

The Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house on frat row. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

## He said, they said

### Student claims discrimination by campus frat

By Zach Childree  
Editor in Chief

A Jacksonville State University freshman is claiming discrimination from campus fraternity Pi Kappa Phi, but the president of the fraternity said that wasn't true.

Steele Jackson claims that Pi Kappa Phi president Chris Stokes denied him a bid to join the fraternity after hearing rumors that Jackson is gay. Stokes said that isn't possible because no one has been given a bid yet. "We vote as a chapter as to who gets a bid card," Stokes said. "We haven't even voted yet."

Jackson's claims stem from a fraternity event last Thursday where he says Stokes made it clear to him that the fraternity had a problem with gay members, even though they claimed to be looking for diversity. "They talked about how they were striving for a diverse group of people and how they didn't just want people that looked like them," Jackson said. "They said were trying to reach out and get different types of people."

According to the website for the Pi Kappa Phi national organization, chapters are encouraged to seek

out diversity and told not to tolerate discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Jackson, who is a music major, said he had gone to the fraternity event because he hoped to join Pi Kappa Phi in order to meet people outside his normal social circle. "I didn't want to join a music fraternity because I want to get out and meet new people," Jackson said.

Jackson claims that Stokes said he had gone to another fraternity's party earlier that night and had seen two male members kissing. "He started to talk about gays and all this kind of stuff after he had said they were looking for a more diverse group," Jackson said. "He was contradicting everything he was saying about diversity."

Jackson, who is gay, said he didn't tell Stokes he was gay because he was afraid he wouldn't be allowed to bid to join the fraternity.

Jackson said as the party progressed someone started spreading a rumor that he was gay.

"Then this girl from [another sorority] came up and said she wasn't trying to be disrespectful but

See "Discrimination," page 2

## This old house

### Historic Inn recently donated to JSU is not without a sordid past

By M.J. Ortiz  
Staff Writer

On December 31 The Victoria, a 121-year-old bed and breakfast inn in Anniston, was donated to Jacksonville State University by Earlon and Betty McWhorter.

The property was built in 1888, and was the residency and home of three prominent families of the Anniston area until 1984.

On 1985, McWhorter purchased the property with intentions of preserving and transforming it into a bed and breakfast.

The building has a fine dining restaurant, 60 rooms, a glass-enclosed veranda and a piano lounge.

Its style reflects the Victorian era. And among its extraordinary woodwork, hardware and fixtures

As all things do, the Victoria has happy as well as tragic secrets entwined with its history.

The house was first owned by John McKleroy, a confederate veteran who died in 1894.

The house's first secret evolved at this stage when McKleroy's wife was moved out of their house by her own son, William, shortly after her husband's death. William McKleroy, Anniston's City Mayor at the time, died six months after.

Yet, it is a more recent story that rings more bells as the name of Philip Ledbetter comes forth.

According to Anniston Star reports, Ledbetter was co-owner of the Inn. He was prosecuted for identity theft charges and arrested on Oct 24, 2008.

Reports indicate that the property





the property with intentions of preserving and transforming it into a bed and breakfast.

The building has a fine dining restaurant, 60 rooms, a glass-enclosed veranda and a piano lounge.

Its style reflects the Victorian era. And among its extraordinary woodwork, hardware and fireplaces, the property also owns the echoes of voices and events from the past that have been secretly stored and imprinted on its walls.

Yet, it is a more recent story that rings more bells as the name of Philip Ledbetter comes forth.

According to Anniston Star reports, Ledbetter was co-owner of the Inn. He was prosecuted for identity theft charges and arrested on Oct 24, 2008.

Reports indicate that the property was mortgaged to the Ledbetters in 2006. As the Ledbetters failed to



See "Inn," page 2 The historic Victoria Inn in Anniston. Photo by Mandy Pearson / The Chanticleer

## SAFE now JSU LGBT

By Julie Skinner  
News Editor

Since the 1980s, Jacksonville State University has had an organization on its campus representing gay and lesbian students. The organization was named SAFE (Sexual Acceptance For Everyone).

