Storms roll again over flooded, soggy Southeast

By Jay Reeves
AP Writer

GENEVA, Ala. (AP) — Thunderstorms accompanied by the threat of tornadoes rolled across the already soaked Southeast on Tuesday, raising new worries for residents still recovering from a weekend deluge that flooded hundreds of homes, washed out roads and forced evacuations.

Tornado warnings were issued for points in southeast Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia, and the National Weather Service forecast more thunderstorms in the region Wednesday and Thursday.

Southern Mississippi residents were still cleaning up from tornadoes and flooding as disaster officials warned them to brace for another round of potentially severe storms that could fatten swollen rivers. In southeast Alabama, volunteers and Houston County jail inmates filled more than 2,500 sandbags for people to place in front of their homes to keep out water.

“We’ve had more than 300 houses flooded countywide,” sheriff’s Lt. Jeff Carlisle said. “It’s everywhere, even in places where it’s never flooded before. Every low-lying area in the county is flooded.”

Schools were closed in one Mississippi county and more than a dozen residents in Alabama were staying at a motel. The problems could worsen.

In their 40-plus years running Stinson’s Grocery in Geneva, Ann and Lloyd Stinson said they’ve never seen so much rain in such a short time. Their store is on a small hill across from the Pea River, which overflowed its banks and washed out a road that runs next to it.

Their son’s photography studio downtown was soaked with about a foot of flood waters over the weekend.

“Saturday afternoon people were pulling out carpets and cleaning up all over downtown,” Ann Stinson said. “What’s so frustrating is to see it again.”

See “Storms,” page 2

Changing of the guard
For Nix, end of semester is bittersweet

By Kira Reeves
Staff Writer

Throughout life, we all experience a transition.

A transition for some may be a welcomed one. For Jennifer Nix, the current Student Government Association President, it is bittersweet. Nix, a senior at JSU, is preparing to relinquish her title as SGA President. The office of SGA President is not unlike any other elected office; it does have its pros and cons.

The office of SGA President is not unlike any other elected office; it does have its pros and cons. There is the title and all the work that comes along with it, and also the sweet acceptance of the position and the bitter transition when leaving. All good things like everything come to an end, for Whaley it’s just the beginning and for Nix—well, it’s bittersweet.

2009 SGA Election Roundup

Sorority raises autism awareness

By Cecily Sanders
Staff Writer

World Autism Awareness Day shines a light on autism as a growing global health crisis. World Autism Awareness Day or (WAAD) activities help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and give information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, this day celebrates the unique talents and skills of people with autism. By bringing together autism organizations all around the world, World Autism Awareness Day is a chance to give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help.

Autism is a complex neuro-developmental disorder that typically lasts throughout a person’s lifetime. Autism impairs a person’s ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

Until now, Alpha Xi Delta’s philanthropy has been “Choose Children”. However, today Alpha Xi Delta is pleased to announce their national fraternity’s new partnership with Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks is the world’s largest autism advocacy organization, dedicated to increasing awareness of autism, to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatment of autism, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Since its inception, Autism Speaks has collected an unprecedented $128 million in new research funding through 2014 to uncover the causes(s), prevention, treatments
U. New Hampshire students working to help disabled teen play Wii

By Rachel Carpenter
UIWIRE

As a former forward for Dover High School’s women’s basketball team, Lindsey Kennell understands the value of teamwork.

Working together, communication and never going into a game with the wrong attitude, she said, are all necessities in order to pull off a win. These days Kennell may be on a different court and traveling by motorized wheelchair instead of by foot, but that same teamwork from her basketball days is proving valuable in her current endeavor: the search for normalcy in the wake of tragedy.

Three years ago, Kennell, a Dover High senior, was involved in a car accident that left her without use of her legs or left arm and only minimal control of her right.

Now, Kennell’s teammates include players from Northeast Passage and the University of New Hampshire’s Engineering and Occupational Therapy departments. Their goal is to help the teen participate in activities normal for many of her peers.

Kennell and her family approached Northeast Passage, a group of UNH-based therapeutic recreation specialists, in search of new ways to socialize and spend time with her friends in her post-accident state.

They submitted a list of activities, both fun and practical, that the teen was interested in gaining access to. Fishing, paintball and elevator operation were among the suggestions, but Keller’s top pick, playing the Nintendo Wii, was accepted by the engineering department as their first challenge.

Chris Bancroft, an electrical engineering graduate student at UNH, oversees the work of four undergraduate students who are working hard on Kennell’s project. As the project’s coordinator, he and his team are developing alternative methods for operating the gaming system to meet Kennell’s severe physical limitations.

“Basically the project involves adapting current technology that a lot of people can use normally into something for someone with limited functionality,” said Bancroft. “What we’re looking to do is restore some sense of normalcy so she can still do all the things that a lot of girls her age would be able to do.”

Enabling Kennell to operate the Wii requires manipulating the various components of the remote, the system’s typically hand-held controller.

During set-up, a sensor bar is placed either above or below a television screen that contains infrared points on each end. These points are detected by a tiny camera located in the front of the remote. The camera controls the cursor on the television screen by judging the distance and angle of the remote from the sensor bar as players move it.

Because Kennell lacks the ability to hold and direct the controller with either hand, the team has relocated the camera to the nose-bridge of a pair of simple safety glasses frames.

She retains motion in her neck and head, and thus, will be able to direct the controller by swiveling and nodding her head while wearing the glasses.

