



One of the new emergency call boxes in the quad. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Just a call away

University installs emergency call boxes for student safety

By Matt Tyson
Staff Writer

There has been a new development towards safety around campus.

Solar powered call boxes linked directly to the Jacksonville State Campus Police Department have been set up in different areas all over the campus in order to bring a better sense of safety to the students.

The idea for the call boxes was formed and funded by Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tim King and Dr. Turner. When asked about what prompted the installation of the call boxes, Dr. King said, "It's an overall enhancement of our security efforts here on campus."

Along with the call boxes, King says they are also installing new fire alarms in the resident halls and video cameras. The call boxes were the "first step in creating a more secure environment for the stu-

dents."

King says that it is even important currently to have added safety because of the Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois shootings. He wants the students to know that they do care about them. Dr. King also mentioned that they got together with students to see where the call boxes should be set up.

University Police Chief Sean Giddy shares many of the same opinions as Dr. King. Giddy was asked if there were any other reasons behind the call boxes as far as crime. Giddy says that the University had them installed not because of any crime-related issues, but just for added safety.

Giddy says that they will also help out with small problems as well. For example, if a student locks their keys in their car and their cell phone is also

See "Call," Page 2

Don't vote for this guy

Student takes election publicity into his own hands

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

As Student Government Association candidates continue their campaigns some students have complained about voter apathy. One student is taking matters into his own hands by running a smear campaign...against himself.

James Burton is a senior majoring in communication who decided to find a way to motivate students to vote. "I got the idea from a friend who did something similar for class president in high school," Burton said. "The numbers show that turnout for SGA elections have been dismal and I thought I might do something about it."

Burton has been posting flyers around campus that encourage students to go to the polls to vote if only against him.

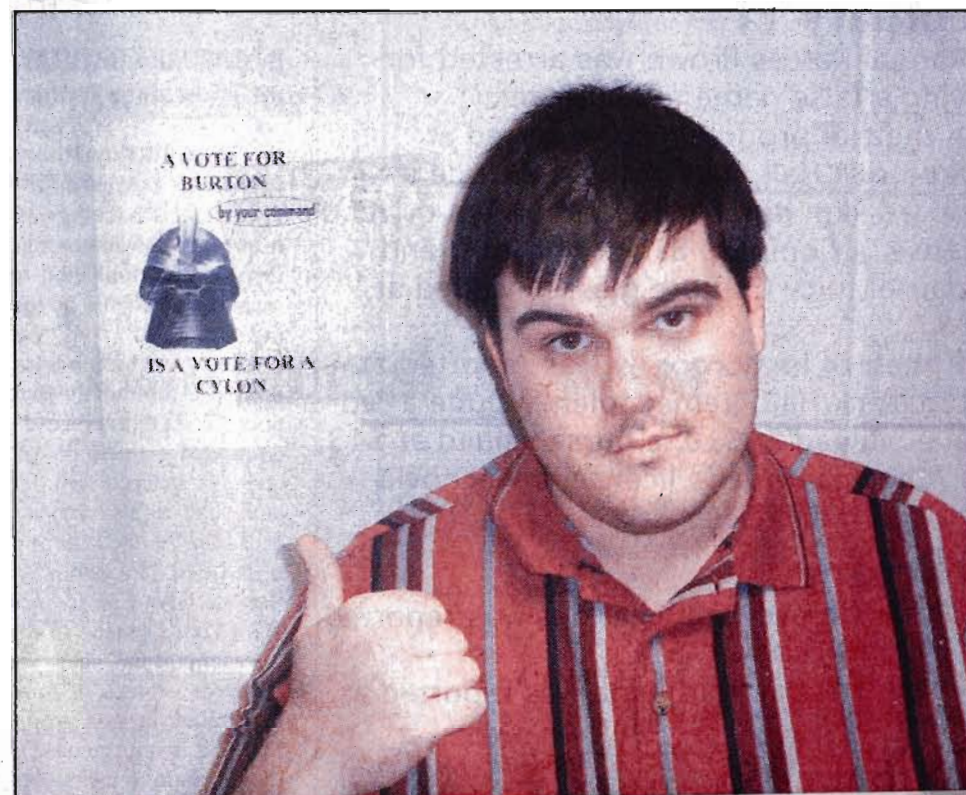
The posters have slogans reading "A vote for Burton is a vote for a Cylon" and "Ewoks against

people to write me in which should be interesting because it's a computer voting system. But, I am neither eligible nor qualified to run for SGA."

Burton said he is doing the fake campaign because he wants to see students elect the right people to the SGA. "People don't take the SGA seriously but they still complain," Burton said. "If you don't vote, don't complain."

Burton said he thinks the current administration hasn't been communicating with the student body like they should. "In one respect they're doing an ok job. I guess you could say no news is good news but the SGA should be more upfront and address the students about taking care of the problems students face," Burton said. "I think after a while of just floating along and passing off the problems to the next administration, eventually someone has to take care of the problems."

Burton said he isn't sure who he's voting for



school," Burton said. "The numbers show that turnout for SGA elections have been dismal and I thought I might do something about it."

Burton has been posting flyers around campus that encourage students to go to the polls to vote if only against him.

The posters have slogans reading "A vote for Burton is a vote for a Cylon" and "Ewoks against Burton."

There is another catch. "I'm not on the ballot," Burton said. "I actually have encouraged some

but the SGA should be more upfront and address the students about taking care of the problems students face," Burton said. "I think after a while of just floating along and passing off the problems to the next administration, eventually someone has to take care of the problems."

Burton said he isn't sure who he's voting for but he said he hopes the new SGA administration will work for the students. "I know that hopefully something will get done," Burton said.



Student James Burton shows off one of his Cylon campaign posters in Self Hall. Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

What to do to get ready for the digital transition

By Meredith Garrett
Staff Writer

Unless one has been completely oblivious to the media for the past few months, you are probably aware of the mandatory digital transition. Granted this change is the most notable since the introduction of color TV in the 1950s, but the whole issue has been publicized to an almost annoying extent.

The warnings have come in several ways. From persistent satellite company advertisements to lengthy television commercials and urgent radio announcements from state representatives, the public has almost been forbidden to forget the looming transition. All the hype about the shift is amusing. The serious tone of the commercials treat the transition like an immanent threat or possible danger to our security, but there's really no need to be alarmed. The worst-case scenario, for those oblivious few who fall victim to the shift, would be a day or two without television and vain attempts to adjust the rabbit ears. Luckily, the abundance of reminders from the media will probably prevent that kind of scenario.

Since 1996, the government has given television stations the option of switching from analog to digital, but after June 12, analog broadcasts will be extinct. Because he felt America was not yet adequately prepared for such a historic transition, President Obama suggested that the

change be delayed. Though a minor issue, it is somewhat ironic that Obama postponed something that was such a crucial trademark in his campaign: change. The February deadline was extended, so the DTV saga continues.

Although the never-ending advertisements are irritating, the transition is providing more than just high definition and better sound quality. Vacant airwaves will allow our law enforcement and public safety officials more room for advanced communications. The broadened spectrum also allows wireless companies to offer superior and more widespread coverage. So yes, that means more Wi-Fi in more places!

For those having to make the transition, the government is offering a Converter Box Coupon Program to offset any cost. The coupons, available until July 31, are worth \$40 and are limited to two per household. Luckily, Jacksonville State campus housing will not be affected by the transition because all broadcasts already use digital. Additional information, customer support, FAQ, troubleshooting tips, information on booking a "shift speaker," an events calendar, outreach material and quizzes about the upcoming shift are all available at DTV.gov. Needless to say, the website is very thorough.

The digital transition is coming, so toss out your roof-top antennas and rabbit ears, and welcome to the world of HD and faster internet!

JSU registration going green

Schedules available exclusively online

From Staff Reports

The JSU class schedules are going green, and saving a little green in the process.

As a means of cutting the amount of paper waste generated and saving money during this era of budget cuts, the JSU Registrar's Office announced last week that Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 Schedules will be offered exclusively online at <http://www.jsu.edu/schedule/index.html>.

While saving money and trees seems reasonable enough to make the move to the web, there is a third advantage to having online schedules. Because it only takes a moment to update a website but is almost impossible to recall printed schedules once they're in circulation, students will have the bonus benefit of up-to-the-minute, accurate class information at their fingertips.



Priority pre-registration for summer and fall 2009

Internet Registration:
my.jsu.edu
(select Registration)

March 9: Graduate Students- 08:00

March 10: 112 + hours earned- 8 a.m.

96 + hours earned- 1 p.m.

March 11 - 80+ hours earned- 8 a.m.
64 + hours earned- 1 p.m.

March 12- 48+ hours earned- 8 a.m.
32+ hours earned- 1 p.m.

March 13- 16+ hours earned- 8 a.m.

Open Registration - All 1 p.m.

Though every effort will be made to offer courses at times, locations, and with the faculty members listed in this schedule, we reserve the right to make any needed changes. If changes do occur in class locations, class times and/or instructor, it will be made available on the JSU website: my.jsu.edu and through the appropriate departments. Please check your schedule prior to the first day of classes and note any changes.