Since 2005, Dr. Tina Deshotels, a professor of sociology at JSU, has been the faculty advisor for SAFE. Recently, after a semester or so of inactivity among the organization, new interest and leadership has risen and changes will soon take place within the organization.

For starters, the name of the organization will be changed from SAFE to JSU LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender).

The reasoning behind the organizations name change was explained by new President of JSU LGBT, Patrick Clines.

"A lot of people would like to change the name [of the organization] because it has the word 'sex' in it," Clines said. "It's not about our sexual orientation or how we have sex,

it's about being socially accepted."

The organization acts as a safe-haven for many open homosexuals or college students who are afraid to come out. It's a gathering place for those who face discrimination in discreet or obvious form.

"On this campus, you usually won't have someone come out and make an openly racist or sexist remark," Deshotels said. "But, they will come right out and bash gays."

Deshotels explained that being a faculty member and approaching the subject is easier to do with a strong backing of an openly gay-accepting organization on campus. She also stresses the importance of the organization when mentioning that gay teens, of all groups, have the highest suicide rate. That is a startling reality. Another reality, is that while people may find it hard to believe, homosexuals make up 10% of the population.

Though the organization's purpose is to fight against discrimination and for equality, it is open to straight people to join.

"The organization is open

to anyone accepting of gay and lesbian people," Clines said. "It's just as much a group to fight for equality as a group for gay and lesbian students to have a support system with other gay students to talk about the same issues they face."

Clines hopes to do some fundraisers and community projects on campus to let students know there is a visibly gay organization at JSU.

"There's a lot of misconceptions about gay people and a lot of stereotypes," Deshotels said. "I think education is the best way to address these problems."

To join the organization is very simple. You don't have to even go to meetings, just be accepting of the organizations intentions and their future fundraisers.

For now, the meetings for the JSU LGBT will take place at 4:30 p.m. in Brewer Hall in room 328. For more information, contact Patrick Clines at jsu.lgbt@gmail.com. Also, there is a Facebook group for the organization that can be searched for by typing in "JSU LGBT."

## Exam dates announced

### Students urged to be prepared for English Competency Exam

By Meredith Garrett  
Staff Writer

Registration dates for the English Competency Exam have been announced, but for many, these dates only signal anxiety.

A University requirement for all students, the ECE must be passed to obtain an undergraduate degree. Susan Seller, director of the ECE since 2001, stresses the importance of the exam.

"It is intended to assess each student's performance as a writer and to ensure that all JSU graduates have maintained writing skills at least adequate to the demands of society at large," Sellers said.

Students are eligible to take the ECE upon successful completion of EH101 and EH102, and they must have at least 60 credit hours.

The exam dates are Tuesday, February 24 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, February 25 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Students can register through their account on my.jsu.edu. For tips on how to successfully write a timed essay, students can refer to a handout available at www.jsu.edu/depart/english/ece or attend optional tutoring workshops. The workshop dates are Monday, February 16 from 6:00-7:00 and Tuesday, February 17 from 3:00-4:00 in room 250 of the Merrill Building.

"If the student is prepared and feels confident, there is no reason for all the nerves," Sellers said. "I tell students to come prepared with what they know how to do: Write a well-developed essay and proofread it carefully to help omit any grammatical and spelling errors."

Preparation is the key to passing the ECE. "Making the first attempt a successful attempt is best," Sellers said. "Review and preparation will help to calm those nerves and give the student the confidence needed on the day of the exam."

If a student does not pass the ECE, he or she is notified through the Banner system and informed about the required remediation. Arranging the remediation as soon as possible is essential because the process takes approximately six weeks to complete. "When students ignore the required remediation," Sellers said, "it often puts them into a precarious situation regarding graduation."

This and any further information regarding the English Competency Exam can be found at the link mentioned above.

Procrastination concerning the ECE is not recommended, so register soon. Also, another word of advice to those registering for the ECE this semester: To prevent a panicked dash to the bookstore, be sure to bring a blue book.

## INDEX

On Campus 2

Campus Crime 2

Opinions 3

Sports 5 & 6

### Stressed Out!

Sara Adams writes about ways you can escape from the stresses of class.