The proximity of a player to the television screen is inversely related to the amount of movement necessary for control. By situating herself closer to or further from the screen, Kennell will be able to control the amount of effort that goes into game play, and simultaneously, the stress of the motion on her neck.

The next step in the project’s development concerns the buttons atop and underneath the controller.

See “Wii,” page 2

WLJS names new Program Director

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The faculty of the communication department named Billy S. Ramsey the new program director for campus radio station WLJS 92J, 91.9 FM.

The Program Director is responsible for hiring DJs and staff and training them on the equipment.

Ramsey said he was excited about his new position.

“I’ve listened to 92J since I was 11 years old,” Ramsey said. “20 years ago, this station could compete with any commercial station; now I hope to bring it to the same level.

Billy Ramsey is the new Program Director for 92-J.

I have the education and experience and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Since its inception, Autism Speaks has committed an unprecedented $128 million in new research funding through 2014 to uncover the cause(s), prevention, treatments and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Since its inception, Autism Speaks has committed an unprecedented $128 million in new research funding through 2014 to uncover the cause(s), prevention, treatments
ON Campus

Campus Crime

March 23
- Harrasing communications were reported.
- Theft of property was reported at Crow Hall. Items stolen include a gold high school class ring valued at $495.

March 24
- Theft of property was reported at the field house. Items stolen include a Cincinnati Bengals helmet valued at $400.
- Theft of property was reported at Rudy Abbot field. Items stolen include an AT&T Quick Fire phone valued at $200.

March 25
- Theft of lost property was reported at Daugette Hall. Items stolen include a Mississippi State Championship ring valued at $1,200.
- Harrasing communications were reported at Crow Hall.

March 26
- Unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Stone Center. Items stolen include an HP Laptop valued at $300, a silver watch valued at $50, a debit card and a checkbook.
- Leon Jermaine Mack was arrested on Trustee Circle for carrying a pistol without a permit.

March 27
- Burglary was reported at Campus Inn Apartments. Items stolen include a gold chain valued at $250.

March 29
- Criminal mischief was reported on the 2nd floor of Martin Hall. A window over a display board was broken.
- A disturbance was reported on the front steps of Stevenson Gym.
- An altercation was reported on the Quad.

Storms: more rain could be on its way

The National Weather Service called Tuesday for as much as three to five inches across south Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia. Those amounts are expected to increase with new storms spreading rain throughout the area later in the week.

Parts of the Southeast have seen rainfall between five and 11 inches in recent days, and some isolated areas had upward of 17 inches.

Water is going down in some areas, but the forecast has emergency officials on alert. "We're seeing estimates of 6 to 12 inches more by the end of the weekend," Carlisle said.

At least 30 people were forced from their homes over the weekend in Houston County, Ala. Dothan Red Cross executive director Susan Holmes said 14 evacuees remained in city motels Tuesday.

In Mobile, Red Cross executive director Leisil Mims said her agency helped find temporary shelter for 29 families, or about 60 people, displaced by flooding in Mobile and Baldwin counties, but most had returned to their homes by Tuesday.

The weekend thunderstorms caused an estimated $1.25 million in flood damage in Houston County, one of 11 counties Gov. Bob Riley declared in a state of emergency.

In Geneva County, Emergency Management Agency Director Margaret Mixon said the reinforced levee protecting the city of Geneva from the rising Pea and Choctawhatchee rivers was holding. But Mixon said three retention ponds are near capacity.

With about 4,300 residents, the city of Geneva is dry, but it is surrounded by floodwaters that are expected to rise against the levee, she said.

"We're in for a lot more rain. We're just giving out sandbags and hoping for the best," she said.

Mixon said about 300 homes in the rural county on the Florida line were flooded by the weekend storms and a number still have water.
"We've got tarps ready in case people need them," said Baldwin County EMA Director Leigh Ann Ryals.

The severe weather has killed one person in Florida and injured 30 in Mississippi. In Florida, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office reported the death of an Alabama man whose pickup truck washed off a roadway and sank in floodwaters on Sunday.

Autism: Sorority partners with national organization
March 30
- A burglary was reported at the softball field. Items stolen include candy.
- A theft of property was reported at Crow Hall in the basement lounge. Items stolen include a flat-screen Plasma TV valued at $1,000.
- Criminal mischief and theft or property was reported at Daugette Hall. Items stolen include a microwave.

What's Happening

Thursday, April 2
- Lost in Yonkers.
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.
7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
Admission: $5, $8, $10.
- Greek Awards Ceremony
Leone Cole Auditorium
6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 3
- Lost in Yonkers.
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.
7:00 p.m. - 9:15 p.m.
Admission: $5, $8, $10.
- CBASE
TMB Auditorium, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Dixie Conclave
TMB Lawn, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 6
- SGA Banquet
Gamecock Center, 6:00 p.m.
- Fundraiser for American Red Cross
2nd floor TMB lobby
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7
- Organization Council Meeting
TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- Recreation Connection
TMB front lawn, 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8
- Resident Appreciation Week Honors
Leone Cole Auditorium, 6:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Announcements

The JSU Public Relations office is looking for student writers!
Bring writing samples to 108 Bibb Graves and ask for Angie or Patty

Congrats to the 2009-10 leaders of student media

Alicia Warren
Editor, The Mimosa

Billy Ramsey
Program Director, WLJS 92J

Zach Childree
Editor in Chief, The Chanticleer
**Dating/Love:**

**In the age of communication**

By Julie Skinner

Dear Julie,

I’ve been in a relationship for almost 4 months. In the past 2 weeks, my boyfriend has been a little clingy. At first, it was OK, but it’s started to get on my nerves. Is the problem me or him?

