

From left: Keyonna McCray, Quentin Mayo and Shevon Young greet students at the Health Fair.
Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Healthy Students

Students line up for free testing, screenings

By Jalon Turner
Senior Writer

Jacksonville State University hosted its yearly Health Fair on Tuesday, September 16 on the third floor of the Theron Montgomery Building.

The fair had 25 booths filled with information covering issues from prostate cancer to domestic violence.

This year the health service center from Hobson City, located in Oxford, AL., had a booth set up to get information out about HIV/AIDS.

Anna Hale, an employee of the health service center said, "We are here to inform people about HIV/AIDS, what it is and what it is not. We want to make sure people aren't buying into the myths that are out there."

The HSC gave free HIV tests. Students who did not get a chance to get a test done, the HSC offers free testing Monday through Friday at their clinic in Oxford.

"You can come and walk in and get free condoms and lubricants," Hale said. "You can get tested for free, we use a cotton swab test and it usually takes twenty minutes to get back your results."

According to YouthAids.com, in the United States at least 40,000 people are infected each year.

African-Americans account for 48% of the new HIV infections. Aids is the leading cause of death for African-American women ages 25-34.

At least half of all new infections are among people under the age of 25.

Matt Shultz of Abbot Laboratories was at the fair to inform young men that they need to be prepared to get a prostate screening done when they get older.

"Prostate cancer is a disease that affects mostly older men," Shultz said. "Prostate cancer is the most deadly cancer in the male

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Alabama AG receives gas price complaints

By BOB JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) — The Alabama Attorney General's Office has received more than 2,000 complaints since Friday concerning rising gasoline prices.

Chief of staff Chris Bence said the office's consumer affairs line received the calls from people who believe stations have unfairly raised the price. The prices started going up as much as 30 to 40 cents a gallon Friday at some stations as Hurricane Ike approached the petroleum rich Texas coast.

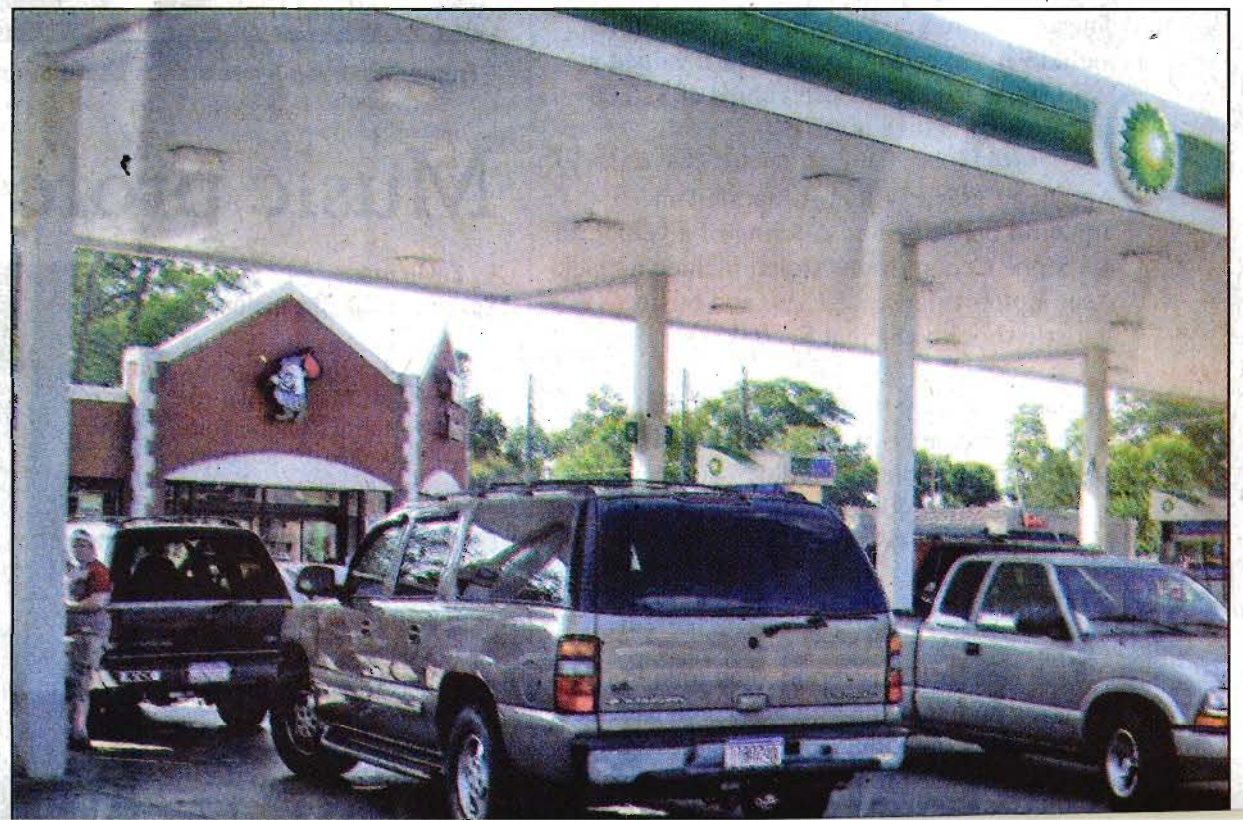
Gov. Bob Riley issued a state of emergency Friday evening, triggering a state law that prohibits businesses from raising prices more than 25 percent when an

in some cases demand action from government officials.

Gassing up at a Raceway station in Pelham Monday, Josh Edgerton said state officials should quit talking about enforcing Alabama's price-gouging law and start prosecuting station owners who jacked up prices before Ike even hit.

"It's just wrong. They're going up on the price of gas that was already in the ground before that hurricane ever happened," said Edgerton, who paid \$4.16 a gallon for regular unleaded. "Either prosecute them or make them pay us back."

Many gas stations in suburban Birmingham were out of gas completely on Monday or were selling only premium after lower-priced grades ran out during the buying panic on Friday



prices started going up as much as 30 to 40 cents a gallon Friday at some stations as Hurricane Ike approached the petroleum rich Texas coast.

Gov. Bob Riley issued a state of emergency Friday evening, triggering a state law that prohibits businesses from raising prices more than 25 percent when an emergency has been declared.

By Monday, gasoline was more than \$4 a gallon at some stations across the state, causing consumers to grumble and

a gallon for regular unleaded. "Either prosecute them or make them pay us back."

Many gas stations in suburban Birmingham were out of gas completely on Monday or were selling only premium after lower-priced grades ran out during the buying panic on Friday.

Attorney General Troy King said the calls were coming from all over the state

See "Gas," page 3



Cars line up at the Grub Mart last Friday as people rushed to fill their tanks. Many gas stations in Jacksonville reported running out of lower grade gas by midday. Photo by Katie Trammell / The Chanticleer



From left West Patton, Kayla Brannon and Adam Fulmer look through posters Tuesday at the Student Government Association's poster sale. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Profiting from poster sale

Part of proceeds to benefit Student Government

By Allison Smith
Staff Writer

Many Jacksonville State University students casually noticed Frank Sinatra, Albert Einstein, Will Ferrell, Marilyn Monroe, Senator Barack Obama, The Doors and other famous names at the Theron Montgomery Building earlier this week.

The school poster sale, held September 15 and 16, brought images of these and other popular icons to the university.

Many students were flowing around the poster-covered tables set up near the front entrance of the TMB on Monday and Tuesday

Students had access to posters that displayed political

icons, beautiful and breathtaking scenic photos, celebrities, some of the world's most treasured paintings, famous musicians from both the past and present and of course, everyone's favorite movies.

Along with the posters, a variety of other decorative items could also be found. An attentive staff worked with customers to ensure that everyone had an excellent experience.

Jacolby Parks, vice president of student activities, said that 10 percent of the earnings from the poster sale went to the Student Government Association. Over 500 posters were supplied by the popular poster company, Beyond the Wall.

The poster sale has in the

past been held at the quad, but the TMB proved to be an adequate alternative. It is of course a convenient and popular location for many students, and this contributed to the constant crowd of customers.

Good prices and special sales agreed with many financial expectations, and this in turn encouraged many students to purchase several posters.

While financially benefiting the SGA, the poster sale also proved to be a very exciting and attractive event for many of the students at JSU, these two strong attributes came together to form a winning combination.

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AIDS in the 21st Century

Aurelia Gooden discusses attitudes toward HIV/Aids from a generation in its shadow.

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McCain/Meehan '08

Letter writer James Simpson proposes a new running mate for John McCain.

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Still Chasing A Ring

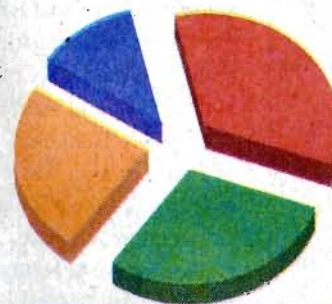
Daniel Jackson has one last shot at a championship in 2008.