Page 4

### Hanging by the wrong hanger

Julie Skinner writes that sometimes the ones we love can get on our nerves.

Page 3

### D the disc

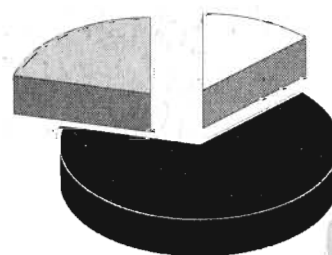
Ultimate frisbee!

Page 5

### QUESTION of the WEEK

What do you think of the new logo?

- I love it! 13%
- I hate it! 66%
- Meh.. 21%



Next week's question:  
What are your plans for Valentine's Day?

ONLINE @ thechanticleeronline.com



# ON Campus

## Campus Crime

### January 26

- A theft of property was reported at Curtiss Hall. Items stolen include a High School class ring valued at \$358 and \$140 in cash.
- A theft of property was reported at Curtiss Hall. Items stolen include a Juicy Couture perfume set valued at \$85.

### January 27

- A possession of marijuana was reported at Daugette Hall.

### January 29

- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Houston Cole Library parking lot. Items stolen include an MP3 player valued at \$200.
- A theft of property was reported at Stephenson Gym. Items stolen include an Apple iPhone valued at \$600, a black leather wallet, a Captial One gold card, a Bank of America debit card, a Georgia driver's license, a JSU student ID and \$75 in cash.

### January 30

- Disorderly conduct was reported at Dixon Hall.
- Harassment was reported at Dixon Hall.

### February 2

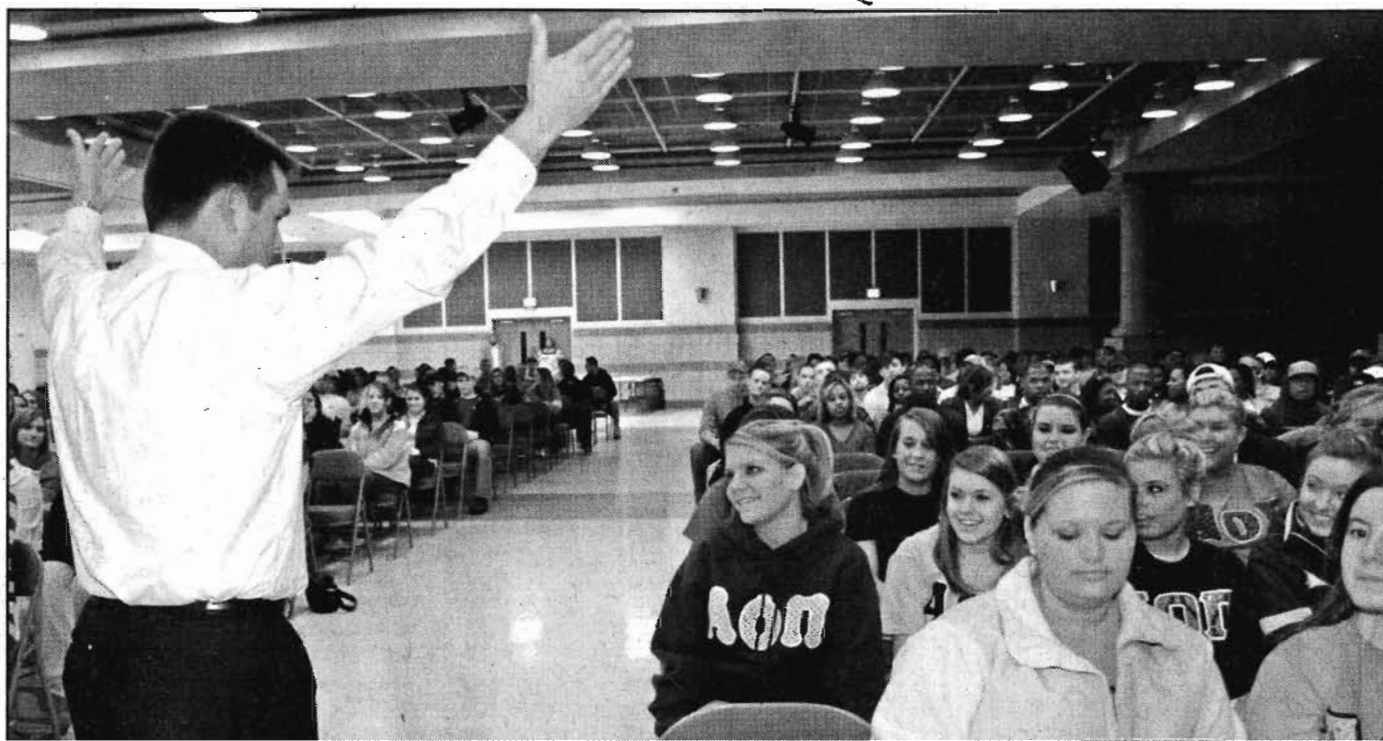
- An unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Stone Center parking lot. Items stolen include a sociology book valued at \$120 and an English book valued at \$120.