- The Magnetizer

Magnetizer,

Luckily, you’ve caught this problem early in the relationship and haven’t let it get out of hand. Being too “clingy” can actually push your significant other away, so it’s no surprise that you’re feeling a bit smothered. The problem seems to be your boyfriend. If you are content and happy with all other aspects of the relationship except for your beau’s recent smothering, then the problem can be worked on. Just talk to your boyfriend about how you’re feeling. Tell him that you want this to work, but that without some personal space, you’re not sure if it’s going to. If he freaks out and smoothers you more... then there’s your green light. Get outta there.

Dear Julie,

When my girlfriend and I go out to eat or other places, people usually look at the age difference between us. It doesn’t bother me, but does bother her at times. How can I assure her that this is “right?”

- Creepy Old Guy

Creepy Old Guy,

First of all, great name. It’s great that you can poke fun at yourself. Secondly, it’s hard to feel confident in public places when people stare, no matter what the reason is. However, if you and your girlfriend are both comfortable and secure in your relationship, then the opinion of other’s shouldn’t matter. Compared to the few uncomfortable moments those people cause when they gawk, the moments that you and your girlfriend get to spend together outweigh any other’s opinions.

- Creepy Old Guy

**Opinion**

**Pope-posterous: Condom remark warrants an apology**

By Clint Fullen

UWIRE

Science and religion have often had their differences, but when Pope Benedict XVI said that condoms make the African AIDS epidemic even worse, religious politics hit a whole new level.

While visiting Africa in March, the pontiff told reporters “you cannot resolve the spreading of HIV with distribution of condoms” and “on the contrary, it increases it,” according to The Boston Globe.

The bold claim garnered a mass of criticism by medical and health organizations. The Associated Press reported the statement was chastised by France, Germany and an AIDS-fighting United Nations agency as “irresponsible and dangerous.”

Also, according to CNN, thousands have pledged to send the Vatican condoms in protest.

It is almost understandable why the pope would make such declaration. Condoms cannot be the sole agent in the struggle against HIV.

Besides, the man is Catholic. Obviously, Benedict does not approve of any form of contraception, and the Roman Catholic Church certainly does not condone premarital sex.

But to state that condom use enlarges the rate of infections is utterly absurd.

Regardless, several Catholic figureheads have remained supportive of the pope’s remark.

The Vatican felt compelled to step in and say that “Benedict wanted to stress that a reliance on condoms distracted from the need for proper education in sexual conduct,” according to The Associated Press.

Then again, if the pontiff really meant to say something to that effect, why didn’t he?

After all, Benedict already knew the questions. According to The Associated Press, the Vatican asks reporters to submit questions in advance and then makes a selection, giving Benedict time to prepare a response.

If Benedict wanted to, he could have been as clear and eloquent as possible.

The pope could have said, “Abstinence is the best defense against HIV.”

The pope could have said, “A reduction of rape and sexual abuse would severely curb transmission. Benedict could have made note of how widespread polygamy and intergenerational relationships can make containing the virus difficult. Instead, the pontiff took his time with the press to demonize man’s most practical tool for safe sex.

The British medical journal, The Lancet, wrote, “When any influential person, be it a religious or political leader, makes a false scientific statement that could be devastating to the health of millions of people, they should retract or correct the public record.”

The pope should repent publicly for his statement. Lord knows he’s had to do it in the past.

It isn’t wrong to declare that condoms are not the end-all solution to sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “It should be noted that condom use cannot provide absolute protection against HIV. The surest way to avoid transmission of HIV is to abstain from sexual intercourse or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has tested and you know is uninfected.”

However, to pronounce that condoms are making transmission increasingly-worse is not fair to those who do not know any better. When the most powerful man in religion makes a blunt and erroneous claim on a matter of health and safety, it becomes appropriate to be more critical.

Science and religion do not have to pose as adversaries, but when the bishop of Rome makes assertions like this, it makes it hard not to notice the discrepancy.

**Debaptism an insult, not defense of religious rights**

Matthew Albright

UWIRE

For many Christians, baptism is one of the most sacred ceremonies in which a person can participate.

Baptism is a symbol of a person’s acceptance of the faith, a way of publicly affirming their beliefs.

But for some, it’s a mark of shame — a mark they want to erase from history. But they can’t.
For many Christians, baptism is one of the most sacred ceremonies in which a person can participate.

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But for some, it's a mark of shame — a mark they want to erase from history.

England's National Secular Society is doing everything in its power to help its formerly faithful members do just that.

Atheist John Hunt is a pioneer in an emerging movement toward "debaptism" — a formal rejection of the creeds of baptism.

Hunt, a member of the NSS, has petitioned the local clergy of the Church of England to officially remove his name from their baptismal records.

Apparently Hunt, who broke his faith as a teenager, wants to remove any trace of affiliation he might have with an organization preaching what he now believes to be superstition.

The Church has so far refused to comply. "You can't remove from the record something that actually happened," the Right Reverend Nick Baines, Bishop of Croydon said, according to the BBC. "Whether we agree whether it should have happened or not is a different matter."