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QUESTION of the WEEK

Did you receive your refund check without any problems?

- Yes, Everything was fine 32%
- No, It was/is late 30%
- No, I had problems 11%
- I don't get a refund 27%



Next week's question:
Should libraries censor books?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

The Jacksonville State University Small Business Development Center, the SBA, and the Gadsden Area Chamber of Commerce will offer one-on-one counseling for prospective and existing small business owners at no charge on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber office. It is necessary that you make an appointment. For more information, or your appointment, please call 543-3472

Campus Crime

September 11

- Candace Sheree Ellis was arrested for a minor in possession of alcohol.
- Katlin Nicole Higgins was arrested for a minor in possession of alcohol.

September 12

- Logan Pitstick reported a theft of property at Theron Montgomery Building. Items stolen include an American Express card valued at \$243.00, a driving license valued at \$25.00 and a wallet valued at \$20.00.
- Aundrea Lafaye Williams reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at the Stone Center. Items stolen include a black Acer laptop valued at \$1,200 and business statistics book valued at \$250.00.
- Kayla Ann Finley reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at Bibb Graves. Items stolen include 25 compact disks valued at \$400.00, a jump drive valued at \$25.00 and \$5.00 in change.

September 15

- Dinesh Kumar Lama reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at McGee Hall. Items stolen include a human geography book valued at \$113.00, an anthropology book valued at \$90.00 and a chemistry book

Picture of the week



Trumpeter Bryan Ayres stands guard during the 9/11 memorial last thursday. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Music professor gives voice recital

By Kevin Brant
Special to The Chanticleer

Approximately 100 people gathered at Mason Hall on Tuesday, for a faculty voice recital presented by Associate Professor and mezzo-soprano, Dr. Patricia Corbin who was accompanied on the piano by Dr. Gail Steward.

The program contained art songs, arias and spirituals written by American and European composers from the Baroque period through the 20th century.

Guest violinist Romona Merritt joined Corbin in performing two songs by Johannes



dents and I have great respect for her," Wright said. "I am here tonight to show my support for her."

Songs performed at the recital included "Nel Profondo Cieco" from "Orlando Furioso" by Antonio Vivaldi, "Notre Amour" by Gabriel Faure; and "Calvary" by Betty Jackson King.

The songs that were sung in Latin included the English translation inside the program. There was also a little bit of history about the songs included in the program.

After most of the songs, the crowd responded with cheers and applause.

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September 15

- Dinesh Kumar Lama reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle at McGee Hall. Items stolen include a human geography book valued at \$113.00, an anthropology book valued at \$90.00 and a chemistry book valued at \$115.00.

What's Happening

Saturday, September 20

- JSU Football, Chattanooga, TN
6:00 p.m.
- JSU Cross Country, Tuscaloosa, AL
9:00 a.m.

Monday, September 22

- SGA Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium
6:00-7:00 p.m.
- Freshmen Forum Meeting, TMB Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 23

- SAC Meeting, TMB Auditorium
6:00 p.m.
- Homecoming Pageant Practice, Leone Cole Auditorium
7:00 p.m.
- Career Planning & You, TMB Room 303
3:00-4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24

- SGA/ISO Latin Dance Party, Alumni House
8:00 p.m.
- Busted!, Leone Cole Auditorium
7:00-8:00 p.m.

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Dr. Patricia Corbin who was accompanied on the piano by Dr. Gail Steward.

The program contained art songs, arias and spirituals written by American and European composers from the Baroque period through the 20th century.

Guest violinist Romona Merritt joined Corbin in performing two songs by Johannes Brahms.

Merritt is a member of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the viola instructor at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Corbin teaches at Jacksonville State University and is also the director of choral activities. Corbin is also one of the three voice faculty members at JSU.

Samyya Robinson, a JSU student from Carrollton, GA., was in attendance showing her support for Corbin.

"It is an honor for me to be here tonight at the music department for this performance,"

Constitution Day Facts

Yesterday was Constitution Day at Jacksonville State University and the school celebrated with a gathering on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. Here are a few facts about the United States Constitution presented at the meeting.

- Written in 1787, the Constitution was signed on September 17. But it wasn't until 1788 that it was ratified by the necessary nine states.

- The U.S. Constitution was prepared in secret, behind locked doors that were guarded by sentries.

- Of the 55 delegates attending the Constitutional Convention, 39 signed and three delegates dissented. Two of America's "founding fathers" didn't sign the Constitution. Thomas Jefferson was representing his country in France and John Adams was doing the same thing in Great Britain.

- Of the written national constitutions, the U.S. Constitution is the oldest and shortest.

- At 81, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania was the oldest delegate at the Constitutional Convention and at 26, Jonathon Dayton of New Jersey was the youngest.



Dr. Corbin (right) and Dr. Steward pose after their performance. Photo by Mandy Pearson / *The Chanticleer*

Robinson said. "Dr. Corbin is a very talented musician."

Jason Wright, a graphic de-

sign major, had another reason for coming to the performance.

"I am one of Dr. Corbin's stu-

dent." "Calvary" by Betty Jackson King.

The songs that were sung in Latin included the English translation inside the program. There was also a little bit of history about the songs included in the program.

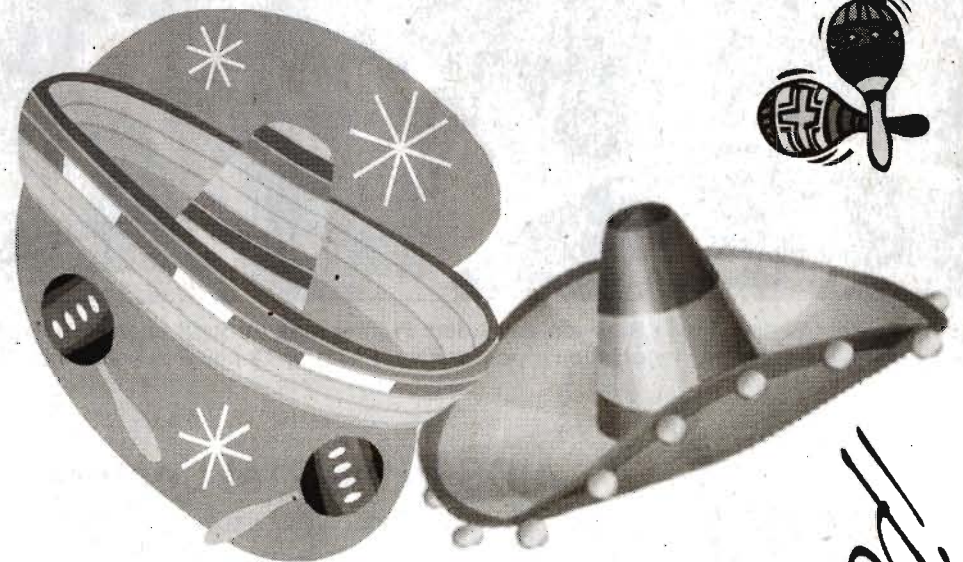
After most of the songs, the crowd responded with cheers and applause.

At the end of the performance, Corbin was given a standing ovation. "The performance was very good," Patrick Clines, a music major said. "The Italian piece was good and Dr. Corbin really presented herself well."

After the performance, people lined up to meet with Corbin to express their thanks and gratitude for a great performance.

"I feel relieved and I am glad my students saw me perform tonight," Corbin said. "I want to thank them for their support."

SGA and ISO Present: Latin Dance Party



September 24, 2008

8 PM-11 PM

@ Alumni House

Free Food!

Sponsored by the Student Government Association



Gas: "People are angry"

Continued from page 1

and not from just one area.

"People are frustrated, but also people are angry," King said Friday. "For people who live on a fixed income it's a desperate thing to watch as fuel costs spiral out of control."

King said some businesses could be charged if they do not have a reason to justify a sudden rise in the price for gas.

Bence said each complaint received on the attorney general's consumer hot line would be investigated. To report a complaint to the attorney general's office, call 1-800-392-5658.

He said the threat from Hurricane Ike, the fact that some refineries in Louisiana were shutdown by Hurricane Gustav and "panic buying" combined to cause the sudden rise in prices and the run on some gas stations.

"From a consumer point of view, it was almost the perfect storm," Bence said.

According to AAA, the aver-

age price for regular unleaded gasoline in Alabama was slightly above \$4 per gallon Monday morning.

The national average for regular is \$3.84 a gallon.

Mid-grade fuel was up 9 cents to \$4.21 in Alabama. The average price for premium is \$4.33 a gallon. That's about 10 cents higher from Sunday.

Diesel prices climbed a penny to \$4.18 a gallon.

Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson announced Friday evening that he would launch an investigation into the rising gas prices in his county on the Alabama Gulf coast.

Tyson said Monday his investigation is continuing that his investigators are looking into the price structure used by different stations.

Associated Press writer Jay Reeves in Birmingham contributed to this report.

