

Radio station goes down, but not out

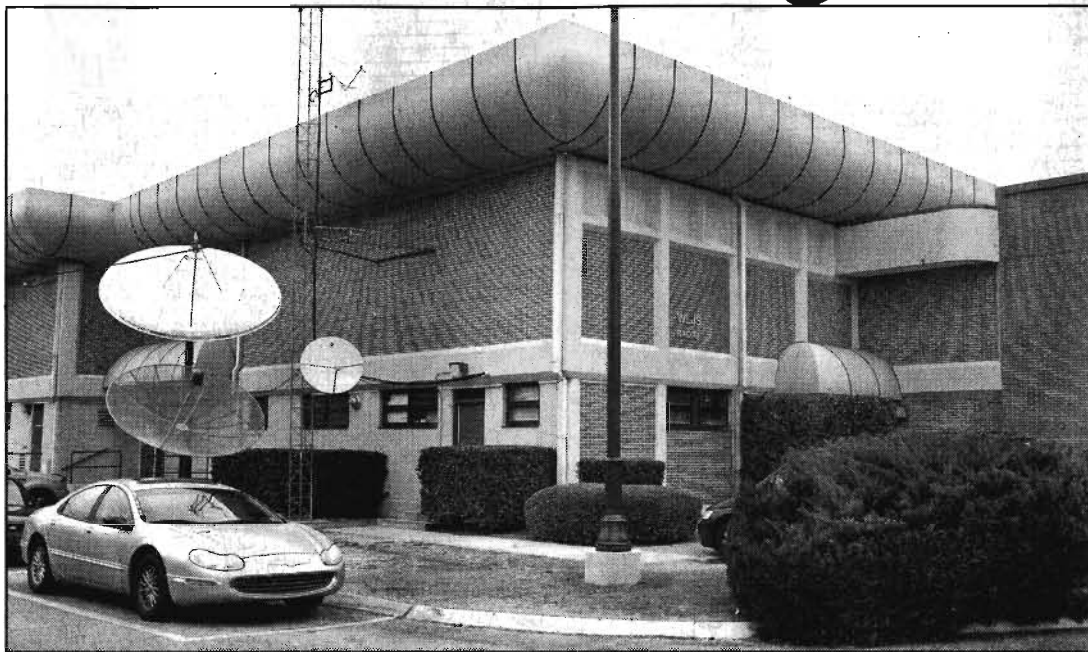


Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

By Zach Childree
Editor In Chief

Listeners of campus radio station WLJS 92J (91.9 FM) experienced an interruption in broadcasting on Saturday afternoon. Around 4 p.m., the station went off the air.

John Nickolson, program director for WLJS, said a piece of the system used to transmit broadcasts from the station malfunctioned.

"The way it works is we send our signal to a tower on top of Houston Cole Library and from there the signal I sent to a tower on top of the mountain," Nickolson said. "A piece of equipment on top of the library failed and that's why the signal wasn't being transmitted."

Nickolson said the problem was first brought to his attention around 4 p.m. and he called Student Media Adviser Mike Stedham and Station Technician Ted White. "Ted came down to the studio

and made sure it wasn't something at the studio," Nickolson said. "He went up to the library and found the problem."

Nickolson said White couldn't correct the malfunction on his own and the part had to be sent off to be repaired.

The station came back on the air at 5 p.m. on Monday.

"We don't know how long it will take to get the part repaired, but we're working to eliminate any noise in the broadcast," Nickolson said. "For now, the signal is going straight from the station to the mountain and there will be a little bit of background noise until we get the equipment fully repaired."

Nickolson said the staff of WLJS is working hard to make sure there isn't another interruption. "We apologize for the interruption of our broadcasting and we are back on the air," said Nickolson. "We are working to give our listeners the clearest sound we possibly can."

2009 SGA ELECTION

A matter of opinion

Candidates for SGA offices face off in debate

By Meredith Garrett
Staff Writer

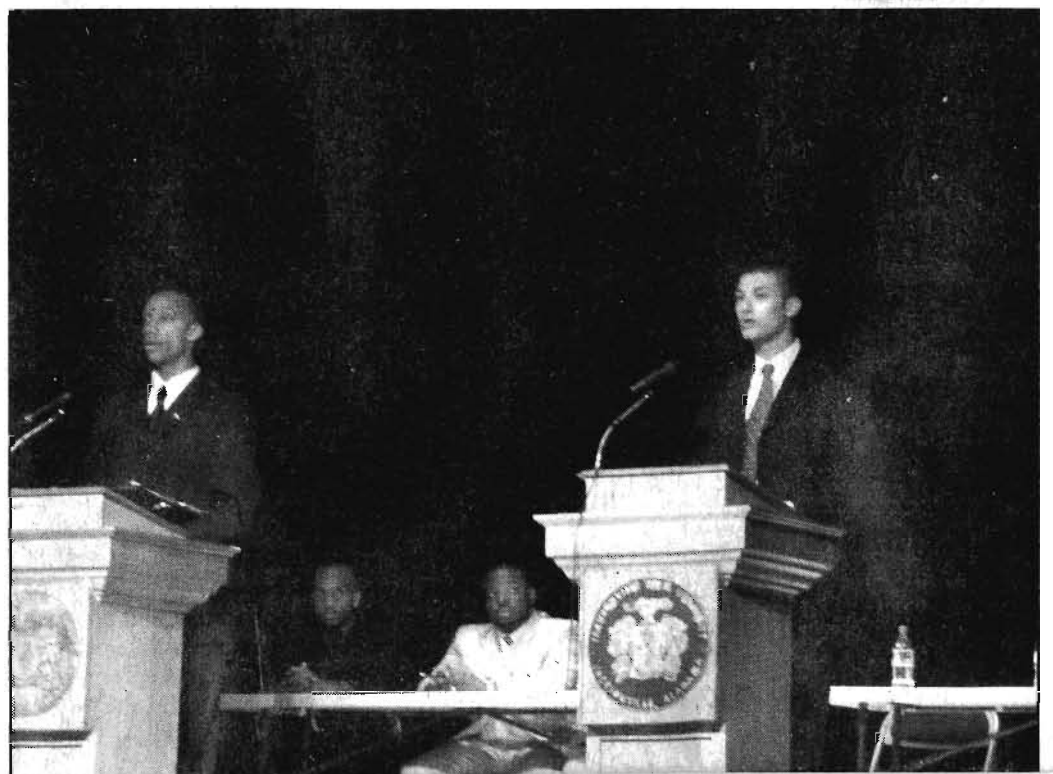
As the Student Government Association candidates began their last week of campaigning, they were eager to voice their positions and secure the confidence of voters. The SGA debates began promptly at 7 P.M. in the TMB auditorium Monday night.

Jennifer Nix, the current SGA President, began with a few opening remarks before turning the meeting over to Moody Duff. Duff, the debate moderator, asked pointed questions that tested the candidates' preparedness for their positions and challenged their impromptu speaking skills as well. Even though the debate offered time for rebuttal, there were only few instances of disagreement among candidates regarding specific issues and goals. The area in which each candidate

activities, Timothy Long promised to "give every organization a voice" and represent the school's diversity. Long was consistent with his platform of "Star Treatment" by stating that he did not want to "alienate anyone."

Kayla Chandler was also determined to express ideas regarding her platform of unity. Instead of seeing University organizations as individuals, the VPOA must "look at them as one whole body," Chandler said. Agreeing with the idea of unity, Justin Martin proposed a way to achieve those objectives. "We must bring in more community service," Martin said.

Jasmine George, Jacoby Parks and Jessica Younce, candidates running for the Vice President of Student Activities, were the next to speak. First, Duff wanted the candidates to express their own ideas for balancing fun activities with a faltering budget. Despite the budget restraints, George remains positive. "It



before turning the meeting over to Moody Duff. Duff, the debate moderator, asked pointed questions that tested the candidates' preparedness for their positions and challenged their impromptu speaking skills as well. Even though the debate offered time for rebuttal, there were only few instances of disagreement among candidates regarding specific issues and goals. The area in which each candidate differed was their method of reaching those goals.

Candidates running for Vice President of Organizational Affairs were the first to speak. Kayla Chandler, Timothy Long and Justin Martin were given the opportunity to express any opening comments before the questions began. When asked about the task of leading all JSU organizations and planning various

to achieve those objectives. "We must bring in more community service," Martin said.

Jasmine George, Jacolby Parks and Jessica Younce, candidates running for the Vice President of Student Activities, were the next to speak. First, Duff wanted the candidates to express their own ideas for balancing fun activities with a faltering budget. Despite the budget restraints, George remains positive. "It doesn't take much money to have fun," she said.

Planning the perfect activities takes time and extra money, and Jacolby Parks, with his ESPN plan, is up to the challenge. "I am willing to put my own money aside to help," Parks stated.

Duff also asked the VPSA candidates about

See "Debate," page 2



SGA presidential candidates Rafael Ferrell and Michael Finn debate on Monday night. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

Not easy being green

Canyon center opens to public

By Jalon Turner
Senior Staff Writer

The Little River Canyon Center is now officially open after years of looking forward to having a place to host their own events.

The Canyon Center, which will hold events hosted by the Jacksonville State University Field School, officially opened on February 22, in Fort Payne, Alabama. "This is an exciting time for us," Field School Director Pete Conroy said. "It has been 20 years coming. After creating the national park back in 1992, we have been working on funds to build the building, and seven million dollars later, JSU really has the chance to welcome northeast Alabama and beyond Alabama to establish itself as a national center for a sustainability conservation

and partnerships."

The center will have a gift shop, though they are not sure if they will run it themselves or lease it out to Eastern National, a company that runs national gift shops. Gifts from local artists can be found, including one artist who blows glass locally. World-renowned glass blower Cal Breed, whose art has been seen in magazines such as Oprah and Southern Living, will be featured in the gift shop. The gift shop will host local potters and musicians, but they will have to undergo a peer review system to have their work displayed.