INDEX

On Campus 2

Opinions 3

Sports 6, 7

Features 8

'Lift your razor high, Sweeney'

Zach Childree and Doran Smith review JSU Drama's latest production.
Page 8

Facebook Faux Pas

Facebook gets heat from users for changing the terms of use.
Page 2

Power Struggle

The Gamecocks basketball team forced into do-or-die game.
Page 6

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES

Current SGA President Jennifer Nix is inviting students to submit questions to be asked to the candidates during the February 23 debate. To submit your question, send an email to sgapres@jsu.edu

Next week's question:

What did you think of Sweeney Todd?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

The 23rd annual Southeast Journalism Conference took place in Nashville, Tenn., from Feb. 12-14. Kevin Jeffers, recent graduate of JSU won first place, on-site competition for newspaper page design; second place, best in the south newspaper design; and honorable mention, best in the south opinion writer. Jered Staubs, JSU student, won honorable mention for best sports writer in the best of the south competition.

Campus Crime

February 9

- Disorderly conduct and obstructing government operations was reported at Pete Mathews Coliseum parking lot.

February 10

- Rendering a false alarm was reported at Dauge Hall.

February 11

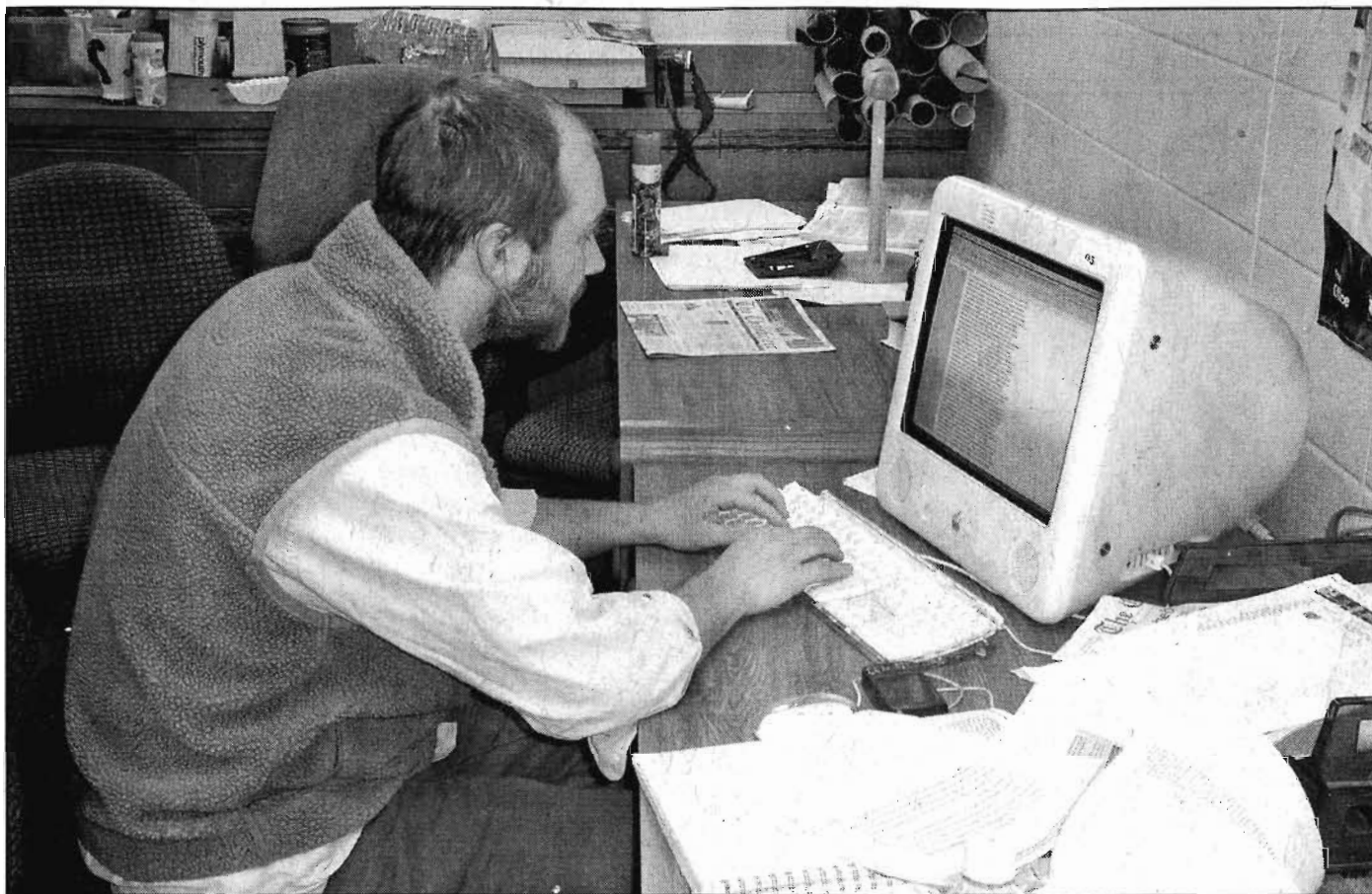
- Raqual Karess Brown was arrested for giving a false name to an officer.
- A theft of property was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall. Items stolen include a leopard skin purse valued at \$25, a driver's license, a Compass Bank debit card and a pair of Juicy Couture glasses valued at \$287.
- A theft of lost property was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall. Items stolen include a red wallet valued at \$10, a purse valued at \$13, an Alabama driver's license, a Wachovia debit card and \$11.

February 12

- Harrassing communications was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall.
- Possession of marijuana was reported at Crow Hall.

February 13

Picture of the week



Staff writer Jalon Turner types away on a story for The Chanticleer. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week,' email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com. Photo by Zach Childreel/The Chanticleer

Facebook backtracks on terms of use after protests

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use — its governing document — a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.'"

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users — tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site — that this is not the case. And on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook and the site's terms of use

terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

Facebook spelled out, in plain English rather than the legalese that prompted the protests, that it "doesn't claim rights to any of your photos or other content. We need a license in order to help you share information with your friends, but we don't claim to own your information."

Tens of thousands of users joined protest groups on Facebook, saying the new terms grant the site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

This prompted a clarification from Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, who told users in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while still in college, also acknowledged that a "lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site's terms of use

sponsibilities," designed to let users give input on Facebook's terms of use. It also apologized for what it called "the confusion around these issues."

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," read a post from Facebook on the bill of rights page.

The latest controversy was not the first between the rapidly growing site and its users over its five-year history.

In late 2007, a tracking tool called "Beacon" caught users off-guard by broadcasting information about their shopping habits and activities at other Web sites. After initially defending the practice, Facebook ultimately allowed users to turn Beacon off. A redesign of the site last year also prompted thousands to protest, but in that case Facebook kept its new look.

Palo Alto, Calif.-based Facebook is privately held. Microsoft Corp. bought a 1.6 percent stake in the company in 2007 for \$240 million as part of a broader strategic

February 12

- Harrassing communications was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall.
- Possession of marijuana was reported at Crow Hall.

February 13

- Katie Brooke Butler was arrested for driving under the influence.

What's Happening

Thursday, February 19

- Sweeney Todd
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Friday, February 20

- Sweeney Todd
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Saturday, February 21

- Preview Day.
- Sweeney Todd
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Monday, February 22

- Sweeney Todd
Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Tuesday, February 23

- SGA Student Senate Meeting.
TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
 - SGA Candidate Debate
TMB Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.
 - Community Service
2nd Floor TMB, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 - Big Man on Campus
Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
 - Bedroom Boom.
Roundhouse, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- *This is an auction, pajamas requested.

Wednesday, February 24

- SGA Student Activities Counsel Meeting.
TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- Concert – Four Days Late (Christian Band).
TMB Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.
- SGRHO "Greek" Fashion Show
Leone Cole Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: 'We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever.'"

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users — tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site — that this is not the case. And on Wednesday morning, users who logged on to Facebook were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous

"on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while still in college, also acknowledged that a "lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site also created a group called "Facebook Bill of Rights and Re-

initially defending the practice, Facebook ultimately allowed users to turn Beacon off. A redesign of the site last year also prompted thousands to protest, but in that case Facebook kept its new look.

Palo Alto, Calif.-based Facebook is privately held. Microsoft Corp. bought a 1.6 percent stake in the company in 2007 for \$240 million as part of a broader advertising partnership.

Iraqi boy deafened in bomb attack hears again

By **MARCUS WOHLSEN**
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A U.S. missile strike in Iraq took Mustafa Ghazwan's hearing nearly two years ago. On Tuesday, far from home, the 3-year-old's wall of silence finally cracked.

In a University of California, San Francisco conference room, audiologist Colleen Polite switched on an electronic device that had been surgically inserted into Mustafa's ear weeks ago.

After several tense minutes with no response, Mustafa stopped playing with his puzzle and buried his head in his father's chest at the sound of Polite's voice. Moments later, the sound of a clacking toy drew a stare and a frown from the otherwise cheery boy.

"I think he's off to a fantastic start," Polite said. "It was

almost as if he read a script before he came in today."

Mustafa was 2 years old and just learning to speak when a missile struck a neighbor's home and left him deaf in June 2007.

He has not been able to talk since. His father, Ghazwan Al-Nadawi, said his son sometimes bangs his head in frustration over his inability to communicate.

No More Victims, a group that brings war-wounded Iraqi children to the U.S. for treatment, sponsored Mustafa's trip to San Francisco in December. The next month, UCSF surgeons donating their services inserted a cochlear implant in his right ear.

