can change the course of the future."

Go on, get yourself a nice and tasty yogurt from Yoplait and save the lid for the ZTA ladies, go to a Rugby game, go to Bibb Graves and buy a coca cola from the telephone center to support Relay for Life. Do something; one cent can go a long way

JSU HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES

Thursday, October 16

- Homecoming Queen Elections
TMB Auditorium 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- J-Day
TMB Lawn 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Queen Announcements/ Banner
Judging/ Pep Rally
Paul Snow Stadium - 8 p.m.

Friday, October 17

- National Panhellenic Sponsored Step
Show
Leone Cole Auditorium - 7 p.m.



FAMILY DAY - HOMECOMING DAY!

Saturday, October 18

- Alumni House Open
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

- President's Brunch
10 - 11:30 a.m.

- Departmental Open Houses
11 a.m. - noon

- Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
TMB - 11:45 a.m.

- Homecoming Parade along Pelham
Road - 1 p.m.

- RV/Tailgating Area with Food and
Entertainment
For Family Day and Homecoming
Activities - 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

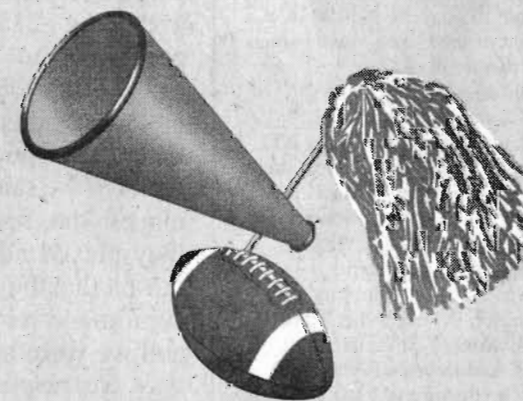
- Homecoming Game
Jacksonville State vs. Murray State
Paul Snow Stadium - 4 p.m.

- Football Game Halftime Festivities
Alumni of Year Awards and
Homecoming Queen and Court,
Performance by Southerners and
Alumni



Full Performance by the Southerners
and the Marching Ballerinas
Included in PRE-GAME Festivities

- Football Game Postgame Festivities





Jered Staubs

chantysports@gmail.com

Bullet with butterfly wings

One of the numerous benefits of having my heart trampled on recently is that things like Texas 45, Oklahoma 35 don't really matter so much. The old me definitely whines about dozens of things from that game. The new me only wants to whine about two:

1. I would like to congratulate Oklahoma's defense for making Ryan Reynolds look like the most irreplaceable player in the history of college football. He got hurt, and OU's defense turned into UTEP.

2. I really hate 11 a.m. kickoffs. Not only do they — for whatever reason — give the decided edge to the underdog, but a loss makes the rest of the day miserable. Any level of anticipation I had for Okie St./Mizzou (Though unlikely, it's conceivable that two teams from the state of Oklahoma will play in BCS games and neither one will be OU. That takes mind-boggling to a whole new level.) and LSU/Florida (at least I got that one right) vanished instantly.

By the way, I appreciate the e-mails informing me that Oklahoma lost. Don't get me wrong, I'd have sent myself a smartass e-mail too.

I have people ask me often if I want Alabama to fail. The answer is an emphatic no. I still think Georgia, Florida and even LSU are better, and I think that will manifest itself over the next couple months. But any sports media in this state, even one as localized as this, will receive more attention if Alabama is relevant.

I understand why Alabama fans — both those in my life and those who read this column — think I am anti-Alabama. Saturday night someone told me he was glad OU lost because Alabama would be number one this week. I laughed in his face because that was obviously never

Sports Picked apart



Ryan Perrilloux is swarmed by a host of Eastern Kentucky defenders. The junior quarterback was under pressure throughout the Gamecocks' 38-35 loss to the Colonels, throwing a career-high five interceptions. Photo courtesy of George Terrizzi / EKV Photographer

Interceptions doom

Looking at the

relevant. I understand why Alabama fans — both those in my life and those who read this column — think I am anti-Alabama. Saturday night someone told me he was glad OU lost because Alabama would be number one this week. I laughed in his face because that was obviously never going to be the case.