In Baines' view, whatever his current beliefs about God are, Hunt can't pretend his baptism never happened.

Hunt's petition is a part of the NSS's attempt at convincing the Church of England to develop an official procedure for annulling bapisms. So far, such a procedure has not been devised.

In response to the Church's resistance, the NSS has begun issuing documents called "Certificates of Debaptism."

The documents are deliberately constructed as satire of Church ceremonies, and the ceremonies intentionally look homemade and use faux ceremonial language.

Hunt's certificate reads, "I, John Geoffrey Hunt, having been subjected to the rite of Christian baptism in infancy ... hereby publicly revoke any implications of that rite. I reject all its creeds and other such superstitions in particular, the pernicious belief that any baby needs to be cleansed of original sin."

The certificate is largely a tongue-in-cheek jab at the formalities of the Church — in fact, the Society's president Terry Sanderson suggested that it be displayed in the bathroom.

The document is available online, and has been downloaded more than 60,000 times, according to Sanderson.

The Society's movement to annul baptisms seems juvenile.

The Church's argument is sound — whether Hunt likes it or not, he was baptized, even if he was too young to understand. The church records are historical documents, so the names should not be removed.

A baptism does not denote membership in the Church. It's a profession of belief, and, as Hunt is well aware, beliefs can and do change throughout a person's life. By maintaining records of his baptism, the Church is certainly not claiming any affiliation or power over him.

Besides, if the NSS really thinks Christian beliefs are so absurd and false, there's no reason for them to attach any significance to the ceremonies those beliefs entail.

But, on the other hand, baptism is a sacred, important ritual to those who have kept the faith — atheists have no reason to care about bapisms as Christians do.

The "debaptism" effort represents a certain breed of militant, confrontational atheism more concerned with vehemently disassociating themselves from Christianity than maintaining actual religious freedom.

If Hunt wants to distance himself from his former religious affiliations, that right is certainly his. But digging into the obscure archives of a church in an effort to remove all traces of his past only serves to insult the faith in which he was raised.
Covering up art
Bowling Green State U. in the midst of censorship controversy

By Freddy Hunt
UWIRE.

The removal of a sculpture from a Firelands campus art exhibit that administrators deemed “inappropriate” has raised questions surrounding First Amendment rights and academic freedom, prompting outrage in the Bowling Green State University community and the attention of a national censorship watchdog organization.

What happened:
Last Wednesday when Art Professor David Sapp showed up to work at the Firelands campus, he was informed that a sculpture was removed from his gallery.

The removed sculpture, titled “The Middle School Science Teacher Makes a Decision He'll Live to Regret,” depicts a girl wearing a backpack, on her knees, performing oral sex on a standing male middle school science teacher. It was one of 13 sculptures in the exhibit.

Sapp, the director of the Little Gallery, had been asked by Fireland’s Interim Dean James Matthew Smith to remove the sculpture on Tuesday of last week. The interim dean’s main concern was that the sculpture was in view of the nearby children’s theater.

Sapp refused to censor. After receiving a thumbs up from the University provost, Matthew Smith went ahead and removed the sculpture without Sapp’s consent.

The University stood by its decision to remove the sculpture in a press release sent out Friday. As an institution of higher education, Bowling Green State University strongly supports the right of free speech and artistic expression, fellow acquaintances, pets and colleagues. Although the material may be inappropriate for children, the National Coalition Against Censorship expressed to the University that it is appropriate for a public university.

In an e-mail addressed to University officials, the NCAC Director Programs Svetlana Mintcheva said the sculpture’s removal “is an unacceptable violation of the academic freedom to openly discuss ideas and social problems in a public university, whether these ideas are expressed in books, in the classroom, or in visual form in the gallery…”

“As a public educational institution, BGSU Firelands is bound by the First Amendment obligation not to discriminate against particular ideas, no matter how controversial they might be. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly defined a university as a ‘quintessential marketplace of ideas’ that warrants heightened First Amendment protection.”

The e-mail was addressed to Sapp, University President Carol Cartwright, Director of the School of Art Katerina Ray and Provost Mark Gromko.

The University has not responded to the NCAC nor has it fulfilled its request to restore the exhibit to its entirety.

“At this point I’m still hoping the University realizes they responded pretty hastily,” Mintcheva said. “It’s a topic that’s disturbing but on the other hand that’s why we have academic freedom and freedom of speech.”

Parlin, an art professor at Edinboro University, said he couldn’t understand why his exhibit was being challenged nearly two weeks after it opened, and with only two weeks left to run.

Lost in where?
‘Lost in Yonkers’ opens at JSU

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department along with Alpha Psi Omega Honor Society will open Lost in Yonkers on Thursday, April 2.

The Neil Simon show is set in Yonkers, New York, and is an adaptation of a very dysfunctional Jewish family during World War II. The family is a family in the loosest meaning of the word.

Through the harsh feelings the family members develop for each other respect is a given and drama is sure to ensue.

The show opens with the two youngest of the family finding that they are stuck with their household. 15-year-old Jacob (Gatlin Aldredge) and 13-year-old Arthur (Jamie Davis) have decided thoroughly that they dislike the place. After Uncle Louie (Jarrod Cuthrell) arrives, Jacob and Artie decide that if their father and his three siblings went through the same thing, for many years, they might have a chance for a few months. When more drama arises within the family, Aunt Bella (Huntley) invites over the last sibling, Gertrude (Rachel Bagley) for support.

