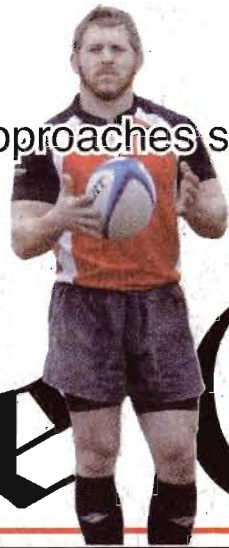


Rugby Club team approaches school about possible funding and looks to start season strong. **Page 6**



"Sticking together is what good waffles do."

The Chanticleer

Volume 56, Issue 16

Student newspaper of Jacksonville State University since 1934

January 31, 2008

thechanticleeronline.com

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Obama / McCain

The Chanticleer endorses its choices for the Democratic and Republican presidential nominations.

Our Voice, **Page 4**

ON CAMPUS



Student art show

Student's from JSU's art department held an exhibit on Tuesday night. Winners inside.

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SPORTS

FBS plan

JSU's Board of Trustees assesses the feasibility of a possible move to college football's highest level, the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Story on **Page 6**

The future: \$36 million

Plan for stadium, housing upgrades presented at Board of Trustees meeting

By **Bethany Harbison**
News Editor

Only two days after the 25th anniversary of Coach Paul William "Bear" Bryant's death, Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. shared, in his characteristic Southern drawl, a sentiment from the celebrated coach with his fellow trustees, President Dr. William Meehan and others who met on the 11th floor of Hous-

ton Cole on Monday, Jan. 28, 2008.

"Successful athletic programs don't make academics better, but they do provide a rallying point for universities," Folsom quoted.

Bryant was addressing questions and criticism about the amount of money spent on athletics versus academics at the University of Alabama.

Gov. Folsom was alluding to one of the most prevalent topics for discussion on the sidewalks and in the halls

of Jacksonville State University — the project plans for the expansion of Paul Snow Stadium.

Monday's Board of Trustees meeting skimmed over myriad topics, but the one that held the rapt attention of both board and audience was the discussion of the stadium project.

Architect Walter McKee was on site,

See "Stadium," **page 3**

Paul Snow Stadium if the proposed expansion happens. Photo special to the Chanticleer.

Ted Nail has a story. It's the story of one man's ...

Blind ambition

By **Webb Dillard**
Senior Writer

At first glance, Ted almost looks like a military man. The short hair, sunglasses, confident smile and the firm handshake would fool anyone. He has a very noble look about him, especially with the salt and pepper hair of a 51-year-old.

But upon glancing again,

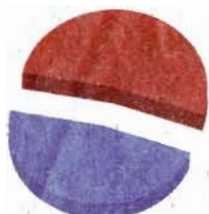


JSU's Board of Trustees assesses the feasibility of a possible move to college football's highest level, the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Story on **Page 6**

QUESTION of the WEEK

Would you ever vote for a third-party candidate?



■ Yes
52%
■ No
48%



"Yes, I would. But it would depend, however, on how different the third-party candidate was from the other parties."

— *Senita Sullivan, Sophomore*

Next week's question:

Is \$36 million too much to spend on the stadium and housing expansion?

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looks like a military man. The short hair, sunglasses, confident smile and the firm handshake would fool anyone. He has a very noble look about him, especially with the salt and pepper hair of a 51-year-old.

But upon glancing again, one soon can see that Ted Nail is blind.

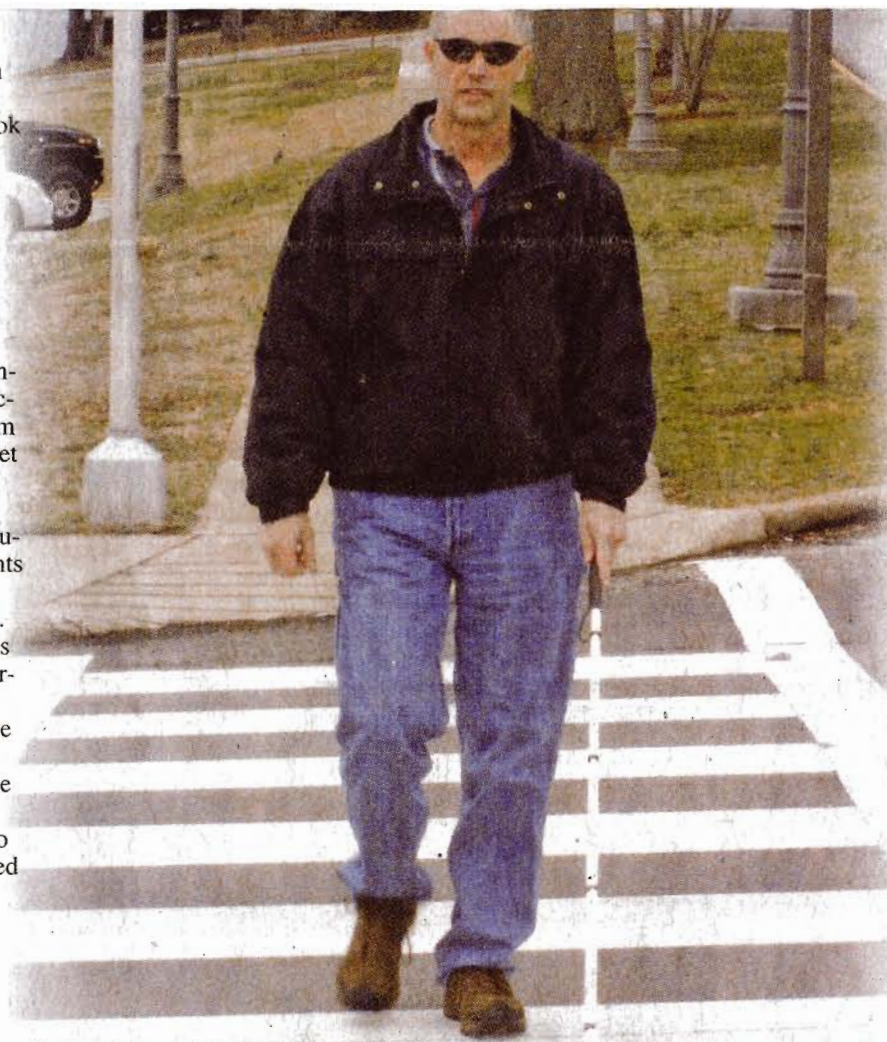
His warm personality allows a person, even a new acquaintance, to make an immediate comfortable connection. He has a way about him that can make a person forget about any disability he has.

Ted has not always been blind. He lost his sight gradually due to the fact his parents carry a specific gene that causes *Retinitis pigmentosa*. He has an older sister who is afflicted with the same inherited eye disease.

"If my parents would have had 100 children, they all would have the same disease too," Ted explains.

As a young man, he got to do everything he ever wanted to do. He played basketball, rode horses, drove and worked within the United States Postal Service.

He makes it very obvious that he does not let his



Ted Nail crosses Pelham Road during school hours with the aid of his guide pole. Photo by Webb Dillard / *The Chanticleer*

See "Nail," page 3

• ELECTION | 2008 •

Who is Ron Paul?

Candidate's supporters challenge political norms

By **Brandon Hollingsworth**
Senior Political Analyst

The first lawn signs sprung up last summer, followed in short order by a billboard on Highway 21. It made sense, given that the campaign for 2008 began not long after the campaign for 2006 ended.

What didn't make sense, at least on the surface, was the name attached to those signs and that billboard. It wasn't Obama, Romney or McCain.

It was Ron Paul.

The placards for the 72-year-old Congressman from Texas were the first tangible evidence of the presidential campaign in Jacksonville, and they became the fuel for speculation: Who was Ron Paul, and why was any-

one interested in a man they'd never heard of?

"He's a change agent," JSU political scientist Dr. Bill Lester said. "You look at Paul, and he's consistently stood his ground for change."

Lester's colleague in the political science department, Dr. Lori Owens, says that young people in particular are attracted to the Paul campaign for some of the same reasons third-party candidates wooed voters in past elections: messages of hope, reform or change.

"You go through these cycles in American history in which the people don't feel like the two major parties have anything to offer," she said.

It wasn't a yard sign, but rather an insomnia-triggered channel surfing session late one night that brought Paul to the attention of Jeff Martin. The 23-year-old senior majoring in political science was immediately captivated by what he saw.

Martin says Paul was speaking about the Federal Reserve and its role in national economic woes. He found himself in strong agreement with Paul's stances.

"This really got my attention," Martin said. "The more I learned about him, the more I liked him; he's the candidate Thomas Jefferson would

See "Paul," page 3



Photo courtesy B. Vartan Boyajian

Miss Alabama and JSU student Jamie Langley participated in Saturday's Miss America pageant, the first Gamecock to do so since 1995 Miss America Heather Whitestone.

Full story, page 3

JSU to seek first doctorate program

By **Kevin Jeffers**
Editor in Chief

For the first time in Jacksonville State University's history, the school could have a doctorate program.

At the quarterly Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, Jan. 28, the trustees voted to seek a doctorate program in emergency management.