One artist on hand at this past weekend's opening was Valinda Miracle. She had a miracle of a story on how she became a local artist. "I was working in the corporate world when I was in a serious car

accident, I sustained a terrible head injury, that left me without short-term memory," Miracle said. "So for therapy I turned to creativity, not only with clay but also with oil painting."

Conroy said, "The number one priority for the capitol of the center will be to raise one million dollars to build the museum to the specificity of their wants. We have spent years designing this museum, we know what we want, it will feature competitive rock climbing walls that will have two ropes for kids to compete but, every five feet there will be a computer to ask questions so the playing field is equal between the athletic kid and the smart kids. The museum will also have picture plants indoors."

See "Canyon," page 2

NYU occupation ends

By Amanda Hoffstrom
UWIRE

A two-day protest in which several New York University students barricaded themselves in a campus building ended Friday with the suspension of 18 students.

According to a timeline from UWIRE affiliate Washington Square News, the protest began around 10 p.m. Feb. 18 when the student coalition "Take Back NYU" occupied the school's Kimmel Center for University Life, refusing to leave until specific demands about the NYU endowment, tuition and other issues were met.

More than 50 protesters remained in the building overnight, disrupting the work day of Aramark employees and MarketPlace cafeteria operations, which remained closed throughout the day. Thursday afternoon, students broke onto a third floor balcony—a move unwelcome by the university.

"Robust dialogue is a customary, normal, and expected part of the interaction between students, faculty, and administration at NYU. But it is not appropriate for it to take place while there is an ongoing violation of university rules," a university statement released Friday read.

"Despite the protesters' stated principles that the protest was to be non-destructive and non-violent, the protesters, despite specific warnings to stay off the Kimmel Center balcony, broke

the lock to gain access to the balcony. The protesters also injured an NYU security officer during a scuffle. These actions dishonor NYU's commitment to free exchange of ideas, reasoned debate, and legitimate forms of protest."

As students shouted from the balcony, others joined on the streets—two female NYU undergrads even passed out pamphlets topsless.

Students and faculty across campus had mixed reactions of the occupation.

"I think it's refreshing to see students demanding a voice." NYU professor Stephen Duncombe told the Washington Square News. "They pay for their education, and the majority of control does not belong to the students."

Duncombe also said the discussion was one needed "very badly at the moment."

NYU freshman Andy Heriaud was not as supportive, telling the paper the demonstration was not activism but anarchy.

Though the university announced an ultimatum for the protesters to leave early Friday morning or face arrest and expulsion, dozens of students did not leave.

Public Safety officials broke through Take Back NYU's barricade at about noon Friday, and within two hours, the 40-hour occupation had ended. No student protesters were arrested by the New York Police Department and none of the students' demands were met, according to the university statement.

INDEX

On Campus 2

Campus Crime 2

Opinions 3

Sports 7,8

Dealing with a roommate.

Page 3

Auntie Em!

See a picture of a tornado near JSU.

Page 2

Our Picks

Our endorsements for the 2009

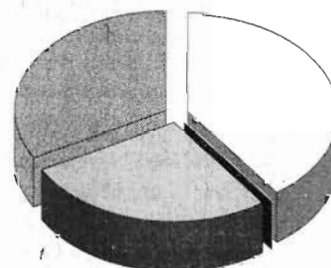
SGA Election.

Page 3

QUESTION of the WEEK

Did you like Sweeney Todd?

- I loved it! I haven't seen it, but will.
 I hated it! I'm not going to see it.



Next week's question:

Did you vote in the SGA Election?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

If you've been searching for the Summer 2009 and Fall 2009 class schedules, look no further. The schedules will be available only online in attempt to save paper during the current budget cut. Priority pre-registration dates for Summer and Fall 2009 can be seen below.

March 9 – Graduate Students – 8:00 a.m.

March 10 – 112+ hours earned – 8:00 a.m.
96 + hours earned – 1:00 p.m.

March 11 – 80 + hours earned – 8:00 a.m.
64 + hours earned – 1:00 p.m.

March 12 – 48+ hours earned – 8:00 a.m.
32+ hours earned – 1:00 p.m.

March 13 – 16+ hours earned – 8:00 a.m.
Open Registration – All 1:00 p.m.

Campus Crime

February 16

- Theft of property was reported at Ayers Hall. Items stolen include a Dell computer.
- Multiple offenses of harassment were reported in the Registrar's office.

February 17

- Harassing communications were reported at Dixon Hall.
- Theft of property was reported in Lenlock. Items stolen include a debit card along with a pin number.

February 18

- A theft of property was reported at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Items stolen include one Alabama High School Athletic Association pass.

What's Happening

Thursday, February 26

- Sweeney Todd

Picture of the week



Dr. Kelly Gregg (far right) from the geology department is explaining to a group of hikers about the geotherme system that is used in the heating and cooling of the little river center. 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.

Canyon: center displays local artisans work

The center will host national park employees along with Jacksonville State University employees.

The Canyon Center will have three art galleries, hosting photographs by local artists.

Southern Customs exhibit has made two-dimensional models of the states region, showing The Little River Canyon in comparison to Calhoun County. They have done Spielberg work and other high-profile designs.

Being in one of the "Greenest" buildings

in Alabama, you get a sense of being in an eco-friendly environment. The lights turn on when you enter a room, and turn off after so many seconds of no motion.

The heating and cooling of the building is the most unique of all. It is a geo-thermal, eco-friendly design.

"36 wells were drilled here, all 300 feet deep, circulating anti-freeze-type coolant which pumps the coolant into the earth to get the temperature of the earth," Conroy said. "It's much like the temperature of a cave and vice versa to heat the building.

After eight years, the system will pay for itself and their will be free heating and cooling."

Hanging on the wall of the library in the center, Conroy shows me two pieces of framed paper hanging over a fireplace. He goes to describe that these two pieces of paper are the first and last page of the bill that created the national park in 1992. The last page is signed by George Bush Sr., Robert Byrd, and Tom Beville our late congressman.

Debate: Candidates take on issues

their plans for unifying activities and their commitment to reaching everyone. Jessica Younce had said in a previous speech that she was capable of being a leader for tomorrow and to achieve this, she "wants to be more personal with the

Senate not only meet on Mondays, but that they "represent them [the students] from Tuesday through Sunday." This mentality ties in with his platform of "LIGHTing" up the future.

Familiarizing students with

heard if they speak together," Windham said.

The most anticipated debate began as Presidential candidates Rafael Ferrell, Michael Finn, Jerry Marzette and Bryant Whaley came to the podium. Duff asked how each can-

ogy and connecting with students through Facebook, email and cell phones.

The moderator then concluded with a pivotal question concerning the new stadium. Duff asked about the candidates' plan to rally student

Association pass.

What's Happening

Thursday, February 26

- Sweeney Todd

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

- JSU LGBT Weekly Meeting
TMB Room 302 at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, February 27

- Sweeney Todd

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Saturday, February 28

- Sweeney Todd

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

- Alumni Board of Governors Meeting
TMB Auditorium

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 1

- Sweeney Todd

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center. 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10, \$12, \$15.

Monday, March 2

- SGA Student Senate Meeting.

TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

- Traffic Court

Office of Student Life – Conference Room.
4:00 p.m.

- Bidding for Treasures from Around the World.

International House, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 3

- SGA Spring Elections

TMB Auditorium

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

* Please bring student I.D.

- Organizational Council Meeting

TMB Auditorium

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4

- SGA Spring Elections

TMB Auditorium

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

* Please bring student I.D.

their plans for unifying activities and their commitment to reaching everyone. Jessica Younce had said in a previous speech that she was capable of being a leader for tomorrow and to achieve this, she “wants to be more personal with the students.”

Jacolby Parks mentioned using the Chanticleer as a tool for reaching the student body. The key to involvement is “having events that everyone can relate to,” Parks said.

Candidates running for Vice President of the Student Senate were the next group to debate. Among the series of questions, Duff asked how each candidate would keep the morale and energy of the Senate high, and he also inquired about their willingness to do work outside of committee. Kelsey Butler mentioned that, by dressing up, she would be able to show pride for the position outside committee meetings. Butler said she was also prepared to “help out when needed.”

Eric Osborne reminded listeners of the Bill he had written requiring at least 2 hours of community service. Osborne said that it was vital that the

Senate not only meet on Mondays, but that they “represent them [the students] from Tuesday through Sunday.” This mentality ties in with his platform of “LIGHTing” up the future.

Familiarizing students with the Senate is Terrence Windham’s goal, and he wants to make sure that we “hold the Senate to a higher standard.” Another method would be to “try new things and we’ll get new ideas,” Windham suggested.

The moderator caught the VPSS candidates a little off guard when he asked if they would be able to offer recommendations without falling victim to the “gimme” mentality. Making a careful approach, Butler said she’d be “mindful of the economy when writing bills.” Eric Osbourne, assuming a more proactive stance, said he wanted to overcome the trying times that seem to “draw people away from making a stand.”

Windham also reminded voters of his work regarding the introduction of hanging decals that will be available next fall. “The student body will be

heard if they speak together,” Windham said.

The most anticipated debate began as Presidential candidates Rafael Ferrell, Michael Finn, Jerry Marzette and Bryant Whaley came to the podium. Duff asked how each candidate would become familiar with the opinions of JSU students in order to represent the student body adequately. Rafael Ferrell said he wished to establish a one-on-one communication system with the students because “without students there is no JSU.” Ferrell was confident that if elected he would bridge the gap. “Your concerns will be heard,” Ferrell said.

Michael Finn also wants face-to-face involvement. He said the challenge is visiting organizations, implementing surveys, compiling them and then presenting them to President Meehan.

Also wanting to use a more personal strategy, Jerry Marzette hopes that students realize that the candidates are students too. “We want to do things with them,” Marzette said. Bryant Whaley suggested taking advantage of technol-

ogy and connecting with students through Facebook, email and cell phones.