The implant channels sound past damaged ears and directly into the brain. The device turns sounds transmitted through an external microphone mounted on the ear into electrical im-

pulses that are fired into auditory nerves.

Over time, the area of the brain that manages hearing learns to translate those impulses. While the experience is not the same as normal hearing, patients can understand speech, use the telephone and listen to music, according to doctors.

Mustafa's device even includes a jack that will allow him to directly connect his implant to an iPod.

Mustafa will need several months of observation to determine what sounds he is and is not hearing so the device can be fine-tuned, Polite said. He and his father, a professor of media studies at Baghdad University, expect to stay in San Francisco as the boy adjusts to the device.

The boy also will undergo intensive hearing and speech therapy at a San Francisco

school to begin training his brain to adapt to the new signals.

"The younger that we can implant, the more malleable the brain to the input," Polite said.

The explosion that took Mustafa's hearing ripped through a neighbor's home in Baqouba, northeast of Baghdad, during the run-up to a major U.S. offensive against insurgents in the city.

Through a translator, Al-Nadawi said he hopes his son will soon be able to hear him and his mother speak. But there are other sounds he hopes Mustafa never hears again.

"Now that he can hear, will he hear more bombing and more bullets over his head?" Al-Nadawi said. "This is an unknown future for him."

Call: from page 1

in the car, all he or she would have to do is press a button. These are also for people who feel they might need an officer for an escort late at night.

Giddy also talks about the technical side of the boxes saying that they work just like a radio. When a stu-

dent presses the button, they won't have to wait or worry about a busy signal. The call goes directly to the station.

Hopefully, the vision of Dr. King, Dr. Turner and Chief Giddy will hold true when creating a safer environment to the students.

Announcement

JSU LGBT will meet in the communications library in Self Hall (room 172) on Thursday, February 19 at 6 p.m.

Got news? Call 782-5701

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Opinion

Dating/Love: Sometimes we forget things

By Julie Skinner

Sometimes things are just too overwhelming.

I feel like I'm Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz swirling in a twister. I wake up, get dressed, try to make my hair look decent, go to class, go to class, go to class, eat a fast lunch, throw clothes in the washer, homework, go to class, call my parents, watch some annoying yet addictive show on MTV, eat something halfway healthy for dinner, clean Martin's (my fish) bowl, throw clothes in the dryer and get in bed before 3 a.m.

Ah, good day. Sounds familiar, right?

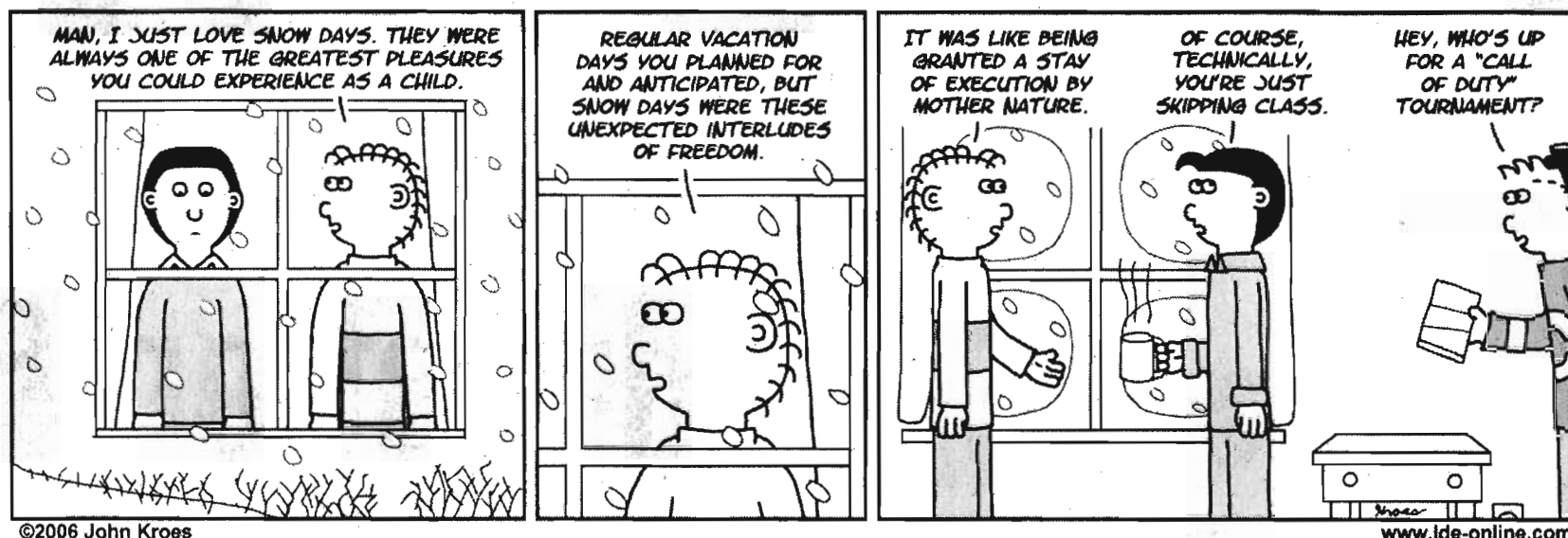
Oh...and I have a boyfriend? Oops.

I know my guy feels pretty forgotten a lot of times. I can't blame him. Some days I forget what day of the week it is and if not for my light blue planner that holds my life in it, I wouldn't know what to do or where to go.

The thing is, when I look back at my week when I'm lounging around on Saturdays, I don't remember getting my laundry done or the TV shows I watched. I think about if I've dedicated enough time to the people closest to me, the ones who are going to be there no matter what. Here lately, I can't say that I have.

It's easy to make people feel special. It doesn't take much. It's as simple as thinking about what makes you feel special and doing those things for others.

For me, it's when my boyfriend sends me a text remem-



SGA Candidates rhetoric sounds familiar

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

When taking a backward glance at now President Barack Obama's two year campaign, there is no question of whether or not he changed the political landscape. He went from a no-chance candidate, to a serious contender, to his party's nominee, to holding the highest office in the land all without breaking a serious sweat. His rhetoric is memorable and widely quoted. His ability to draw and empower crowds is intimidating and dually noted.

The question is, however, to what depth the political landscape has been changed. The audacity that is Barack Obama has now emboldened people to reach for a success or political office they might otherwise see as unobtainable. Take, for instance, the curious case of Artur Davis. An African-American Harvard Law School graduate and U.S. Congressman, Davis recently announced his intentions to run for governor in 2010. He is the

first African-American to run for this governorship in the history of Alabama.

Though it may merely be a coincidence that he is launching a historic campaign just after the completion of the most historic campaign in history, I wouldn't count on it. What I would count on his desire to be, like President Obama, the first black man to hold a traditionally white office.

On a note that hits much closer to home, the political landscape has been changed right here at Jacksonville State University, as well. For those readers who attended the February, 9 speeches for all those running for SGA executive offices, I don't really have to fill you in. However, if you did not attend, let me clarify.

One by one, candidate after candidate strode up to the podium and delivered their speech. If you were watching closely, you would notice the subtle similarities in what each of the candidates had to say. One by one, candidate by candidate chose a line from the campaign of Barack Obama and delivered to their audience. Whether it was

consciously or subconsciously, each candidate promised either hope or change. Some candidates stated that a vote for them was a vote to bring the students back into the student government association. Most notably, one candidate even has a campaign poster that greatly alludes to Obama. Whether they meant to or not, each candidate took a strategy from Obama's already proven playbook.

The reason, I think, behind this is obvious. Our SGA candidates are desperate for what has been proven to work. It was not always hope that Obama dished out, but often a new way of looking at things: an effective way. People need to hear a message that resonates with them to earn their vote and Obama was more successful at this than anyone in recent history. His efforts have opened doors. His campaign will affect things far past what we can see. Since his change is so far reaching, it should come as no surprise when you see a campaign poster in the hall and say to yourself: "Hmm, I've seen that before!"

Article generates lots of comments, Staubs responds

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

There was a lot of uproar about the lead story a couple of weeks, "He said, they said".

There were a lot of points raised against the article. Here are the most valid ones, with my thoughts.

"This is NOT a front page news story. This is a gossip column full

Bethany Harbison COMBINED. These are issues that have been avoided in the past and I commend Zach for having the guts to do it. I do, however, think that it's getting to be a little 'overkill.'"

Reasonable. I think most could agree that in the past the homosexual community was under-represented and is now over-represented.

"(Fraternity president Chris) Stokes gets three quotes, (Prospective pledge Steele) Jackson gets six. Jackson's supporters get two more. In sheer volume of words, the article is poorly balanced."

A legitimate point. It must be considered though, that Stokes must have felt this best chance of coming off clear was by denying the allegations and then claiming up

This gets to the real point. It's not that the story should not have been printed. I do feel that making it the lead story was a bit of a reach without more time for fact-gathering.

Now, the issue did not come to *The Chanticleer's* attention until Tuesday afternoon (our deadline is early Wednesday morning), so it's understandable that Zach jumped the

It's easy to make people feel special. It doesn't take much. It's as simple as thinking about what makes you feel special and doing those things for others.

For me, it's when my boyfriend sends me a text remembering my reading quiz in my lit class and wishes me good luck. Things like that floor me, because I know I only mentioned the quiz in passing. It feels so nice to be remembered.