## What's Happening

### Thursday, February 5

- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
TMB Rooms 302 and 303

# Picture of the week



Erle Morring speaks to students during the presentation 'Hazed and Confused.' If you would like to see your photo as Photo of the week, email it to [chantyeditor@gmail.com](mailto:chantyeditor@gmail.com). Photo by Anita Kilgore/ Consolidated News Service

## Speaker reminds students about dangers of hazing

By Zach Childree  
Editor in Chief

"How many of you have ever gotten drunk?"

Erle Morring asked the group gathered in Leone Cole Auditorium at Jacksonville State University on Jan. 28.

Several students raised their hands sheepishly and laughter erupted as the majority of the JSU students gathered did the same.

Morring gave his presentation, "Hazed and confused," to show fraternities and sororities the dangers of hazing. As a member of Sigma Nu fraternity in Auburn, Morring said he saw firsthand the dangers of hazing with the death of one of his fraternity brothers. Blair Benson, Morring's frat brother, was accidentally killed during an altercation with pledges from another fraternity in 1998.

"We knew what we were getting

into," Morring said. "We thought [hazing] was normal."

Morring told stories of his treatment by other fraternity members during the pledge process including "spotlight parties" during which members would crowd pledges in a dark basement and shine a flashlight in their eyes while yelling commands at them. Morring darkened the auditorium and went through the audience picking out students to demonstrate his experiences.

Hazing, which is defined by the university as "verbal, mental, or physical abuse against an individual, with or without consent," is prohibited on campus at JSU.

Morring said even though hazing is illegal; it's up to students to recognize hazing and work to stop it. "I'm not telling you not to have a good time or not to be a college student," Morring said. "I'm telling you to think about the environment and the culture of your

fraternity."

Morring told fraternity leaders they have to foster a culture in their own organizations that discourages hazing. "If we don't figure out how to change from within, universities are going to start shutting down chapters nationwide," Morring said. "You've got to figure out if you're going to make the change."

Morring eventually became president of the Interfraternity Council and worked to stop hazing in fraternities around the country, including his own.

He told students they didn't have to be president of their fraternity to make a difference and encouraged them to help make many small changes. "If you think hazing sucks, don't do it," Morring said. "Don't participate in it. Set an example for your fraternity."

*This story originally ran in The Jacksonville News*

## Inn: The Victoria's secrets



## What's Happening

### Thursday, February 5

- National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day  
TMB Rooms 302 and 303  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Career Expo  
Leone Cole Auditorium  
7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Fantasy Treasures / Jewelry Sale  
2nd floor TMB, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- CBASE, TMB Auditorium.  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Friday, February 6

- Rose Sale; Pre-Ordered Roses.  
TMB Lawn  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Saturday, February 7

- CBASE, TMB Auditorium.  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 8

- Miss Black and Gold Scholarship Pageant.  
Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.  
\$3 in advance, \$5 at the door.