According to Dr. Rebecca Turner, vice president for academic affairs, the school needs approval from two regulatory agencies — The Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

She said that while there is no timetable on how long approval would take, it would probably take about a year, and the soonest the program could be offered would be Fall of 2008.

JSU already has the only completely online baccalaureate program in emergency management, including a master's program. JSU was also the first school in the country to offer the program.

The school is now looking to extend that program to the doctorate level.

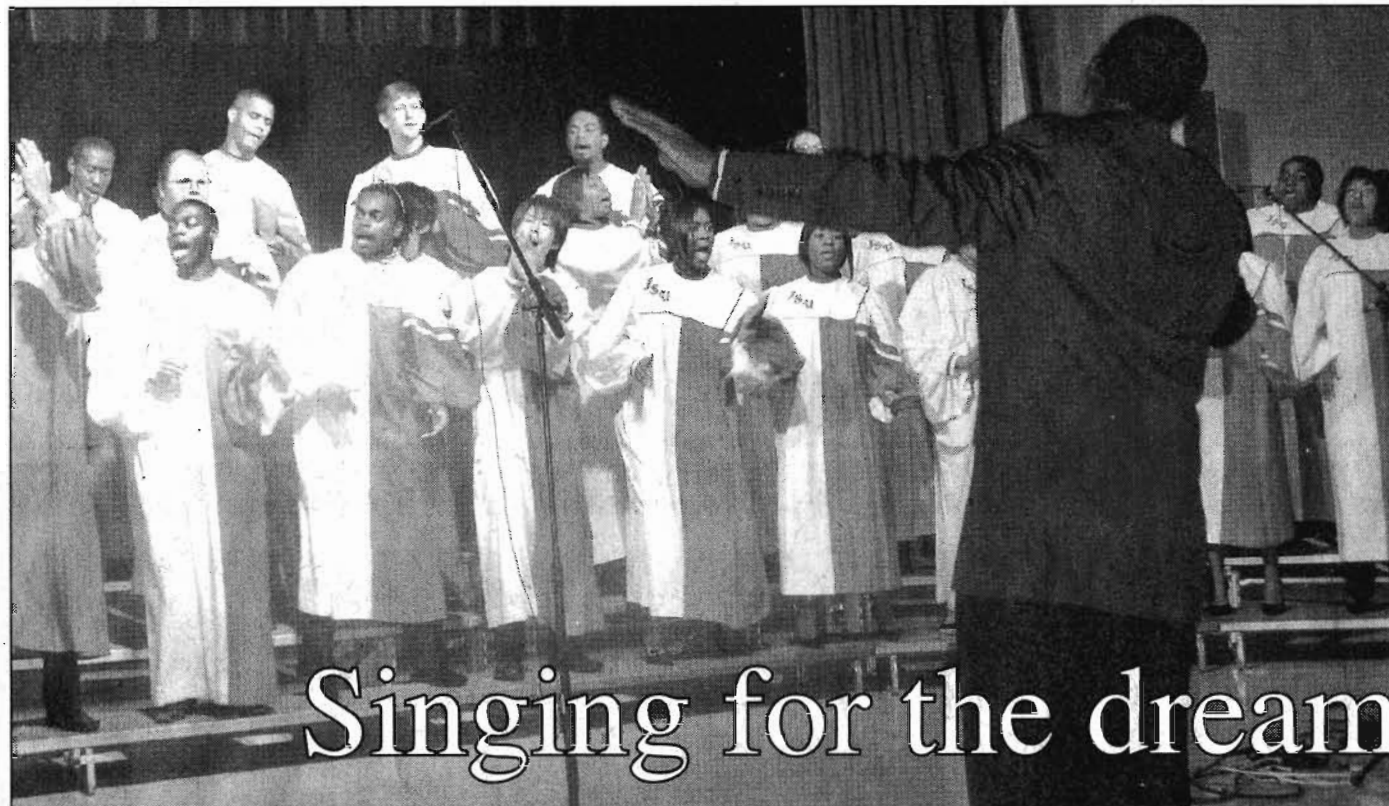
According to Turner's presentation at Monday's board meeting, the doctorate program will be mostly online, though students will have to come to campus a few times.

If accepted, the emergency management department would have to expand the number of faculty in time, but the department has currently has enough faculty members to seek approval.

President Dr. William Meehan said at the meeting that even though the proposed program is the first to be sought by the school, JSU "has plans for others."

Announcements

- Do you like to write and long for a group of interested people with whom to share your work? Join JSU Writers' Club. The club meets each Wednesday at 3 p.m. on the 7th floor of Houston Cole Library.
- Career Placement Services will host its "Professional Speaker's Bureau" in Martin Hall on Feb. 19. Dr. Greg Robinson, an accomplished chemist, will speak on his career success. Call ext. 5482 or visit www.cps.jsu.edu.
- The ECE will be on Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Register between Jan. 30 and Feb. 20 online through myjsu.edu. For details, visit www.jsu.edu/depart/english/ece. Optional workshops will be in Merrill Building Rm. 110 on Feb. 18 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Feb. 19 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Prior registration not required.



Singing for the dream

Michael Mays directs the JSU Gospel Choir as they belt out a tune during last Thursday's Musical Salute to Martin Luther King, Jr. The SGA-sponsored event also featured *Encore!*, JSU's show choir. Photo by Ryan Rutledge / *The Mimosa*

A new strategy

AVP Tim King says managing enrollment is about more than just reaching 10,000

By Zach Childree
Staff Reporter

One of Jacksonville State University's goals is to increase student enrollment to over 10,000 students.

In November 2007, a group of enrollment management consultants visited JSU, interviewing faculty, staff and students across campus over the course of two days. The consultants' goal was to determine what JSU can do to make itself more attractive to potential students, in the hopes of attaining and maintaining the goal of 10,000.

In a presentation to the Board of Trustees on Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, Dr. Tim King, associate vice president for enrollment management and student affairs, presented the consultants' findings and stated that the university's goal will be met.

"We will get 10,000 students," King said Monday. "But we've also got to refocus on recruiting, retaining and graduating our students."

Another part of the consultants' findings involved the opinions and thoughts of JSU students themselves, whom the

"I know about JSU in Lights, and the homecoming floats," she said.

The enrollment consultants recommended that JSU grow its family connections and continue to promote JSU as a family university. Caffman agrees that one of the strengths of the university is its people.

"The people on this campus are really friendly," Caffman said.

It's the academics that brought Caffman to JSU.

"It's the number-one teacher college in Alabama," Caffman said

Another thing that attracts students to Jacksonville State University is the university's willingness to embrace new technology. Dr. Cunningham said that JSU's degrees, up-to-date computer labs and assessment of technology are things that do attract students.

"Today's students are much more savvy when it comes to a university's technological offerings," said Cunningham.

Jessica Andrews, an elementary education major, agreed.

Art show lets students shine

By Zach Childree
Staff Reporter

The Jacksonville State University art department held an art show on Tuesday night to showcase the works of students.

The show is an annual event that is juried and judged by faculty members and contains submissions by students from work they did in class.

JSU student Amanda O'Hearn was awarded honorable mention for her ceramics piece. O'Hearn said she used stage light lenses to mold her sculpture, and that she enjoyed the show.

"It's a great opportunity for up and coming artists to display their work," O'Hearn said.

Holly Rice, an art minor, was happy for the opportunity to show her work.

"I like art and wanted to have a chance to show people what I've done," Rice said.

Marvin Shaw, who teaches printmaking and 3D design, said that the show is a great way to show a student's work, not just to the world, but to each other as well.

"Our show would compare well with other student art shows across the United States," Shaw said.

FIRST-PLACE WINNERS

CAMPUS BRIEFS

- The Jacksonville finance committee met on Jan. 24 to discuss whether or not to donate \$100,000 to JSU's capital campaign. No decision was made at the meeting, where most council members favored donating an amount to the university, but only if the money could go to a project beneficial to the citizens of Jacksonville. The committee requested a meeting with representatives from JSU to discuss potential projects. They will meet Thursday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room of the Jacksonville Community Center.

- The JSU Writers' Club has announced the winners of its third annual R.U.M. Short Fiction Awards. Sarah Moersch won the first-place prize of \$100 for her story "Ingrained." Amanda Clayton Gober won second place for "Tears and Beer Cans," and Danielle Jones-Pruett took home third place for "Search Lights." Each winner received a plaque and a cash prize. The runners-up, who also received plaques, were Zachary Sarver and Roya Sabatini-Hill. Winners of the competition are published in the JSU literary magazine, "Something Else."

- The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Career Awareness Expo Feb. 5-7, 2008, in Leone Cole Auditorium. About 1,200 8th graders will learn from professionals about career opportunities available in the region.

— From staff wire reports

The Chanticleer Announcements Policy: Any JSU student organization or University office may submit items for the Announcements column. Submissions must be typed and limited to 50 words. Submissions must also include contact information. This information does not count toward the 50-word total. Submissions must arrive at the Chanticleer office in Room 180, Self Hall or be e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com, by noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication date. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit for brevity, clarity and style.

Campus Crime

Monday, January 14

- Student Amber L. Johnson reported a theft of lost property from the first floor of Houston Cole Library.