But Auburn's an easy target (I think it's safe to say that Tony Franklin wasn't the problem) and I just like to play devil's advocate when no one else will.

But trust me on this, Alabama fans. Cherish this time. The road back from irrelevance is ten times more enjoyable than the years after. Take it from an Oklahoma fan who is going to be miserable after an 11-1 or 10-2 season. (Editor's note: This was written before it became apparent that OU will still likely play in national title game if it wins out.)

Also, it will be more fun when Tennessee and Auburn aren't terrible. I know this seems difficult to believe, but it will. I can't really explain it, but if Alabama beats Tennessee, your feeling will be relief when it should be exhilaration. If they don't, well, you'll feel like I do. I almost wrote a column about something this week. But it probably would have sucked. This might too, it seems more disjointed than normal.

I'm wrong pretty often, as anyone who has ever read this column or spent considerable time with me can attest. But I've never been more wrong than in my assessment of Matt Ryan as an NFL quarterback.

I did tell anyone who would listen that the Giants were about to go on a bad spell and that talk of them being the best team in the NFL would soon be quashed. I wasn't expecting them to get blown out by a mediocre Browns team - I did say I thought there was a good chance Cleveland would win - but I think that will turn out to be more indicative of the rest of the Giants' season than most people think.

You want to know why cable companies don't pay exorbitant amounts to show NFL Network? Whoever controls their programming is a moron.

9:30 to 10:30 on a Monday night? Why not show "The History of the Cleveland Browns" ... surely Browns' fans will watch that over the 3rd and 4th quarters of a live Browns game. And nobody is watching that who doesn't like the Browns.

Speaking of horrible ratings, I can't imagine FOX is too pumped about a possible Phillies/Rays World Series. Two football markets, no recent history, hardly any recognizable stars, and not too many people jumping on either team's bandwagon (Which surprises me in Tampa's case.

See "Staub's," page 5

Ryan Perrilloux is swarmed by a host of Eastern Kentucky defenders. The junior quarterback was under pressure throughout the Gamecocks' 38-35 loss to the Colonels, throwing a career-high five interceptions. Photo courtesy of George Terrizzi / ECU Photographer

Interceptions doom JSU in surprising loss

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

"We'll lose to anybody in the country if we have four turnovers, not just Georgia Tech."

Ryan Perrilloux said that after JSU's season-opening defeat in Atlanta. Turns out he was right.

Perrilloux threw five interceptions as #18 JSU (4-2, 2-1 OVC) suffered its first conference loss of the year at Eastern Kentucky.

The junior quarterback did throw for 304 yards and rallied the team from a 17-point deficit to a point where the Gamecocks had the ball with a chance to take the lead, but ECU's defense came away with yet another big play.

Trailing by only three, JSU moved the ball to the edge of field goal range at the ECU 33. But Jordan Dalrymple came up with the Colonels' fifth interception, and ECU was able to run out the final two minutes.

The other story of the game was ECU's rush defense, which manhandled JSU. The Gamecocks came into the game averaging 212 rushing yards per game, but were held to 80 against the Colonels.

"A lot of credit needs to go to Eastern Kentucky," JSU coach Jack Crowe said. "I thought they played the best football game they played all year against us. I think that they made the line of scrimmage very physical for us, and we were inconsistent in the way we responded to the way they came after us.

One of the big turning points came as ECU stuffed Calvin Middleton and Alphonso Freeney on third-and-1 and fourth-and-1 from the Colonels' 40. ECU took advantage of the field position to take its first

lead of the game at 14-7.

JSU's T.J. Heath intercepted 2007 OVC Player of the Year Allan Holland and returned the ball deep into Colonel territory. When Calvin Middleton scored from a yard out, the situation seemed under control for JSU. The game was tied at 14 midway through the second quarter, and the underdog Colonels could be losing confidence.

Instead, JSU's next four drives ended the exact same way, with an ECU player celebrating an interception. ECU capitalized and built a 31-14 lead. Included in that sequence was a demoralizing play at the end of the first half.