The moderator then concluded with a pivotal question concerning the new stadium. Duff asked about the candidates’ plan to rally student support for the stadium. Ferrell wanted to impart a positive attitude to the students by keeping them “aware of the pros to the stadium.” Michael Finn also wanted to boost student morale and proposed that JSU could possibly become a leading University in the state. Bryant Whaley addressed a controversial topic by reminding students about the advantages of pouring more money into an athletic program that will supposedly generate more funding for academics.

Jerry Marzette summed up the aims of each candidate. “In order to be a leader, you first must be able to follow,” Marzette said.

The elections will be held on March 3 and 4 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 P.M. in the TMB auditorium. Student I.D. must be presented to vote.



This week has been proclaimed severe weather awareness week in Ala. by Gov. Riley. Photo by Dr. Mijitaba Hamissou/ JSU

FYI Severe Weather Awareness Week

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Yesterday was tornado awareness day.

National Weather Service meteorologists say Alabama has two distinct tornado seasons -- one in the spring — March through May and the other in late fall — Nov. to Dec. Alabamians are urged to review tornado safety guidelines in the event severe weather hazards threatens you and your family. Weather officials conducted a special weekly radio test message at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday to highlight preparedness and safety precautions concerning twisters. Thursday’s topic will be flooding and flash flooding.

Opinion

Dating/Love: Controlling your hot and cold

By Julie Skinner

Driving my car when the weather is neither hot nor cold is frustrating. I always have the gauge turned completely to red or blue, and switch it back frantically after I start freezing or sweating.

I never think to put the temperature in the middle, in the friendly beige color where the hot and cold meet. It's never occurred to me before that when I'm listening to music, it either has to be concert loud or barely audible. And I also realized that most of the time, I can't make a point while in an argument with my boyfriend without fuming.

This whole idea of my irrational hot-then-cold tendencies came about in my communication ethics class when my professor explained Aristotle's "Golden Mean" theory.

The theory pretty much says that virtue lies in the mean of two extremes. The midpoint doesn't have to be directly in the middle, but between the two extremes. The whole point of the two extremes spoke to me.

My whole life is either one extreme or another. I'm either completely frazzled or impeccably calm. I'm either on a mission to get something completed or started, or I'm in a slump and peacefully gliding through the week. It's how I work.

This doesn't exclude my relationship.

When Sam (the boyfriend) and I hit a rough patch, I'm in full-on defense mode. It's like a radar goes off that says "Things aren't going perfect...panic, panic, panic!"

The truth is, you're going to be in slumps with your significant other, and you're going to go through periods when things aren't

For a barometer of national mood, check out fmylife.com

UWIRE

As part of his transition strategy, President Barack Obama introduced a web feature meant to symbolize his commitment to expanding the national conversation through the magic of Hope and Change. The feature, a component of the change.gov transition site called the "Citizen's Briefing Book," ultimately revealed that the "expertise and insight" that a large component of his web audience wished to share with the incoming President in this moment of crisis related to the need to legalize marijuana.

Perhaps Obama overestimated the American public's maturity. Over the past week, I've spent many potentially productive hours entranced by a website by the name "F*** My Life," which may be found—for those willing to risk time better spent—at www.fmylife.com.

Browsing through the site, one gets the impression that fmylife is much more emblematic of the national mood than whatever's on offer at change.gov. The contents provide a disheartening image of the American psyche as a mental landscape whose anxiety cannot be assuaged by visions of hope and change, but rather dwells upon the consequences of economic "structural adjustment."

Fmylife works by presenting an array of reader-submitted faux pas—each concluding with the acronym-exclamation "FML"—and allowing readers to vote on who "deserved" it

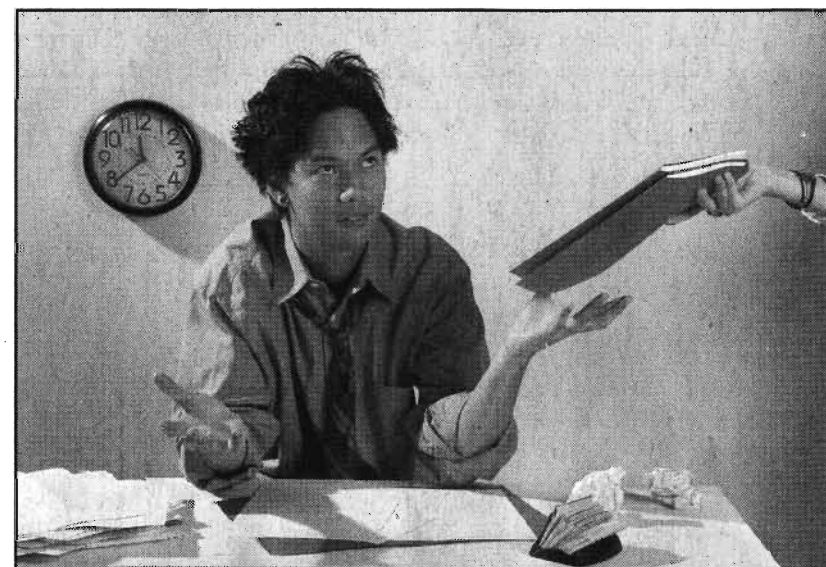
and whose life is really "f***ed."

The top anecdotes tend to follow a certain pattern: a brief recount of one of life's little disappointments, followed by a twist of the knife that makes it just-that-much worse. For instance, one classic submission reads, "Today, my girlfriend dumped me proclaiming she wanted someone more like her 'Edward.' I asked her who Edward was. She held up a copy of her 'Twilight' book. She was talking about a fictional vampire. FML."

Unfortunately, few of the stories are so unambiguously amusing. A distressing number recount long periods of time in which the only person to contact the poster was his or her mother, clumsily-discovered affairs, and the experience of getting laid off—often after having driven through a snow storm to reach work on time. With consumer confidence plummeting after a month in which the United States lost nearly 600,000 jobs, this is a site for the recession.

The site's essence, then, lies in evoking the mindset of adolescence. Sometimes this is literal—a primary cause of angst on FML seems to be whether the writer's "friends" are conspiring against him. More generally, though, adolescence tends to represent the stage in life in which one's life is "f***ed" by social forces beyond one's control, often represented by parents, teachers or peer pressure.

This feeling of adolescent helplessness is the analog for our current economic condition. As a teenager,



Stressed out about work or your life? Get some perspective from fmylife.com. Photo by Special to *The Chanticleer*

one's fundamental capabilities seem undefined and one's independence constantly under threat. As we look ahead nationally to a period of economic reorganization—a slump to "grow out of"—America embodies the awkward mal-adjustment of the pimply ninth grader, but on a macro-economic level.

Reading about break-ups via text message and unfortunate ways to find out that your mom is dating again may just be the perfect complement to a material world in which no employment relationship is safe, and your company may be flirting with setting up shop in China.

The economist Joseph Schumpeter described economic growth under capitalism as a process of "creative destruction," under which the old productive edifices are torn down in order to erect newer and more efficient modes of production. Few these days have the optimism to glimpse this creativity, however, within the current milieu. "We are all Keynesians now," and the system is a heedless and uncontrollable beast, controlled by "animal spirits." Logic and predictability have disappeared.

So why not find solace in those little moments where failure comes in the form of a fictional vampire?

How to communicate with strange roommates

By Chloe Ghoogassian

UWIRE

It's a typical Wednesday. You walk back to your dorm room after class, ready to take your usual afternoon nap. As you make your way to your bed, you notice something different. There is a chunk missing from your surfboard. The first potentially guilty person that comes to mind is your roommate. You're not sure if this person's hunger, anger or excitement stirred this reaction on your surfboard, but your confusion of possible motives and guilty parties is blurred by the flames in your eyes.

Roommate horror stories are definitely not uncommon. Though many situations are less extreme, problems among roommates are inevitable, especially when people of different backgrounds, values, personalities

other erotic noises that may come with this package. To you, this may either be an amusing story to tell or a scar for life. To solve this arousing problem, you and your roommate should set up "alone time" schedules, a rubber band on the doorknob or simply a text saying "warning" before your dorm room excursions. My friend once walked in on her Arousing roommate. After my friend awkwardly expressed her concern, the Arouser placed a canopy around her bed to avoid future embarrassment.

The Night Owl: For some reason, this person does not do anything during the day but rather stays up all night to study, play Mario Kart or type frantically on his or her computer. If you're lucky, this person can work with the lights off, but in less fortunate cases the light will shine brightly in your eyes while you are trying to fall asleep. One Night Owl I know stays up all night

with your roommate (you might just enjoy it), or you can move your armoire behind your door so she will not be able to come in and disturb your beauty sleep.

The Obsessive-Compulsive: There isn't an inch of this roommate's belongings without a Post-it labeling what is hers. If you touch any of her stuff, you will regret it. If you eat any of her Cheez-Its, you will regret it. Along with obsessively labeling her stuff, she is the most germophobic person you will ever meet. She has hand sanitizer lined up on her shelf. She will hunt you down if you accidentally moved her covers as you walk by her bed. I know someone who is so afraid of staying in the room with the obsessive-compulsive roommate (who happens to be her best friend), she will settle for any other roommate next year besides her. Maybe if you offer to share some of your food or belongings, this obsessive-compulsive will get the hint, too, and stop

defense mode. It's like a radar goes off that says "Things aren't going perfect...panic, panic, panic!"

The truth is, you're going to be in slumps with your significant other, and you're going to go through periods when things aren't all roses and ice cream cones.

School, work, friendships, relationships and life in general consist of ups and downs. The best approach is to not overreact when things get a little rocky, but let them take their course.

It's much like a virus. Antibiotics can't cure or treat a virus, so instead of over treating the sickness, it's more important to rest and let it take its course. The antibiotics during an argument, is often me trying to over-analyze a simple situation with a simple solution.

A friend recently said to me, "Julie, you can't solve every puzzle and you can't eat every cake." It's true.