I also love when my friends send me ridiculous comments on Facebook or Myspace. It brightens my day. I know how busy they all are as well, and if they can make time, so can I.

Even when things get absolutely crazy and you wonder when the week will end, if it's even started and if you're in your right mind, lean on those closest to you for support. Take time away, away, away. Schoolwork will still be there, and so will laundry and dramatic TV shows. But if you're not careful, the people you're supposed to be remembering might begin to forget about you.

So, tonight I'm not watching any TV. None. I'm not doing any reading or organizing. I'm cooking lasagna and fresh bread for my boyfriend and enjoying his company over a glass of red wine.

And about that busy life of mine, well, it will still be there waiting for me in the morning.

I bet yours will be too.

lead story a couple of weeks. "He said, they said".

There were a lot of points raised against the article. Here are the most valid ones, with my thoughts.

"This is NOT a front page news story. This is a gossip column full of hearsay and innuendo (primarily from one source)."

Totally agree with the first part. The second part ... maybe. A lot of journalism is based on hearsay. The article's title basically alluded to the fact that it would be a piece describing a conflict between two parties.

"Since Zach became (editor), there have been more stories about the LGBT community of Jacksonville State. You can count on ONE HAND how many stories were published by Jennifer Bacchus, Jessica Summe, Toni Merriss, Kevin Jeffers and

however, think that it's getting to be a little 'overkill.'"

Reasonable. I think most could agree that in the past the homosexual community was under-represented and is now over-represented.

The thing is, it's easier to report on what you know. I know very little about the homosexual community or the fraternities on campus, so this isn't really a story I would have felt qualified to tackle.

But I think it's hard to discredit a story just because there have been several others on a similar issue. With Bethany, there were more religious stories. With Kevin, a lot of stories had a liberal slant.

It doesn't necessarily tarnish the stories, as long as the editor can keep his biases from taking away from the credibility of the article. That's just the nature of the business, and of people in general.

In sheer volume of words, the article is poorly balanced."

A legitimate point. It must be considered though, that Stokes must have felt this best chance of coming off clear was by denying the allegations and then clamming up. Jackson was of course willing to talk all day long to make his allegations. Thus, it's natural that he would be quoted more.

"For the record Mr. Jackson and Miss Underwood did in fact file an official complaint with the university before the story was published."

Yeah, that should have been included. That would have bridged the gap between conflict and legitimate news.

The story was "unresolved, highly speculative, not ready for press".

lead story was a bit of a reach without more time for fact-gathering.

Now, the issue did not come to *The Chanticleer's* attention until Tuesday afternoon (our deadline is early Wednesday morning), so it's understandable that Zach jumped the gun a little.

The problem with a weekly paper is that while we normally do have time to gather information, when something is put upon us at the last minute, we do have a tendency to rush to put it out. Especially when something is controversial or time-dated.

Was this time-dated? Arguable. But it was definitely controversial, and it has already generated over 50 comments on the paper's Web site, so it was obviously of some interest to readers.

What if page two of *The Chanticleer* looked like this?

~~Rutgers basketball team under gag order~~

While hoping that the furor caused over remarks made by [redacted] dies down, [redacted] have come under fire again, this time for [redacted].

The American Association of University Professors has criticized the Rutgers administration for [redacted].

[redacted] with reporters at *The Daily Targum*, the campus newspaper.

"We condemn the attempt to stifle the free speech of the members of the Rutgers men's basketball team," [redacted].

[redacted] other must not be curtailed simply

because they are [redacted].

Two days after student protesters demanding the resignation of [redacted] halted the Scarlet Knights' game against the University of Massachusetts, guard Damon Santiago told a *Targum* reporter that he thought [redacted].

Senior forward Jamal Philips told a reporter that [redacted].

he said.

The next day, head coach Bob Wenzel asked team members not to discuss the issue with reporters.

where or when the game would be

replayed yet, and we didn't want to jeopardize any possible decision by [redacted].

Since the Feb. 7 basketball game [redacted], in which 150 students flooded onto the court, [redacted] has issued a warning to students that they may face punishment if they interfere with [redacted].

"The forum has been used to make a point, and no further disruptions will be tolerated," [redacted].

In late January, the AAUP released a [redacted] of a [redacted] made by [redacted] in November in which he said [redacted].

[redacted] has since apologized for the remarks.

**Remember,
the First
Amendment is
more than our
right to print.**

**It's your right
to read, too.**

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

Editor-in-Chief.....	Zach Childree.....	782-5701
Sports Editor.....	Jered Staubs.....	782-5703
Assistant Sports Editor.....	Jared Gravette.....	782-5703
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The Chanticleer

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Newsroom Fax: 782-5932

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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.

JSU Education Fair!

February 19, 2009

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Education Fair

February 19, 2009



Education Fair

February 19, 2009

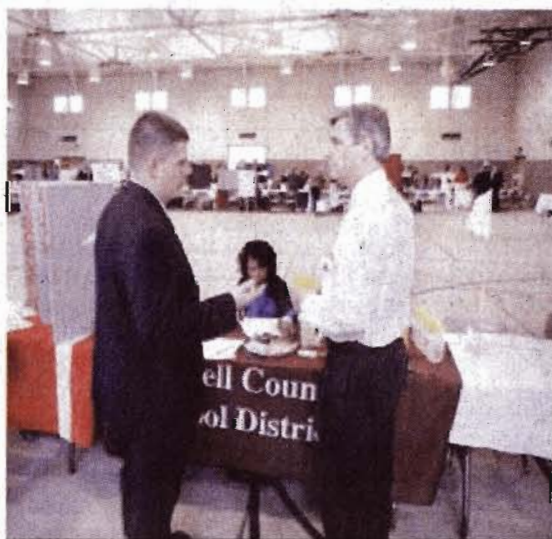
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List of Schools Attending the Education Fair

February 19, 2009, 8 a.m. - 12 noon

Stephenson Hall

Alabama Schools Attending:

Anniston City Schools: All Majors

Blount County Board of Education: All Majors

Cleburne County Board of Education: Biology, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Sciences

Dallas County Board of Education: All Majors

Decatur City Schools: All Majors

Fairfield City School System: Elementary Education, Library/Media, Special Education, Mathematics

Huntsville City Schools: All Majors

Jefferson County Schools: All Majors

Leeds City Schools: All Majors

Oxford City Schools: All Majors

Pell City School System: All Majors

Randolph County Board of Education: All Majors

Roanoke City Schools: All Majors

Tallapoosa County Schools: Biology, English/ Language Arts, Collaborative Teacher, Special Education, Mathematics, Social Science, Spanish, General Science

Talapoosa County Schools: Biology, English/ Language Arts, Collaborative Teacher, Special Education, Mathematics, Social Science, Spanish, General Science

Georgia Schools Attending:

Barrow County Schools: Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Mathematics, Social Science

Bibb County Public School District: Counseling, Music Education, Instrumental Vocal/Choral, Early Childhood Education, Education Administration, Elementary Education, English, Collaborative Teacher, Middle School Endorsement, Family and Consumer Science, Mathematics, Social Science, Spanish, General Science, Technology Education

Bremen City Schools: All Majors

Carrollton City Schools: Early Childhood Education, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Science

Clayton County Public Schools: Music Education, Instrumental Vocal/Choral, Early Childhood Education, Collaborative Teacher, Family and Consumer Science, Technology Education

Cobb County School District: All Majors

Coweta County School System: Collaborative Teacher, Mathematics, General Sciences

DeKalb County School System: All Majors

Floyd County Board of Education: Early Childhood Education, English/ Language Arts, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics

Gwinnett County Public Schools: Biology, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Collaborative Teacher, Middle School Endorsement, Mathematics, General Sciences

Harris County School District: All Majors

Muscogee County Schools: All majors

Rome City Schools: All Majors

Sports

Power struggle

Elite OVC teams assert themselves over Gamecocks; JSU forced into do-or-die game



Jered Staubs

chantysports@gmail.com

The subtleties of it all

There are two kinds of racists. One type is right out in the open.

I saw something disturbing along those lines on the wall in a bathroom in Nashville. Someone had written a black power message filled with epithets, and this was the response: "Niggers, just like our president. Wake up people."

Now, if you need me to explain why either party involved there is foolish, stop reading. But it's the more subtle racism that exists in our society that I want to discuss.

Only people who lie to themselves believe they aren't a little racist. It doesn't mean you're a bad person, that's just the way our culture ingrains itself upon everyone.

Of course, racism is always on the edge of issues, but a couple interesting things brought this to my attention last week as racism pertains to the NBA.

The first was the NBA Slam Dunk Contest. Three contestants were black and one was a Spaniard.

The commentators — one white American and two black Americans — had a clear bias against the Spaniard, Rudy Fernandez. Perhaps the reason was nationalism, perhaps it was racism. Either way, it's unprofessional.

Fernandez wasn't great, but I wouldn't say any of the contestants were great in the first round. Yet, he was treated as almost an afterthought, as

**By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor**

After a dry run through the two perennial OVC powers and the hottest team in the conference, the Jacksonville State men's basketball team is forced into a do-or-die situation.

Losses at UT-Martin and Murray State were followed by a home loss to Austin Peay, and now the Gamecocks must defeat Tennessee Tech next Saturday to avoid missing the conference tournament for the third consecutive season.