Trailing by seven shortly before the half, it appeared as if JSU was going to have a field goal attempt right before the half. But ECU's Taylor Long picked off Perrilloux at his own 24 and ran 47 yards downfield before stepping out of bounds with a second left in the half.

Taylor Long's 46-yard field goal only counted for three points, but it must have felt like a punch right to the gut of the entire Gamecock team.

After another interception and ECU touchdown, JSU began its rally, as the Gamecocks virtually ignored the running game in favor of letting Perrilloux make plays with his arm and legs.

He was able to bring the Gamecocks to the brink, but eventually the deficit proved to be too much to overcome.

The loss means that Eastern Kentucky (4-3, 3-1 OVC), not JSU, is in control of its own destiny in the OVC. Despite being less than impressive in several games this season and despite the hype surrounding JSU, ECU has put itself in position to defend its league championship.

Looking at the bigger picture

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

It's easy to write off JSU and Ryan Perrilloux after his five interception performance in a loss at Eastern Kentucky.

He made some bad throws, and he freely admits that. But there is plenty of reason to consider that loss the exception and not the rule.

Perrilloux had only thrown five interceptions on the year before Saturday. In the game, he became JSU's first quarterback to throw for over 300 yards this millennium.

More importantly, he was forced to do it all himself. Last week, we used the headline "It's on you, Lou" in reference to how heavily he would be relied on against ECU.

If anything, Perrilloux was forced to do even more than we imagined. Of 74 plays JSU ran on offense, 56 saw Perrilloux either throw a pass or run the ball.

With starting running back Daniel Jackson limited by injury and JSU's other premier back Tremayne Coger out for the game, it wasn't shocking that the Gamecocks struggled to run the football against a pretty solid defense. But the rushing numbers JSU put up were abysmal.

Perrilloux was the leading rusher, with 39 yards on 15 carries. That's an average of 2.6 yards, which isn't horrible since two sacks figured into those numbers.

The problem is that 2.6 yards per rush was the second highest average of JSU's five ball carriers.

The rest of the team carried the ball 18 times for 41 yards, which is under 2.3 yards per attempt. With those numbers, it's not hard to see why JSU largely abandoned the traditional running game in favor of letting Perrilloux take complete control.

We hear head coaches and

defensive coordinators say it every single week. When a defense can make an offense one dimensional, it makes it much easier. Ten yard gains become seven yard gains, incompletions become interceptions, and so forth.

Perhaps Perrilloux needs to make better decisions and better throws. But if JSU continues to struggle to run the football, he will continue to be forced to take the entire offense on his shoulders.

Does he have the talent to lead JSU to wins without a strong running game? Yes. He went for 304 passing and 39 rushing, and JSU scored 35 points.

But playing that way means forcing throws into tight areas, and every once in a while that leads to trouble. Saturday it led to trouble a lot, so it's easy to see why Jack Crowe wants to work on establishing a running game.

There is good news. Jackson has had a very strong season other than Saturday, and once he gets back to full speed, he will take some pressure off Perrilloux. Getting Coger back eventually will be a key as well.

And a lot of people believe that every quarterback needs a go-to receiver, someone he can trust in crucial situations. Maurice Dupree took a large step in that direction this week, as he accounted for over half of JSU's receiving yards. His 161 yards was the first time a Gamecock put up over 150 since 2004.

And despite the loss, it only takes one more ECU loss for JSU to regain control of its own destiny in the conference. Plus, with the OVC being a two-bid league in recent years, if the Gamecocks win out, they will likely grab an at-large playoff spot.

The loss is bad and there are chinks in JSU's armor, but it's hardly the end of the world for JSU fans.

Volleyball continues downward spiral

Gamecocks swept by UT-Martin and Murray

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State volleyball team continued its freefall towards the bottom of the Ohio Valley Conference standings after two heartbreaking losses over the weekend.

The Gamecocks (6-14, 2-7 OVC) were swept by both Tennessee-Martin and Murray State, plunging JSU into ninth place in the conference.