Health: Report problems

Continued from page 1

gender, one out of every six men will get it in their lifetime. The problem right now is there is not enough men getting screened."

According to Schultz, there is no physical signs to tell if you need to get tested.

"If there are physical signs, you have let it go too long without being tested," Shultz said.

Men at the age of 50 should get screened if there has never been any family history of prostate cancer. But men with family history should get checked at the age of 45.

Getting screened means getting a digital exam, as well as a PSA exam, which is simply a blood test.

"This is the best way to catch it early, especially the PSA test, because they can check from year to year if there are any rise, and once you see your rise, that's where they can start to determine if you are at risk of

of nursing here at JSU was giving information on breast cancer.

"Women should give themselves a self exam about once a month," Tubbs said. "If a woman has family history of breast cancer she should get a mammogram by age 35. You should check with your GYN doctor about getting checked if you have no family history. The earlier the diagnosis the better, because of the treatment they have and the better chance of survival."

Tubbs explained that anybody can get breast cancer; you do not have to have a family history to be at risk.

Signs that you might be at risk for breast cancer include lumps in the breast, though there are diseases that can cause cysts in the breast, making the difference hard to tell. This is why a monthly self-check-up is important along with seeing your doctor each year.

"Any kind of change in your

JSU celebrates anniversary with book

By Adri Hayes
Staff Writer

With the coming of the 125th anniversary of Jacksonville State University, it is only fitting that a book should be created to commemorate that. The name of the book is "A Tradition of Excellence".

According to Kaci Ogle of Alumni Affairs, it is a pictorial of the university and includes current information, student life and sports. "[It] starts with the beginnings of the school when it was a state normal school in 1883," said Ogle.

The book contains biographical information, as well as the president's cost of

tuition when the school first started. According to the synopsis of the book from The Booksmith Group, the publisher, the book includes first-person quotes and firsthand memories from the establishment of the International House and the Chanticleer as well as interviews with current students, alumni, faculty and friends of JSU.

It also mentions people from the University's past such as Dr. Clarence William Dauge, Dr. Houston Cole and Annie Rowan Forney Dauge, who is known as the "Mother of JSU."

The book also shows the many changes JSU went through as the years progress plus

the beginnings of the Gamecock Battalion, the Gamecock club and Hard Corps, as well as memories of national sports championships and athletic trailblazers." "It is a great document about JSU," said Ogle. "It shows where we came from and where we are going."

The book is bound in black leather with the title "A Tradition of Excellence: Jacksonville State University" in gold lettering across the front, complete with a picture of Bibb Graves Hall at dusk.

To find more information on this book go to www.jsu.edu/alumni or look under Newswire on the JSU homepage.

Ike leaves Midwest in the dark after rain, winds

By KANTELE FRANKO
Associated Press Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Facing a third straight day without power, residents across the Midwest snapped up batteries, generators and coolers as they waited for crews to restore electricity knocked out by the remnants of Hurricane Ike.

In other parts of the Midwest, residents warily eyed rising rivers while other waterlogged communities began cleaning up the wet, stinky mess left behind by floodwaters. Flood warnings remained in effect Wednesday across the region.

As much as 10 inches of rain fell in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri after Ike hit Texas over the weekend. Hurricane-force wind blew in Ohio and Kentucky and a tornado in Arkansas damaged several buildings.

About 1.3 million homes and businesses in Ohio alone remained without electricity Tuesday, and long lines at supermarkets, hardware stores and gas stations were common.

Home Depot stores were short on generators, tarps, gas cans and other emergency supplies because some stock had been sent south to help with hurricane relief in Texas and Louisiana, said Jen King, a spokeswoman for Home Depot Inc.

"I'm pretty well getting empty," said Fred Beckert, who owns Beckert Chain Saw Sup-

ply and generators. He was expecting more shipments later in the week but said the generators coming in already had buyers.

Elsewhere, truckloads of batteries, ice and coolers were selling as soon as they hit the shelves. Grocers and residents alike tried to preserve perishable food.

Lines of people waited for bagged ice at a big's supermarket in Mason, Ohio, and Cincinnati-based Home City Ice Co. was operating 24 hours a day to help meet the heavy demand.

"We've brought in about 160 semi loads of ice from our facilities in neighboring states, and even our managers and computer and accounting people have been bagging and delivering ice," said Jay Stautberg, Home City Ice's chief financial officer.

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland toured wind-damaged sections of Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus on Tuesday, a day after declaring a state of emergency.

The governors of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania have also declared states of emergency. The storms brought Ike's death toll to at least 49 in 11 states from the Gulf Coast to the upper Ohio Valley, with new reports continuing to surface.

A 20-month-old boy apparently drowned in a stormwater-filled ditch near Auburn, Mich., about 100 miles north of Detroit. Firefighters tried to resuscitate

crews in northern Indiana working for a third straight day to pump water from swamped lanes of interstates 80/94 and 65.

Other parts of the state were dealing with power outages caused by Ike's high winds. As of Tuesday, more than 100,000 Indiana homes and businesses remained without power, but phone service had been restored.

In Ohio, the state's utilities said they were trying to restore power in the shortest amount of time by prioritizing repairs for circuits that serve the largest numbers of people.

"It's just a matter of which way the wires go and how they were laid out," said Chris Eck, a spokesman for FirstEnergy Corp. in Ohio.

Across Kentucky, power outages still affected nearly 300,000 customers, the state said, down from as many as 600,000 customers at the peak — the state's biggest power outage on record. Louisville Gas & Electric predicted full power restoration in 10 to 14 days, with about 160,000 customers doing without power there early Wednesday.

Downed lines also knocked out power in western Pennsylvania, where about 64,000 customers remained in the dark early Wednesday. Utilities said they hoped to restore service to a majority of customers by

Across Illinois, officials said electricity had been restored to nearly all of the 49,000 left without power in the wake of the storm. Much of the Chicago area also was returning to normal Tuesday, as floodwaters began to recede. Ike had overwhelmed drainage and sewer systems in northern Illinois.

Elsewhere, some Illinois residents were waiting to return home. In Morris, about 100 people still couldn't reach homes in low-lying areas along the Illinois River, which hit a record when it topped 24 feet, or 8 feet above flood stage, Assistant Fire Chief Robert Willis said Tuesday.

In suburban Des Plaines, Ill., where more than 1,000 people were displaced by flooding, the Des Plaines River was expected to fall below flood stage Wednesday, the National Weather Service said.

"The recovery process is under way," said Will Soderberg, a city spokesman. "And that should take the rest of the week."

Associated Press writers Doug Whiteman in Columbus, Ohio; Jim Salter in St. Louis; David Mercer in Champaign, Ill.; Bruce Schreiner in Louis-

as a PSA exam, which is simply a blood test.

"This is the best way to catch it early, especially the PSA test, because they can check from year to year if there are any rise, and once you see your rise, that's where they can start to determine if you are at risk of cancer," Shultz said.

Cindy Tubbs from the college

risk for breast cancer include lumps in the breast, though there are diseases that can cause cysts in the breast, making the difference hard to tell. This is why a monthly self-check-up is important along with seeing your doctor each year.

"Any kind of change in your breast should be reported to your doctor," Tubbs said.

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The deluge of rain left road

Wednesday.

Downed lines also knocked out power in western Pennsylvania, where about 64,000 customers remained in the dark early Wednesday. Utilities said they hoped to restore service to a majority of customers by Friday. Butler County, north of Pittsburgh, was under a state of emergency.

*Associated Press writers
Doug Whiteman in Columbus, Ohio; Jim Salter in St. Louis; David Mercer in Champaign, Ill.; Bruce Schreiner in Louisville, Ky.; and Ramesh Santanam in Saxonburg, Pa., contributed to this report.*

Audit: ATF lost 76 weapons, hundreds of laptops

By LARA JAKES JORDAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) The ATF lost 76 weapons and hundreds of laptops over five years, the Justice Department reported Wednesday, blaming carelessness and sloppy record-keeping.

Thirty-five of the missing handguns, rifles, Tasers and other weapons were stolen, as were 50 laptops, the internal audit found. Two of the stolen weapons were used in crimes.

The audit by Justice Department Inspector General Glenn A. Fine found "inadequate" oversight of weapons and laptops resulted in "significant rates of losses" at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"It is especially troubling that that ATF's rate of loss for weapons was nearly double that of the FBI and DEA, and that ATF did not even know whether most of its lost, stolen, or missing laptop computers contained sensitive or classified information," he added.

In a Sept. 10 letter responding to the audit, ATF acting Director Michael J. Sullivan said his agency "agrees or partially agrees with most of the recommendations."

"We are revising our procedures of reporting losses of weapons or laptops," Sullivan said.

The audit looked at ATF's inventory of weapons, laptops, ammunition and explosives between Oct. 1, 2002 and Aug. 31, 2007.

It found that ATF lost three times more weapons each month than it had in a similar 2002 audit by the Treasury Department, which used to oversee the agency. It also lost 50 times as many laptops as reported in the earlier audit.