### Monday, February 9

- SGA Candidate Speeches, TMB Auditorium  
7:00 p.m.
- Sweethearts, 2nd Floor TMB  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Alpha After B-Ball Game Mixer  
Leone Cole Auditorium, 9:00 p.m.  
\$1 Admission.

### Tuesday, February 10

- SGA Student Activities Counsel Meeting  
Student Life Conference Room, 6:00 pm.
- Open Forum / Interest Meeting.  
2nd Floor TMB, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Valentine Roses Sale  
2nd Floor TMB  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Alpha Pre-Valentine's Day Ball  
Leone Cole Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.  
\$5 Couples, \$7 Singles.

### Wednesday, February 11

- Project Valentine - Cell Phone Drive  
2nd Floor TMB, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Healthy Relationships Workshop  
TMB Room 303, 3:30 p.m.
- Phi Alpha Phi Talent Show  
Roundhouse, 7:30 p.m.  
\$1 or Bring a canned good.

ternity in 1998.

"We knew what we were getting

said. "I'm telling you to think about the environment and the culture of your

This story originally ran in The Jacksonville News

## Inn: The Victoria's secrets

fulfill the mortgage agreement, the property went on foreclosure.

Consequently, the property went for bid on November 2008. The McWhorter family --- founders of the McWhorter Scholarship at JSU --- bid on auction for the Inn as a last effort to save the property.

Their resolution was to donate it to JSU for academic purposes.

According to Dr. William Meehan's Town and Gown

Column Released in the Jan. 13 Jacksonville News, all net income from the property will be received by the JSU foundation in exchange for the University's commitment to maintain and preserve The Victoria as it is.

Some of the proceeds are also intended to support the Earlon and Betty McWhorter Scholarship fund.

As part of the many plans sketched by JSU, the Inn will also serve as a lab for students

majoring in business, family and consumer sciences and recreation.

The University sees possibilities that might lead to new academic programs in fields like hotel management.

When asked about the relevance of the McWhorters' donation to JSU, Melanie Delap, executive director of the JSU Foundations says, "We are so pleased with the generous gift from Earlon and Betty McWhorter. The Victoria Inn

is beloved in our local community and we are proud to be affiliated with the property. Not only will a portion of the proceeds fund scholarships for JSU students but students will also be able to take advantage of internships geared to the hospitality industry."

The Town and Gown column indicates that the two will continue to prosper together by taking advantage of common strengths for the benefit of all.

## Discrimination: National org. bans discrimination

asked me if I was gay," Jackson said. "I said I wasn't gay, because I don't know these people and I don't want them knowing my personal life right off the bat. She said it was a big thing and that they needed to know."

Then, Jackson said, Stokes pulled him aside and asked him if he was gay.

"He said that it was a problem and that they needed to know," Jackson said. "He said that they had had other band people rush that were gay. I told him no, because I had only known him for a week and a half. I understand that I lied to them, but I wanted to have a chance to get to know them more before coming out to them."

Justi Underwood, who was at the party with Jackson, said as the rumor began to spread, people at the party started treating Jackson differently. "It was like every one

of them was distancing themselves from him," Underwood said. "When he would walk up they would walk away. It was like they didn't even want to be around him."

Stokes said that who gets to join the group is decided, not by him, but by the fraternity as a whole. "Decisions are made by the group as to who gets a bid to join," Stokes said. "We don't discriminate based on race, or any kind of orientation."

However, Nicole Lee, who was also at the party with Jackson said she heard Stokes make derogatory anti-gay comments. "I thought it ironic," Lee said. "He said they were wanted to be more accepting of people who are different and then he told Steele he couldn't join because he was different."

Jackson said by the end of the party, he felt unwelcome by the fraternity.

"They liked me when they thought I was straight but when something was said, they changed," Jackson said. "They didn't even take the chance to get to know me before they assumed something about me. I think it's discrimination, just because I'm gay."

Underwood said she was appalled by the treatment Jackson received from members at the party. "It was like they secluded him completely," Underwood said. "I couldn't believe that they would treat him like that, not even knowing that he was gay, but just thinking that he was."