The cake part made me a bit defensive, but I totally got the point she was trying to make.

Being one extreme or the other all the time is impossible. I will not make a 100 on every test I take and I can't slump my way through school to graduate. I can't be comfortable if I'm either hot or cold. And most importantly, I can't rationally look at a problem in my relationship if I let myself not care enough or care too much.

Some things have to settle in beige. Sometimes, you have to eat only a piece of the cake and call it a day. Tomorrow is another shot at saving the world, and today shouldn't hold all the burdens on your plate. Enjoy.

comes to mind is your roommate. You're not sure if this person's hunger, anger or excitement stirred this reaction on your surfboard, but your confusion of possible motives and guilty parties is blurred by the flames in your eyes.

Roommate horror stories are definitely not uncommon. Though many situations are less extreme, problems among roommates are inevitable, especially when people of different backgrounds, values, personalities and bad habits are randomly paired (or tripled) up and expected to live together in a tiny dorm room or cramped apartment for an entire year. Even if you'll be living with a friend, your friendship will unfortunately be redefined.

Roommate situations are one of the hardest problems to deal with in college amid the stress of your papers, exams, presentations and club meetings. Before one goes about solving these issues, it's important to categorize what type of roommate(s) you have.

The Best Friend: You and your roommate click like BFFs. You never spend a minute apart. He or she is like the brother or sister you never had. This may sound like the perfect roommate, but too much time together can lead to the Old-Married-Couple-Syndrome, with constant bickering and pointless arguments. One of my roommates falls under this category. We get along perfectly, but there are just some days we love to disagree on everything imaginable. However, at the end of the day, our love for each other prevails, because we are indeed BFFs.

The Arouser: This person's boyfriend or girlfriend, booty call, playmate or all of the aforementioned are constantly in your room. You may be the unfortunate bottom bunk inhabitant with this roommate on the top. You have to hear the constant creaking of the bed and

most germophobic person you will ever meet. She has hand sanitizer lined up on her shelf. She will hunt you down if you accidentally moved her covers as you walk by her bed. I know someone who is so afraid of staying in the room with the obsessive-compulsive roommate (who happens to be her best friend), she will settle for any other roommate next year besides her. Maybe if you offer to share some of your food or belongings, this obsessive-compulsive will get the hint, tone down the Post-its, and forgive you for eating her Cheez-Its.

The Night Owl: For some reason, this person does not do anything during the day but rather stays up all night to study, play Mario Kart or type frantically on his or her computer. If you're lucky, this person can work with the lights off, but in less fortunate cases the light will shine brightly in your eyes while you are trying to fall asleep. One Night Owl I know stays up all night walking around the dorm floor with his ramen, trying to find anyone who is awake, fails miserably, crashes on the floor of his room, wakes up 10-minutes later and repeats this routine. You might want to tell this Night Owl to leave the room if they are disturbed by the words "late night" and "sleep" placed in the same sentence.

The Daytime Mute and Nighttime Animal: You can't even tell if this person is in the room during the day, but at night she is the most interesting character. From snoring, to moaning, to talking in her sleep, she is indeed the nighttime animal. You are almost afraid to ask what she is dreaming about. Earplugs may just have to be your new best friend, or you may want to keep a small object handy to gently throw at your roommate if she is having too much fun in her dreams. I actually live with one of these, and earplugs are indeed miracle workers.

The Party Animal: Thanks to the freedom of college, it is possible to party every single day of the week. And thanks to the diversity among UCLA students, it is possible to have a population of Party Animals. You've never seen this person sober. If it's not alcohol, it's some other drug that takes over this person's life. This person even goes to class drunk yet manages to pull off a higher grade point average than you. You secretly envy your roommate, but you're more concerned with keeping your liver intact. You can either try partying

The Tag-Along: She thinks she's your best friend, but deep down, you dislike her. She is constantly around you. She ruins your game. She might just be in love with you. You should go on a quest to find friends for this person, either people just like you (because she would want friends like you), or people even more annoying than this Tag-Along just for the sake of sweet revenge. Or you can do what my friend does: Avoid this person at all costs.

The Ghost: You've never met this roommate. You often wonder if she even exists. For example, my friend didn't meet one of her roommates until eighth week of fall quarter. She would peacefully come in the room to sleep and leave before the other two roommates could catch a glimpse of her. This is every person's dream roommate. It's great when she goes home on the weekends. Try staying awake long enough to see your roommate come in the room, do a friendly handshake, then go back to sleep. You may want to know who sleeps in your room at night.

Whatever category your roommate(s) may fall under, no matter how different you are, it is possible to solve some general problems with one key ingredient: communication.

Letters to the Editor

More He said, They said

In regards to the article of He Said, They Said - I am appalled by the actions of Mr. Stokes. As a former president of Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKE) I have accepted all students from different backgrounds. I am gay myself and for Phi Kappa Phi to be "secretly" discriminative just shows the ignorance in each. If Mr. Stokes were so adamant about having a diverse group, as president, he should

have stood up and set an example. He should have told his brothers that they are a diverse group and should open their chapter for everyone. Instead, he chose to hide behind his brothers and say "It's them, we decide together, I can't do anything about it." Cowardly act. Mr. Stokes should be aware that your article isn't kept within miles of your University but is widely spreading through the US. The ignorance of Phi Kappa Phi will be known all around. There are

great fraternities and there are bad. Unfortunately Mr. Stokes has not kept his fraternity in good reputation.

-Sean Smart PIKE

No warning received

After the severe weather that passed through the area the other day, I realized that I did not receive any notification on my cellphone advising me of a weather emergency. I have followed the instructions

that I received from UPD to set my cellphone up to receive these alerts. Am I alone? Would you run a survey on the web to see? Is anyone concerned other than me, that should an emergency occur on campus students may not know anything until it's too late? I feel that JSU is paying for this service, that means as a student I pay for the service, so it should work properly.

-A concerned student

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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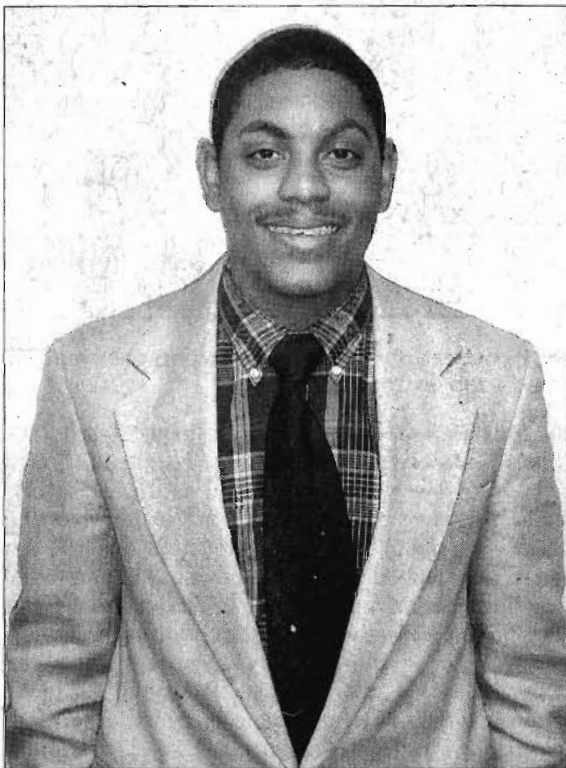
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The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in **Room 180, Self Hall**, or to the mailing address to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

OUR PICKS

Tuesday, all of the SGA candidates were invited to participate in a forum at The Chanticleer office where they were given time to make their case to the staff. All of the candidates were invited with the stipulation that, if a candidate did not come the forum, they were not eligible to be considered for endorsement. The staff heard each candidate's speech and questions were posed as well. The staff debated each candidate and some votes were very close. These are the people the staff of *The Chanticleer* believe to be the best choice in each of their respective races.



JACOLBY PARKS,
vice president
Student Activities

Over the last semester, Mr. Parks has shown his ability to weather a storm. His strength lies in his experience as Senator and as VPSA for 2008-09. Mr. Parks' ideas stand out as ways to use a little to create a lot.

The common theme in the campaigns in this field was increasing student participation and we believe Mr. Parks is the candidate to make this happen.

Mr. Parks, who also supports a student activities fee, plans to make events in 2009 even more exciting using creative planning and publicity.

Mr. Parks shows a desire to embrace new



RAFAEL FERRELL, president
Student Government Association

Mr. Ferrell is a well-spoken individual with lofty, but obtainable goals for the SGA. Among them, and most importantly, finding new ways to communicate with students. Mr. Ferrell has first hand experience with the office of SGA president serving as former President

student body.

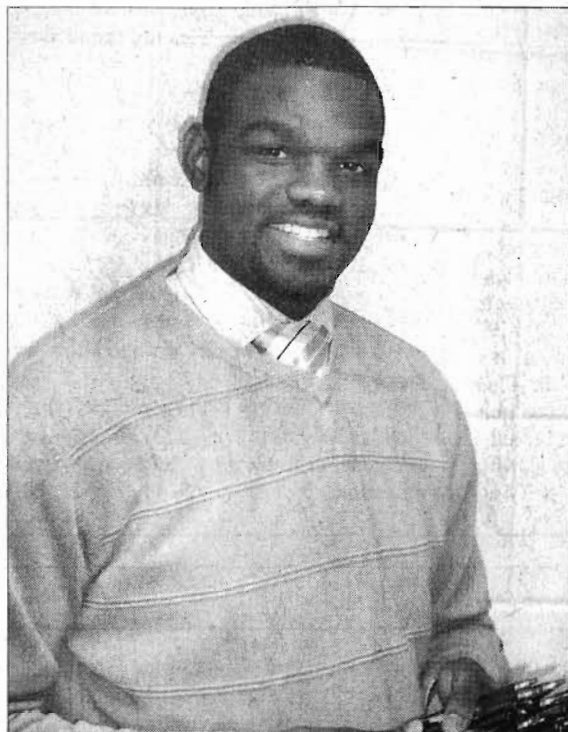
Ferrell also plans to work to utilize existing resources before seeking out new ones.