Of the 76 weapons, 35 were reported stolen, 19 lost and 12 missing from inventories, investigators found. Of the 418 missing laptops, 50 were stolen, 8 lost and 274 could not be found during inventory. Another 86 laptops were unaccounted for because ATF had either destroyed or lost documents showing where they were, the audit concluded.

Two weapons reported stolen were used to commit crimes. In one instance, a gun was stolen from an ATF car parked outside the agent's home and later used to shoot through the window of another residence, the audit found. In the other, a stolen ATF gun was taken from a burglary suspect.

Additionally, ATF employees did not report 13 of the 76 lost weapons, or 365 of the 418 missing laptops, to internal affairs as required. ATF officials also did not report much of the lost equipment to the Justice Department.

Investigators could not conclude what was on 398 of 418 missing laptops — except that few were encrypted. That means any sensitive material on the laptops could have been exposed.

Moreover, "we found that ATF did not regularly attempt to determine whether the lost, stolen or missing laptop computers contained sensitive or classified information," the audit said.

But few — only 18 of 7,500 — ATF laptops were authorized to hold classified information.

Compared to weapons loss rates for the FBI

and Drug Enforcement Administration, the ATF misplaced almost twice as many guns. The audit found that the ATF lost .52 weapons per 1,000 employees, compared to .29 at the FBI and .28 at the DEA.

Fine's investigators concluded there were proper controls and oversight of explosives in ATF's possession, and good security for ammunition. However, nine of 20 ATF field offices surveyed did not have proper accounting methods for ammunition.

In a statement responding to the audit, ATF Assistant Director W. Larry Ford said the agency disciplined employees whose carelessness or improper handling of equipment resulted in losses.

"ATF is committed to safeguarding its inventory of weapons and laptop computers in the interest of public safety," Ford said. "ATF agrees that rigorous and thorough internal controls will enhance its ability to account for, and most importantly prevent, thefts and losses of weapons and laptop computers."

Defense Secretary expresses regret for civilian deaths

By ROBERT BURNS
AP Military Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) Defense Secretary Robert Gates on Wednesday expressed "personal regret" for recent U.S. airstrikes that killed Afghan civilians, and pledged more accurate targeting in future.

After meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other senior government officials, Gates said at a news conference, "As I told them, I offer all Afghans my sincere condolences and personal regret for the recent loss of innocent life as a result of coalition airstrikes."

Gates said the U.S. military takes extraordinary precautions to avoid civilian casualties, but added, "It is clear that we have to work even harder." He told Afghan officials that he would be discussing the issue with American commanders and pilots

on Wednesday.

Later, Gates flew to Bagram, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan, and received a briefing on procedures for using air power. "As I told President Karzai this morning, we are very concerned about this," Gates told reporters after the briefing. "It's a very high priority for us."

Gates agreed to an Afghan government proposal to create a permanent joint investigative group to probe any incident involving civilian casualties, rather than assigning investigators to individual cases as they arrive, according to Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell.

Gen. David McKiernan, the commander of international forces in Afghanistan, said earlier that a shortage of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is forcing commanders to rely more on air combat, which can cause more civilian deaths. The attacks that have angered and embarrassed the U.S.-backed

Afghan government.

McKiernan said he needs at least three more combat brigades, in addition to the one arriving in January. Without the additional troops, the war will be longer and deadlier, he said.

"The danger is that we'll be here longer and we'll expend more resources and experience more human suffering than if we had more resources placed against this campaign sooner," McKiernan told reporters traveling with Gates.

He also said he knows he can only get more combat forces if troops are diverted from Iraq. The Army brigade arriving in Afghanistan in January was initially scheduled to go to Iraq, and it includes about 3,700 soldiers.

McKiernan said his Washington bosses had "validated" his request for the three additional brigades — or at least 10,000 more troops — and said he believes it is a question of when, not if, he

will get those reinforcements. There currently are about 33,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are headed in opposite directions: Violence is down substantially in Iraq and U.S. troop levels are declining, while the fighting is heating up in Afghanistan and more U.S. troops are needed.

McKiernan said that while he does not believe the U.S. is losing the war there, "we are winning slower in some places than others."

There have been a series of attacks in Afghanistan that resulted in civilian deaths — most notably the highly publicized allegations that a U.S. attack on an Afghan village compound on Aug. 22 killed as many as 90 Afghan civilians, including women and children. The U.S. military has disputed the allegation but also has opened a new investigation in light of emerging evidence.

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Clark Barron

On The Verge

Have you ever had something make you so mad that you wanted to actually get off of the couch and do something about it? True, this doesn't exactly come along twice every day, does it? Why is that? It is my stand that this generation has gotten full of two things, lethargy and apathy. We simply don't care about anything.

It's evident that the reason we choose to do nothing about certain issues is that we often feel like there is actually nothing we can do about them. Almost 100 percent of the time, we are completely wrong.

For instance, the presidential election is just around the corner. Are you afraid of John McCain taking the presidency? Well, stop watching The Hills and do something about it. Do you think America is not ready for Barack Obama? Well, put down the fork and go vote. The solutions to our "rants and complaints" are always obvious. Do something, anything.

Most people our age simply cannot grasp the concept of the power of our ability to vote our opinions. If you don't like something, you have the power to change it. The country is based on Democracy. Last time I checked, that means you actually get to say something about what you want and in what direction the country is going (at least for now). So, why not do something about it?

Even though this is an "opinion" article, I try not to force my beliefs on anybody at all when it comes to politics and especially religion. However, seeing as we, our generation, could be in some serious trouble here in a few years, I find it pertinent that I at least shed some light on one key point:

The government wants you to remain stupid. There, I said it. The more McDonald's you eat, the more MTV you watch, and the more Natural Light you drink are only proving the point that they can control anything you do. Here is something you might not know.

WHO AM I?

CLUES:

- I'M A VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE...
- I'M 41 YEARS OLD...
- I ♥ TO FISH AND HUNT...
- I HAVE SEVERAL CHILDREN...
- I'VE BEEN MAYOR AND
- I'VE BEEN GOVERNOR FOR LESS THAN TWO YEARS...

?

DAVE DILLON



ANSWER: THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Fear key to preventing HIV infections

By Aurelia Gooden
Staff Columnist

On November 18 1986, she died. She was ostracized, ignored and forgotten. She died in an empty room, with only her mother by her side. Her vitality diminished; her body – unrecognizable. Her ignorance was deadly.

She was Gia Carangi, the supermodel who graced the cover of nearly every fashion magazine from *Vogue* to *Cosmopolitan* and was at the height of her career before most current students at Jacksonville State University were born. Her life ended before the beginning of this generation. She died of AIDS at the age of 26.

It was a grave combination of risky behavior and a lack of knowledge that brought Carangi's life to an end. Unfortunately, that same deadly cocktail is being consumed by modern society's young adults.

The 1980s are gone. Seemingly, the fear of contracting HIV disappeared when society tossed the leg warmers and the wristbands.

AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome)

is a disease that attacks the immune system, resulting in several opportunistic infections that ultimately lead to death. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus), the virus that causes AIDS, is spread through various risky behaviors, such as unprotected sex.

"I do not practice any risky behaviors," Brandon Davis, a freshman who transferred to JSU from Tuskegee University, said. "I'm not afraid of anything, but I do take all precautions."

Davis witnessed the consequences of risky behavior during his senior year of high school while working for the Calhoun County Department of Health.

"That made me aware. That made me stop doing everything that I used to do and be abstinent," Davis said.

The number of young adults who are HIV-positive is on the rise, according to Arthur Wynn, a community outreach educator at AIDS Alabama.

"A lot of young people make decisions based upon a person's appearance," Wynn said.

Wynn believes that risky behavior within open relationships are to blame for the rising number of

HIV-positive young adults.

The lackluster attitude displayed by today's young adults could rekindle the fires of the AIDS epidemic. Nevertheless, most young adults have begun to face the possibility of becoming HIV-positive with nonchalance.

Fred Washington, a junior majoring in communications and marketing said. "I personally believe that people are unrealistic and I think that a lot of people think that it can't happen to them. I don't think that the thought of contracting HIV has ever crossed their minds."

Fear is powerful. However, many freshman students at JSU were born during the year of 1990. They have no recollection of *this* fear – the fear that causes sleepless nights, tears and decisive apprehension.

An impulse separates morning and night; a decision separates life and death.

The fear of contracting HIV must be revitalized in order to save the lives of modern society's young adults, lest we become a second generation marked by ignorance and untimely death.