Stokes said his chapter of Pi Kappa Phi does follow the rules set by the national organization. "We are a very diverse chapter," Stokes said. "But the one thing we have in common is our brotherhood."

## Oops! LOL

Last week in the Campus Crime section, we reported that Brandon Singleton was arrested for using a false ID to obstruct justice.

Singleton was actually the arresting officer.

We apologize for any confusion and inconvenience this may have caused

**Brand New Menu!**

on the Square

# The Vault

JACKSONVILLE

**Delicious Hot Wings**

**Fresh Burgers**

**Daily Beer Specials**

**\*\* Live Music Weekly \*\***

**For Takeout Call 782-0102**

## Dating/Love: Hanging by the wrong hanger

By Julie Skinner

I have never met a person who didn't get on my nerves at least a little after spending a long period of time with them.

This doesn't exclude my boyfriend. I drive him crazy sometimes too, and people who like to pretend that they're in the perfect relationship and never fight with their significant other make me sympathetic. They either haven't been together long enough to get into the "I don't like you right now but I still love you" stage, or they're just living in total denial. We all go through rough patches.

This is a true story. I'm running late to class and Sam (the boyfriend) is in town for a few days at my apartment. I'm pretty particular about my clothes going straight from the washer to the dryer or being hung up to dry. They can rest in the washer a maximum of maybe three minutes.

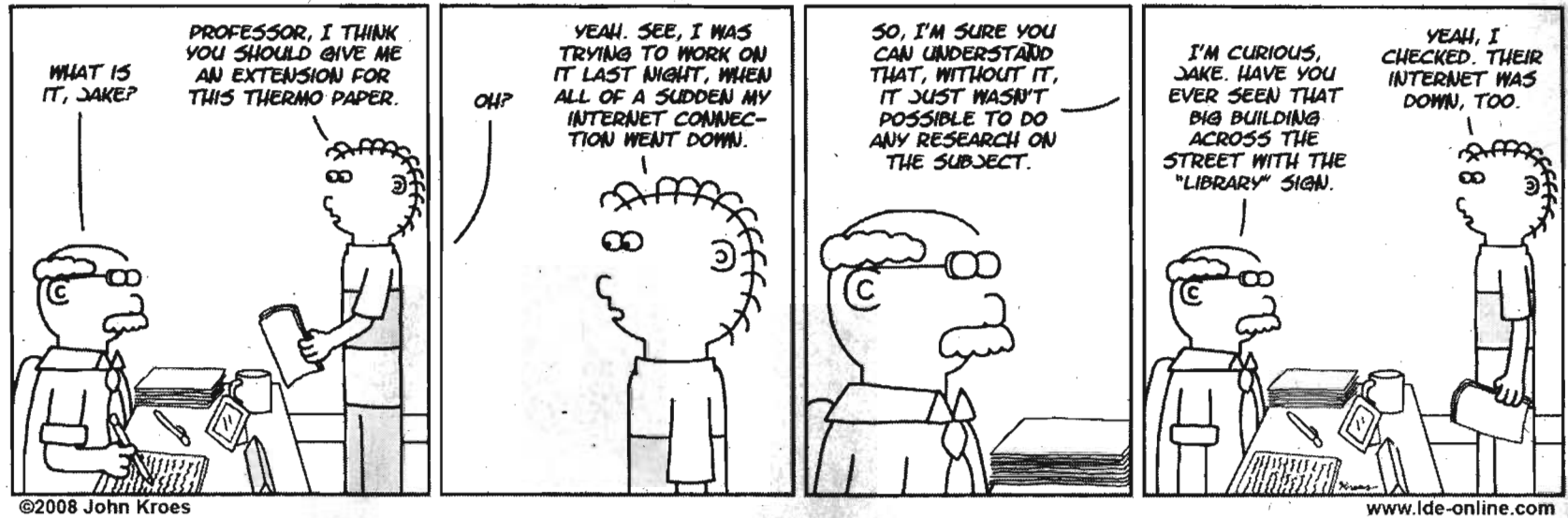
So, I'm running out the door and ask Sam if he would hang up the pair of jeans I washed and the blue wool sweater. (Yes, I wash jeans and sweaters together...I'm not that picky I guess). I told him that I left the hangers hanging on the rack above the washer and dryer. (Note: there were three pants hangers and a regular hanger).