The Gamecocks were in a position to win every game of every match over the weekend but couldn't come up with big plays when they were needed.

"It's tough," JSU coach Rick Nold said. "We just didn't make the plays. We gave them way too many points with a lot of errors. You aren't going to beat a good team that way. That, to me, is the difference."

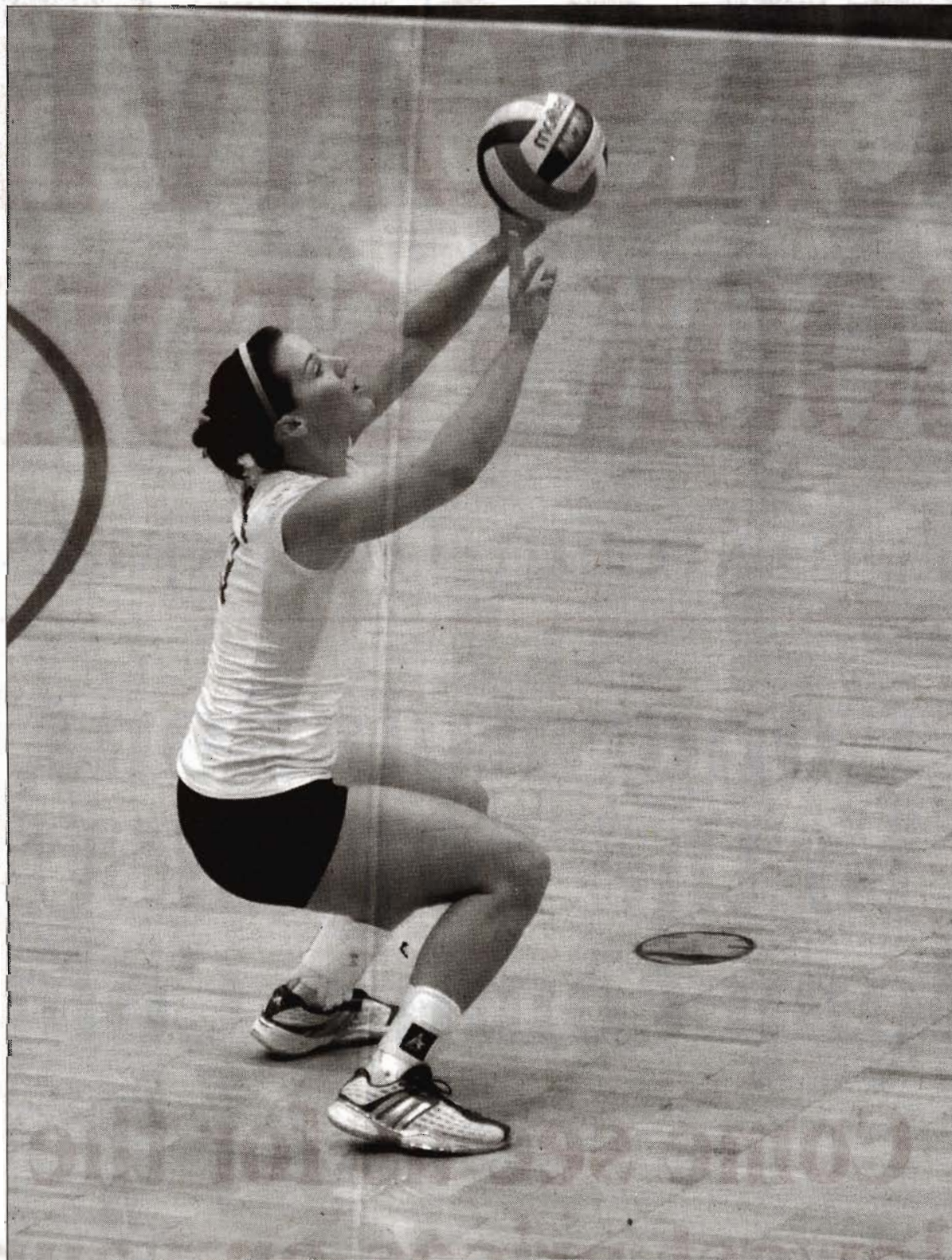
Errors were a key factor in both of the JSU's losses, as the Gamecocks combined for 46 attack errors to go along with 24 service errors over the two-match stretch.