JSU's loss to Martin was its worst of the season, 99-74. As always, the Skyhawks were led by All-American guard Lester Hudson, who scored 27 points and still has not been held below 20 points in a single game this season.

Guard DeAndre Bray said UT-Martin had developed into the best team in the conference.

"Yeah, the first time we played them they were pretty good, but they have really improved," he said. "They really fixed a lot of their weaknesses."

The Skyhawks showed almost no weakness to Jacksonville State.

The game was 32-13 early, as the Skyhawks connected on 63 percent of their first half shots and built an insurmountable lead. They were never tested, and led by as many as 29 in the latter

final minute and had a chance to take the lead.

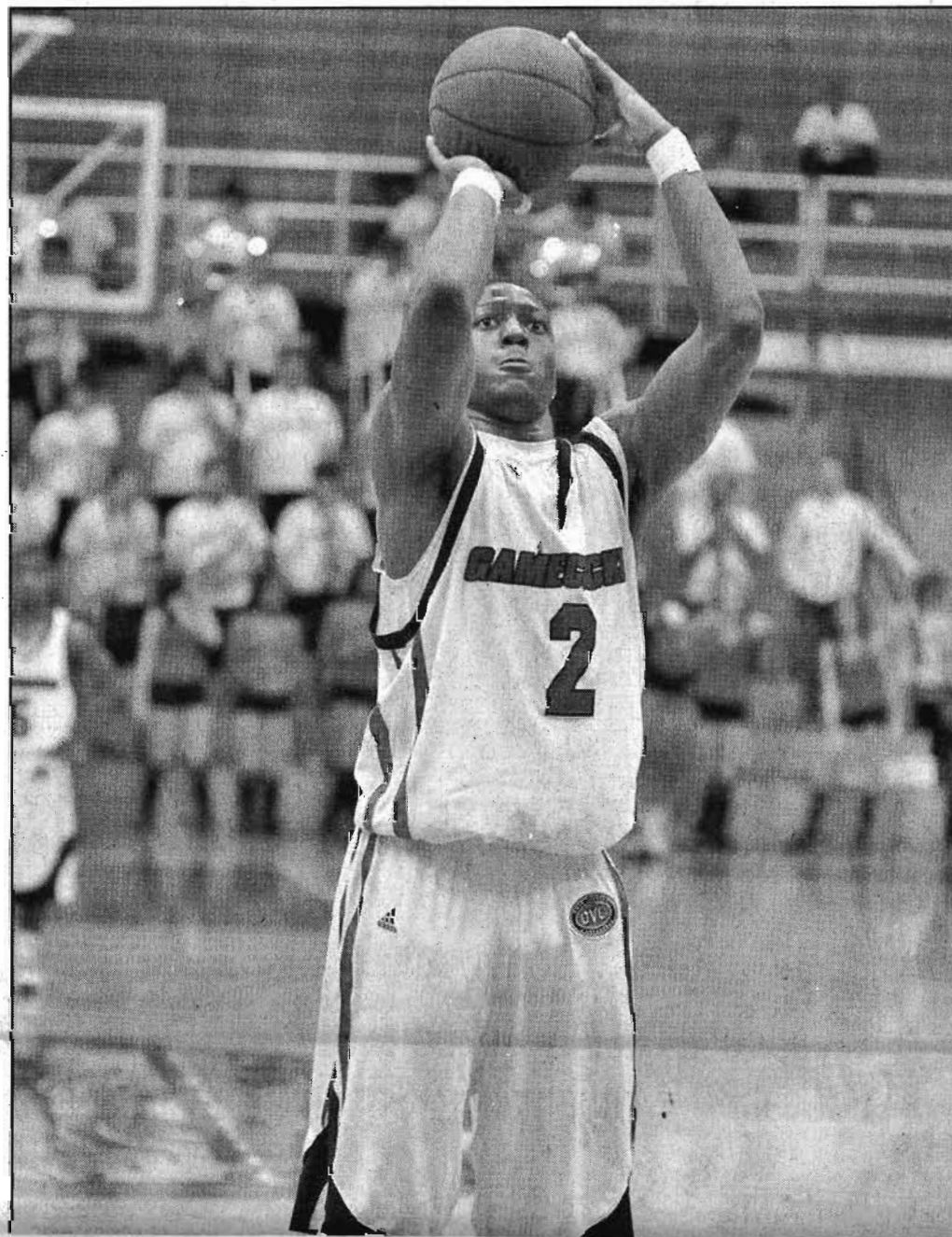
Nick Murphy was caught traveling and Murray re-established a 3-point lead, but a Jonathan Toles layup cut the deficit back to one with 8.8 seconds remaining. After two missed free throws, JSU had a chance to win it, but another turnover sealed Murray's 57-54 win.

A hideous offensive performance in the first half against Austin Peay made it appear the Gamecocks were not capable of beating the Governors. But as has been the case many teams this season, the much-improved JSU defense kept the game close.

The JSU offense came out blazing in the second half, as a variety of shooters were able to connect from three-point range. JSU was able to take a six-point lead, but the Gamecocks could not sustain the same defensive intensity in the second half.

"We started making defensive stops, played well, moved the ball well on the offensive end and started hitting some shots," Toles said. "Then we got a little lazy on the defensive end and started missing some shots and Drake Reed started doing everything to help them win."

Although Reed has been impressive throughout his career, he outdid himself Tuesday night. Coming off a loss, with his team in a



was nationalism, perhaps it was racism. Either way, it's unprofessional.

Fernandez wasn't great, but I wouldn't say any of the contestants were great in the first round. Yet, he was treated as almost an afterthought, as something of an unwelcome visitor.

The second event that brought this on was a segment on Colin Cowherd's show on ESPN Radio. Colin believes that many white basketball fans have disdain for the NBA because of race.

There is certainly an element of truth to this. When I was growing up I gravitated to the Utah Jazz because of John Stockton and, to a much lesser extent, Jeff Hornacek.

Even now, my favorite players are mostly white. It's not because I dislike black people — I certainly have black friends — it's just some hidden bias, I guess.

Don't get me wrong. I am a fan of Chris Paul, Dwyane Wade, Brandon Roy and other players like that.

(A lot of the reason for liking them is that I followed them in college. But that's not really an excuse, because I immediately was drawn to Dirk and Mehmet Okur — even before Okur came to my favorite team — and I never saw either before they were in the NBA.)

The only high school-to-NBA player I like is Lebron James, and that's largely because I despise Kobe Bryant, and the two have a rivalry — in the media if nothing else.

And that's part of the dissenting view. There are black players in the NBA who are easy to hate. Bryant, Stephon Marbury, Carlos Boozer ... these guys have been proven to be bad people and bad teammates.

Still in the one league where you can see the players in full view — no pads, no helmets, visible tattoos — racism is rampant.

As much as racism is ingrained to our ears as a dirty word, I really don't think there's a problem with this. Should I have a real problem with the large majority of young white basketball fans in this country following mostly white players? Or black fans following mostly black players?

I don't know, maybe I should. But I think it's just one of those things that we should accept and not cry out against.

The game was 32-13 early, as the Skyhawks connected on 63 percent of their first half shots and built an insurmountable lead. They were never tested, and led by as many as 29 in the latter stages.

The Gamecocks put together better performances against Murray State and Austin Peay, the two teams who have dominated the Ohio Valley Conference since JSU joined the OVC in 2003.

Still, JSU had enough to compete with both teams, leading both games in the second half but failing to make the plays that separate the teams at the top from the teams at the bottom.

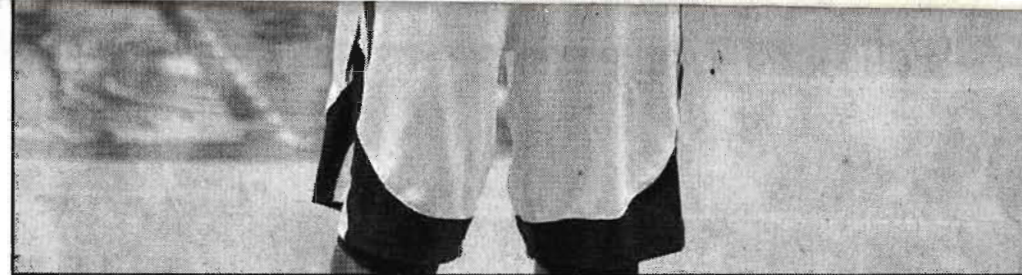
Murray State jumped out to a quick 10-point lead, but JSU overcame that and took the lead. The Racers regained the lead by as many as six, but JSU cut that lead to one in the

and Drake Reed started doing everything to help them win."

Although Reed has been impressive throughout his career, he outdid himself Tuesday night. Coming off a loss, with his team in a competitive road game, Reed took over. The All-Conference forward scored 30 points and had 14 rebounds, and hit two dagger shots as his team pulled away to a 72-60 win.

The first came when Peay led 56-55 with five minutes remaining. After John Fraley missed a wide open dunk, which led to Pete Mathews being as loud as it has ever been for a JSU sporting event, Reed grabbed the offensive rebound and buried a corner jumper to silence the crowd.