His ideas, goals and his willingness to communicate with the student body are why we are endorsing Rafael Ferrell for

happen.

Mr. Parks, who also supports a student activities fee, plans to make events in 2009 even more exciting using creative planning and publicity.

Mr. Parks shows a desire to embrace new technology in communicating with the students and promoting events. Mr. Parks also hopes to have more events geared toward international students, which are sorely needed



JUSTIN MARTIN,
vice president
Organization Affairs

As Director of the JSU Gospel Choir, to his work with Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Justin Martin brings leadership experience to the table as well as some very good ideas. A theme among the candidates in this race was organizational unity and Mr. Martin has good ideas on how to make these goals a reality.

Organizations will benefit from Mr. Martin's plan to lobby a limit increase for allocations to student organizations, from the current \$300 limit to \$500.

What may be controversial for Mr. Martin is his support for a small student activity fee to fund the SGA and help create more activities on campus. As a choir director, Mr. Martin has to take many voices and make them work together. We believe he will take that same talent and apply it to the position of Vice President of Organizational affairs.

Mr. Ferrell is a well-spoken individual with lofty, but obtainable goals for the SGA. Among them, and most importantly, finding new ways to communicate with students. Mr. Ferrell has first hand experience with the office of SGA president serving as former President David Jennings' executive assistant. Mr. Ferrell feels strongly about making sure students are informed about what is going on in the SGA. "The least I can do, as president, is to keep the students informed," Ferrell said on Tuesday. "Students, not just Senators, need to be involved in the decision making process."

Ferrell recognizes that students need to feel that they can come to the SGA with their problems and expect solutions. Ferrell said he wants students to know that decision makers need the input of the

student body.

Ferrell also plans to work to utilize existing resources before seeking out new ones.

His ideas, goals and his willingness to communicate with the student body are why we are endorsing Rafael Ferrell for SGA President.

2009 SGA
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
ELECTION
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

ERIC OSBORNE,
vice president
Student Senate

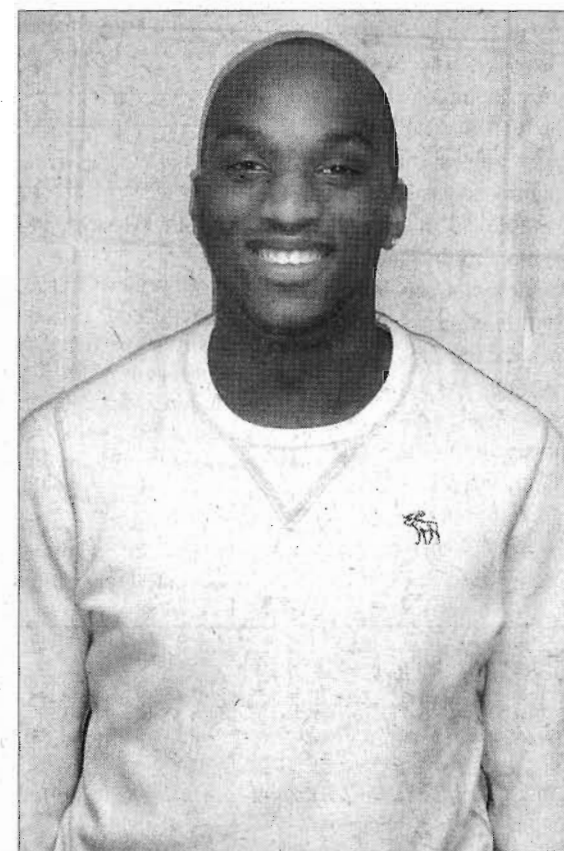
Eric Osborne hopes to take a more active role as VPSS and we think he has the guts to do so. Osborne's ideas range from requiring Senators to be more active in the Senate to making sure people are appointed to the Student Senate who are passionate about representing students.

Another strength found in Mr. Osborne is his ability to admit when things might not be working like they should. Mr. Osborne believes the Senate is there to represent the students and told us he doesn't think the Senate has been doing it's job very well.

We have to agree.

Osborne promises to make sure the SGA is working with all student organizations and using it's time wisely to pass bills that actually make things better for students.

We think Mr. Osborne will make good on these promises.



LET US KNOW WHO YOU'RE VOTING FOR

Go online at www.thechanticleeronline.com and tell us which of the candidates you plan to vote for on March 3rd-4th.



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THE STRENGTH TO HEAL

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U. South Alabama Muslim Student Association: 'It's all right to ask questions'

By Jessica Stephens
UWIRE

Hina Rasool wants you to know it's all right to ask questions.

The 22-year-old secretary for the University of South Alabama's Muslim Student Association doesn't mind if you ask her about her hijab, the scarf she wears to cover her hair, neck, ears and chest. She doesn't mind if you ask her about Islam, its doctrine or its customs.

She doesn't even mind if you ask questions that seem stupid, and neither do her friends.

"I've been asked, 'Do you wear that in the shower?'" Kiran Awan said, gesturing toward her hijab.

Aysha Rasool joined in, adding, "I've been asked if it's attached to my head."

All three women are members of

the University's Muslim Student Association, an organization that promotes awareness of both Islam and the people who practice it.

There are two methods the association uses most often to teach others about Islam. One is open forums, where an Imam (a Muslim leader) or local authority on Islam will give a talk about different Muslim issues.

The second method is called Dawah. For Dawah, members of the association stand in a public place such as USA's Student Center and discuss their beliefs with other people.

The group's goal is to educate both Muslims and non-Muslims about Islam.

They usually have a pretty good turnout - especially, Hina said, "when there's food or extra credit."

The biggest difficulty Muslim Student Association members face is misunderstanding. Kiran said she and her family did not face much prejudice until Sept. 11, 2001.

She was nine years old when the World Trade Center was destroyed, but even eight years later she can remember a car of teenagers yelling obscenities at her and her mother as they were taking a walk.

Those tensions have eased a bit over time, but even recently, a post office worker refused to mail a package Kiran's father tried to send, literally backing away from the counter in fear.

Hina said the prejudice always gets a little worse around patriotic holidays.

The stereotype that Muslim citizens are not quite as American as other citizens is one that association

members have to deal with too often.

"Being Muslim doesn't make you not American," Hina said.

She and other Muslims have encountered prejudice, such as being told to "go back home," at some of the most innocuous places.

"Wal-Mart is where most of the negative stuff happens, actually," Hina said with a laugh.

Kiran reached her hands toward her, laughed and shouted, "I know!"

Many Muslims in the Mobile area feel that the misunderstanding goes beyond rude comments from strangers.

Kiran, Hina and Aysha all cite instances when Muslims have been misrepresented or ignored in the local media.

Sometimes, the only thing these women can do in the face of ignorance is laugh.

In fact, all three said they feel they must constantly have a positive demeanor around non-Muslims, just to prevent others from thinking of Muslims as negative or unhappy people.

It gets frustrating to grow up in a culture with so little understanding of Islam, but Kiran, Hina, and Aysha know the most productive way to deal with ignorance about their way of life is to be completely open about what they believe and why they have the standards they do about clothing and behavior.

Association members want both Muslim and non-Muslim students to understand Islam a little better instead of making assumptions.

"It's OK not to understand," Hina said, "I just wish people would ask."

Say 'goodbye' to PC Magazine's print edition

By Tina Arons
UWIRE

An empty space will be left in magazine racks where PC Magazine once resided.

Ziff Davis Media, a leading technology media company, announced in November that PC Magazine will go all digital and the final print version will be the January 2009 issue.

"Moving our flagship property to an all-digital format is the final step in an evolutionary process that has been playing out over the last seven years," Jason Young, CEO of Ziff Davis Media, said in a statement. "Since 2000, online has been the focal point where technology buyers get their information and technology marketers are directing their dollars to

drive demand and build their brands."

Kippa Hopper, a journalism professor who teaches magazine writing at Texas Tech, said she believes the changes some magazine publications, such as PC Magazine, are making stem from economic concerns and a push to become technologically savvy.

"I think it makes sense for PC Magazine to go all online because it's about computers," she said. "It's a natural course for that publication."

According to the Ziff Davis Media statement, the PCMag Digital Network reaches more than 10 times the circulation of the print publication.

"The Internet is a powerful marketing platform that combines perfectly with the highly

contextual nature of our content and allows us to deliver marketers active buyers with powerful engagement and strong return on their investment," said Young in the statement. "We have a great legacy of innovation in delivering on this promise that we expect to accelerate further."

Randy Reddick, chairman of the journalism department at Tech, said lifestyle changes that caused people to want information provided online spurred the increased online presence by magazines and newspapers.

And when people's lifestyles change, he said, advertising dollars change.

The economy may have played a small part in PC Magazine's decision to switch to an all-digital format, Reddick said.

However, economic troubles have and will continue to hit the newspaper industry harder than it's glossy counterpart.

"Most of the established magazines have a pretty well-defined audience and advertising base," he said. "It's probably not going to shift. The people who buy American Quarterhorse Magazine are going to continue to buy it."

Hopper, who agreed, said she believes print versions of other magazines will always have a place on the racks because people enjoy the tangible format.

"There's just nothing like being able to see photos with the copy all next to one another in a nice layout," she said.

'Tonight Show' transition

By Thomas Floyd
UWIRE

ing gags from the beginning -- the opening of his first episode portrayed him contemplating suicide due to the backlash his hiring caused - O'Brien has made the NBC suits who con-

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'Tonight Show' transition

By Thomas Floyd
UWIRE

When Lorne Michaels pulled an awkward-looking nobody from "The Simpsons" writers' room and put him in front of the "Late Night" cameras, the consensus reaction was sheer befuddlement. After all, replacing a television icon like David Letterman seemed like no easy task, even for the most established of personalities.