"Both matches were the exact same thing," Nold said. "We probably gave up an average of 10 more points a game on errors alone. When you look at a 25-point game, that's giving them most of their points. There were some things that we did pretty decent offensively, but it's just a matter of not giving away that many easy points."

JSU has now reached the halfway point in its conference schedule, having dropped seven of its last eight contests. With just nine matches left to play, the Gamecocks must find a way to turn things around in order to make the six-team conference tournament.

"We have to play with confidence," Nold said. "Right now, we are almost playing not to lose."

"Sometimes, you get in one of those ruts, and that can be tough to get out of. That is kind of where we are right now. It's a mentality change that we need to work at as much as anything."



Junior outside hitter Brittney Whitten comes up with a dig in a loss to UT-Martin Friday night. Whitten has been JSU's most consistent player throughout the year and is featured in *Sports Illustrated's* Faces in the Crowd section this week Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Whitten more than just a face in the crowd

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Brittney Whitten has been nothing short of outstanding during her junior campaign at Jacksonville State University.

The junior from Boonville, Ind., currently leads the Ohio Valley Conference in kills (272), kills per game (3.73) and ranks seventh in digs per game (4.00).

Her efforts have not been unrewarded. Earlier this season, Whitten became the second player in conference history to earn both Offensive and Defensive Player of the Week honors at the same time. During that seven-day period, Whitten set career highs with 28 digs and 24 kills, averaging an OVC-best 4.6 kills per game to go along with 5.44 digs per game.

"She is the most experienced player that we have by far," JSU coach Rick Nold said. "We rely a lot on her because with the position she plays, we have her touching the ball almost every play. It's something that puts a lot of pressure on her, and I think she has improved throughout the year."

Whitten's latest honor has her gracing the pages of *Sports Illustrated* in the Faces in the Crowd section of the magazine. But according to Nold, Whitten isn't about individual accolades. In fact, she always puts her squad first and foremost.

"Hopefully, she (Whitten) can have some weeks like she did before, but we need to have everyone together," Nold said. "She would be the first to tell you that she would give up every one of those little stories or honors to have everyone on the same page and playing at that level."

"Obviously, she has meant a lot to us. I'm not sure where we would be without some of the things she has done."

Softball completes fall schedule undefeated | *Coming home to rebound*

cuts, and that can be tough to get out of. That is kind of where we are right now. It's a mentality change that we need to work at as much as anything."

Junior outside hitter Brittney Whitten comes up with a dig in a loss to UT-Martin Friday night. Whitten has been JSU's most consistent player throughout the year and is featured in Sports Illustrated's Faces in the Crowd section this week Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

at that level. "Obviously, she has meant a lot to us. I'm not sure where we would be without some of the things she has done."

Softball completes fall schedule undefeated

From Staff Reports

The Jacksonville State softball team wrapped up its 2008 Fall season last week, capping a session that head coach Jana McGinnis thought gave her team a lot of optimism heading into the 2009 slate.

The Gamecocks are coming off of the most storied season in school history in 2008, one that saw them post a 40-16 record, win the Ohio Valley Conference's regular season and tournament titles and advance to the championship game of the NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional, where they fell to No. 3 Alabama on national television.

"In the fall, our main focus is to take a look at our newcomers and evaluate them and how they're going to add to our team," McGinnis, who is entering her 16th season as the Gamecocks' head coach, said. "Secondly, we want to develop chemistry among our team and, lastly, we look to see what areas we need to improve on in order to reach our goals in the spring."

The Gamecocks posted an 8-0 record in fall play, thanks to sweeps in two tournaments and a doubleheader sweep of Georgia Tech in Atlanta. Jax State handed the Yellow Jackets of the Atlantic Coast Conference a 4-2 defeat and then a 15-1 loss on Sunday, after going unbeaten in the Tera Ross Memorial Tournament in Oxford, Ala., and a tourney at Shorter College in Rome, Ga.