- Gadsden State Student Jonathan R. Elston was charged with having an open container and being a minor in possession of alcohol.

Wednesday, January 16

Tim Wyatt reported a theft of

• Wednesday, January 16

Tim Wyatt reported a theft of property from student Samuel L. Cook. Stolen property included a handheld Nintendo DS and an iPod.

• Student Jasmine Yarbrough reported an unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle. The crime occurred in the parking lot of Ayers Hall.

• Friday, January 18

Student Rodney W. Jones reported a theft of property from Crow Hall.

Information in the campus crime column is obtained from incident and arrest reports at the JSU Police Department in Salls Hall. These records are public documents which any individual has the right to examine under Alabama state law. If you believe this information to be in error, please call 782-4704, or contact JSUPD at 782-5050

The Week in Events

Thursday, January 31

• Coin Collection, 2nd floor
TMB. 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Monday, February 4

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

Tuesday, February 5

• Organizational Council Meeting, TMB Auditorium. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
• Career Awareness Day, Leone Cole Auditorium. 8:15 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.
• Bake Sale, TMB 4th Floor. 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 6

• Leadership Development Program Session, TMB Auditorium. 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
• Career Awareness Day, Leone Cole Auditorium. 8:15 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.
• Dealing with Depression & Suicide: Creating Lifelines, TM Rm. 303. 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
• Black History Movie Night: *Pursuit of Happiness*. 8:00 p.m.

refocus on recruiting, retaining and graduating our students."

Another part of the consultants' findings involved the opinions and thoughts of JSU students themselves, whom the consultants interviewed during their time on campus.

One of the drawbacks that may dissuade students from enrolling at JSU, according to the group that King referred to as "student leaders," is the number of traditions and activities for students at JSU.

But Dr. Brent Cunningham, professor of management and marketing at JSU, disagrees.

"Traditions are a good thing for universities," Cunningham said. "They show foundation, but JSU does have traditions. They are just not being conveyed to the current student body very well." Abbie Caffman, an elementary education major, said that she does know of some JSU traditions.

technological offerings," said Cunningham.

Jessica Andrews, an elementary education major, agreed.

"We're really big on new technology," she said. "We're on par with schools much bigger than us". While the school is comparable to larger schools, Andrews said that the class size at JSU is much more manageable.

"You get a lot more one-on-one time with your professors here," Andrews said.

The consultants recommended a Strategic Enrollment Management plan, which basically amounts to a business plan to attract more students. But developing a Strategic Enrollment Management plan could take anywhere from a year to 18 months, according to the consultants, and will require ongoing evaluations and assessments.

FIRST-PLACE WINNERS

- Ceramics: Jason Wright
"Cosmos Tea"
- Color Photography: Andy Hug
"Reflection"
- Design I: Geniene Anthony
"My Bedroom, My Father"
- Design II: Rich Adkins
"Embers of Life"
- Drawing: Lana Bullard
"Colors of Childhood"
- Graphic Design: AnnaMaria Jacob
"China"
- Painting: Shannon Carter
"Emergence"
- Printmaking: Mandy Fleming
"Open House"

Slideshow of event online @
www.thechanticleeronline.com

Crowded workout space frustrating students

By Adam Alexander
Staff Reporter

Someone once asked Yankee catcher Yogi Berra, "Do you ever go to the 54 (club)?"

To this he answered, "Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded."

While Yogi's statement is an obvious paradox, it seems that students are facing a similar problem at Stephenson Hall. According to students and employees of Stephenson, the fitness center is simply too small to accommodate the number of students who wish to use it.

Several students are taking notice. Employees of Stephenson stated that Stephenson hall is crowded every day, especially after 4:00 p.m. Student worker Derrick Hill stated that having so many people crammed into a building of that size "could be a potential safety hazard."

Matt Moore, another Stephenson Hall student worker, suggested a possible building expansion and said a simple shift of the budget could help solve a lot of problems with Stephenson.

"Why not put money where it needs to go instead of into football stadium expansion?" Moore said.

Paige Cotney, a student worker and frequent client of Stephenson, also feels that the building should be expanded.

"It's not made to accommodate 10,000 kids," she said.



Ashley Wilson retrieves her JSU student ID after returning her ping pong paddles to Stephenson student workers Ashli Allen and Kim Kanty. Photo by Ryan Rutledge/ *The Mimosa*

The staff of Stephenson recommends that people who want to avoid crowds come to the gym early in the morning or between the hours of 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

But students aren't the only ones who seem to notice. Dr. Jeff Chandler, a professor at the Coliseum, has also noticed that people are having problems getting in their weekly workouts.

"You get busy," he said. "Things happen during the day." Dr. Chandler believes

that it's best to work out in the morning, both to avoid traffic and keep a strict regime.

Dr. Chandler also believes that a new student recreational center needs to be built on campus or that the current one needs serious renovation. He believes that this will not only help with the over-crowding, but that it will also attract new students to JSU.

"We need an adequate-sized facility for staff and students to train. This type of facility would help attract and retain

students."

Some people have suggested that all of the campus' facilities stay open longer.

"I think we need pool hours in the morning," Lesliy Binning said. True, staying open longer would help keep traffic moving, but what are the extremes? Does anyone really want to work out at midnight?

So, until measures are taken, what can students do to avoid congestion? One option is to go to the Coliseum to meet your workout needs.

Another option is to avoid equipment. Fitness advisor Gary Matthews says that training without equipment (push-ups, sit-ups, running outside) may take longer to produce results, but it saves the trainee from time constraints and occupied machines, the two biggest routine killers.

Stephenson is a gym for 70 that, according to many students and employees, is straining to accommodate 10,000.

Until change takes place, Stephenson employees recommend that those frustrated with the overcrowding situation should look for other places to work out or find a window of time at Stephenson that works for them.

from professionals about career opportunities available in the region.

— From staff, wire reports

SENATE MINUTES

Run-down of the Monday, Jan. 28, SGA meeting:

• Applications to run for SGA office are due February 14.

• Student Bill 91 was postponed because the author was not present. The bill deals with limiting allocations not to exceed \$500.

• Resolution 7, which dealt with the possibility of a Homecoming King, didn't report favorably in committee, and it was sent back to the committee for more discussion.

• Resolution sent to committee, which seeks to extend visiting hours in JSU housing Sunday through Thursday to 12 a.m.-12 p.m. It will be debated next Monday.

• Resolution sent to committee, which recommends that JSU place more security cameras in strategic places on campus.

• Resolution sent to committee, which would start a mandatory debate for presidential candidates of the SGA.

• Resolution sent to committee, which states that organizations wanting allocations must have attended at least one Organizational Committee meeting in the month that they are requesting.

Miss America over, Langley comes home

By Bethany Harbison
News Editor

The pressure was off, and the stress was behind them.

For the 36 Miss America contestants who were not named among the 16 finalists, plates of donuts and the company of Clinton Kelly, the star of The Learning Channel's (TLC)'s *What Not to Wear*, awaited them as they took their seats on stage to watch the remainder of the pageant.

Miss Alabama Jamie Langley, a communications student at Jacksonville State University and Miss JSU 2006, was among them, and she said that she partook of Kelly's offerings of "carbohydrates."

"I was really thirsty because there was nothing to drink up there, but yes, I still stuffed my face with chocolate," Langley said with a laugh.

The preliminaries and finale of the 2008 Miss America pageant were held in Las Vegas at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino, and Langley said that her ten-day stay in the city were packed with activity. Between modeling in a fashion show, signing auto-



Langley performs in front of thousands during the Miss America preliminaries. Miss Michigan Kirsten Haglund won the crown. Photo courtesy B. Vartan Boyajian

graphs, attending the premiere and meeting the stars of *Rambo* and attending a gala for the Children's Miracle Network, the contestants had little time for leisure.

Still, Langley said the time spent filming *Miss America: Reality Check* fostered fast friendships between the contestants.

"I really formed a sisterhood with the 12 girls I roomed with on the show," Langley said. She added that Miss Hawaii Ashley Ku'ualoa Layfield has already made plans to travel to Birmingham to support her as she crowns the next Miss Alabama.

Langley also called newly crowned Miss America 2008, formerly Miss Michigan, Kirsten Haglund, "a very dear friend of mine" and said she admired her stances on major issues.

"I'm glad she won and that we have someone like her with such a great heart," Langley said.

This year's pageant represented a number of firsts for the organization. It was the first year for the pageant to air on TLC, the first year for the *Miss America: Reality Check* reality show and the organization's most recent most obvious attempt to reinvent and modernize itself.

"I'm a traditionalist, and I love the old traditional ways of Miss America, like the focus on her being an ambassador for our country," Langley said. "But times have changed."

Stadium: Seven-story addition proposed at Board meeting

Continued from page 1

site, bearing colorful posters depicting the potential stadium's new look and structure. Floor by floor, room by room, McKee took those present on a mental tour of the proposed new structure.

The proposed stadium expansion, according to McKee, is estimated to cost between 36 and 37 million.