THE THING IS, PROFESSOR, WHEN YOU ASSIGNED ME TO DO THE PAPER ON THERMAL RESISTANCE, MY RESEARCH SHOWED THAT ASHFORD WAS CONSIDERED THE DEFINITIVE

I REALIZED THAT TRYING TO INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL SOURCES WAS JUST GOING TO DILUTE WHAT WAS ALREADY THE STANDARD-BEARER IN THIS FIELD, SO I

THEN I FIGURED, RATHER THAN TRYING TO OFFER UP MY OWN AWKWARD INTERPRETATION OF THE SUBJECT, I SHOULD JUST USE HIS WORDS VERBATIM. THAT

YOU'VE GOT SOME BIG ONES, JAKE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

AND, OF COURSE, NOT WANTING TO BE GUILTY OF PLAGIARISM, I FIGURED I'D JUST

shed some light on one key point:

The government wants you to remain stupid. There, I said it. The more McDonald's you eat, the more MTV you watch, and the more Natural Light you drink are only proving the point that they can control anything you do. Here is something you might not know. Are you aware that you've never seen a cigarette commercial ever? AH! But you HAVE! Yes, there was a court order banning cigarette commercials. We are aware of that. However, have you ever seen the "Truth" campaign ads? Well, if the engine is still running with nobody behind the wheel in your head, I will elaborate. This is exactly how the greediest people on the planet make even more money. This is how they advertise. How do I know this? Guess which company funds the "Truth" ads none other than Phillip Morris, one of the country's leading tobacco manufacturers.

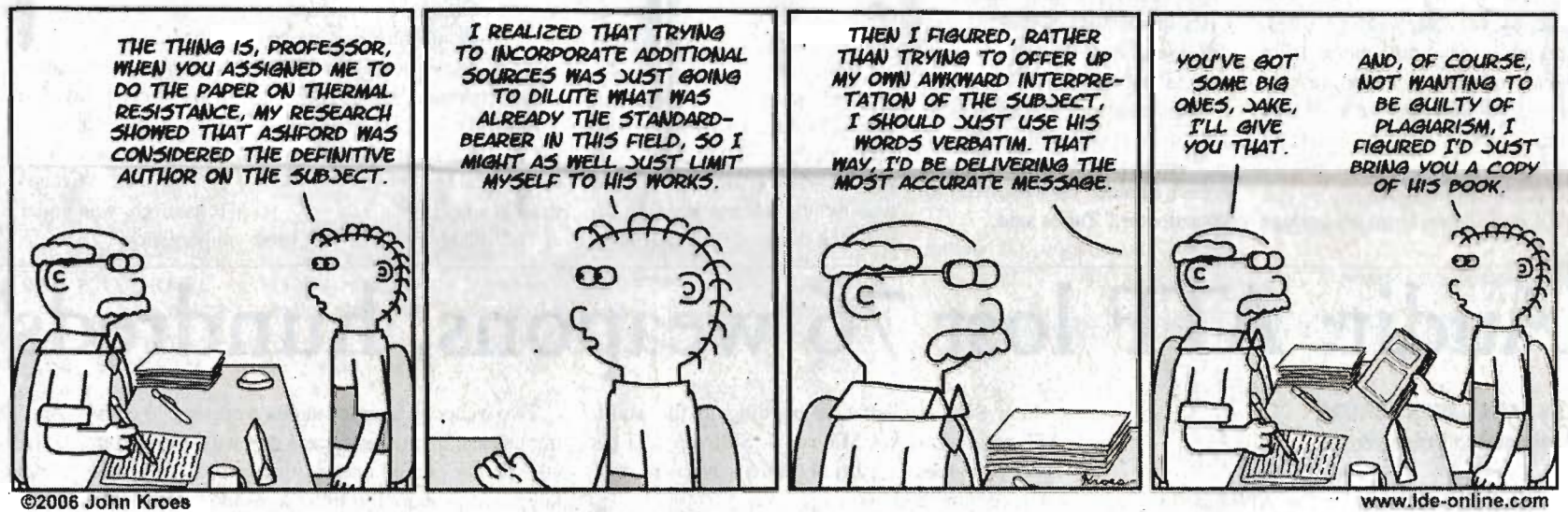
It's simple things like that that make you really step back and wonder what else is going on. Who knows? Honestly, there is no telling what kinds of things are being pulled over our eyes. However, the only way we can find out, the only way we can make change in this country is to be the change we want to see.

The first thing you do is register to vote. I realize that some that know me as being a borderline anarchist may criticize me, but I finally realize that, as a generation, we are being herded around like sheep by a bunch of 60 year old men that think the Internet is a series of tubes.

That being said, the only way to stand up is to vote. Let your voice be heard. If you don't like something, scream, yell, throw a fit, march and protest all you want. If nothing else, you'll be heard.

Remember, "A people should not fear its government, a government should fear its people."

AIDS (Acquired Immunity Syndrome) marked by ignorance and untimely death.



Letter to the Editor

Dr. Meehan '08

A few weeks ago, I was as surprised as anyone to learn of John McCain's Vice-Presidential pick. Honestly, when I read that he chose a candidate named "Palin," the first thing I thought was, "Don't you have to be a US citizen to be VP?"

It was of course, before I learned that the VP candidate in question was Sarah Palin, and not Michael Palin of Monty Python fame.

Immediately after learning this, I started digging for any and all information about this mystery woman from the Great Northwest.

To be fair, I looked at the Wall Street Journal as well as The New York Times. After all, I like my digging to be fair and balanced. I could categorically list my findings in this letter, but no doubt that the media both liberal and conservative, have trodden down the paths of her tenures as Mayor and Governor, her foreign policy experience, her attempted book-banning, etc.

I am satisfied that the media in general has been riding this moose sufficiently enough for the Amer-

ican electorate to get an idea of who she is, and where she comes from.

On that, I will desist in boring you with any more details. There is however, one thing that the media overlooked. I don't blame them really.

While they look for angles on a national level, this one is really quite local: JSU President Bill Meehan is much more qualified to be Vice-President than Sarah Palin.

Here's why: 1. Bill Meehan presides over a school of approximately 9,000 students. This is comparable to the size of Wasilla, Alaska where Palin was mayor.

2. Bill Meehan has been President of JSU for the better part of ten years. This means not only that Meehan has executive experience, but has held it at least five times longer than Palin when she was Governor of Alaska.

3. Part of the student body that Bill Meehan presides over are part of the International House. I'm sure you know where I'm going with this one.

Yes, Bill Meehan has foreign policy experience.

This isn't the "close proximity to another country" experience that Steve Doocy of "Fox and Friends" and Cindy McCain tout in Sarah Palin, but real face-to-face, diplomatic experience with students of several nationalities. I am in fact, fiercely proud of the International House, and visited quite often as an undergrad.

4. Bill Meehan leaves the skeletons to the Biology Dept. As far as I know, Bill Meehan has a pretty clean record. I'm almost certain that if properly vetted, there would be no instances of improprieties such as mishandling of funds, attempted banning of books, expectant child, etc. that would distract the McCain campaign.

Perhaps we can send John McCain letters and e-mails telling him to drop Sarah Palin, and draft Bill Meehan. After all, he is better qualified.

James Simpson
Jacksonville

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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Letters Policy:

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

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited for style, brevity or clarity. *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.



Jered Staubs

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Let me get a Puke score

I received the ultimate backhanded compliment the other day when someone told me this was the only part of the paper worth reading.

But really, I'm writing this in lieu of paying attention in the most boring class I've ever taken, while everything else in *The Chanticleer* is meticulously crafted.

Today's ramblings are going to be largely about football. Sorry Goo.

It's amazing how overboard people in Alabama go over the smallest things.

Any time James Spann says there is a 10 percent change of snow, you have to go to Chattanooga to find bread or bottled water.

Gas gets sold out in several counties because people freak about what is obviously going to amount to nothing.

It boggles my mind. I live extemporaneously — probably more than I should — and I'm always telling people to take it easy.

But people around here can't take it easy. And sports fans in this state are not immune.

Alabama stomps Clemson, it's a national title contender. It squeaks by Tulane at home, it sucks.

Same thing with Auburn. Everyone is bitching about how terrible the Tigers are after struggling so much with Mississippi State, and everyone will be talking about how great they are when they beat LSU Saturday.

Only a true idiot would predict Oklahoma would

Bulldozing his way towards a title

Power back Daniel Jackson has one last shot at a championship

By Edisha Brown
Staff Sports Writer

Florence, Alabama native Daniel Jackson followed in the footsteps of his father Henry and two older brothers, Joe and Clark Jackson, by starting to play football at the ripe age of only 9.

Now, Jackson is the powerhouse running back Jacksonville State needs for a great running game in the Ohio Valley Conference this season.

At a height of 5-foot-10, weighing in at 230 lbs, Jackson doesn't just run through the open hole nor does he just catch a good pass, he breaks tackles and was noted by his teammates as the one no one wants to guard defensively.

Head coach Jack Crowe said players have told him, "I don't want to see that guy," in reference to Jackson.

"It's tough because he has this little bitty 'ole move you don't see unless you're standing right next to him," Crowe said.