"We had many highlights

this fall," the 2008 OVC Coach of the Year added. "But obviously, we saw some things we need to work on as a whole to be more successful than we were last year. One of the biggest positives is that we seem to have more depth on our pitching staff."

That staff features three players that have earned All-OVC honors in their careers. Sophomore Ashley Eliasson was the league's Freshman of the Year and a First Team All-OVC performer in 2008, while senior Melissa Dowling was a second-team selection last year. Also highlighting the staff is senior Karla Pittman, who sat out last season

with a knee injury after claiming First Team All-OVC accolades in 2007, but is back to give the Gamecocks what could be one of the most formidable rotations in the country.

"I am very proud of Karla," McGinnis added.

"She went home over the summer and worked extremely hard, and she came back in better shape than I've ever seen her. I also think she's more mature mentally. She's not exactly where she wants to be, but she's well on her way."

On top of Pittman, an All-OVC honoree from two years ago, the Gamecocks return 13

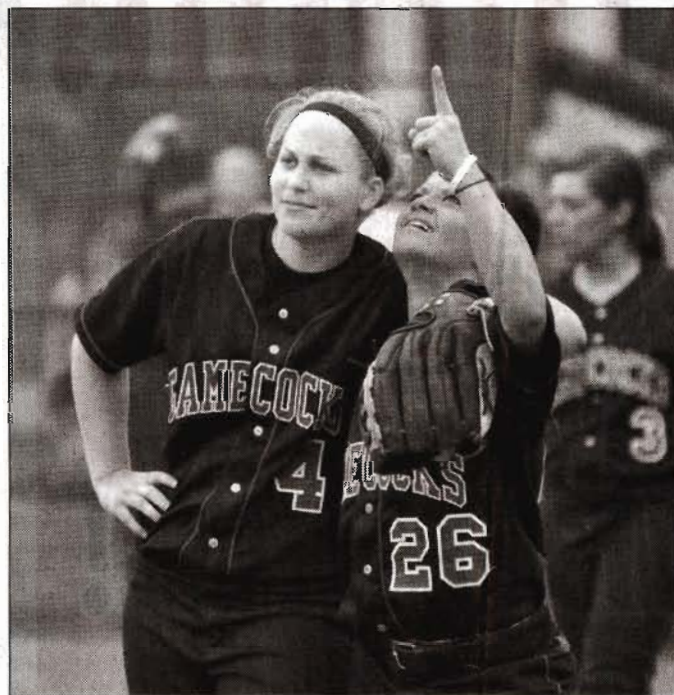
players from the 2008 roster, including seven players that earned some sort of All-OVC honor last spring. Among that list is senior catcher Allie Barker, a first-team selection in 2008 and someone that the JSU staff is looking to for leadership in the upcoming season.

"Coming off of a championship season, in the next season you depend greatly on the veterans that helped you win that championship," McGinnis said. "I can see Allie's leadership. A lot of times, eyes are on her to see how she is going to react. We always tell our girls that you want your senior year to be your best year, and we are looking for Allie to do a lot for us this season, both on and off the field."

The largest void left on the team is the one left by left fielder Rachel Fleming, who hit leadoff and was one of the Gamecocks' First Team All-OVC players. In her spot will be Hillary Downs, who transferred to JSU from Central Alabama Community College.

"Hillary will replace Rachel Fleming in left field for us," McGinnis added. "She needs to improve on her power and consistency, but defensively, she is already a great player with a great arm."

The Gamecocks will open their 2009 season on Feb. 6, when they travel to Mobile, Ala., to compete in the South Alabama Jaguar Invitational.



Allie Barker (left) and Karla Pittman will be keys to success in 2009. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Coming home to rebound

By Edisha Brown Staff Sports Writer

After a disappointing 38-35 loss at Eastern Kentucky, Jacksonville State looks to refocus and make use of a Homecoming crowd.

The Gamecocks will look to continue to take advantage of their home field of Paul Snow Stadium, where they are 2-0.