Then later, as JSU was fighting to remain in the game and had a strong defensive position, Reed nailed about a 28-footer as the shot clock



Stephen Hall attempts a free throw earlier this season. The Gamecocks have struggled from the line throughout the season, and Hall is one of four Gamecocks shooting under 60 percent from the charity stripe this year. As a team, JSU shoots only 64.3 percent. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

wound down. The shot put the Governors up by 10 with 58 seconds remaining and closed any doors on a potential comeback.

It was a lucky shot, but not surprising considering Reed's career. Still, you make your own breaks, and JSU coach James Green said his team needs to continue to work defensively if it is to get to the level of the teams it played

this week.

"When I see the points get to 65 plus, I know it's going to be tough for us," Green said. "We've got to become a program that defends for 40 minutes."

Foul shooting was again a problem — a common theme in JSU games, especially at home — as the Gamecocks managed to connect on only 5 of 11 free throw attempts.

That means the Gamecocks have made only 19 of their last 43 at home (44 percent).

That will need to change if JSU (11-15, 5-12 OVC) is to win its crucial final home game. Before that, the Gamecocks have a reprieve from conference play as they travel to visit Georgia Southern Saturday as part of ESPN's BracketBuster series.

Win over UT-Martin propels Lady Gamecocks to all-important eighth place tie; still must win down stretch to make conference tournament

From staff reports

Eren McMichael went 12-for-12 from the free throw line in the final two minutes to help Jacksonville State (6-19, 3-12 OVC) hold on for a 64-58 win over UT Martin (2-21, 0-13 OVC) at the Elam Center/Skyhawk Arena on Thursday.

McMichael scored a season-high 18 points, one shy of her tying her career-high, while pacing four Gamecocks in double figures.

The first half had three lead changes and saw the game tied seven times. JSU shot 42 percent from the floor and made 5-of-11 shots from three point range, forcing 12 Skyhawk turnovers to hold a 27-24 lead at halftime.

Jacksonville State held its biggest lead of the first half, 14-8, on a McMichael three-pointer with 13:57 left. Brittany Wiley connected on a three-pointer at the 4:55 mark and followed with a layup with 4:35 to go for a 27-23 lead. Yolanda Davis's layup with 4:16 left in the half finished the scoring in the half as both teams went cold over the final 4:15 of the half.

The Gamecocks never trailed in the second half matching its biggest six seven times before taking an eight-point lead with 32 seconds left on a pair of McMichael free throws.

Jax State finished the night shooting 38 percent from the floor, 42.9 percent from the three-point arch and made a season-high 84 percent from the foul line. The Gamecocks forced 22 UTM turnovers and blocked eight shots, five in the first half.

Jolie Efezokhae followed McMichael with 11 points and five rebounds followed by Wiley and Zenobia Pitts with 10 points apiece. Wiley led JSU with four assists while Denielle Beneby had three blocks, three steals and three assists. Paris Hollingsworth had two blocks.

Phyllishia Mitchell, who is UTM's leading scorer and rebounder, led with a game-high 21 points and 11 rebounds as the only Skyhawk in double figures. Samantha Harper followed with eight points and Yolanda Davis pitched in seven points.

CURRENT OVC STANDINGS

(Top eight qualify for postseason tournament)

Remaining conference games:

JSU — vs. Austin Peay, vs. Tennessee St., vs. Tennessee Tech
Eastern Kentucky — vs. Morehead St., @ UT-Martin, @ Murray St.

Women's Basketball

Team	OVC	Overall
<u>Murray State</u>	12-1	17-6
<u>Eastern Illinois</u>	12-2	19-7
<u>Tennessee State</u>	10-4	14-11
<u>Austin Peay</u>	9-5	13-12
<u>Morehead State</u>	9-6	15-12
<u>Southeast Missouri St.</u>	8-6	13-12
<u>Tennessee Tech</u>	5-10	7-19
<u>Eastern Kentucky</u>	3-12	6-18
<u>Jacksonville State</u>	3-12	6-19
<u>UT Martin</u>	0-13	2-21

Tootle-ing their own horn

Gamecocks relying on ace Ben Tootle to expound on recent success

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Anyone who watched Ben Tootle pitch last year could tell that he had a very bright future in front of him, but that wasn't necessarily the case coming out of high school.

After a freshman season that saw him win six games and finish with a 5.91 earned run average, head coach Jim Case and the Gamecocks were simply banking on Tootle to bring stability to an unproven pitching staff.

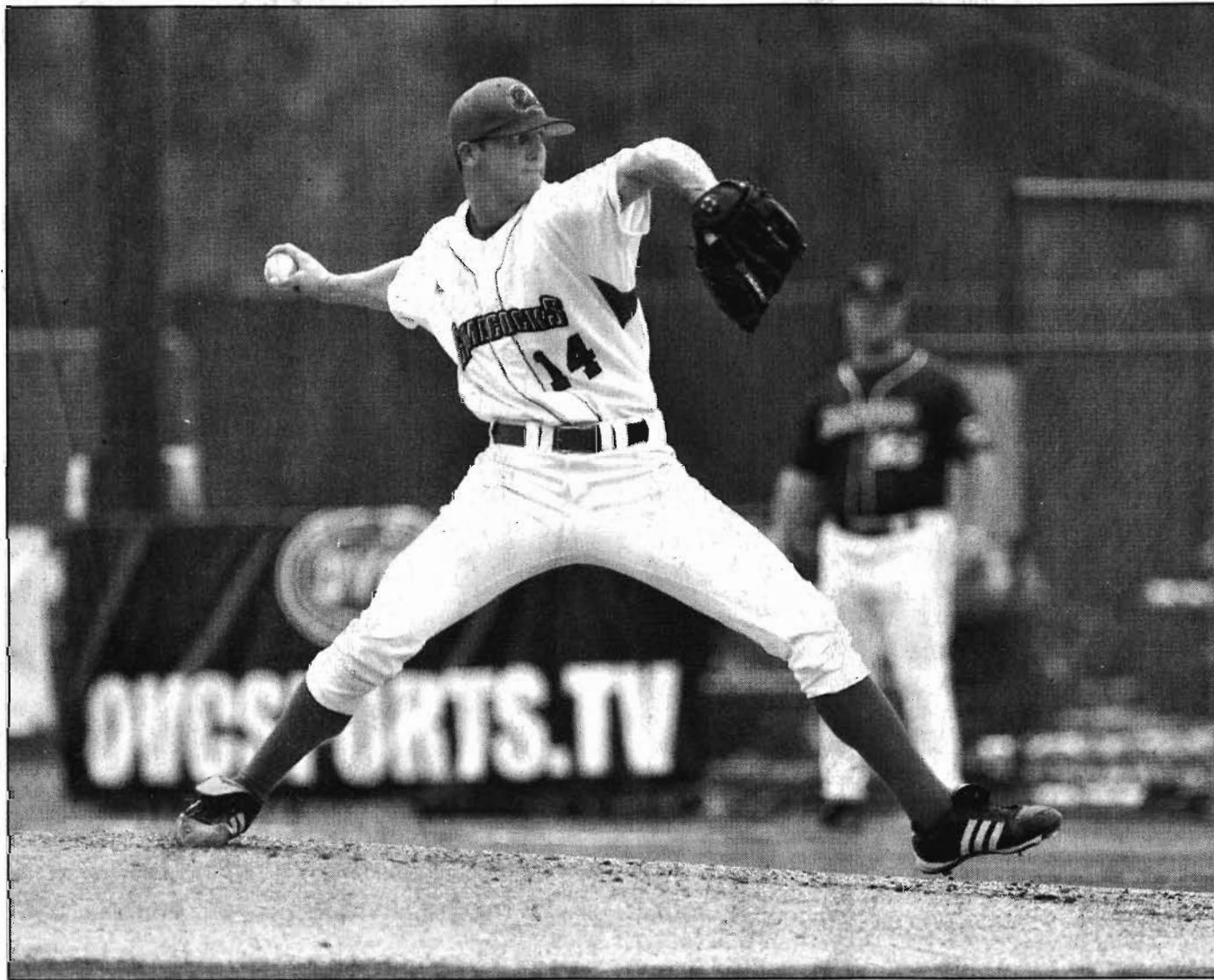
Turns out, they got more than they bargained for. Tootle finished his sophomore season with a league-best 10 wins, posting a 3.87 ERA to go along with 79 strikeouts on his way to being named a First Team All-OVC performer.

"The thing that has been so much fun with Ben is how much better that he has gotten since he has been here. That is certainly just a credit to his work habit," Case said. "He has done an outstanding job of working ever since he got here to improve himself and just become a better pitcher every single day."

The improvement didn't stop after JSU's baseball season ended last May, as Tootle traveled north to play for the Falmouth Commodores of the Cape Cod League during the summer months.

Pitching against some of the best hitters in the country, Tootle was absolutely brilliant. He appeared in 22 games as a reliever, earning five saves and compiling a ridiculous 1.97 ERA on his way to being named to the Cape Cod All-Star team.

Tootle has rarely pitched in relief during his two years at JSU, but he is hoping that the experience he gained playing for Falmouth will spill over



Junior RHP Ben Tootle delivers a pitch last season. Tootle is a preseason All-American and considered a potential high draft pick in the 2009 MLB Draft. He will carry a major role for the Gamecocks this season. Photo by Steve Latham / JSU Athletics

into his junior season.

"It's definitely a boost of confidence when you go somewhere like that, play against really good players, and you do well," Tootle said. "I think it's going to help me."