The project's aim was said to accomplish two of the university's objectives. For one, the addition will provide 5,000 more seats, edging Paul Snow's capacity up to around 21,000 seats. Secondly, the new structure will also incorporate a residence hall with the ability to house 392 students.

On the south side, the stadium will tower seven stories high.

The first four floors will serve as the new residence hall, featuring 4-bedroom, 2-bathroom suites which will include private living areas — forming the style of campus living that McKee said students have expressed they most want.

The fifth floor will house what the university is tentatively calling a "Stadium Club," which will consist of a large, open meeting room for JSU fans to congregate. This room will house 1,000 chair-backed seats. Stadium Club members will pay approximately \$500.00 yearly for the privilege to be a member of the club, and they will be served a meal in-house before each football game.

The sixth floor will be split in half, with one side forming a large pressroom and the other filled with premium suites. Each

suite will contain twelve upholstered stadium chairs and eight bar stools, allowing each the potential to sell 20 tickets. The seventh floor will house the remainder of the total of 30 premium seats.

McKee explained that the project's cost would be split between its two accomplishments — 19 million for the new housing and 17 million for the new seating.

The Board of Trustees did not bring the project to a vote on Monday. Instead, they only agreed to let the architect begin accepting bids for the expansion. The final decision will come to a vote at the board's July 21, 2007 meeting.

In other business:

■ The Annual Report, the 2007-2008 Factbook and the Annual Financial Report were

presented to the board by the respective offices responsible for their creation.

■ Athletic Director Jim Fuller and Folsom presented tennis coach Steve Bailey with a plaque, honoring his being named "Co-Coach of the Year" by the Ohio Valley Conference.

■ Dr. Tim King, associate vice-president for student affairs and enrollment management, presented a PowerPoint which featured the findings of the November visit from enrollment management consultants.

■ Tim Garner updated the board on the progress of the university's new marketing campaign. His PowerPoint highlighted the goals that were set forth in October 2006 and illustrated those that have already been attained.

Nail: Blind student has seven children, five are adopted

Continued from page 1

that he does not let his blindness slow him down. Ted, a freshman in standing, is attending JSU through an organization called Vocational Rehab, which pays his tuition.

"I wish more students on campus would get involved with the reader program," he said. "It would be a great help to blind students on campus now and in the future."

Ted is not in need of a personal reader this semester, but that could change in the future.

cess in school, I mean I haven't been in a school setting in 30 years or more. So me, I guess.

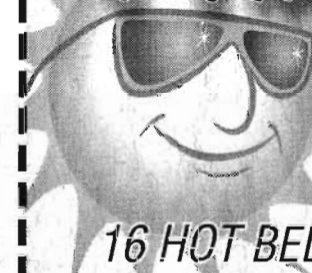
"I also feel, too, that I have something to prove to myself and anyone who doubts me and people like me."

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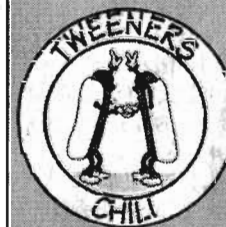
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DRIVE THRU NOW OPEN

that he does not let his blindness slow him down. Ted, a freshman standing, is attending JSU through an organization called Vocational Rehab, which pays his tuition.

Besides attending school, Ted is also heavily involved in his church. He does everything from volunteering with food drives to becoming known as "The Blind Rapper" in a musical performance at church.

The most amazing thing about Ted, besides school and his church, is that he and his wife have seven children. Two of his children are biological and the other five are adopted. Ted smiled from ear to ear when talking about his family. Since his eye disease progressed slowly, he did get to see the birth of his oldest daughter.

"I remember thinking that it was so neat seeing the birth of my daughter that I almost asked the doctor to put her back and let's do that again!"

He offered a glimpse of some of his experiences here on campus.

"Everyone here at JSU is just so nice! The students, the faculty, and even the groundskeepers I have managed to meet." He also went on to say some good things about Disability Support Services.

"They have been pretty helpful, although I am responsible for finding my own readers." Readers, Ted explained, are just that-readers.

get involved with the reader program," he said. "It would be a great help to blind students on campus now and in the future."

Ted is not in need of a personal reader this semester, but that could change in the future.

Ted has a few gizmos and gadgets that do help him tackle the tedious torments of academics. A special CD player that can play his textbooks on CDs is one of them. The CD player eliminates the need for a reader in most cases, but of course it depends on whether the required texts come in a CD format.

"Not all my textbooks come on a CD, but it sure is nice to have the ones that do," he said.

His other hi-tech machine is basically a laptop computer for the blind, without the screen of course. It had many functions including email, FM radio, MP3 capabilities and a device on the machine called a Braille board. The Braille board is a series of holes across the front of the machine and when a certain mode is engaged, little dots raise through the holes to spell out words in Braille.

"I have to tell you the FM radio comes in handy in some classes; I listened to the news the other day towards the end of one of my classes.

"Here I am at 51 years of age having suc-

cessed in 30 years or more. So me, I guess.

"I also feel, too, that I have something to prove to myself and anyone who doubts me and people like me."

Ted has plans to become a motivational speaker for people with and without disabilities. He wants to learn sign language so he can also communicate with the deaf.

"I just want to show all kinds of people that it is possible to do things, because look, I am doing it."

The only other thing a person needs to know about Ted is that he has a great sense of humor.

He used to travel with a neighbor to Talladega for work and training. Of course his neighbor would drive, but the funny part about their daily trips to Talladega was that the neighbor was deaf.

Laughing, Ted said, "I wondered almost every day what would happen if the two of us ever got into an accident? I could just hear the police officer asking which one of us saw or heard anything!"

So, if a person was to happen upon a noble looking, salt-and-pepper-haired gentlemen, who just so happens to be blind, offer him a hello and a handshake.

He certainly will have one of each to offer in return.

Paul: Republican presidential candidate has loyal following

Continued from page 1

vote for."

The same things about Paul that make him an unlikely candidate for a major-party nomination are the same things Martin and others seek, giving Paul an impressive grassroots effort. On Dec. 16, 2007, Paul supporters organized the largest one-day political fundraiser in American history, netting some \$6 million. Paul's campaign was not behind the fundraiser. His fans were.

For comparison, the previous record holder was Sen. John Kerry, who raised \$5.7 million in one day in 2004. That was after he became the Democratic nominee for president.

Paul's success in fundraising may be impressive, but his performance in national polls has been less than exemplary. The most recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll puts his support at four percent. His willingness to hang onto his presidential bid may say something more about his ideas than his chances of occupying the Oval Office.

"He's running to get a message out," Owens said. "He's going back to fiscal responsibility, he's an isolationist, and I think

that's resonating today. He's tapped into a certain segment of the population, and what does he have to lose by doing it?"

"[Paul] is not an isolationist," Martin said. "There's a big difference between isolationism and non-interventionism."

Martin defined "non-interventionism" as the United States pulling back from getting into the affairs of foreign governments. He said that America's do-something attitude often places it in bad positions with respect to indigenous peoples and international governments.

Lester agreed, saying that Paul knows the Republican stage is a big platform for his messages of smaller federal government and increased personal liberties. But there are some parts of Paul's advocacy that may not appeal as well to young voters; for example, his fight to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education. Such a move would also eliminate forms of government student aid.

"I wonder how many young people who receive student loans would favor the abolition of the Department of Education," Lester said.

In many respects, Paul's of-

ficial campaign bio reads like that of an ideal candidate. Born in Pittsburgh in 1935, he served in the Air Force in the 1960s, moved to Texas to open a private practice and served two Texas districts in three terms in the U.S. House. His terms have been free of scandal, and he's already run for president once, back in 1988.

But there's something else at work with Paul - a contrary streak a mile wide. He opposes federal flood insurance, but his district is a coast threatened by hurricanes. He opposes farm subsidies, but his district is primarily agricultural. Despite those factors, Paul is now in his sixth term representing the Texas 14th, having been re-elected in every race since 1996; that, in addition to the four previous terms representing the Texas 22nd.

"There's such a deep independent streak (in Paul's constituents)," Lester, a native Texan, said. "Different pockets of the state are very independent-minded. When you're talking about smaller government, it resonates. It even trumps self-interest sometimes."

With poll numbers in the sin-

gle digits and not a single state won in the primaries, it is highly unlikely that Paul will occupy the White House anytime soon. However, both Lester and Owens agreed there are aspects of Paul's campaign strategies future candidates may employ to their advantage, in particular, his online presence, which includes a YouTube channel with nearly 7 million hits, a MySpace page and a Facebook profile. All of those have served to motivate and connect his supporters in many ways.

"(But) at the same time, if you're going to win a campaign and actually be the person that makes policy change," Lester said, "You gotta be a little more mainstream with your ideas."

All this doesn't bother Martin. You can have both the man and the message, he says.

"I voted for Ralph Nader in the 2004 election, and I voted for him because of his message," he said. "I've heard a lot of people on both sides - Republican and Democrat - say, 'We need someone who can show us that some of our ideas have lost their way'. Now here's your chance. We got Ron Paul."

Get on HWY 204 and take a left at the fork in the road, Tweeners will be on the left!
WE CATER!!!