His first year starting for only eight games, Ryan Perrilloux made some hasty decisions under pressure against Eastern Kentucky. He steps up, admits them and says he will move forward and learn from them.

"I probably forced a couple of things; I wasn't being patient and it came back to bite me," he said. "I got to put that game behind me and this team got to put that game behind us. We just have to move forward and know that we can't lose no more."

Despite the poor performance last week, Perrilloux feels "no pressure" this week.

"It's an opportunity to win the ball game. We're going into the game trying to be mentally ready and prepared. I think we should come out on top," he said.

"How Perrilloux comes back from what was a very disappointing game is something that's going to be interesting to watch," Crowe said, "along with how they handle Dupree."

Senior Maurice Dupree was the primary receiver at JSU when Perrilloux arrived, and the two have developed a chemistry. Perrilloux said this chemistry developed over summer practice and made an interesting observation about Dupree's abilities.

"I just compared him to the receivers at LSU with the speed, the hands and the quickness. Dupree has that killer instinct as a competitor; he's a good player," Perrilloux said.

Dupree had a big game against Murray last year, including an 89-yard return, and he is in good position to get that same spotlight for Homecoming. The senior made his mark this year in a home game against Southeast Missouri State with a touchdown catch and another kickoff returned for touchdown.

Dupree followed that with perhaps his best performance as a Gamecock receiver, as he had 161 yards on seven receptions and a touchdown in the loss to ECU.

Both offenses feature strong passing games. The offenses possess similar strengths, with major wide receivers and statistically the best two quarterbacks in the league with go-to-guys and major big numbers behind them on both sides.

"The challenge is probably to whichever defense can control the other team's offense," Crowe said. "We're looking forward to the challenge and hope the Homecoming environment is as it always has been in preparation for the game."

Despite losing to ECU, the Gamecocks remained ranked at #23 in the FCS polls. Saturday's kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Paul Snow Stadium.

Staub's: Random thoughts while wondering why we need a moat on the square

I've only seen two people wearing Rays hats this year — JSU baseball player Matt McLaughlin and some guy in the crowd at Piedmont).

I would like to thank all the MLB baseball players who have decided to show their support for both Tottenham Hotspur and myself by growing beards.

My hot friend Amanda is upset that I don't find her friend, who is a model, attractive. The thing is, Amanda has a kid

and she's still hotter than the model. Several of Amanda's other friends are hotter than this model. Whatever.

Another Amanda I know (who is neither hot nor my friend) claims she got her driver's license in Texas even though she's never lived there. I was a wee bit inebriated when I heard this statement, so I didn't think to question her.

I love these guys who are defined as so clutch because

they had one great playoff series or year. David Ortiz has mediocre career numbers in the playoffs and everyone just assumes (because it's repeated so bleeping often) that he is the best clutch hitter in baseball.

On the other hand, we're seeing Jason Bay prove himself on the biggest stage. It's my theory that Canadians are habitually underappreciated because Americans refuse to believe in them. We're seeing

it with Bay, and we've seen it with Canadian comedians and musicians for years.

Rush is arguably the best trio of all time (right there with Nirvana and the Police), the two most beautiful voices in the world — Margo Timmins of the Cowboy Junkies and Sarah MacLachlan (along with my mom's favorite, Celine Dion) — are Canadian, and The Tragically Hip have the best name and one of the best unknown anthologies

in music history.

I am so tired of hearing about the economy.

My dad has lost over \$70,000 in recent weeks in the stock market and he is thinking of buying more stock because "now is the time to buy." Which is fine, except that this is the same man who finds it disconcerting that I have enjoyed gambling on sports and poker since high school.

Not having an alma mater

that is currently in operation is a weird sensation. As a graduate of Gadsden High, it's hard to care too much about Gadsden City High School.

My pseudo-alma mater had an incredible loss this week, as Joe Billingsley worked his magic again, allowing 42 points to Pell City despite having the most defensive talent in the state. Can you tell I'm bitter that this guy destroyed GHS's football team my senior year?

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