In 2005, Jackson was one of a few

122

Number of rushing yards **Daniel Jackson** had in JSU's 45-18 victory over Alabama A&M. It was the first time in over a year a Gamecock back topped the century mark on the ground.

young men who began his career as a true freshman with Jacksonville State's fighting Gamecocks.

Jackson came to Jacksonville State's football team behind two OVC Championships and rightfully expected to receive one as well.

"The plan was to get a ring as a freshman but we fell short," said Jackson.

"He scored in the first game he ever played in against Furman," Crowe said. "He's been a step up guy from day one. A lot of our guys don't play until their second year, some not even until their third year. Very few of

our guys come in and make such an impact."

The Gamecocks have failed to win the OVC title three years in a row but Jackson plans to use the previous disappointments as motivation to aid in leading the team to a championship ring, one of his long-term goals of the season.

"I try to put the team first over self," said Jackson. "I'm all about a ring."

Since coming to Jacksonville, Jackson has shown true leadership, great work ethic, and diversity on the field. He has shown improvement this season with a career-high five

receptions, 55 yards receiving, and is the only person in the last two years to gain 100 yards during one game with a career high of 122 yards against Alabama A&M.

When Crowe was asked what he looks for in a running back, Crowe simply answered, "Daniel."

"He's become the pass protector," Crowe said. "He's become the pass receiver. His game has got no weaknesses as far as knowing what to do and following through."

"Daniel is a very credible person and a very credible player," said Crowe.

That sentiment was reinforced by others who feel similarly about Jackson.

"He's a good role model and the team would agree," senior starting right guard Al Jefferson said. "Being a big strong back the way he is, he can make a hole for us."

"Daniel's a good back, he's very explosive, he has good vision, he's

See "Jackson," page 6



Everyone is bitching about how terrible the Tigers are after struggling so much with Mississippi State, and everyone will be talking about how great they are when they beat LSU Saturday.

Only a true idiot would predict Oklahoma would struggle at Washington. Hi Mom!

I'm really surprised West Virginia is installed as a road favorite tonight at Colorado. Boulder is an incredibly difficult place to play (ask OU), the coaching matchup is horribly lopsided ... I don't get it.

Of course the last time WVU went out west it dominated a Big XII team. But that OU team had blatant flaws.

This year's team is the best Sooner team I've seen in my 23 years. For what it's worth, Jack Crowe said that after watching tape on OU he feels they may be the best team in the nation.

Of course, none of that means Oklahoma will win the national championship, or even the Big XII. The 2001 Sooners were better than the team that won the national championship the year before, but they fell short, only winning 11 games and the Cotton Bowl.

I hold that '01 team directly responsible for my having to take the ACT twice. OU had an 11 a.m. kickoff at #2 Nebraska the day I was scheduled to take the test, so I was completely and utterly unable to concentrate during the final portion.

The result was the only 36-36-33-19 in ACT history (and an Oklahoma loss).

My mother has her doctorate in education but she didn't know what 24-7 meant until a couple years ago.

I definitely understand what Sir Mix-a-lot was saying about 36-24-36 not being the perfect dimensions for a woman.

Which is sadder — the fact that I drove past a guy leaving the BCM who had "P.I.M.P." playing obscenely loud or the fact that I came home and downloaded it?

I wish I was a good enough writer to come up with a witty transition from 50 Cent to the artist formerly known as Li'l

See "Staub," page 6



Running back Daniel Jackson carries the ball up field last year against Tennessee-Martin. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Heading to Chatty: JSU/UTC preview

By **Jered Staubs**
Sports Editor

After a bye week, JSU ends its non-conference schedule with a familiar opponent.

Sort of.

The Gamecocks (1-1) head to UT-Chattanooga to face a Mocs team that has played nobody anywhere near their own level. UTC (1-2) was beaten soundly by FBS schools Oklahoma — who led the Mocs 50-0 at halftime — and Florida State, and blew out lower-division Cumberland.

The Mocs have changed defenses, replaced several coaches and have a more experienced offense that will all make this team seem different than the one the Gamecocks beat 33-19 a year ago.

If anything, JSU coaches, players and fans were able to catch a glimpse of UTC on ESPN-U Saturday. The Mocs stayed close to FSU for almost a half before the Seminoles talent and depth started showing through.

The Mocs were only 2-9 a year ago, but had increased expectations coming into this season, and they played the Gamecocks tough at Paul Snow Stadium a year ago.

The Mocs led JSU 16-6 at halftime, but the Gamecocks were able to come out and control the second half, largely because of two defensive scores.

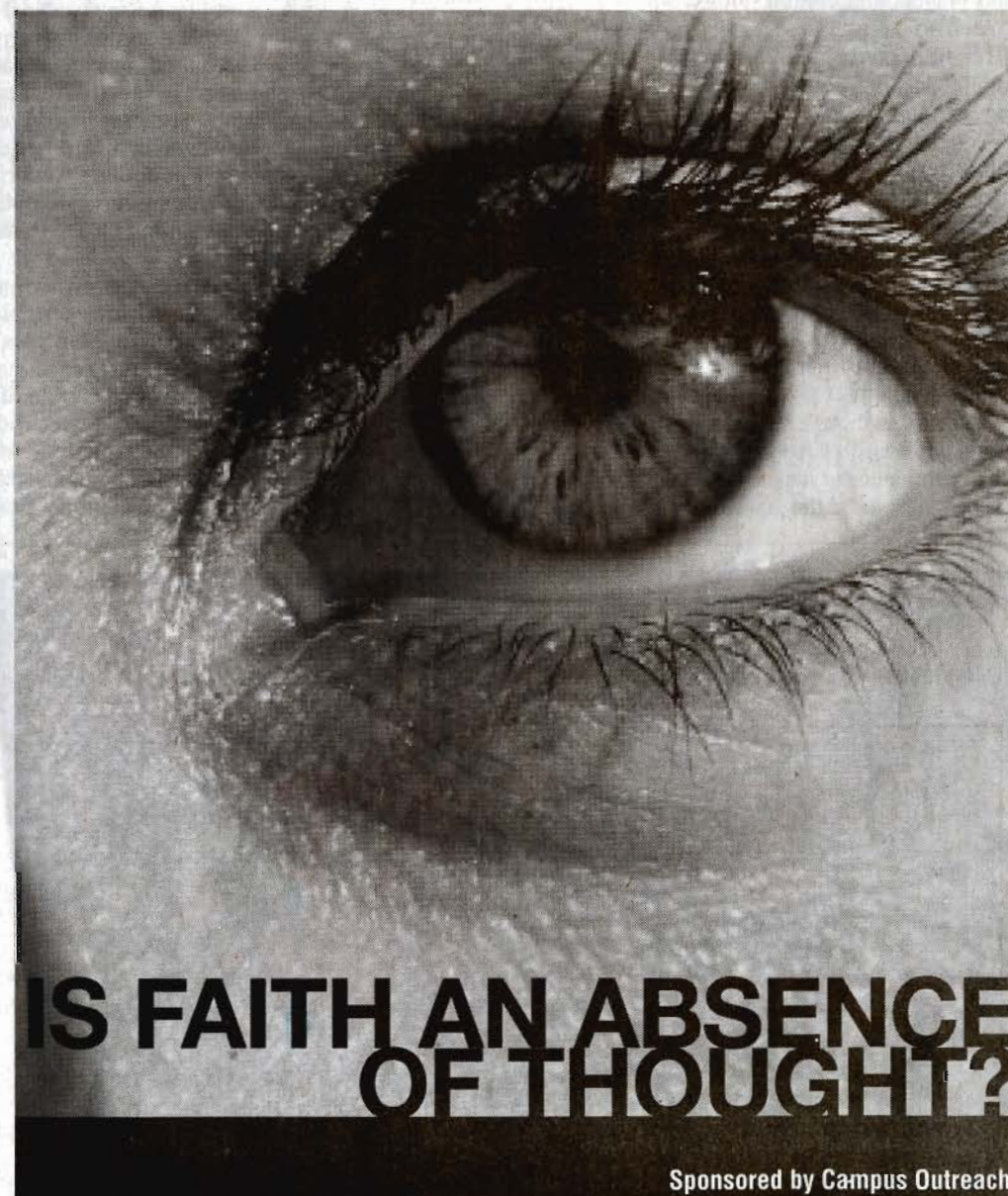
The series has seen its share of close endings. The last time JSU visited Finley Stadium, Mocs coach Rodney Allison took the tying points off the board in an attempt to win the game.

JSU coach Jack Crowe knows the series history and knows that it's not often easy for his team, which trails the all-time series 24-8.

"These games have been very, very challenging and difficult," Crowe said. "Last year, we had two defensive scores that really gave us the margin of victory. The year before, it came down to the last play of the game. The year before that, here I think, they scored on the last play of the game after we failed to convert a fourth and short trying to keep the ball away from them. These have been very tough football games."

Still, recent history has favored JSU, and the Gamecocks get back two important weapons this week.

See "Mocs," page 6



IS FAITH AN ABSENCE OF THOUGHT?