With history repeating itself nearly 16 years later, Conan O'Brien will once again fill some mighty large shoes come June 1, stepping onto the same "Tonight Show" gig previously filled by Johnny Carson and Jay Leno.

This time around, though, O'Brien has already silenced his doubters.

After airing its final episode on Friday, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" is officially off the air, and the viewers' focus can shift to NBC's brand-new, late-night schedule. On Monday, the "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" era will start, followed by "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" in June and "The Jay Leno Show" in September.

During the past decade-and-a-half, O'Brien's distinctive blend of zany, off-the-wall humor and on-the-fly wit has made him a staple of American (and Finnish, interestingly enough) television. Featuring a colorful cast of recurring characters, such as Triumph the Insult Comic Dog and the Evil Puppy, as well as signature segments, like In the Year 2000, If They Mated and Celebrity Survey, "Late Night" has always been a wonderful distraction for those still awake come 12:35 a.m.

As if O'Brien's career needed any further vindication, the series of one-man shows he put on during last winter's writers' strike will ultimately be remembered as some of the show's best episodes. Showing off his rockabilly skills by belting out a dazzling rendition of "Blue Moon," riding on a zip line to save a faux Abraham Lincoln from John Wilkes Booth and taking an audience member on a rapid-fire tour of 30 Rockefeller Plaza, O'Brien showed that his comedic charisma is all it takes to produce an entertaining hour of television.

Attacking his critics with self-deprecat-

ing gags from the beginning -- the opening of his first episode portrayed him contemplating suicide due to the backlash his hiring caused -- O'Brien has made the NBC suits who controversially put him on the air look like geniuses.

This brings us back to Michaels, who is again under a certain amount of scrutiny thanks to giving "Saturday Night Live" alumnus Jimmy Fallon the keys to "30 Rock's" Studio 6A. Although he enjoyed clear success with "SNL," he was never exactly the most popular cast member, and his fizzled movie career since leaving the sketch comedy program in 2004 is a tribute to that notion.

But if Michaels can make a gangly, pale-skinned redhead into a king of late-night, then he has clearly earned the benefit of the doubt. Based on the video blogs Fallon produced while preparing for the show, the 34-year-old comedian with a decidedly hands-on fervor is certainly not lacking enthusiasm. And since he has The Roots signed on to serve as his house band, Fallon does have at least one sure thing going for him from the start.

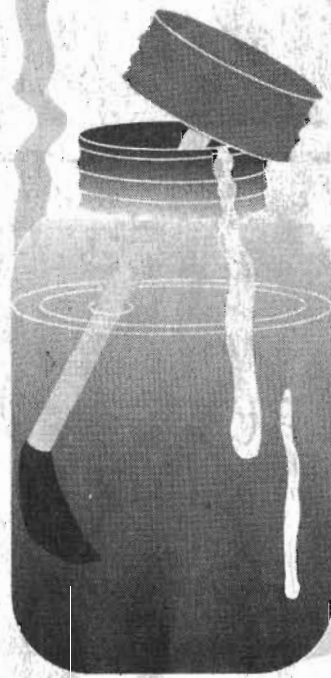
Come September -- when Leno's new 10 p.m. program debuts -- NBC could end up re-establishing the line between primetime and late-night. While the other major networks slide short-lived scripted dramas with high production costs into that un-envied timeslot, NBC should save some major coin by betting on Leno's built-in audience and enticingly inexpensive show.

Following Leno with O'Brien's cult viewership and Fallon's -- fingers crossed -- fresh, exciting take on "Late Night," NBC should have a profitable late-night lineup, one that might have other networks considering a similar change.

Back in 1993, NBC unexpectedly lost Letterman to CBS after denying him a chance to host "The Tonight Show" in favor of Leno, in what amounted to a messy, image-damaging divorce. The network didn't make the same mistake twice, however, and by retaining the talents of Leno and O'Brien while adding Fallon to the fold, NBC has made all the right moves.

So here is a toast to the last 16 years of late-night, and many more nights of laughs to come.

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Jered Staubs

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Random musings of a basketball junkie

I have an indescribable passion for college basketball. As March inches closer, I figured it would be appropriate to share some thoughts with those of you who also treasure this time of year.

I'll start with my favorite team since they are, perhaps, the best team in the country at the moment. Oddly, I didn't feel this way until they lost to Texas last Saturday.

(Random Texas joke: Why do I use Axe Boost body wash? Because you can anagram the letters to say "Boo Texas".)

Anyway, until the latest edition of the Red River Rivalry, I thought OU had one superstar, one star and a handful of quality players.

But after Blake Griffin was concussed, Willie Warren elevated his game and ascended to superstar level.

It's hard to win a national title with one superstar — it's why UConn may be the best team but it is about the 10th most likely team to win it all — but Warren's development puts the Sooners in a class with only two other teams: North Carolina and Arizona State.

I find it incredibly odd that ASU's James Harden wears sleeves under his jersey. Normally sleeves are reserved for overweight guys or skinny white guys, not top-5 picks in the NBA draft.

He is an amazing player

Do or die time

Men's team must beat Tennessee Tech to keep playing

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

JSU's men's basketball team will be facing an opponent who understands the fall the Gamecocks have taken the past two months.

When the Gamecocks (11-16, 5-12 OVC) and Tennessee Tech (11-17, 5-12 OVC) met on December 6, both teams were 5-1 and looking forward to a promising season.

JSU won that game 66-48, and expectations continued to soar. But now, both the Gamecocks and Golden Eagles need a win just to qualify for the conference tournament.

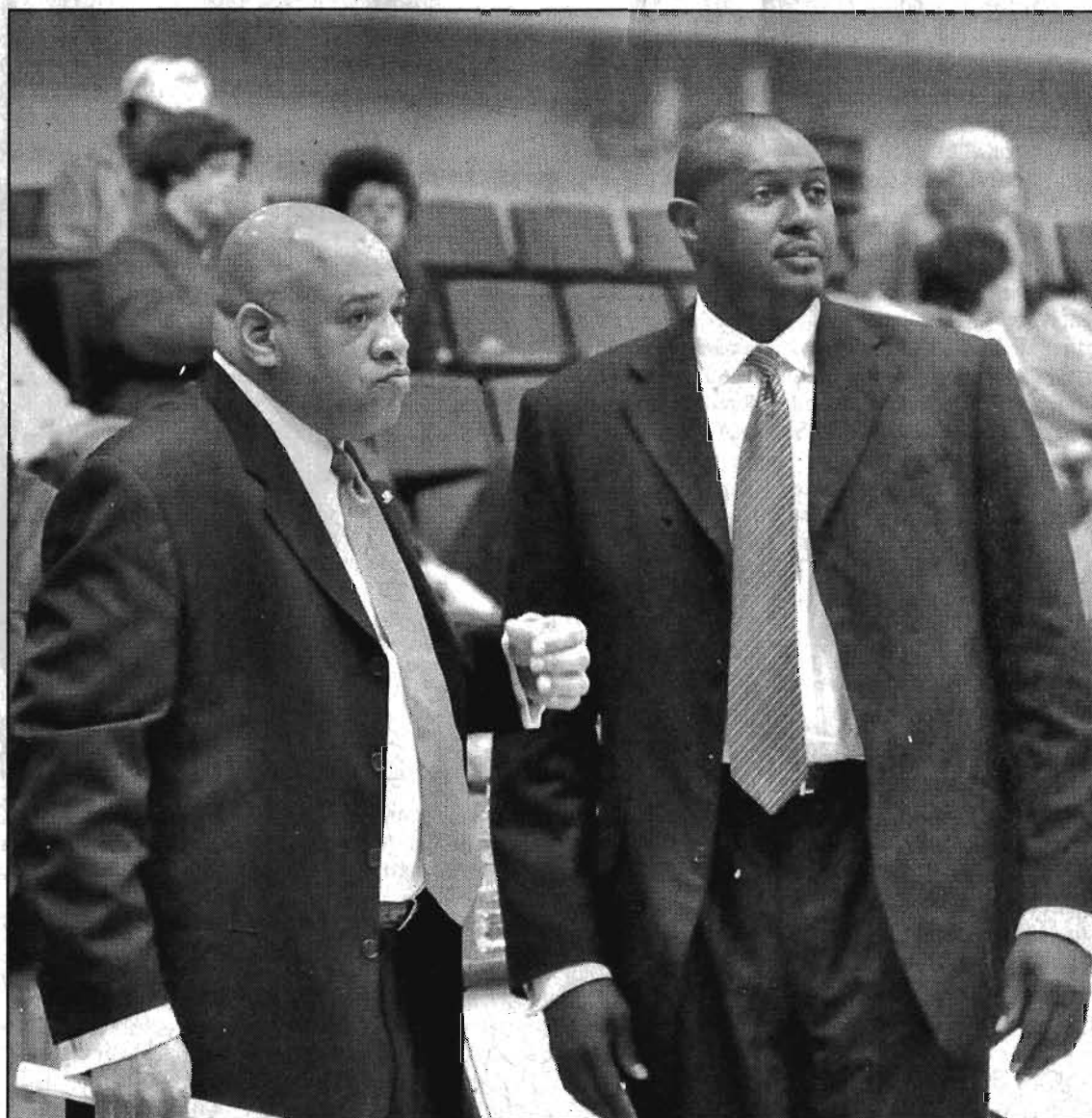
The winner of Saturday's game will enter the Ohio Valley Conference tournament as the No. 8 seed and play the regular season champion on that team's home court Tuesday night. The winner of the conference is still yet to be decided, with five teams still in the mix to win the league.

But that only would matter to the Gamecocks if they are able to defeat Tennessee Tech this weekend. The fact that the season has deteriorated to this point gnaws at senior point guard Jonathan Toles.

"As a senior, you don't want to go out this way," Toles said. "Some things haven't gone right for us this year, but we have a chance to go out and make it right."

Toles is one of only two seniors on the roster, and he and the other, point guard DeAndre Bray, are determined to keep playing beyond Saturday.

