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 students.”

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. He 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 expects his fake campaign to get a lot of traction among the students.

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 Cyelon” and “Evokes 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.”
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 imminent 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 officers 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!
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 Daugette Hall.

February 11
- Raquel 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
- Harassing communications was reported at Fitzpatrick Hall.
- Possession of marijuana was reported at Crow Hall.

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 were greeted by Facebook's reterms 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 sensitivities,” 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 broader education
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 chery 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 impulses 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 student 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 for the students.

Call 782-5701

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**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 blame him. Some days I forget the things I'm supposed to do.

**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 dully 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 unattainable. 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 had 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: "Hm, 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 opinion column full of 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 championing an
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 quiz reading day in my last class and wishes me good luck. Things like that floor me, because I know it only occurred when I was out there in the middle of nowhere. 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, 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.

What if page two of The Chanticleer looked like this?

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

The American Association of University Professors has criticized the Rutgers administration for

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," he said.

other must not be curtailed simply because they are .

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

Senior forward Jamil Philips told a reporter that

he said.

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

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

It's your right to read, too.

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. Letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.

The Chanticleer is the newspaper of the Jacksonville State University community. Copies of The Chanticleer are distributed across the JSU campus weekly on Thursdays during the fall and spring semesters.

Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.
Education Fair
February 19, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Stephenson Hall

Dress professionally and Bring Resumes!!!

Check It Out! ● Dress for Success! ● Get an Interview! ● Network!
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
Georgia Schools Attending:

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


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
Power struggle

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

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 20 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
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

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 the 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 left 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 arc 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.

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

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

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>OVC</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<tr>
<td>Murray State</td>
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<td>Eastern Illinois</td>
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<td>Tennessee State</td>
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<td>Austin Peay</td>
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<td>Morehead State</td>
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<td>Southeast Missouri St.</td>
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<td>Tennessee Tech</td>
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<td>Jacksonville State</td>
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<td>UT Martin</td>
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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.
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.

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 Brundes 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.
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 were

Finding beauty amidst murder

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

From the sound of chorus member Gatin Aldredge 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
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 with 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 changed. 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’s-not-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 more honest with ourselves. Ken never cheated on Barbie with her best friend, then got her pregnant. Barbie never slapped Ken’s tires. Ken never made Barbie take him on the Mouset show because he was 100% 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 hits you, it will probably happen again. But, if you leave when 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.

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 Hag, women, 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 bag 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.

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