If there could be only one thing to say about the brothers, it is that they mix well. They aid each other’s performance: compliment each other and make up for the others shortcomings. Aldredge especially

Huntley did a very acceptable portrayal. Her expression rarely matched what she said and what she said rarely matched the situation. That is how the character is written: written to make sense but not quite fit in perfectly. The only criticism that can be made is that she could have been so much more. In stead lightly laughing off a misunderstanding, she should have burst out laughing off a misunderstanding, however, didn’t quite fit. She did this accurately portrays the desperation of a broken man. His reading of his letters, however, only showed her age, but also complimented the fact that she was an uncaring woman. Throughout the play, Daniels kept up her rigid persona.

Cuthrell played, in my mind, the best and most complicated character. He kept up a very convincing accent for the part and had the fluid movement of the brothers during his high parts. His every action, story, and laugh made the show come alive.

Mask, as the father, came off a little stiff. During an emotional explanation, Mask accurately portrays the desperate plea of a broken man. His reading of his letters, however, didn’t quite fit. She did this.

The e-mail was addressed to Sapp, University President Carol Cartwright, Director of the School of Art Katerina Ray and Provost Mark Gromko.

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"Better Off Ted" may be better off the air

By Catherine Scott

The workplace comedy has become a staple of television over the past few years. These shows are wildly successful, but many try to be "The Office" and fail miserably. Even though there are some funny jokes and even a few memorable ones, "Better Off Ted" is yet another of these dismal wannabes.

The titular Ted, played by Jay Harrington, runs the research and development section of Veridian Dynamics. The company is always inventing new things, from weapons to food to food that can be used as a weapon. Often the inventions are less than ethical or safe for the public, but Ted's boss, Veronica (Portia de Rossi), thinks that making money is more important than keeping the public safe.

Working in the lab to develop all of these fascinating new projects are Phil (Jonathan Slavin) and Lem (Malcolm Barrett), two brilliant and nerdy scientists. The conflict begins when Veronica asks Phil to cryogenically freeze himself for the company in the name of technology advancement. When he agrees and is accidentally thawed out a few days later, there are some bizarre side effects that worry the company.

The other important player in the cast is Ted's crush, Linda (Andrea Anders). But because he slept with Veronica, he refuses to have another office affair. Ted tries to ignore his feelings for her even as they grow stronger every time he sees her.

The plot of "Better Off Ted" is inanely simple. There are only five characters of interest, and most of them aren't really that interesting, especially the protagonist. While Harrington is not a bad actor, the character of Ted is too boring to hold any viewer's interest. He isn't funny, but he isn't serious, either, since he works for a company that produces dangerous consumer goods on a daily basis. He mostly just serves as a mirror for the insanity of Veridian Dynamics.

The supporting characters are not much better. Phil and Lem's awkward interactions are supposed to be funny, but never are, due to the childish dialogue they are given in the show's script. Their fights are reminiscent of Spanky and Alfalfa from "The Little Rascals" without the cute-child factor. Ted's love interest Linda is incredibly boring, and it is very difficult to believe that intelligent and handsome Ted would ever fall in love with her.

The only saving grace of this show is the comedic brilliance that is Portia de Rossi. Her portrayal of the ice queen Veronica is highly off-putting and incredibly funny. From the way her hair is always pulled back into a ridiculously tight bun to her inability to effectively make small talk, Veronica is the epitome of a stuck-up, no-nonsense boss.

One aspect of the show that has potential to be funny is the ridiculous inventions that Phil and Lem are forced to design. They have to grow cow-less meat in the lab but must avoid naming the slab of meat so as not to become attached to it. They build a moldy pumpkin that can be utilized as a weapon of mass destruction by rotting people from the inside out. Veronica also worries about a killer cyborg that has been having problems distinguishing between soldiers and children.

Possibly the funniest part of the show is the opening sequence, which shows a Veridian Dynamics commercial that documents the important discoveries the company has recently made. Narrated by de Rossi, the commercials showcase the absurdity of Veridian Dynamics. The company's inventions are designed to make a quick profit until the public realizes the worthlessness of the product and then move on to the next one.

While the actors' skills are largely impressive, they are not given much to work with, and much of the show's dialogue falls flat. All in all, the show has a few good elements, but it really is not worth watching as an up-and-coming comedy show.

Academic freedom is an absolute central value of the University and when you chip away at it, what will be the next thing to go? Foell said. "If an art gallery is fair game, is a classroom fair game? Is a gallery is fair game, is art Parlin, an art professor at Edinboro University, said he couldn't understand why his exhibit was being challenged nearly two weeks after it opened, and with only two weeks left to go.

"There are galleries, college galleries, all over the country, in big cities and small towns, that show a whole range of artwork," Parlin said. "And if they think there's going to be a problem with, say, children seeing it, it's very easy to set up a protocol to avoid that situation, and a lot of places do that."

Two possible remedies proposed by Sapp and echoed in the NCAC e-mail were to post signs warning visitors to the gallery contains mature content and to close the gallery during theater performances.

Kristie Foell, director of the International Studies Program at the University, is mainly worried about any precedent the censor may have set.

"Academic freedom is an absolute central value of the University and when you chip away at it, what will be the next thing to go?" Foell said. "If an art gallery is fair game, is a classroom fair game? Is a film series fair game?"