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Political Science	\$32,734
Psychology	\$30,958
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Biology/Life Sciences	\$26,449
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OUR VOICE

In crowded field, two stand out *Obama: The honest choice for the Dems*

If someone had mentioned the name Barack Obama — then a freshly minted senator from Illinois — in the context of a presidential race four years ago, few would have given the prospect serious consideration.

Fewer still would have envisioned that a black man with the last name of Obama would be a frontrunner for the Democratic nomination.

Hopefully on Jan. 20, 2009, we can look back and say how far we've come.

When you look at what is wrong with America today — and believe us, we are a broken nation — what we need more than anything else is a president who does not follow the political status quo. Obama is that candidate.

The promise of change that is so prevalent among all the presidential candidates this year started with him.

False promises, vague solutions and rhetoric are common plagues of political races. Obama is a genuinely good, honest man. People like him for a reason. More so than any other candidate this election

means what he says.

How do we know that what he says and how he says it makes him any different from any other candidate? How do we know that he is different, that he's honest?

Well, we don't.

But we believe him. 11,000 people in Bartow Arena in Birmingham on Jan. 27 sure believed him.

Come Feb. 5th, Alabama is one of 24 states that can begin the change. And it would be an even bigger change in this state — a traditionally red one — if a Democrat who looks like Obama can claim victory.

We were a big part of the Civil Rights movement of the 20th century, and we can be a big part of the new century's transformation as well.

If Obama can claim victory in Alabama but still lose the nomination to Clinton, at least we in this state could hold our heads up high and claim that we made the honest choice.

South Carolina and Iowa already have. Let's keep hope alive. *The Chanticleer* endorses Barack Obama for the



11,000 strong can't be wrong

Like many others who do so weekly, I went to a revival on Sunday.

There was a gospel choir, feet stomping, people praising and singing and yelling and everything.

I clapped and cheered with an estimated 11,000 Alabamians who showed up for the experience.

It was a Sunday to remember.

Oh — I wasn't at church, by the way. Though, I do think some in attendance were saved.

I was a part of the larger-than-expected crowd that showed up in droves to see the man who will hopefully save this country,

hope that he has touched enough lives with his honest messages of change to win him the Democratic nomination he deserves.

A nomination we need.

Commentary Editor Brandon Hollingsworth and I have tried our best with this page to maintain some subtlety and a little discretion about how we feel this election year should go.

Well, we've stopped trying. It's time to be explicit. That's why you see our endorsements for who we feel JSU students should consider when they go to the polls this Tuesday, Feb. 5.

If we want change, if we have real, honest hope, the opportunity to make it happen really is in our hands.

The thumpings that Obama gave Hillary Clinton and John Edwards in the South Carolina primary and in the Iowa caucus were no fluke, but he is still certainly far from being

Obama and think he'd be a great president, but they don't think he'll win. Thus, they won't or can't vote for him.

This type of attitude is disconcerting.

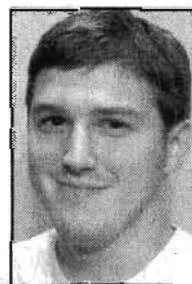
We have to nominate the person who can bring us together to work for change. Then, we must elect that person.

Too long has America been disenchanted with its president, and too long have we been apathetic to the notion of changing our lots.

"Oh well," and we collectively shrug.

This country needs a president who is genuine and honest. Someone who is passionate, with convictions of optimism.

There are too many issues about which candidates spew rhetoric and false solutions to make any sense of it all. There are too many problems for a voter to expect someone to step in to office and immediately solve everything.



Kevin Jeffers

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honest man. People are not for a reason. More so than any other candidate this election year, he defies the logic of the prototypical politician.

He says what he means and

already have. Let's keep hope alive. The *Chanticleer* endorses Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination for president.

McCain: Logical, moderate GOP option

The term "war hero" has been bandied about in just about every election cycle of this republic, and the men for whose reputations it worked include Andrew Jackson, Dwight Eisenhower and Teddy Roosevelt.

While John McCain is such a man — having been held in a prison camp during the Vietnam War — there is much more to the senior senator from Arizona.

Over his political career, the word maverick has far outweighed war hero when it comes to McCain's reputation among his constituency, his colleagues in Congress and the American public.

One of his keystone issues in Congress, campaign finance reform, immediately set him apart from less active or less controversial senatorial compatriots. He worked closely with Democratic Wisconsin senator Russ Feingold to pass the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act of 2002. He also strongly supported another bill designed to promote automatic spending cuts in the event of a federal deficit.

It's not the only example of

McCain reaching across the aisle for the greater good. He and fellow Vietnam vet John Kerry supported President Clinton when he normalized relations with the south Asian country in 1995. Most recently, he was a member of the "Gang of Fourteen," the bipartisan group of senators who negotiated compromise bills and resolutions.

To be sure, McCain has in recent years lost some of his momentum; his formerly unorthodox ideas have fallen much more into the mainstream. But he remains the candidate above the others running for the GOP nomination.

Much more reasonable than Guiliani, more electable than Huckabee, more moderate than Paul and less polarizing than Romney, McCain appears to be the most logical choice for the nomination this summer.

For a man whose candidacy was written off last summer as dead in the water, McCain certainly looks alive. For the reasons described above, the *Chanticleer* feels that John McCain is the ideal choice for the Republican nomination for president.

I was a part of the larger-than-expected crowd that showed up in droves to see the man who will hopefully save this country, the man who I believe — and have since I first saw him speak — can steer us back from the ethical and moral backwaters of the world.

Barack Obama, the hope-mongering senator from Illinois, touched that many Alabama lives on Sunday. And it is my sincere

Clinton and John Edwards in the South Carolina primary and in the Iowa caucus were no fluke, but he is still certainly far from being the frontrunner for the Democratic nomination. Polls in California and New York, the two biggest Super Tuesday states, still have Clinton with a firm lead.

I've talked to plenty of my peers about Obama. Too many of them have said something to the effect of how they really like

many problems for a voter to expect someone to step in to office and immediately solve everything.

That's what makes the 2008 presidential election the most important in a long time. Certainly in my lifetime.

What we need is someone who can bring us together. No more red, no more blue.

We need a real uniter.

Barack Obama can be that president.

Assessment without dissent

Communications Department accreditation effort lacks true voice

In October and November of 2007, the *Chanticleer* ran several editorials, letters and rebuttals from students, faculty and administrators. All the materials dealt with what was described as a misstep in the Communications Department's hiring of adjunct faculty.

Today, we revisit the issue of dissatisfaction within the department, but this time of a more general nature.

As you read this, the department is fast closing in on the home stretch of a five-year-long accreditation process. In that time, the department expended tremendous amounts of work, time and manpower to meet the criteria for accreditation.

Next week, an on-site evaluation committee of the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) will conduct a final visit to the department. Their goal will be to make a final recommendation for or against accreditation based on how well the department has

achieved certain predetermined standards.

If the JSU Department of Communications gains accreditation, it would be only the third in Alabama to reach such a benchmark. The other two are the University of Alabama and Auburn University. It's far from a done deal, however, and the department's last-minute scrambling leaves much to be desired.

By scrambling, I mean doing things now that could very well have been done a while back, including establishment of a communication library facility. The existence of such a facility is considered an important part of the accreditation process, yet no such room existed until late last year, and books and periodicals, few as there are, were not delivered until this month.

As part of the ACEJMC team's evaluation, they will participate in group and individual discussions with students. I view this as the most significant single exercise the team will conduct during their stay in Jacksonville. Without knowing what the students are thinking and how they view their own education, the committee cannot fully know the health of the department.

Unfortunately, here too are problems. The department was allowed to select a number of students to meet with the on-site team.



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The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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

Letters Policy:

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

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

Music Corner

ALBUM OF THE WEEK

Jason Collet

Here's to Being Here

Head banging, crowd surfing and eye gouging are words that are sometimes used to describe rock music, but none would even come close to describing Jason Collett and his new album *Here's to Being Here*.

Jason Collett is a local of Toronto, Canada. *Here's to Being Here* is his third solo album and was produced by Howie Beck, musician/producer.

Like many bands, his songs come from many different influences which range between jazz, folk and rock. His voice sounds raspy and dirty like Kurt Cobain, and his guitar style is totally Simon and Garfunkel.

When I first inserted this CD, I had no expectations of liking it at all. Some of the songs are overly produced, but you can still feel his soul coming through. When an artist creates something, whether it be a painting or song, they are creating something that is piece of them, something that came from them and it is a product of their pain or happiness.

Collett produces art, and whether it's for fame and money, or if it just makes him feel better to let out how he feels, he is truly producing art.

My favorite song by him is "Charlyn, Angel of Kensington" which isn't on this album, but he has many more great songs. I recommend this album to those with a passion for art, and I also recommend his other albums.

B+

— Matt Singleton

ALSO IN ROTATION

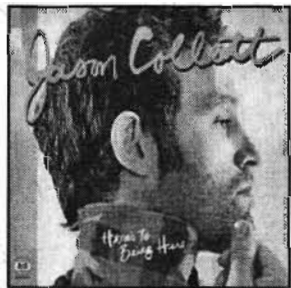
Matt Costa

Unfamiliar Faces

Listening to Matt Costa's album *Unfamiliar Faces* is like looking through a musical kaleidoscope. The album is brimming with imagination and variety. It bounces from one genre to another like a vinyl geek perusing a vintage record shop.