Sponsored by Campus Outreach

date	location	time	
THURSDAY 9/25/08	JSU LEONE COLE AUDITORIUM	7:00 PM	Join Dr. Martin Erdmann, Senior Scientist at the University Hospital Basel, Switzerland, as he addresses questions of "Faith & Reason." All are invited to participate. Free food will be served in the auditorium at 6:30 PM.

GAMECOCK BRIEFS

• Jacksonville State's **Kaitlyn MacLellan** was named the **Ohio Valley Conference's Defensive Player of the Week** on Tuesday. The sophomore from Burlington, Ontario, helped anchor the Gamecock defense in JSU's 3-2 overtime loss against Troy and their 4-1 victory over Chattanooga. MacLellan also scored two goals against the Lady Mocs.

• **The Jacksonville State soccer team** earned a 4-1 win over Chattanooga, the team's first victory of the season. **Brenna Horrocks** and **Kaitlyn MacLellan** led the Gamecocks with two goals apiece.

• Jacksonville State's **Lesley Binning** was voted the **Ohio Valley Conference Female Runner of the Week** last week. The senior from Mitchell, Ontario, finished second out of 31 runners with a two-mile time of 11:47 in the Struts JSU Cross Country Season Opener held in Oxford, Ala.

• **The Jacksonville State women's cross country team** posted a fourth place finish at the UTC Powerade Invitational last Friday. **Lesley Binning** ran the best overall time for the Gamecocks, posting a time of 11:48 in the two-mile race, which was good enough for seventh place overall. The **men's cross country team** was led by **Jeff Rhodes**, who finished 16th overall with a 16:59 5K time. The men finished sixth overall.

• **The Jacksonville State men's golf team** finished 10th at the 2008 Aldila Scenic City Invitational last Tuesday. The Gamecocks shot a team score of 870 and were led by sophomore **Gonzalo Berlin** and freshman **Hunter Hawkins**, who both shot 1-under for the tournament.

— From staff reports

Wait and (OV) See Attitude

Gamecocks must answer questions as they enter conference play this weekend

By **Jared Gravette**
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State volleyball team has always been known to play a very difficult non-conference schedule before opening up Ohio Valley Conference play, and 2008 has been no exception.

Thus far, the Gamecocks have seen mixed results, starting the season with a 4-7 record. However, JSU did come away with several big victories, knocking off SEC opponents Auburn and Ole Miss inside Pete Mathews Coliseum earlier this year.

The Gamecocks competed in their final non-conference tournament of the season over the weekend, finishing with a victory over Louisiana Tech and losses to Maryland and Tulane.

JSU opened the tournament on Friday with an impressive 3-0 victory over La. Tech. Brittney Whitten and Caitlin Vorbeck led the Gamecock attack with 13 kills apiece. Whitten also added 14 digs to record her fifth double-double of the season.

"Louisiana Tech is a good team, but I thought we came out and just played solid ball and were able to take care of business," JSU coach Rick Nold said.

In the nightcap, the Gamecocks ran into a very impressive Tulane squad. According to Nold, JSU played one of their best matches of the season against the Green Wave, but that wasn't enough to knock off the tournament host.

To the Gamecocks credit, they were the only team to take a game from Tulane throughout the weekend, winning the first of four games against the Green Wave before dropping the next three.

"Tulane is a very, very good team. They might be one of the better ones we have played," Nold said. "In game one, we came out strong and were able to beat them. Quite honestly, we kept playing at the same level. It was probably one of the best all-around matches that we've

played, but they stepped up their game and beat us."

The Gamecocks were not as sharp on Saturday, falling to Maryland 3-1.

"Against Maryland, I didn't think we were where we needed to be. We were a little bit inconsistent," Nold said. "They are a good, athletic team, but we didn't play with the level of intensity that we needed to."

Whitten played an outstanding game against the Terrapins, recording 16 kills and 21 digs. The junior from Boonville, Ind., was the only player from JSU named to the All-Tournament team.

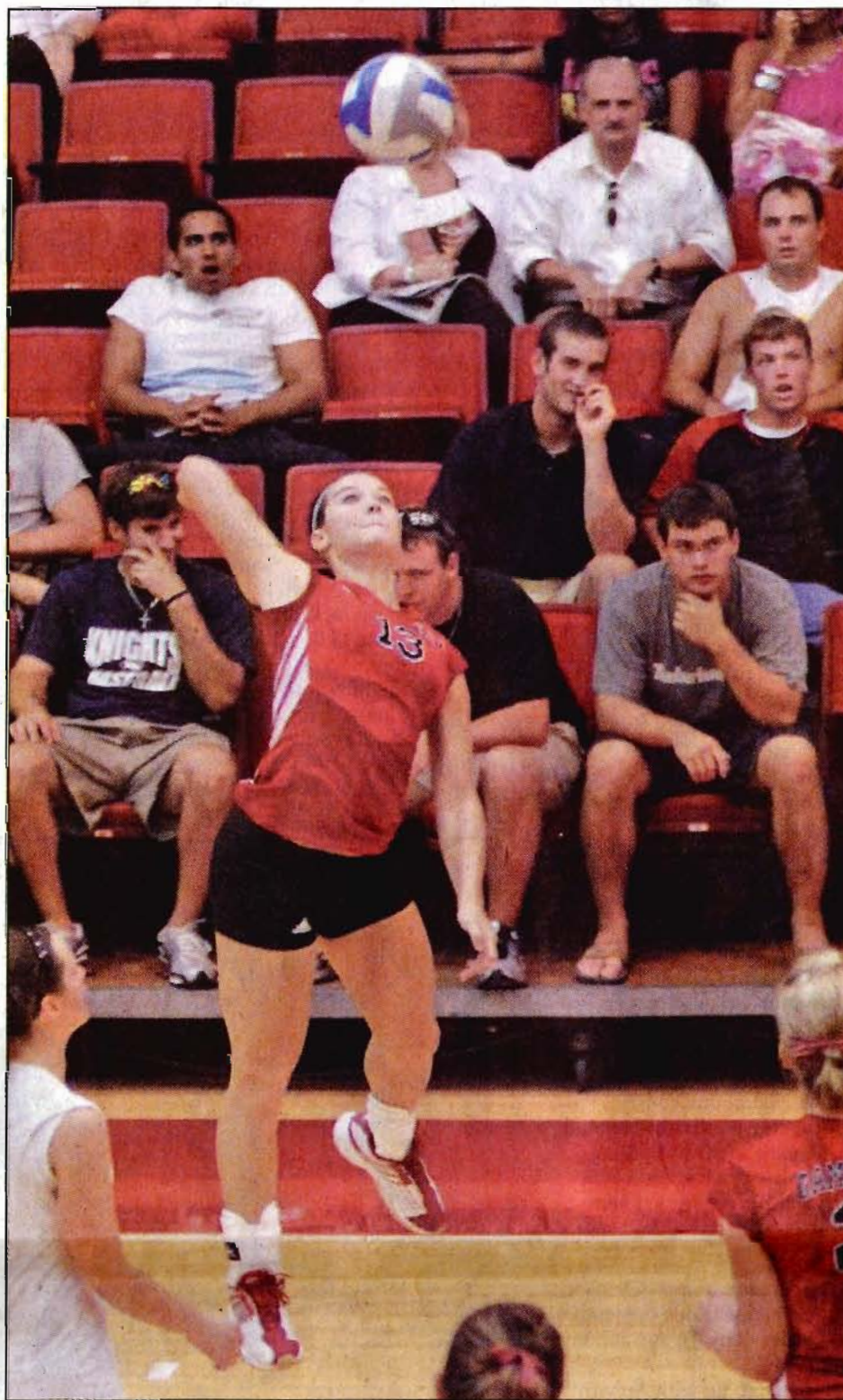
"I thought Brittney's all-around game was good. Obviously, she made the All-Tournament team, but I think it's more of that she is just a big leader for us in terms of her defense, servicing, hitting. She just does a little bit of everything for us. I thought she had a great weekend," Nold said.

JSU is now setting their sights on the OVC. The Gamecocks first conference game is Friday night at Pete Mathews Coliseum against the defending champions from Tennessee State. JSU will finish up opening weekend against Austin Peay on Saturday.

"Tennessee State won the conference last year. They won the tournament and they best us in the tournament. That right there is a challenge," Nold said. "We haven't seen much of them, but it will just be interesting to see where we stack against everyone."

Nold admitted that there are still a lot of unanswered questions surrounding his team, but also believes that the conference could be anybody's for the taking.

"We're not where we want to be yet. We have a lot of improving to do," Nold said. "I expect all through the conference season it's going to keep changing. I think with the conference this year it's going to be really balanced."



Junior outside hitter Brittney Whitten goes up for a kill earlier this year in a game against Ole Miss. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Jackson: Yearns for a ring

Staub: Taking it easy, making random observations

hawkings, who both shot 1-under for the tournament.