Sapp said he threatened to resign if the gallery was censored, but didn't because a permanent dean will soon be replacing Interim Dean Matthew Smith. Three candidates for the Firelands dean position were announced earlier this week.

"We'll see what the new dean brings. If I see this again then I will resign. No hesitation," Sapp said. "But I hope it doesn't come to that. I hope the University learns from this incident, that there are other alternatives other than censorship."

The exhibit was on display at Lock Haven University, of Pennsylvania, in October. Parlin said there have never been problems with the exhibit before.

Each sculpture in "A Bakers Dozen" is valued at approximately $6,000.
Wish Granted

There are times when I'll take a side largely because nobody else will.

That doesn't mean I don't believe what I write, it just means that when nobody wants to take a certain stance on an issue and I feel that stance has validity, I assert that opinion.

That said, I don't think even the biggest Devil's advocate can argue that Anthony Grant is a fantastic hire for the University of Alabama. I would say he's a better fit for the basketball program even than Saban is for the football program, and obviously Saban is a near-perfect fit.

But I've always thought the only thing standing between Anthony Grant and multiple Final Fours was elite athletes. He had one at VCU, he'll have a plethora at Alabama.

Anyone who can coach Ben Howland dead even with inferior talent on the biggest stage in college basketball is deserving of an opportunity such as the one he got.

I did have a buddy in Tuscaloosa say that people down there were saying Grant isn't the same caliber coach as Mike Anderson.

That's all well and good, Anderson is a hell of a coach, but I can't imagine he would have even considered leaving Missouri for Alabama. When you have a chance to hit a sure stand-up triple, you don't hold out hope for the longshot homerun.

On the other hand, I think Kentucky's decision to let go of Billy Gillispie after two years was absolutely insane.

Tootle, Gamecocks win 14th consecutive OVC series

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

Oh, that's why the accolades kept rolling in this preseason.

It's not that Ben Tootle had pitched poorly up until this past week. He had actually been pretty successful, 2-1 with a sub-3.00 ERA. But there were murmurs that perhaps JSU's prized pitching prospect was a bit overrated. Those who came out to see him were expecting more.

But that all changed as Tootle made Austin Peay look helpless last Saturday. The junior from Oxford finished off a double-header sweep of the Governors in style, striking out 10 and allowing only three hits in a complete game 4-0 victory.

The offense scored three runs in the first inning on the strength of an RBI single by Daniel Adamson and a two-run double by Heath Wall. That was plenty, as Austin Peay never looked like touching Tootle.

It took until the last inning for Austin Peay to get a runner in scoring position, and that came with two outs in the bottom of the seventh (In the second game of double-headers, teams only play seven innings). Tootle promptly struck out the next hitter to improve JSU's record to 15-9, 4-1 OVC.

That record would take a hit the next day, as the Governors were able to salvage something from their weekend series with the Gamecocks. Austin Peay took advantage of a dip in form by the previously hot Austin Lucas, roughing him up for five earned runs in only three innings.

Still, JSU's offense bailed Lucas out, as they had equal success with Peay starter Jack Snodgrass, who allowed six runs in 4 1/3 innings of work. Blake Seguin and Kyle Bluestein both had four hits to pace the Gamecock offense.

But in a game with little pitching to mention, the Governors' bullpen was able to have more success than the Gamecocks' relievers.

Trailing 6-5 after six, Austin Peay was able to tie the game in the seventh and then put together a string of hits — aided by a couple walks and an error — that led to a 4-run inning and a 10-6 lead.

A homer by Adamson gave JSU some hope in the bottom of the ninth, but it was for naught as Peay's Daniel Tenholder was able to wiggle out of trouble to avoid the series sweep.

Team | OVC | Overall
--- | --- | ---
Southeast Missouri St | 6-0 | 16-8
Eastern Illinois | 5-0 | 17-5
Jacksonville State | 4-2 | 15-10
Eastern Kentucky | 4-2 | 14-8
Murray State | 1-2 | 18-8
Austin Peay | 2-4 | 10-16
Morehead State | 1-5 | 7-17
UT Martin | 0-3 | 9-13
Tennessee Tech | 0-5 | 11-10

Jacksonville State's Ben Tootle gets ready to unload a pitch earlier this season. Tootle had his best outing of the year against Austin Peay this weekend, pitching seven scoreless innings.

Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Gamecocks' 2B Bert Smith out for season
Pittman back to business after career-threatening injury

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After dominating Ohio Valley Conference hitters over the course of her junior season, Karla Pittman found herself on crutches, wearing a bulky knee brace throughout the 2008 campaign. Reduced to the role of a cheerleader, she watched from the dugout as the Jacksonville State softball team, her team, struggled to reach the storied season in school history. But, deep down, she knew she was doing something that was meaningful. She belonged in that circle.

"I wish I could have been a part of it. Any athlete would have loved to have been a part of that," Pittman said of her team’s championship run.

Unfortunately, the majority of Pittman’s time wasn’t spent with her teammates at University Field, preparing for the opposition. She was in the training room, stretching and flexing her knee. Physically, that’s all she could muster. She couldn’t run. She couldn’t throw. She could simply hope that time and perseverance would allow her to play the game she loves once again.

The Injury

In the last game of her 2007 campaign, Pittman watched as a Tennessee Tech walk-off home run ruined the Gamecocks’ chances at an OVC championship. She watched, knowing that she had thrown seven scoreless innings against the same team the night before.