The opening track, "Mr. Pitiful," consists of three different melodies that Costa somehow ties together seamlessly.

"Emergency Call" is '60's rock and roll loaded with soulful delivery by Costa. This song was recorded so that the



COLLEGIATE COOKING / CHEESE GRITS

Finding comfort in a breakfast classic

By Abby Lockridge
Staff Reporter

Breakfast can be pretty dull at times. On cold winter mornings, the last thing you usually want is a cold bowl of cereal. But time crunches keep you from preparing yourself a hot meal. Instead of reaching for a stale slice of pizza from two nights ago or grabbing a bag of chips from the snack machine, try an old classic that is still delicious. I'm talking about grits.

In recent years, grits have taken on a new role in the culinary world. They have become, like so many foods that never go out of style, trendy. Many upscale and eclectic restaurants are using grits as a chic side dish or a bed for some other warm and impressive main course. Grits are practically the ideal food for someone who is limited on time, needs to watch their budget and desires a comforting and satisfying breakfast or side dish.

This recipe is completely simple. Using ingredients you already probably have on hand, you can make this dish for next to nothing. Everyone

loves a classic, and here's a recipe that will always be popular in my book. Don't just try this at breakfast.

If you've always had instant grits from the small packets, it's time you tried these. They are so creamy, you won't ever want to eat the packets of grits again. Plus, who needs fake cheddar flavor, when you can have the real thing in about the same amount of time? The size of the bag of grits I listed here will feed you for literally weeks. Even better, it's less than two dollars per bag.

TOOLS

1 very small saucepan with fitting lid, 1 spoon, wooden or otherwise, 1 tablespoon measuring spoon, 1 ¼ cup measuring cup, 1 bowl or saucer, 1 spoon with which to eat

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bag of Quaker 5 Minute Grits, 36.8 oz size
- 2 tablespoons of cheddar cheese, plus a little extra for sprinkling on top
- salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons of milk
- ¼ cup water
- 1 tablespoon of light stick butter or margarine.

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat ¼ cup water and a generous dash of salt in saucepan until boiling.
2. Add ¼ cup grits, and immediately reduce the pan to medium-low. Be careful here because the grits will boil up rapidly. If they do begin to boil up, gently remove the pan from the eye of the stove and stir until it goes back down. Return pan to the stove.
3. Stir grits, and cover with lid for about four minutes.
4. Remove lid and stir in milk and cheddar. This will make the grits extra creamy.
5. Let the grits sit on low for about two to three minutes.
6. Add butter, pepper, and more salt if needed.
7. Sprinkle the top with the extra cheddar and enjoy!

FILM REVIEW

Untraceable hard to follow

By Stephen Bagley
Staff Reporter

The age of technology is apparently an extremely frightening subject since studios continue to grind out horror flicks and thrillers on the topic.

Untraceable features the lovely Diane Lane as an FBI computer specialist who hunts down criminals online. She and her partner crack down on hackers and pirates all over the country.

Well, technically, she makes a call to a team of brutes to beat in front doors while she sits safely behind a computer screen.

Things start getting eerie when a new site comes online with a murderous objective: to kill an innocent little animal. If you like small furry things, avert your eyes.

However, this is small potatoes compared to what the super-genius has in store for his victims. When a



of three different melodies that Costa somehow ties together seamlessly.



"Emergency Call"

is '60's rock and roll loaded with soulful delivery by Costa. This song was recorded so that the vocals and piano come out of the right speaker, and the drums, horns and guitar come out of the left speaker. This makes for a very authentic '60's sound.

The last tune on the album is my favorite, "Miss Magnolia". It's straight Americana with a twist of bluegrass and a sprinkle of ukulele for good measure. *Unfamiliar Faces* is a cool record overall. The album shows progress in Costa's song writing, and is worth taking a listen.

B+

— Jacob Probus

Horror Pops

Kiss Kiss Kill Kill

Danish rock band, the Horror Pops, have been playing their own blend of new wave, surf rock and punk since 1996. They have a long-standing reputation of being a very experimental group.

Since 1996, the band has kept a busy schedule of recording, touring and side projects. Following a visit to the studio last fall, the band kicked off the new year with a brand new album with an intensity that never stops surprising the listener.



Kiss Kiss Kill Kill, has a release date set for early February and is a highly anticipated release from the band's devoted fans. Crafting a thrill ride of an album is no easy feat, but Patricia Day (lead vocals/upright bass), Nekroman (lead guitar/vocals) and Niedermeier (drums/vocals) have done so by adhering to instinct.

By staying true to their original and diverse musical vision, Horror Pops have flourished, building a loyal and ever-growing following in the process.

The album sounds as good as it looks, with the ever iconic horror-esque album artwork that resembles late '50's movie posters.

Kiss Kiss Kill Kill contains all the key ingredients to a successful rockabilly album: thumping bass, driving drums and hooking guitar riffs and the vocal prowess of front lady/bassist Patricia Day.

All in all, the entire album is more than worth the wait until February for it to hit the shelves. Key tracks to listen to are: "Thelma and Louise,"

"Highway 55" and "Are you Going to the Disco?"

C+

— Corey Martin

new site comes online with a murderous objective: to kill an innocent little animal. If you like small furry things, avert your eyes.

However, this is small potatoes compared to what the super-genius has in store for his victims. When a man goes missing and shows up on the streaming feed on the Kill With Me Web site, time starts against the cyber detectives. A hunt ensues for the identity of the killer, which is actually given to you less than halfway through the film. Then, the killer sets his sights on Lane's character, and it gets "personal."

Untraceable is not for the faint of heart, as with its 'R' rating a good deal of blood and gore are permitted. It is also not for those of us with a soft spot in our hearts for tiny mam-

mals. Nor is it for anyone who hasn't taken at least two years of computer and network-based classes. The terminology is a bit too much for some, as the vocabulary focuses entirely in the world of computers and the Internet. If a mirror is something you fix your hair with in the morning, you will miss the point, I assure you.

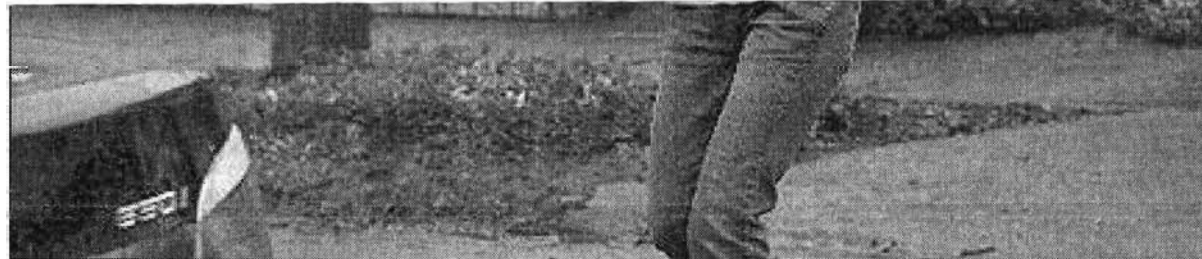
However, if you for some unknown

reason loved the "Saw" series, you may find this one appealing, since the killer has a similar mindset and technique. Actually, this film felt to me like a complete rip-off of *Saw* with some anti-piracy propaganda. Don't believe me? Watch for yourself. I felt like Jigsaw could have made a cameo appearance at any moment.

If you like thrillers and you have

a basic understanding of how the Internet works instead of just how to use it, this one may be for you. If you're looking for a fantastic plot with engaging characters, try a different theater. This movie just seems a wee bit unbelievable.

C+



Media file photo

LAST-DITCH EFFORT

By John Kroes



SUDOKU

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Sports

Board of Trustees discusses move to FBS

By Bran Strickland
Consolidated News Service

Put into the hands of the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees at their meeting Monday was a feasibility study on the move to the Football Bowl Subdivision.

What it showed was that if a move up in division is what Jacksonville State is going to do, a great deal more money for athletics will be involved.

The study, which was put together by Johnny Williams' Creative Marketing Management, said JSU spends a little more than \$8 million

annually on athletics. To get on par with teams in the Sun Belt and Mid-America Conferences — leagues of comparable programs — will take at least twice what the Gamecocks currently spend.

On average, Sun Belt teams spend \$13.6 million; MAC teams spend \$18.1.

Figures such as those raise questions for some.

"I'm all in favor of going full-steam ahead, but we've got to be prepared," said Jim Coxwell, JSU Board of Education member. "We're not doing what we should be doing as a I-AA. We not doing things

we should be doing as far as tickets and advertisement. ... We've got to catch up."

At least they have time to do it. This past August, the NCAA announced a four-year moratorium on teams moving between divisions and subdivisions, meaning it would be 2011 at the earliest before JSU could consider moving to the highest level of football and 2013 before it could start playing.

The report showed the Gamecocks' biggest weakness is in funds. To that end, the JSU board of trustees approved adding two staff members

to promote ticket sales and marketing of Gamecock sports and asking for the creation of a marketing budget for the athletics department, while also moving forward with the possibility of the expansion of Paul Snow Stadium.