I get back and he had flung my sopping jeans over the regular hanger, folded and in a way that I'd probably still be waiting on them to dry. My sweater was hanging up by the pants hanger, the plastic grasps leaving a beautiful mark on the shoulders of my sweater.

I didn't get mad at this. I was laughing. I mean, he was nice enough to do me a favor. But that was the first time I realized how differently we see some things. How things I say sound to him and how his words seem totally and completely foreign to me at times. It's the girl/guy language.

I wish I could say that I don't cry

# Opinion



©2008 John Kroes

www.lde-online.com

## V-Day works to prevent violence against women

By Cecily Sanders  
Staff Writer

Eve Ensler said "In order for the human race to continue, women must be safe and empowered."

During the year 2008, over 1400 reported sexual assaults occurred in the state of Alabama alone, making it the state with the highest sexual assault rate in the nation. Calhoun County had the highest rate in the state. The victim's ages ranged from 3 months to 89 years old.

V-Day is a global movement to help end violence against women and girls. It helps raise funds and awareness through benefit productions of Playwright/Founder Eve Ensler's award winning play *The Vagina Monologues* and other artistic works.

V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to end rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina. It is celebrated on Valentines Day, to celebrate women and end the atrocities they are faced with every day.

V-Day brings the issue of violence against women and girls front and cen-

ter in their culture and their community. In order to understand the grave importance of this cause, one must know that violence is an issue that plagues all women and men in every part of the world.

The FBI estimates that only 37% of all rapes are reported to the police. Most people are ignorant to the statistics of abuse against women, and don't think it happens. The sad truth is that it happens every day and it is very, very real. Here are some facts from [www.feminist.com](http://www.feminist.com) to show you just how real it is:

- The National College Women Sexual Victimization Study estimated that between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 college women experience completed or attempted rape during their college years.

- Men perpetrate the majority of violent acts against women.

- Every two minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted.

- One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

- Females ages 12 to 24 are at the greatest risk for experiencing a rape or sexual assault.

- Somewhere in America a woman is battered, usually by her intimate partner, every 15 seconds.

- Domestic violence occurs in approximately 25-33% of all same-sex relationships.

- Globally, at least one in three women and girls is beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime.

W.I.S.E (Women's Issues Support and Empowerment), is an organization here on campus that is doing their part to help change the story of women. W.I.S.E had an interest meeting on January 29 at the Java Jolt on the public square. They will be putting on a performance of *The Vagina Monologues* on March 26-28 at the JSU McLellan Center. Auditions for the play will be held on February 7 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Brewer Hall from noon-4p.m. They ask that anyone interested please show up. The audition will consist of a cold reading from excerpts of the play.

Tickets for the show will be available in advance starting February 9. If you wish to purchase them you can come in person to Brewer Hall. Tickets will also be available at the door on the nights of the performances.

The funds raised by W.I.S.E through this play will be donated to the local

Rape Crisis Center and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Anyone who missed the meeting or wants more information can contact Tina Deshotels at ext.5350. W.I.S.E also needs help with the set, flyers, fundraising, and donations.

"The Vagina Monologues" has been translated into 45 languages and performed in more than 119 countries, and in 1996 it received the Obie Award for Best New Play. Eve Ensler is the award-winning author of the book by the same name, a feminist-activist, and the founder/artistic director of V-Day.

A quote from someone who wished to remain anonymous pretty much sums up *The Vagina Monologues*. "When I read "The Vagina Monologues," I felt like I had found salvation. This was a message that every woman, man and child needed to hear. It was truth and beauty and hope and you didn't even have to believe in God to see that. I wanted to spread it like gospel. I believe that there is not a man, woman or child who would not benefit from seeing the light of 'The Vagina Monologues.'"

## "Hey Girl, May I Have Your Number?"

By Lauren Haney  
Special to the Chanticleer

After reading the article "Ey Girl Can I Get Cho Numba?" I was inspired to write my response to this behavior.