"I was in the closer role there. I would come into the game with a lot of tight spots, a guy on third or second or something like that. Being put in those situations, I think will help me out this year. When

I get into a jam like that, I can kind of go back to that mentality and go out there and perform well."

In the aftermath of his Cape Cod dominance, Tootle has racked up a very impressive list of preseason honors. His name has appeared on several of the most prestigious preseason All-American teams and he is the first player in OVC history to be named a preseason first team All-American by the

National College Baseball Writers Association.

Despite all the honors, Tootle doesn't feel any added pressure heading into his junior season.

"I don't think I feel anymore pressure than I had last year or the year before," Tootle said. "I've never gone out and thrown for awards. If you go out there and take care of business, those things are going to come. I'm going to

go out there and I'm going to throw, but I should be expected to go out there and win. That is what I'm there for."

On top of being considered one of college baseball's best pitchers, Tootle is also currently considered a potential first-round draft pick in Major League Baseball's 2009 First-Year Player Draft. Baseball America named him the fourth-best prospect from the Cape Cod league,

while ESPN's Keith Law has him ranked as the 13th best prospect in the country for the 2009 season.

Case coached former MLB draft picks Paul Maholm, Matt Ginter and Jonathan Papelbon at Mississippi State and considers Tootle a part of the mix when talking about the most talented pitchers he has had the opportunity to coach.

"When you start talking about the most talented, there are a handful of guys that I think through the years have been very, very good. He (Tootle) is one of those," Case said. "I look back and think of a guy, Paul Maholm, who I coached at Mississippi State that was a first-round draft pick. Matt Ginter was also a pitcher that was a first-round pick. Those guys were very talented."

"Jonathan Papelbon, who closes for Boston now, was a very talented guy. I had a guy at UAB named Toby Larsen. He never made it to the big leagues but was very, very talented. Ben is in that small group of guys. He is very, very good."

Tootle has really blossomed as a pitcher since coming to Jacksonville State. He now throws in the mid-to-upper 90s, which is not only a credit to his work ethic but a credit to Case and his program as a whole.

"Coming out of high school, I didn't throw real hard. I threw high 80s and would hit 90 every once in a while," Tootle said. "I got down here and Coach Case gave me a routine to do. He has really helped me. I think long toss has really helped to get my arm stronger. The college program in general has helped to boost my velocity."

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Gamecocks looking to continue OVC dominance

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Over the past five seasons, the Jacksonville State baseball program has established itself as the team to beat in the Ohio Valley Conference, and 2009 is no different.

The Gamecocks — who return seven position starters and 15 lettermen — have been picked as the preseason favorite to capture the OVC title for the third consecutive season, and rightfully so, considering last year's success.

JSU absolutely dominated conference opponents in 2008, compiling a 23-4 record — including 14 consecutive wins — to claim its second regular season championship in a five-year span.

Unfortunately, JSU couldn't keep its hot streak in tact heading into OVC tournament. The Gamecocks were beaten by Eastern Illinois and Southeast Missouri State in consecutive days and failed to make the NCAA Regionals.

"As we go into every year, the goal is that we put ourselves in a position to win the championship," JSU coach Jim Case said. "Last year in the regular season we did, but at the same time, there was a little bit of a bitter taste in our mouth because we weren't able to accomplish the same thing in the tournament."

For Case, the 2009 season is like any other with two goals in mind. First, win the OVC regular season crown followed by a good showing in the conference tournament.

"We go into the year with the thought that we are going to do everything we can to win the conference in the regular season," Case said. "In the back of our minds, we know that winning the conference tournament is a major deal, but I still think there is something to be said about winning over the long haul. That is something that we want to prove, not just to ourselves, but we want to have an opportunity to prove that to the other teams in the league."

Pitcher Ben Tootle echoed the thoughts of his coach. However, the junior from Oxford, Ala., doesn't want his squad to simply settle for an OVC championship.

"Coach Case has really talked about not settling for just getting into a regional," Tootle said. "We should go in there with the expectation to come out with some wins and have the possibility of winning a regional."

Tootle returns to JSU as the unquestioned ace of the team. As a sophomore, he led the league with a 10-2 record to go along with two shutouts.

Tootle is entrenched as the Gamecocks' number one starter, but all other positions are seemingly up for grabs in the early portion of the regular season.

"Our whole goal (with the pitching staff) is to try to find out what is best for our team once

we get to the league. It's not so much for the opening weekend," Case said. "We know that Ben is our number one. After that, the positions are up in the air."

Wallace State transfer Austin Lucas and sophomore Jason Zylstra are two pitchers that could possibly round out the rotation. However, Zylstra may be asked to pitch in a depleted bullpen that must replace its two best relievers, Brian Booth and Alex Jones.

Booth played out his eligibility last year and Jones will miss the season after undergoing Tommy John surgery. Last season, the duo helped lead a JSU bullpen that posted a national-best 21-2 record.

The Gamecocks have fewer questions to answer on offense, as they return four all-conference position players from 2008. Second baseman Bert Smith and first baseman Steven Leach are back for their senior seasons after racking up First Team All-OVC honors last year.

OVC Freshman of the Year Todd Cunningham returns in left field, as well shortstop Jake Sharrock, a member of the 2008 All-Freshmen team.

Daniel Adamson is expected to be the Gamecocks' everyday center fielder for the third consecutive season, and catchers Andrew Edge and Spencer Brandes are likely to split time behind the plate.

Despite an abundance of returning starters, JSU must find a way to replace two-time OVC Player of the Year Clay Whittemore. As a senior, he led the team with a .425 batting average, 96 hits, eight homers and 66 RBI.

Case knows that one player will not be able to step into Whittemore's shoes but hopes that each member of the team can improve enough to fill the void.

"I'm not sure that you replace Clay with one guy," Case said. "I do think that with the guys we have returning, and they are some real quality players, if each one of them does a little bit more then we can cover what Clay did."

JSU will likely start two freshmen to begin the 2009 campaign. Kyle Bluestein will likely take over Whittemore's spot in right field, while Sam Eberle is expected to start at third base.

Case knows that both will not immediately be the players that Whittemore and Brian Piazza were for his squad last season, but both have already caught Tootle's eye in preseason practices.

"Sam Eberle and Bluestein, both freshmen, have come in and stepped up," Tootle said. "I'm pretty sure they are going to see some time."

The Gamecocks open the regular season tomorrow when they travel to Forest City, NC, for a three-game series against Appalachian State:



Coming off an All-OVC season, senior Steven Leach will be a big part of the Gamecocks' offensive attack this season. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

JSU's early season schedule

DATE	OVC MATCH	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME/RESULT
2/20/2009		<u>Appalachian State</u>	Forest City, NC	4 p.m.
2/21/2009		<u>Appalachian State</u>	Forest City, NC	2 p.m.
2/22/2009		<u>Appalachian State</u>	Forest City, NC	12 p.m.
2/24/2009		<u>UAB</u>	JACKSONVILLE	3 p.m.
2/27/2009		<u>Middle Tennessee State</u>	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	3 p.m.
2/28/2009		<u>Middle Tennessee State</u>	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	2 p.m.
3/1/2009		<u>Middle Tennessee State</u>	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	1 p.m.
3/3/2009		<u>UAB</u>	Birmingham, Ala.	3 p.m.
3/6/2009		<u>Harvard</u>	JACKSONVILLE	3 p.m.
3/7/2009		<u>Harvard (DH)</u>	JACKSONVILLE	1 p.m.
3/8/2009		<u>Harvard</u>	JACKSONVILLE	1 p.m.
3/10/2009		<u>Samford</u>	Birmingham, Ala.	6 p.m.
3/11/2009		<u>Alabama State</u>	JACKSONVILLE	3 p.m.

Features

A bloody good time



Adolfo Pirelli hits a high note as Sweeney Todd shaves away. Photo by Mandy Pearson



Sweeney Todd (left) and Antony sing about London. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

A trip to fleet street

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

From book, to musical, to movie: Sweeney Todd has had a long and brutal history. His legacy now continues with his appearance within the Jacksonville State University Drama Department. However, if one is coming to this performance to see a reenactment of Tim Burton's film, they will be deservedly disappointed.

The musical opens with a

had me convinced after his third line.

Opposite Headley is his costar Judy Shealy, who plays Mrs. Lovett. After a somewhat unconvincing opening number, her performance progressed to a state of excellence by the second act. I noticed she seemed most comfortable in her character's skin while singing. After one of her last big numbers, "By the Sea," Shealy earned my official seal of approval and my compliments to director Eric

Her movements became more natural as her character evolved and, thankfully, her voice never lost its edge.

The villains in this musical, if you can have one set of villains in a play focused on murder, are Judge Turpin (Derek Gindlesperger) and Beadle Bamford (Scott Van Patten, Jr.). They both played their parts with dexterity, but I never felt any truth in their characters. I never despised them or loathed them. However, their haunting voices

Finding beauty amidst murder

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

From the sound of chorus member Gatlin Alldredge singing the opening line "Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd," to the full cast on stage at the end, one is impressed by the beauty of this show.

Beauty is almost bizarre to find in a play that deals with subjects like rape, incest, murder and cannibalism. Director Eric Traynor's vision for "Sweeney" found the beauty in the story and puts it in front of the audience without reservation.