"It's the playoffs now," Bray said. "Either we win and get in or we go home. If we get in though, it's anybody's game. Just because



Head Coach James Green and Assistant Coach Mike Smith discuss strategy on the sideline earlier this year. The coaches must end the Gamecocks' five-game losing streak or face missing the conference tournament for a third consecutive year. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Tennessee Tech has gone 0-for-February, losing all six games it has played this month. The Golden Eagles have lost 10 of their last 12 road games.

JSU has not fared much better, as it has lost five games in a row, dating back to a Feb. 7 win over Eastern Kentucky. The Gamecocks have lost their last two home games, but are 6-5 at home on the season.

"The good thing about this game is that it's at home, and that we will have a whole week to rest and prepare," JSU coach James

will be valuable down the road."

JSU dominated the first meeting between the teams, and did so without one of its most productive players, freshman Brandon Crawford. The Gamecocks displayed a balanced attack that day, as four players scored 13 or more points. Stephen Hall led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

The Gamecocks did play last Saturday — and while Green and the players promised there was no looking past that game, it was a non-conference game and could not

North Carolina and Arizona State.

I find it incredibly odd that ASU's James Harden wears sleeves under his jersey. Normally sleeves are reserved for overweight guys or skinny white guys, not top-5 picks in the NBA draft.

He is an amazing player though. If not for Griffin's unrivaled year — and obvious importance to his team after they lost more in three days without him than they did in three months with him — I would be making a case for Harden to win Player of the Year.

Still though, I disapprove of his nickname, "All Day" — that name is taken by another former OU star.

I also disapprove of ASU fans rushing the court after their fourth straight win over Arizona. You're an elite program with an elite coach and second best player in the nation. Also, you're highly ranked, and Zona was unranked.

Though, to be fair, that was the best game I've seen all year. I guess it was just an emotional release from the students and fans after an exhilarating couple hours.

Still, the appropriate time to rush the court is when you've overcome a huge deficit to beat a top-5 team, as Maryland did Saturday (88-85 OT win over UNC).

Roy Williams has an unrivaled knack for assembling a roster of studs, but some of his in-game decisions are puzzling.

As he watched his team blow a 16-point lead — and the crowd go from tame to mildly interested to raucous to berzerk — he didn't think it necessary to call even a single timeout to settle them down?

I don't know, it's like everyone absolves Williams of all his past failures because he won one national championship at Carolina with a team that even he couldn't screw up. I still question him and will never pick his team to win it all even when they have the most overall talent, as they do this year.

Back to the Arizona/Arizona State game for a second. It wasn't atypical of Pac-10 basketball, which is often captivating on and off the court — the most

See "Staubs," page 6

go out and make it right."

Toles is one of only two seniors on the roster, and he and the other, point guard DeAndre Bray, are determined to keep playing beyond Saturday.

"It's the playoffs now," Bray said. "Either we win and get in or we go home. If we get in though, it's anybody's game. Just because these teams have been winning doesn't mean they have to keep winning."

And teams that have been losing don't have to keep losing. That will be the case at Pete Mathews Coliseum Saturday, as both teams enter on long losing streaks.

JSU has not fared much better, as it has lost five games in a row, dating back to a Feb. 7 win over Eastern Kentucky. The Gamecocks have lost their last two home games, but are 6-5 at home on the season.

"The good thing about this game is that it's at home, and that we will have a whole week to rest and prepare," JSU coach James Green said. "There's no question this game is important to us, not only this year, but as we continue to try to build this program. The difference in being the eight (seed) and the nine is tremendous. Just getting a chance to play in the tournament would give us experience that

ford. The Gamecocks displayed a balanced attack that day, as four players scored 13 or more points. Stephen Hall led the way with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

The Gamecocks did play last Saturday — and while Green and the players promised there was no looking past that game, it was a non-conference game and could not have the same impact as the Tennessee Tech game — and were defeated 66-63 at Georgia Southern.

That game, and the other 26 that preceded it, must now be forgotten. The task at hand is simple. Win and get in. Lose and stay home.

Women's team in need of a little help

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

With 12:19 left to play in the second half of Saturday's contest against Tennessee State, the Jacksonville State women's basketball team looked poised to all but claim the eighth and final spot in the Ohio Valley Conference tournament.

Up by three at the break, the Gamecocks (7-21, 4-13 OVC) came out of the locker room and dominated the first eight minutes of the second frame, outscoring the Tigers 13-3 during that period to take their largest lead of the contest.

Things went south from there.

The Gamecocks would miss their next three shots and commit three turnovers before Charlease Williams nailed a jumper in the paint to end the scoring drought.

By that time, Tennessee State had cut JSU's lead to four and stolen the game's momentum. The Tigers would score the next five points to take a 43-42 lead.

JSU would reclaim a one-point advantage with two minutes left the play, but Tennessee State was solid from the free-throw line down the stretch and walked away with a 57-52 victory.

"We took some quicker shots than we needed to, and we didn't have people in rebounding position," JSU coach Becky Geyer

said. "When we are ahead, we really need to work the ball and take advantage of having the lead. Some of that is the fact that we have a really young squad on the floor.

"We also had some shots that we didn't hit and had some turnovers. I think it's really important — in those last 10 minutes — that we do all the little things all the time."

The Gamecocks let an even bigger lead slip through their fingers last Thursday against Austin Peay. JSU controlled the first half and

took a 17-point lead into halftime behind a strong performance from Destiny Lane, who scored 12 of her career-high 21 points before the break.

Lane's three-pointer with 15:34 left in the game gave the Gamecocks their biggest cushion of the contest at 18, but the Lady Govs would slowly chip away at the lead and put themselves within striking distance.

Kelsey Johnikin hit two free throws to put JSU up 68-65 with only 19 seconds remaining on the clock, but Austin Peay's Ashley Her-

ring drilled a three-pointer to send the game to overtime.

The Gamecocks stepped up on the defensive side of the court during the extra period, holding the Govs to just three points. JSU hit five of its seven free throws in overtime to seal what Geyer called the biggest win of the season.

With the win, the Gamecocks moved a half game ahead of Eastern Kentucky in the conference standings and ensured that the Colonels would have to beat league-leading Murray

State on Saturday to reclaim the eighth and final playoff spot.

"It was huge because it gave us the advantage if Eastern Kentucky gets another win. To pull ahead of them was huge," Geyer said.

Eastern Kentucky has been struggling tremendously of late, losing its last 11 games. But Geyer doesn't want to sit back and wait to see whether or not the Colonels pull off a shocking upset this Saturday.

"I think anything is possible," Geyer said. "I've told our team that the only way we know we're going is if we beat Tennessee Tech on Saturday. That's it. That's our best shot, putting it in our own hands."

The Gamecocks played Tennessee Tech in their conference opener in early December. The Golden Eagles defeated JSU 84-60 that day, but Geyer's squad has been playing better of late with the exception of Monday's non-conference loss to Kennesaw State.

"If you take away (the Kennesaw State game) and you backtrack from there, I think from Eastern Illinois on we have been playing some really good basketball," Geyer said. "We are a much better team now than we were."



JSU coach Becky Geyer looks on as Kelsey Johnikin surveys Austin Peay's defense last Thursday. The Gamecocks defeated the Govs 75-71 in overtime and are now in good position to make the conference tournament. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

Bested by the Big East

Softball takes care of business against smaller schools, can't compete with Big East powerhouses

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State softball team got busy last week.

The Gamecocks (8-4) played seven games over a five-day span, coming away victorious in five of those contests.

JSU's only losses came against two Big East schools, Louisville and South Florida.

The Gamecocks started the week with a doubleheader sweep of Mercer on Wednesday.

Game one ended in dramatic fashion. Mercer pitcher Jenni Holtz held JSU scoreless throughout the first six innings of the game, but the Gamecocks' bats came to life in the top of the seventh.

Staring at a two-run deficit, Meredith Sellers, Kayla Collins and Allison Svoboda started the inning with three consecutive singles to load the bases. After Hillary Downs struck out, Mary Beth Ledbetter came through with an RBI single.

Holtz then walked Courtney Underwood to knot the game at two runs apiece. The game didn't stay tied for long though, as Allie Barker ripped a three-run double to right center to give the Gamecocks a 5-2 advantage.

Melissa Dowling did the rest, picking up her second win of the season. Dowling pitched all seven innings, giving up eight hits and two earned runs.

JSU got behind early in game two as well, but it didn't take nearly as long for their bats to warm up. JSU scored six runs in the third and fourth innings to take a commanding 6-1 lead and never looked back, coming away with a 7-3 victory.

Kelly McGregor pitched all seven innings for the Gamecocks, picking up her first win of the season.