But there is always next year, right? Not for Pittman, who started having trouble with her knee during the fall of 2007.

"In the fall, she said that she would start walking and her knee would just give out," JSU softball coach Jana McGinnis said. "The doctors really didn’t think it would be that serious until they did an MRI.”

Just a month before the start of her senior season, Pittman found out that her femur bone was dying, which allowed them to put Blake Seguin at third and move Heath Wall to second.

"We’ve had musical chairs in the infield," Case said, "but, defensively, I feel pretty good about it.”

In the dugout, Case has been able to feel better about it, too.

Despite not being able to play, Case said Smith had always been about going on the Gamecocks’ annual spring road trip with the team. Smith shed his typical game-style personality to do everything in his power to help his teammates.

"The whole time he was a force in the dugout," Case said, "He wasn’t just sitting, and that’s Bert.

"It’s been neat to watch him mature. For a guy that doesn’t say a whole lot, to see him lead that way, it was a very neat thing.”

Gamecocks’ 2B Bert Smith out for season

By Al Muskalwitz
Consolidated Publishing

JACKSONVILLE — Whenever Mother Nature allows Jacksonville State to take the field for its Ohio Valley Conference home opener against Austin Peay, the Gamecocks will do so without one of their stars.

Bert Smith, the school’s all-time leader in stolen bases, has surgery on Wednesday to repair a torn labrum. The senior will miss the remainder of the 2009 season, but is expected to return, as he has a redshirt year available.

"I can’t even tell you how much we’re going to miss Bert," JSU coach Jim Case said. "It’s not just how steady he is in the field, and it’s not just how many bases he steals. It’s just being honest, it’s a blow to us in so many different ways.”

In the field in 2008, Smith made only five errors, giving him a .970 fielding percentage. At the plate, he hit .332 with 13 doubles and had only 20 strikeouts, second fewest on the team of anyone with at least 40 starts. His performance earned him his second consecutive OVC first-team honor and a 2009 preseason all-conference nod.

While it was hard for Case to put it in words how much Smith is missed, it wasn’t hard for the Gamecocks’ preseason All-American fireballer, Ben Toole.

Toole and Smith had been together for two seasons, and aside from Smith’s accomplishments offensively, it was knowing the second baseman had the back that put Toole the most at ease.

"He was my second baseman my freshman and sophomore year," said Toole, who is slated to throw Game 2 of the weekend series. "He just fielded his position so well.

"I wanted every ball that was hit to go to second base.”

If there is a ray of light for this stormy weekend, it will be that this is not the first series the Gamecocks (13-9, 2-1 OVC) will play without his services. Smith has been sidelined since March 10 (playing only seven games this year), giving the other Gamecocks ample time to grow into their new positions.

JSU has gotten Kyle Bluestein back from injury — in right field, which allowed them to put Blake Seguin at third and move Heath Wall to second.

"We’ve had musical chairs in the infield," Case said, "but, defensively, I feel pretty good about it.”

In the dugout, Case has been able to feel better about it, too.

Despite not being able to play, Case said Smith was adamant about going on the Gamecocks’ annual spring road trip with the team. Smith shed his typical game-style personality to do everything in his power to help his teammates.

"The whole time he was a force in the dugout," Case said, "He wasn’t just sitting, and that’s Bert.

"It’s been neat to watch him mature. For a guy that doesn’t say a whole lot, to see him lead that way, it was a very neat thing.”

See “Pitt,” page 6
JSU Men's Tennis Wins Seventh Straight Match

A brief look at the lesser-publicized sports around campus

From staff reports

The Jacksonville State men's tennis team (14-1, 3-0 OVC) won a 5-2 decision over Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech (6-6, 2-1 OVC) to post its seventh straight win on Monday at the JSU Tennis Courts. JSU won the doubles point to carry a 1-0 lead into singles. Bernardo Bachino and Gustavo Holz downed Josh Girling and Marco Gutierrez, 6-2, at No. 2 doubles and Steffen Solomon and Chris Duke won 8-2 over Justin Kirstein and Oscar Pachon at No. 3 doubles.

Eduardo Saratt cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Alex Chen at No. 3 singles, while Solomon tallied JSU's first set win. Duke's 7-6, 6-3 win over Pachon at No. 5 sealed the win while Solomon tallied JSU's final singles victory with a 6-0, 6-1, 6-2 win over Gutierrez at No. 6 singles.

The Jacksonville State women's tennis team won the doubles point before capturing five of six singles matches en route to a 6-1 win over Tennessee Tech (3-6, 2-2 OVC) on Monday at the JSU Tennis Courts. Eloah Lopes and Martin Dessbesell upended Alena Krukina and Evgenia Yartseva, 8-2, at No. 2 doubles and Kristen Fuller and Kimberly Ferris defeated Joanna Corkern and Laura Porras, 8-2, at No. 3 to give JSU the doubles points.

In singles, Dessbesell won 6-1, 6-2 over Krukina at No. 2 and Rafalia Wenzel defeated Katie Barnhill, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2.

Softball sweeps double-header against UT-Martin

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

It's probably safe to say that the UT-Martin pitching staff doesn't want to see Jacksonville State's Chrissy O'Neal step into the batter's box for the remainder of the season after her performance over the weekend.