University administrators have said the stadium project would move forward whether the Gamecocks go to the FBS.

Williams compared JSU to schools in the Sun Belt and MAC and to teams that are looking to make the move up. Williams' group didn't make a recommendation whether JSU should go: that's for the board

to decide.

What the group did do, however, was outline potential strengths and weakness if JSU takes this course.

Among the "strengths supporting a successful transition" are Calhoun County's community, the athletic success JSU has enjoyed in the Ohio Valley Conference, the loyalty for JSU and its athletic programs, institutional support, scholarships — which are fully funded at the NCAA maximum — and its facilities were called "well-regarded".

See "FBS," page 7



Webb Dillard

chantyweb@gmail.com

*Smoke
equals
fire, right?*

I always said I would never go to a basketball game at JSU unless somebody paid me.

ESPN-U was that somebody, and the performance against Austin Peay tells me something needs to change.

The first eight minutes were impressive. However, the rest of the game was awful. Poor shot selection, no movement in the offense, and a failure to realize what worked in the first half.

First of all, some of the shots that were being put up were just poor decisions by the offense. Driving the ball in and throwing up any old shot only works at the Y.

Second, only once did I see screens being set away from the ball to free up a man on the baseline. The pass on that play came from one of the guards who got a screen set for him out beyond the free throw line.

It worked, so did they go back to it? Nope.

What about that 11-point lead with 9:34 to go in the first half? Did the coaches or team try to protect it? It sure didn't seem like it to me. The LaPlante-coached team still kept trying to jack threes and hit circus shots. JSU went scoreless from the 9:34 mark to the 5:58 mark.

That killed any momentum and allowed Austin Peay to get back into the game.

The final 9:34 of the first half, the team from JSU only produced four total points.

Four. F-O-U-R.

Scrumming for cash

*JSU Rugby
looking for
funding and
victories*

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

Long treated unequally, and relegated to the anonymity of being a "club team", the JSU rugby team is trying to improve things both on and off the field.

The first part is underway, as the team got off to a convincing spring start with a 36-5 win in a "friendly" at home against Mississippi State last Saturday.

But the off the field matters will not be solved quickly.

The club team status means that rugby does not receive the same funding as the other sports at JSU. Players have to provide much of the income for travel, lodging, uniforms, referee fees and other expenses.

Of course, as coach Mike Trowse says, that's not always easy for college students



The final 9:34 of the first half, the team from JSU only produced four total points.

Four F-O-U-R.

Of the 10 possessions JSU had in the final 5:58 of the first half, three of the shots were missed 3's, and four of the shots were either missed two-point jumpers or missed lay-ups. Austin Peay finished the final 9:34 of the half by smacking JSU with an 18-4 run.

After the half, it was a total Austin Peay party.

I guess Mike LaPlante should be glad that he is hidden away at a school with such few basketball expectations.

Until the students, fans and university start expecting more, LaPlante's tenure will continue.

This loss came on a night when the school was, although limited to ESPN-U, illuminated by a certain amount of national spotlight. The team and coaches stunk up the airwaves.

That does wonders for recruiting, I'm sure.

Coach LaPlante, do you smell any smoke, fella? Your seat over there at the Pete should be a constant inferno with an all-time record of 83-111 in seven and a half seasons at JSU.

Certainly those stats are worthy of smoke, if not an all-out blaze.

This may be the reason why I have such a problem with all the talk of expanding stadiums and such.

How about instead of adding 5,000 useless seats to Paul Snow, JSU uses that money to look for another men's basketball coach?

Why don't the university and athletic department build the programs we have and worry about the 5,300-seat arena we can't fill?

Losing seasons won't put people in the stands.

Hell, most of the sorority girls that had signs up over at the Pete during the Austin Peay game expressing their so-called "love" for the basketball team had left by halftime.

Let's hope that something is burning over at the basketball offices, whether it is the cushy chairs of the staff or the midnight oil searching for some change, because the blistering 4-17 start is not cutting it.

Webb Dillard is the multimedia editor of the Chanticleer and a communications student at JSU. Send comments to Chantweb@gmail.com.

expenses.

Of course, as coach Mike Trowse says, that's not always easy for college students.

"I'm the budget-master," he said. "We get \$300 from the SGA — which we appreciate — but that doesn't even begin to cover the costs.

Trowse and the players, with the help of faculty advisor Dr. Prudloe and Joe Service, arranged a meeting with JSU President Bill Meehan and other school leaders to request more funding.

Team leaders dressed up and presented a Powerpoint presentation — detailing the fact they were first place in the Georgia Rugby Union Tier B and other information — and the school is attempting to gather research on the

JSU Rugby captain Justin Armstrong waits in anticipation of his teammates winning a scrum against Mississippi State. Photo courtesy of Racheal Boyd / JSU Rugby.

subject.

Among the leaders who attended the presentation were team captain Justin Armstrong, team president Chris Stekete and vice president Myron Stewart.

Stekete told a story of a home match against Wake Forest last year when there were no goalposts. The school has since

bought goalposts and goalpost pads.

"It was kind of embarrassing to come out with PVC pipes, and half of it falling down or leaning," Stekete said. "We're extremely grateful to the school for getting us some (goalposts)."

The players were effusive in their thanks for Trowse, who Armstrong

described as "90 percent stockholder of this team" because he has helped out players who could not afford the numerous costs associated with the rugby team.

Trowse, a native of England who

See "Rugby," page 7

Women win third straight at home

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Just one week after getting crushed by Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team put together back-to-back Ohio Valley Conference wins for the second time this season.

The Gamecocks (9-12, 6-6 OVC) defeated Austin Peay 76-56 on Thursday night and finished the weekend with a 64-52 victory over UT-Martin.

JSU has now won three straight conference games at Pete Mathews Coliseum after dropping their first four at home.

In the early stages of the game against Austin Peay, the Gamecocks looked like the same squad that had suffered two blowout losses just one week earlier.

JSU found itself down by six points just four minutes into the contest. During that span, the Gamecocks went 1-for-8 from the field and missed several lay-ups.

After the first media timeout, JSU found its rhythm. Utilizing a full-court press, the Gamecocks held the Lady Goves to three shot attempts over the next eight minutes of the game thanks in large part to 11 forced turnovers.

"I thought our press did a nice job tonight," JSU coach Becky Geyer said. "They threw the ball away a lot."

With 7:44 remaining in the



Cierra Duhart and Paris Hollingsworth attempt to defend UT Martin's Crystal Fuller. Fuller scored 35 points against JSU and was named OVC Player of the Week, but the Gamecocks still won 65-52. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

first half, the Gamecocks led 19-16, and they would lead the rest of the way.

Freshmen Charlease Williams, with her mother in attendance, scored a career-high 13 points in the first half.

"It felt great to get my second double-digit game," Williams said. "It just felt great to play like that in front of my mom and my family. With my teammates picking me up after my injury and rooting me on, it just really

gave me the momentum to keep going."

The Gamecocks continued their defensive dominance in the second half on their way to a 20-point victory over the Lady Goves, the largest margin of victory in Geyer's tenure at JSU.

"I thought some girls really stepped up and did well. It was nice to see us distribute our minutes a little more evenly tonight and continue to play

good basketball," Geyer said. "I'm really happy with the win. I thought that was much-needed."

The Gamecocks victory over UT-Martin wasn't quite as impressive, but JSU still walked away victorious.

"It wasn't a very pretty win, but a win is a win," Geyer said. "It was hard to get into a rhythm. I felt like there was never really a rhythm to the game. As far as a win, gosh, we will take every

one we can get. We've won nine now. That's a good thing."

The Skyhawks took an early 4-0 lead, but the Gamecocks rattled off 14 consecutive points to put themselves up by 10 with 14:53 remaining in the first half. UT-Martin was never able to cut the lead to less than seven points.

Freshman Zenobia Pitts was the catalyst in the first half, scoring 11 points. She finished the game with a career-high 13.

Three other Gamecocks scored double-digits as well. Cierra Duhart led the team with 16. Danielle Beneby added 13, and Cassi Stuart poured in 10.

However, the most dominant player on the court Saturday afternoon was UT-Martin's Crystal Fuller. She scored 20 of the Skyhawks' 25 points in the first half and finished with 35 for the game.

"Fuller had a great game. You definitely have to give her credit for that," Geyer said. "The tough part about it is that our philosophy is to front the post. Our kids really had trouble getting around her and pushing her back."

The Gamecocks may have had trouble stopping Fuller, but the remainder of the Skyhawks went 6-for-29 from the field, allowing JSU to walk away with the 64-52 victory.

The Gamecocks will host league-leading Eastern Illinois next Thursday at Pete Mathews Coliseum with tip-off set for 5:30 p.m.

GAMECOCK BRIEFS

• **Alina Bocicor**, a multi-event specialist, won her first collegiate pentathlon Friday at the JRF Multi-Event Challenge in Clemson, South Carolina. She tallied 3633 points throughout the competition. Just one week before her performance at Clemson, Bocicor, a freshman from Bucharest, Romania, broke the school record in the high jump competition by more than two inches.