— From staff reports

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Junior outside hitter Brittney Whitten goes up for a kill earlier this year in a game against Ole Miss. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Jackson: Yearns for a ring

Continued from page 5

smart and he's an older guy," junior quarterback Ryan Perrilloux said. "I think it's a great opportunity for me to have a guy like that on my side. He's doing real well and I like him as a person. We have a chemistry."

Fellow new addition to the team and running back Tremayne Coger had nothing but good first impressions of Jackson and confidence in his judgment.

"He being a senior, I ask him a lot of questions about certain players and certain things I need to know," said Coger. "He's been pretty good in helping me. I look forward to playing with him."

Coger has been out with an injury for the Gamecocks' first two games of the season, but will see his first action against UT-Chattanooga Saturday.

"I think they'll compliment each other very well," said Crowe. "I expect Daniel to lead the league in rushing ... Daniel's the guy."

It seems as though the team, along with coach Crowe, has a lot of confidence in Jackson and expects him to be the stand-up

guy he is known as in leading his team to a championship this season.

"I think Daniel's off to a good start and I expect Daniel to carry the ball more than anybody," said Crowe. "If we're going to be the best running team in the league, that's what we better be."

To get that ring, Jackson has made some preseason changes to aid in his preparation for the 2008 season.

"I took better care of my body nutritionally and worked harder," Jackson said.

With the added publicity in Jacksonville because of the additions of Perrilloux and Coger, there is potential for Jackson to feel slighted, but he has kept a humble approach.

"I don't feel overlooked, I just go out there and do my job," said Jackson, "to make the team better any way I can."

"I try to put the team first over self. I'm all about a ring."

— Daniel Jackson

Staubs: Taking it easy, making random observations

Continued from page 5

Romeo.

If someone wants to explain to me why Romeo Crennel is still the coach of the Browns, I'm all ears.

Considering Barry Switzer was their coach the last time they won a playoff game (and their defense is shaky and they've had double-digit penalties each of the first two weeks), I think everyone should slow down with all this talk about the Cowboys winning the Super Bowl.

There are fluky losses, there are heartbreaking losses, there are losses because of officiating, there's getting ratf-----, and then there's what happened to the Chargers Sunday.

So, the two teams I predicted would go to the Super Bowl — the Chargers and Vikings — are a combined 0-4 with their losses coming by a total of 11 points.

I still have confidence in both, but the Chargers defense isn't the same without 56.

And I broke my cardinal rule — never trust a team with a quarterback named Tarvaris.

The only drawback about football season is you see the same brutal advertisements over and over.

Brooke Shields has driven men crazy for years, but her Volkswagen commercials drive me crazy for a different reason. But nothing is worse than Domino's 'Pasta-Dude' ads.

Congratulations, Memphis, you're no longer the most annoying thing on TV (Umm, not that I like "Big Brother" or anything).

Of course that donkey had to choose Memphis to use as his name. Guess I'm never going to Beale Street again, and the song "Walkin' in Memphis" — the Marc Cohn version, not the horrible Cher remake — just isn't enjoyable any longer.

Speaking of Cher, one of the dumbest arguments that it seems like every writer and broadcaster makes is that college football should do away with preseason polls.

Do these people honestly believe pollsters would have BYU ranked above Georgia? East Carolina above Florida?

Of course they wouldn't, even though BYU and ECU have been — along with USC, OU and Missouri — the most impressive teams thus far.

It's going to be a real shame if BYU's Max Hall keeps doing what he's doing and doesn't get serious Heisman Trophy consideration. He's better than Colt Brennan and his team is better than Brennan's Hawaii team was last year.

Obviously the Heisman is Chase Daniel's to lose, but seven touchdowns in a little over a half against a UCLA defense that gave up almost nothing to Tennessee ... that's making a statement.

Prediction: David Cutcliffe takes Duke to a bowl game this year and replaces the soon-to-be-fired Phil Fulmer as Vol head coach next year.

I'm looking forward to the movie about Ernie Davis. I'm glad Syracuse is finally going to have something to be proud of.

The last five words of the previous sentence is the title of one of the only country songs to come out this decade that I have actually enjoyed (please know that I would never end a sentence in a preposition for no reason).

Have we ever figured out why Garth Brooks created the Chris Gaines alter-ego?

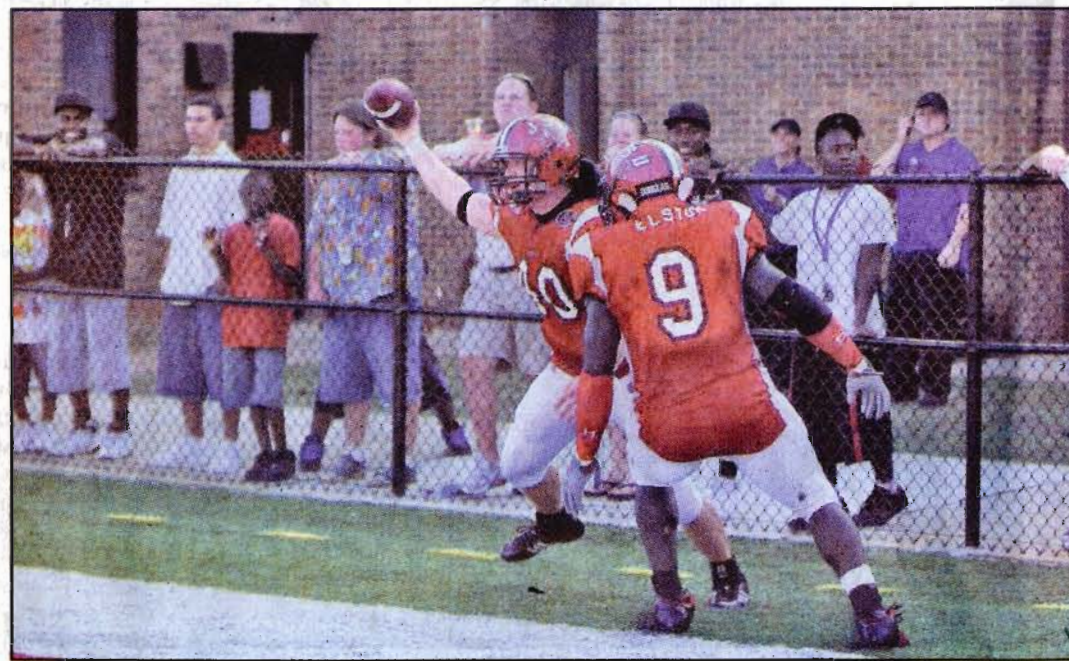
The Padres are the worst baseball team I can remember. Garth should try to make the team again, he could step in as the number six hitter tomorrow. Of course, LeAnn Rimes could step in as their number four starter.

Bob Davie has been boring for years, but it got to where he wasn't the worst former coach/current analyst at ESPN. That was Lou Holtz, who has turned drooling on himself into an art form.

But Davie reclaimed the throne last week. Why nobody bothered to tell him that Will Muschamp's last name isn't pronounced Muss-camp, I'm not sure.

Matt Brown, Quan Cosby and Cole McCoy must have been infuriated.

Eh, whatever. Texas sucks anyway.



Former JSU linebacker Drew Robinson celebrates after sealing last year's 33-19 victory over Chattanooga at Paul Snow Stadium with a 45-yard interception return for a touchdown. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Mocs: Looking for unexpected victory

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Kicker Gavin Hallford has been limited this year, but he will finally be able to kick off this week. His return is expected to control the opponent's field position, which has been an issue so far this season.

JSU's running game will receive a boost with the return of Tremayne Coger, who will help complement Daniel Jackson. Jackson is coming off arguably his best game as a Gamecock, and the offense will look to build on that now that there are two trustworthy backs on the field.

Coger has more big play ability than Jackson, who is more of a power back. Crowe is hopeful that the duo will present different challenges to every defense the Gamecocks face, and he is happy to finally have both at his disposal.

"At Clemson, they say Thunder and Lightning," Crowe said. "I don't like to copycat, but Daniel's more of the downhill guy and Coger's the take it to the perimeter guy."

The UTC defense changed from a 3-4

defense to a 4-3 defense largely because of a bevy of enormous defensive linemen, but Crowe doesn't feel that will alter the running back rotation too much.

"It's more about down-and-distance and formation," he said. "Sometimes you want to spread the field, and that's Coger. There's definitely situations that define each one of them. Daniel's the best protection back we've got."

If UTC's defense can contain the explosive JSU offense, its own offense may be able to put up some points.

But quarterback Tony Pastore must limit the mistakes that cost the Mocs a year ago.

Crowe pinpointed running back Erroll Wynn, who ran for 131 yards in the meeting two years ago.

"Wynn is a quality, quality player," Crowe said. "In 2006, not many people got 100 yards rushing on us. I'm not sure anyone got 100 on us except him. I think they've got offensive punch, they know they've got offensive punch."