The Dallas, Ga., native won 3-0 against the Skyhawks on Sunday, accounting for two home runs and three RBI, as the Gamecocks (21-9, 6-1 OVC) continued their dominance over the Miami (5-6, 2-1 OVC) to post its seventh straight win over the Skyhawks on Sunday, accounting for two home runs and three RBI, as the Gamecocks (21-9, 6-1 OVC) continued their dominance over the Miami (5-6, 2-1 OVC) to post its seventh straight win over the Skyhawks on Sunday. It took only two pitches for the Gamecocks to jump out in front in the opener, as O'Neal blasted a lead-off home run over the center field wall.

The Gamecocks would score in each of the next three innings to put the game out of reach. A two-out double by Hillary Downs in the top of the second inning plated Meredith Sellers to put JSU up 2-0.

But the Gamecocks biggest inning came in the third, pushing three runs across the plate. Nikki Pri er drove in the first run of the inning with a single through the left side. Jackie Jarman followed with an RBI of her own after an error by short stop Greer Long. The final run came across after a Mary Beth Ledbetter single.

Prier struck again in the fourth inning with a solo home run to left center field. The Gamecocks' bats were silenced the rest of the way, but Karla Pittman was superb once again in the circle, pitching all seven innings for JSU, allowing only two earned runs to pick up her sixth win of the season.

The Gamecocks would get another excellent pitching performance in the nightcap of the doubleheader, as Ashley Eliasson carried a no-hitter into the bottom of the sixth inning. Eliasson pitched all seven innings for JSU, allowing only three hits and one earned run to pick up her eighth win of the season.

O'Neal got the Gamecocks' offense off and running once again in the nightcap. After getting hit by a pitch, JSU's lead-off hitter stole second and advanced to third after a passed ball. Allie Barker would drive her in with a sac fly to center field.

The Gamecocks remained on top by a 1-0 margin until the top of the fifth inning. O'Neal led off the fifth inning with a single through the left side. Jackie Jarman followed with an RBI of her own after an error by short stop Greer Long. The final run came across after a Mary Beth Ledbetter single.

Prier capped off the series with a solo shot - her sixth of the season - in the top of the sixth. The Gamecocks would score once again in the nightcap. The two will play a doubleheader at 1 p.m. on Saturday, when they open a three-game OVC series at University Field against Southeast Missouri. The two will play a doubleheader at 1 p.m. on Saturday before closing the weekend with a single game at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Pitt: Making progress on the long road back from knee injury

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Pittman is back. However, she still faces limitations. It has been over a year since she has thrown a softball, and rust quietly creeps into the equation. Pittman watches as the first two hitters trot to first base after she failed to put the
Despite her early season "Pitt worked so hard over So far this season, Pittman quickly turned things and her pitching to be that after she failed to put the year," McGinnis said. "Much of the process is mental. First, you have to overcome being out of participation. Some struggle with this more than others, but for some it makes for a great motivator."

For Pittman, not being able to compete and go through her usual routine in workouts was a difficult process to get used to. She spent six weeks on crutches and wore a knee brace for four months before getting the green light to resume regular training throughout the spring. "It was really frustrating because I'm used to lifting 21-10 record and posted a, but I would make a real strong case for Ty Lawson for Player of the Year. won't, it will be because Lawson carries them. player in college basketball and the best NBA prospect — and it was wildly enjoyable watching him destroy Tyler Hansbrough last weekend despite the rest of the Southerners not showing up — but I would make a real strong case for Ty Lawson for Player of the Year."

I've never seen as dynamic a player in college basketball. He's kind of like Tyus Edney from UCLA's mid-90's teams, but even faster and with a better shot.

If Carolina is able to do what I think they won't, it will be because Lawson carries them. Hansbrough, Green and Ellington are very good players, and there are a couple of other good players, but Lawson is the only transcendent player left in the tournament.

Izzo or Calhoun, as great as they are, will prepare their team for North Carolina better than North Carolina will prepare for them, but Lawson has a way of making game plans become moot.

The Jacksonville State track and field team eclipsed two school, four personal bests and five season bests during the Alabama Relays on Friday and Saturday hosted by the University of Alabama at the Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium.

Freshman Andrea Hoke finished second in the women's javelin with a life-time best of 42.59 meters (139' 8 3/4''), surpassing the JSU school record of 134-feet, 6-inches set by Marie Rosen- gren (2003). Her mark was one-meter shy of the NCAA Regional qualifying standard.

Sophomore Chelsea Denson tied her career-best clearing 10-feet, 6-inches to place fifth in the pole vault competition. Her teammate, Amber Wiley tied for fourth in the invitational pole vault competition on Friday with a vault of 11-feet, 9-inches. The mark is a career outdoor best for Wiley and breaks her own JSU outdoor record of 10-feet, 10-inches set last year.

The quartet of Kamiriell Wall, Takisha Parham, Shira Butler and Cle'asha burks turned in a season-best 48.64 in the 4x400 relay.

Sophomore Veronica Citre-ag clocked a season-best 2:17.96 in the 800-meter run. Senior Ebony Brisky turned in a season-best 14.89 in the 100-meter hurdles and junior Tashieira Jones clocked a season-best 59.37 in the 400-meter dash.

Senior Megan Ziarek opened her steeplechase season with a time of 11:54 clocking, her best ever season opening time.

The Gamecocks return home to host the annual Gem of the Hills Invitational on Saturday.