• **Amber Wiley** and **Crystal Estes** also broke school track and field records two weekends ago at the Niswonger Invitational. Wiley, a freshman from North Bend, Oregon, broke the pole-vaulting record by six inches. A native of Harvey, Illinois, Estes broke both the school's shot put and weight throw records.

• **Sarah Caine**, a junior from Alberta, Canada, finished with the highest individual performance of the weekend with an eighth place effort in the mile-run with a time of 5:27.54.

• The **Jacksonville State rifle team** tied for second place at the Roger Withrow Invitational over the weekend, which was hosted by Murray State University. The Gamecocks finished with 4604 points, just five points behind champions West Virginia.

• Last week, the **Jacksonville State softball team** was

Men's hoops unable to hold leads

Gamecocks fall to brink of OVC elimination after crucial home losses

By **Jered Staubs**
Sports Editor

The JSU men's basketball team has learned how to start strong, but a lack of consistency and rebounding led to three more OVC losses in the past week.

JSU (4-17, 2-11 OVC) fell further out of the OVC conference tournament picture and will move to the rear of the conference if unable to beat Eastern Illinois Thursday night.

The Gamecocks got out to early leads against both Austin Peay and UT-Martin, but could hold neither lead even to halftime.

The Gamecocks used the support from its biggest crowd of the season to jump on the league leaders 24-13 halfway through the opening half, but then went cold.

Wesley, who capitalized on a rare four-point play on his way to 11 first half

points, felt the extra energy of playing on ESPN-U helped the team get off to a quick start.

"We're on TV, we're hyped and it helped us a lot because we had to bring our A-game," Wesley said. "But then they starting executing — rebounding, knocking down shots — and we started missing a lot of shots."

Wesley and Nick Murphy provided most of the early spark for the Gamecocks — they scored 15 of JSU's first 18 points — and the freshman teammates said they planned on leading the team.

"I told (J.J.) we've got to step up big as freshman and get the team off to a good start," Murphy said. "But Austin Peay, they're a good team, and they just chipped away slowly and we started to get our heads down."

The Gamecocks scored only three points in over eight minutes, and Austin Peay slowly cut into the lead with a balanced attack that saw five players

score in double figures.

The Governors eventually grabbed a 33-29 lead at the break on the strength of a 20-3 run, and JSU was never able to get closer in the second half.

After the Austin Peay game, Wesley said the game against Martin was a must-win. Unfortunately for JSU, another long scoring drought and a poor rebounding effort led to an 81-70 win by Martin.

Coach Mike LaPlante and the Gamecocks were concentrating on stopping Martin's Lester Hudson, who entered the game leading the nation in scoring. But it was Gerald Robinson who made the coach miserable.

"We came into the game saying let (Robinson) shoot threes — he's shooting like 19 percent in OVC play — and don't let Hudson get open looks," LaPlante said. "But, he hits those threes early, and that helps to settle the team down. But where he really killed us was with his rebounding."

Robinson ended the game with 19 rebounds, the same number the entire JSU team managed.

The Gamecocks were not helped by Amadou Mbodji twice being forced to leave the game — because of foul trouble in the first half and because of injury in the second half. Without the big man, JSU struggled to keep Robinson and the other Skyhawks off the boards.

The Gamecocks lost another game on Tuesday night to Tennessee State, plunging them into the OVC cellar.

In that 88-77 loss, JSU sputtered out of the gates and trailed by as many as 24 before rallying.

Murphy led the Gamecocks with 20, but JSU had no answer for Reiley Ervin, who ended the night with 19.

JSU will play Eastern Illinois at 7:30 tonight at Pete Mathews Coliseum in a matchup of last place OVC teams.

Rugby: Gets spring season off to flying start with blowout of Miss St

Continued from page 6

formerly played semi-pro rugby, has been working with the team for a couple years, since he found out JSU had a rugby team.

"I came out and watched them, and asked if I could help out," Trowse said. "Three years ago we were losing 88-3 and 86-0, but we've been getting better."

The experienced team — which will be losing ten players at the end of this semester — has become a contender in Division-III.

Last year, JSU made it to the quarterfinal of the D-III championship before losing to Wake Forest. This season has seen even more improvement.

The Gamecocks closed the 2007 calendar year by becoming champions of the Battleship Tournament in Mobile. After beating West Florida and Louisiana-Loyola, the Gamecocks defeated Tulane 26-12 in the final.

"They played the best game I've seen them play as a team in that final win over Tulane,"

Trowse said. "We've got some good leadership here, and we hope that will help us this year."

Steketee, a senior full back, had a field day against Mississippi State, scoring twice on tries — which are worth five points each — and three times on conversions, which are worth two points.

JSU built a 31-0 halftime lead and was on the verge of shutting out the Bulldogs before a late score by David Tomasin.

The Gamecocks will try to build on that performance as they travel to Tennessee Tech this weekend for a league match.

Trowse said former football players are natural fits for rugby, but that it doesn't always work that way. He feels that the four main aspects of a quality rugby player are speed, fitness, the ability to learn and the ability to control temper.

"High schools reject rugby because they say it would interfere with football, when actually football came from rugby," Trowse said. "Rugby can make any football player

better. If you can play rugby, you can play anything."

The crowd that did turn out in the chilly weather seemed to enjoy the constant action and physicality that is innate to any rugby match, and multiple players voiced that if students would come watch the matches, they would enjoy themselves.

But the team also feels that several students seem unaware of the fact that JSU even has a rugby team. If not for the phrase, "Cock Rugby ... It's Big", hardly any would know.

It's not unprecedented for a rugby team to not be directly tied to the school because of Title IX, and the players try to keep a positive attitude about their plight.

But the National Collegiate Athletic Association says rugby is one of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S. and will likely be the next sport the NCAA governs.

Still, it's doubtful that you will ever see a football player or basketball player picking up trash and equipment after the home games, as the rugby players must.

JSU SPRING RUGBY SCHEDULE

- Feb. 2 vs. Tennessee Tech (Chattanooga)
- Feb. 9 vs. Murray State
- Feb. 16 vs. Sewanee
- Feb. 23 @ Auburn

• All home matches will be played behind Pete Mathews Coliseum next to the soccer field.



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304 points, just five points behind champions West Virginia.

Last week, the **Jacksonville State softball team** was picked to finish second in the OVC for the 2008 season. Votes were taken among the league's head coaches.

JSU All-American outfielder **Clay Whittemore** was featured online by Ping!Baseball last weekend. Whittemore, a senior from Cullman, Alabama, led the conference in hits and RBI last season and was named **OVC Player of the Year**.

Two players from UT-Martin received Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Week honors for their performances against JSU and Samford last week.

Gerald Robinson and **Crystal Fuller** both earned the honors largely because of impressive performances at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Robinson is averaging only 13.6 points and 8.5 rebounds per game this season, but scored 26 points and grabbed 19 rebounds against JSU. Fuller scored 35 points in the Skyhawks' loss to JSU. The senior is averaging 16.3 ppg on the year and 18.0 ppg in conference play.

Lester Hudson, the nation's leading scorer with 26.9 ppg, earned OVC Newcomer of the Week for the fourth time in the past five weeks. Hudson scored 20 points and grabbed 12 boards against the Gamecocks.

— From staff reports

After beating West Florida and Louisiana-Loyola, the Gamecocks defeated Tulane 26-12 in the final.

"They played the best game I've seen them play as a team in that final win over Tulane,"

attiness, the ability to learn and the ability to control temper.

"High schools reject rugby because they say it would interfere with football, when actually football came from rugby," Trowse said. "Rugby can make any football player

will likely be the next sport the NCAA governs. Still, it's doubtful that you will ever see a football player or basketball player picking up trash and equipment after the home games, as the rugby players must.

FBS: School to decide feasibility of move

Continued from page 6

The first bullet point among the "potential threats" was conference affiliation. Jacksonville State could not continue to be a member of the OVC, as it has an all-or-not policy, meaning if the Gamecocks were an FBS football team, it could not compete in football and the rest of the sports.

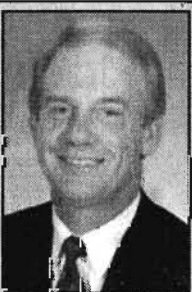
Other bullet points were: development and execution of a broad plan to raise funds, increase ticket sales and maximize corporate sponsorships, development of a unified "Mission" that is embraced by all, address the staffing, facilities and budget needs and increase student support.

While the last point could be construed as student attendance at events, it was also pointed out in the study that the use of student fees is also used by other schools — and a means of raising internal revenue.

JSU does not charge the fee to its students; however, some schools listed in the study

— already in or bound for FBS — charged nearly \$200 per person per semester. The study also outlined schools in the OVC, and of those, all but JSU was without fees.

"We all want things to happen today or yesterday, but there's time involved in this," said Jim Fuller.



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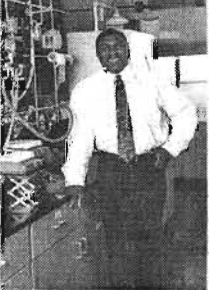
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