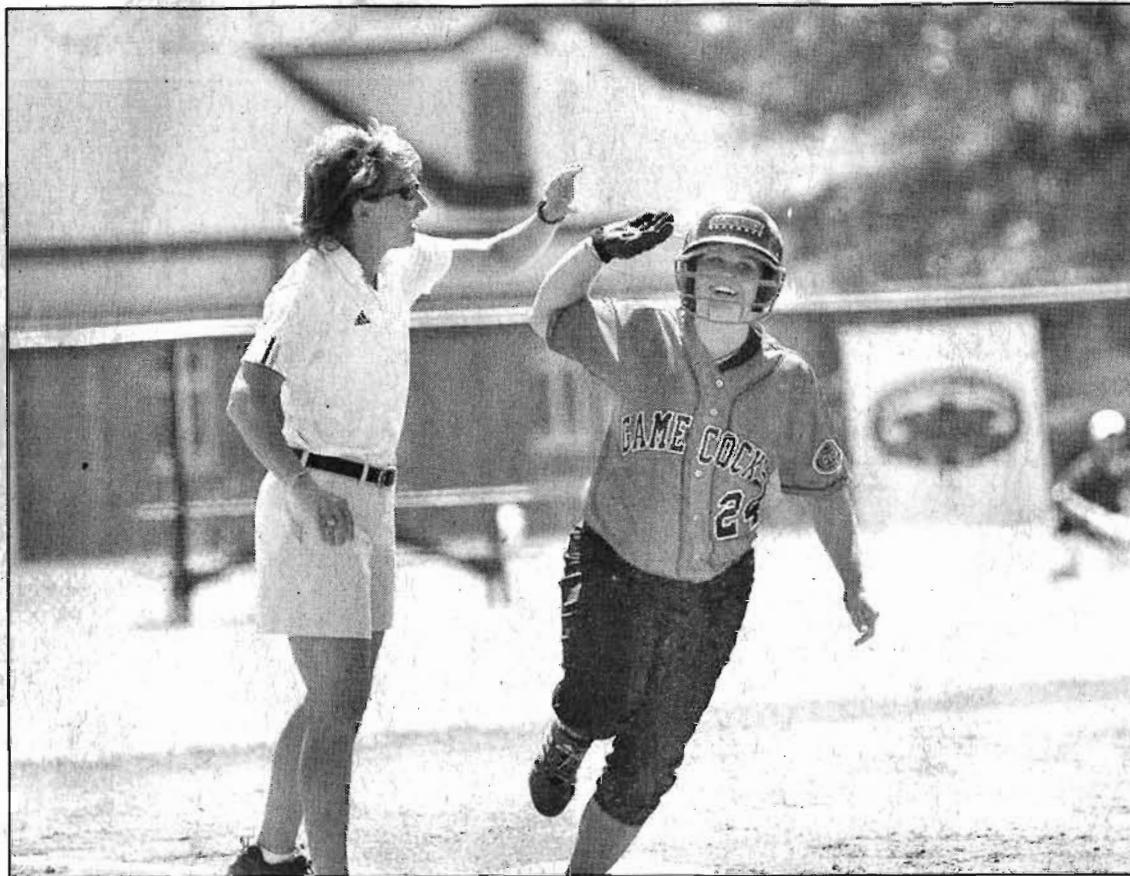
JSU then headed to Tampa, Fla., for the weekend to take part in the University of South Florida The Game Tournament.

The Gamecocks immediately made their presence felt on Friday, crushing Florida A&M 21-1. The contest was never in jeopardy from the beginning, as JSU scored 12 runs in the first inning.

First baseman Nikki Prier led the Gamecock attack, hitting a grand slam in the second inning and tying a school record with six RBI in one game.

Collins worked four innings for the Gamecocks to pick up her first win of the season.

JSU's offensive attack did a complete 180 on



Nikki Prier high fives JSU coach Jana McGinnis after hitting a home run last season. Prier tied the school record for most RBI in a single game with six in a 21-1 rout of Florida A&M over the weekend and was named OVC Player of the Week. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Saturday against Louisville. Cardinal pitcher Kristen Wadwell gave up no runs on three hits to shut the Gamecocks out for the second time this season.

JSU would come back with a shutout of its own in the second game of the day, defeating Rhode Island 3-0. Dowling was superb in the circle once again, going all seven innings, allowing only two hits, and picking up her third win of the year.

Barker led the Gamecocks offensively, going 2-for-4 with a home run and two RBI.

The Gamecocks would settle for a split on Sunday, defeating Albany in their first match of the day before falling to tournament host South Florida in the finale.

JSU jumped out in front of the Great Danes 8-0

and never looked back, defeating Albany 11-5.

Collins proved that she isn't just a force in the circle, going 4-for-5 at the plate with a game-high three RBI. The senior from Niceville, Fla., also picked up her first save of the season in relief of McGregor, who won her second game of the week.

South Florida proved to be too much for the Gamecocks in the final game of the weekend. The Bulls got to Ashley Eliasson early, scoring five runs in the second inning on the way to a 10-1 victory.

Eliasson, arguably JSU's best pitcher, had a rough weekend, pitching 6.1 innings and allowing six earned runs in the Gamecocks' two losses.

JSU will travel to Knoxville, Tenn., this weekend to compete in the University of Tennessee Classic.

Staubs:
Ready to
pencil in my
bracket

Continued from page 5

knows about is Zona's coach being the radio man for Arizona State last season.

I believe the conference is underrated largely because UCLA is down. People see a team that has been the face of the conference for so many years and just assume the Bruins' play reflects everyone else out west.

I really feel the SEC is catching a bad rap' in the national media. Perhaps I'm enamored with the fact that Arkansas defeated Texas and Oklahoma, but that Arkansas team is a mid-level SEC team.

I think the conference will perform above expectations, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if one of the teams made a deep run.

The natural candidate would seem to be Kentucky, who has the best player and second best coach in the conference, but my eyes are on Florida and LSU.

(Did you know that LSU has a better record than Louisville, Wake Forest and Duke?)

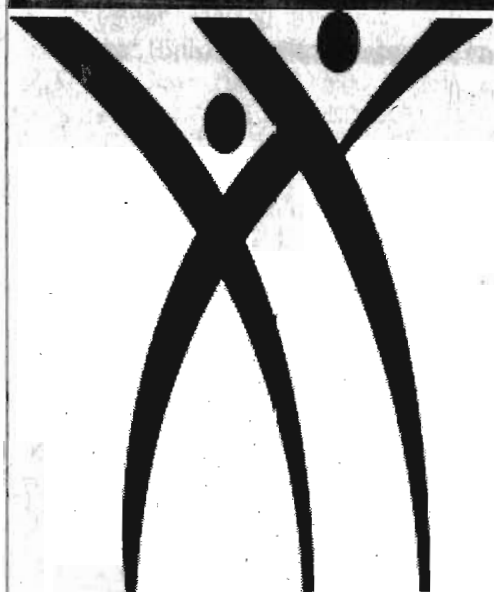
The Ohio Valley Conference went a stellar 3-8 in the ESPN BracketBuster series, with wins over Western Michigan, Ohio and Detroit and blowout losses to such powers as Northern Illinois and South Dakota. Yikes.

It really makes you wonder how JSU could perform so well in the early-season non-conference schedule and then not be near the top of this terrible conference.

Instead they are fighting just to qualify for the conference tournament. For more about that, read the previous page.

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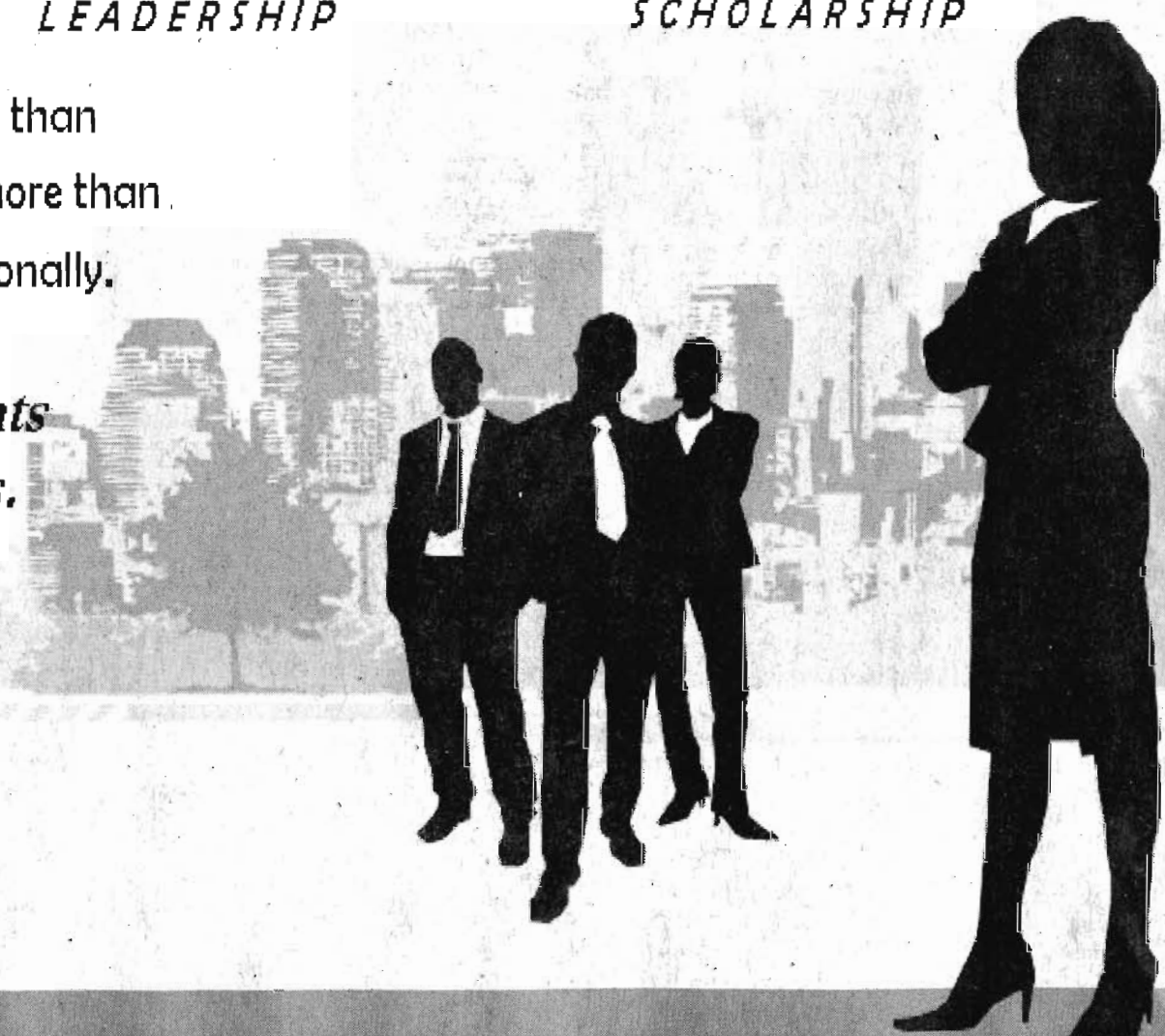
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