What most people don't know is "Sweeney Todd" is based on a true story. There actually was a barber named Sweeney Todd, and he really did live with a woman named Mrs.

quite so noble.

Derek Gindlesperger, who lends an eerie solemnity to the role, portrays Judge Turpin. If there was a criticism to be said of Gindlesperger's performance it was that one doesn't quite hate the judge enough to wish for his death, but he makes it clear that Turpin is no man to love either.

Chad Miller as the love-sick Antony gives a performance full of hope and optimism. Miller's Antony is a young man who has ignored the warning of Sweeney in the opening song, "You are young, life has been kind to you. You will learn." His voice lends a bright spot to what is a bleak picture of Industrial Revolution era

his appearance within the Jacksonville State University Drama Department. However, if one is coming to this performance to see a reenactment of Tim Burton's film, they will be deservedly disappointed.

The musical opens with a rather eerie number with a set design to match. The set is the most elaborate I have seen while at JSU. The lighting and set portrays a very dark 19th century London (and does so with disturbing accuracy). Furthermore, if one does want to see a Tim Burton Todd, the dazzlingly dark costumes and set is right up that person's creepy and dimly-lit alley.

Matt Headley, who played Todd, certainly made a convincing psychopath. His movements were slow and subtle. Even though he fit character best while he exploded into insanity, I had trouble believing any part where he had to remotely act human (even for a psychopath). That being said, he had a number of moments in the musical that literally gave me goosebumps. The two songs that closed the first act, "Revelation" and "Have a Little Priest," were particular high points in his performance. His character

to a state of excellence by the second act. I noticed she seemed most comfortable in her character's skin while singing. After one of her last big numbers, "By the Sea," Shealy earned my official seal of approval and my compliments to director Eric Traynor for his casting.

The young and able sailor, Chad Miller, as Antony, is a captivating character. He is meant to be a beacon of good in a dark city. With a charming smile and a perfect portrayal of good intentions, Miller plays this well. However, throughout the show Miller tended to rely heavily and unnaturally on his hat. When the time came for Miller to hit "the big note" in his first ballad to Johanna, there was an echo of doubt in the room. His big note was correct, but I simply didn't feel it. In all due fairness, that was simply one song and he did marvelously in all the others.

Opposite Miller is the lovely and delicate Johanna (Ellie Mellen) who finds herself in constant danger and constantly being chased after by men. Although she seemed unanimated in her first song, I barely noticed due to her enchanting voice.

murder, are Judge Turpin (Derek Gindlesperger) and Beadle Bamford (Scott Van Patten, Jr.). They both played their parts with dexterity, but I never felt any truth in their characters. I never despised them or loathed them. However, their haunting voices made me hardly take notice of this imperfection.

Meg Griffin, who played an old beggar woman, brought the poor and homeless parts of the character to life. However, she couldn't quite grasp the insanity until the beginning of the second act. During most of the first act she seemed less like a crazy hag and more like a homeless woman who on occasion felt the unavoidable desire to have sex.

Other high points of the show include: a believable portrayal of an Italian, overacting barber by Matt Thompson, brilliantly designed and executed ideas for "Epiphany" and "A Little Priest," and finally a haunting chorus that always leaves you with an urgent desire to check behind you. The show opens on February 19 at seven p.m. There will also be showings at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, February 20, 21, 27, 28. 2 p.m. showings will be on Sunday, February 22 and 29.

Beauty is almost bizarre to me in a play that deals with subjects like rape, incest, murder and cannibalism. Director Eric Traynor's vision for "Sweeney" found the beauty in the story and puts it in front of the audience without reservation.

What most people don't know is "Sweeney Todd" is based on a true story. There actually was a barber named Sweeney Todd, and he really did live with a woman named Mrs. Lovett. There really was a pie shop that served meat pies filled with meat from Todd's victims.

But there the similarities end.

The real Sweeney Todd murdered people for the sheer pleasure of it, while Stephen Sondheim's musical imagines a man torn by revenge and remorse and goaded by a woman with secrets of her own.

Todd is portrayed perfectly in sound and form by Matthew Headley who gives us a brooding, tormented character who boils with rage as he plots revenge against Judge Turpin, the man who falsely convicted him of a crime and shipped him off to jail and then raped his wife and stole his daughter.

Headley's Sweeney is a man waiting for the perfect moment to exact bloody revenge, and the portrayal is almost creepy. At a pivotal moment in the show, Sweeney points into the audience as if to invite them to sit in his chair and lose more than a length of hair. One could believe Headley was waiting with a bloody razor.

Judy Shealy plays Mrs. Lovett beautifully, with a voice well suited for the role.

She cultivates her relationship with Todd from the opening song "The worst pies in London" and the audience is shown a woman desperate to live but hiding motives that aren't

no man to love either.

Chad Miller as the love-sick Antony gives a performance full of hope and optimism. Miller's Antony is a young man who has ignored the warning of Sweeney in the opening song, "You are young, life has been kind to you. You will learn." His voice lends a bright spot to what is a bleak picture of Industrial Revolution era London.

The object of his affection, Johanna, is brought to life by Ellie Mellen, whose voice ably reaches to the high notes and matches the optimism of Antony's calls for her to notice him.

Matt Thompson shines in the role of Adolfo Perelli, a rival barber who is hiding secrets as well. Thompson, who masters an intentionally cheesy Italian accent, gives us a flamboyant Pirelli who won't hesitate to do what it takes to get ahead, even if it's pulling the teeth of his young assistant.

Liam Herb brings Pirelli's (and later, Mrs Lovett's) assistant Toby to life. Herb, a young actor, fully grasps the intricacies of his character and portrays Toby with a disturbed sweetness that goes from innocence to depravity.

The sets for the show, designed by Freddy Clements and Joshua Whitt, put the action in a bleak industrial London mirrored by Clements's costumes which incorporate gears and goggles into surprising places.

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department has given us another gem of a show, even if the gem is covered in blood.

The sound of settling

**By Sara Adams
Columnist**

Ladies (and some guys), do you remember when you were a kid, and all you really had to worry about was whether or not Ken would turn out to be Barbie's handsome prince? Of course he would be, because in your imagination, he was intelligent, rich, probably a space-man or a cowboy, and willing to shower Barbie in diamonds. Not to mention, the man looked like someone sculpted him out of plastic...oh... wait.

Now look at us.

Ladies and gents, as we grew up, our fantasy image of the person we would love began to change. Boys and girls didn't have cooties anymore. We started falling in love.

The bad thing is, we began to have that ever present "the-world-isn't-fair" attitude, and began to settle for silver medals instead of our own personal gold ones. We began to settle for infidelity, emotional or physical abuse, and an argument every night. Our image of the perfect man or woman faded with our toys, and we

started forgetting what we sought for them.

But, you can change that today.

People the harsh, nasty reality is that we are treated the way we allow ourselves to be treated. We need to be much more honest with ourselves. Ken never cheated on Barbie with her best friend, then got her pregnant. Barbie never slashed Ken's tires. Ken never made Barbie take him on the Maury show because he "was 1000% sure" he "ain't that baby's daddy." Barbie never made a false police report against Ken.

We need to realize that if we accept things, they will happen again. If your partner cheats, it will probably happen again. If your partner flakes out on you, it will probably happen again. If your partner hits you, it will probably happen again. but, if you leave after it happens once, it will never happen again.

→ People, hear me now.

We do not have to accept flakiness, abuse, fights, or one-sidedness. We do not have to accept a cheater, a liar, or a commitment-phobe.

I am calling for a love revolution, loyal subjects. I am imposing a new Bill of Rights for the heart. Here's how we're gonna do this,

folks: Sit down with a peice of paper. Write a list of "10 things I want" and "10 things I will not accept". I would bet my left pinky toe that "a cheater who forgot my birthday and knocked up my best friend" isn't on the "Want" list.

Here's the kicker: You MUST stick to the list. Like a broke college kid in a grocery store. Do NOT deter from the list.

But Sara, how do you know it will work?

Folks, I have done this.

Ladies and gents, my last boyfriend told his ex girlfriend that he loved her almost every night while we were together. I found out this interesting little tidbit when I was playing a game on his phone. An "I love you too" message popped up on his phone, erasing the screen that had previously showed Mrs. Pac-Man. Now, it showed our relationship death warrant. When I confronted him about this, he told me he was just trying to help her get over him so he could be with me without her "psycho" stalking.

AND I BOUGHT IT. Feel free to throw some stones.

I accepted being treated this way. I accepted this split heart. And of course, this fairy tale

didn't have a happy ending. It came to a bitter, bloody end. And guess what happened when we broke up?

He went back to the ex.

Cross my eyes, surprise, surprise.

From this, I learned that I could no longer accept things that made me feel bad about myself, or uncomfortable. If the same situation occurred now, I wouldn't accept this excrement-laden excuse. I'd tell him "to the left, to the left."

People its time for a change. We are worth someone who is worth our time. Life is too short to keep duck-taping over cracks, only to have the same problem a month later. We've beaten this dead horse to a bloody pulp.

Make your list. 10 things you love, 10 things you will not stand for. Stick to it. Don't stand for a relationship with a "dead-end" sign on its road, because you'll probably end up wrapped around a tree if you keep driving on it.

Be proactive. Don't accept less than you deserve. If you accept the "dead-end" sign, then that's exactly what you'll get. If you don't change it, that's exactly what you will always get.