Charming.

I do not think that this barbaric behavior is a result of women lowering their standards. I have never met a woman who would positively respond to "Ey girl." Occasionally, men do hit on me in this vulgar fashion. If I

Men are not the only ones that use these "slick" pick-up lines. My fiancée works at a retail store and many times women have said similar degrading things to him. On one occasion a couple of women were saying things to him like "Mmm white boy mmm you look good."



ing. I mean, he was nice enough to do me a favor. But that was the first time I realized how differently we see some things. How things I say sound to him and how his words seem totally and completely foreign to me at times. It's the girl/guy language.

I wish I could say that I don't cry at Charmin toilet paper commercials with the chubby bears when I'm PMS-ing, but I do. I know that must get on his nerves, but God love him, he never says a thing.

He probably doesn't know that when he grabs the bubble-gum pink towel I have hanging in my bathroom for hand drying and uses it for drying off his entire body after a shower, it bugs me.

The thing is, just as we tend to cover up about how we feel about things the other does that are minor, they can sometimes build up into bigger things. This is how miscommunication starts to happen. Don't get me wrong. Sometimes being completely honest is unnecessary. Hurting Sam's feelings over him using a certain towel or hanging up clothes differently than me is ridiculous. But we have to remind ourselves not to get in the habit of keeping things locked in.

When you have something to say, say it. It may take a while to get the communication right and to understand what your significant other is saying, but don't get impatient. They are probably finding it rough to decipher your words sometimes, too.

Nope, I never have met a person who didn't get on my nerves at least a little after spending a long period of time with them. Then again, I never spend long periods of time with people I don't really like or love.

# "Hey Girl, May I Have Your Number?"

By Lauren Haney  
Special to the Chanticleer

After reading the article "Ey Girl Can I Get Cho Number?" I was inspired to write my response to this behavior, and the article itself.

I do not think it is fair to accuse an entire gender of behaving like animals when the truth is only a select few display the behavior described in that article.

On a daily basis, I interact with many men and not a single one of them believe that yelling at a girl as she walks down the road or rudely demanding her number is a way to get her interest. In fact, many of these guys are disgusted with the men that behave like that. Also, I found it offensive to narrow this group to black men.

Every black man that I am friends with or communicate with is intelligent and articulate. If a woman finds herself having trouble finding articulate men that do not behave like obnoxious creeps then maybe she should realize that a night club is not the place to find Prince

Charming.

I do not think that this barbaric behavior is a result of women lowering their standards. I have never met a woman who would positively respond to "Ey girl." Occasionally, men do hit on me in this vulgar fashion. If I am walking in a parking lot to my car and a man says "Ey girl, ey" I will not look up and quickly get into my car. No harm done, he has not been positively reinforced and therefore realizes I am not interested. If I am at a gas station and a man yells "Damn girl you fine!" the only greeting he will receive from me is my middle finger.

If he calls me a degrading term, I will ignore it. After all, anger like that is merely a result of embarrassment and maybe he will think twice before behaving like that again.

It is true that some men indulge in this kind of behavior and it is also aggravating, but the best way to respond to it is not by insulting the entire gender. Since it is impossible to go around to these men individually and demand they correct their behavior, the ideal response is to ignore it and go on with life.

Men are not the only ones that use these "slick" pick-up lines. My fiancée works at a retail store and many times women have said similar degrading things to him. On one occasion a couple of women were saying things to him like "Mmm white boy mmm you look good."

Another time a woman thought it would be clever of her to say "Yeah, you!" when he asked her if he could help her find something. That was after these women had been staring at him like a piece of meat. How is their behavior any less offensive than the behavior of the men described in the previous article?

The truth is that some people believe they can meet people by saying crude comments while others prefer the old faithful of "Hi, how are you?" To say that ALL men and ALL black men in particular approach women in indignified ways and misuse the English language is very offensive. It is equally offensive to make the statement that all women have significantly low standards.

When it comes down to the percentage of males that use these repulsive pick-up lines it is insignificantly low compared to the male gender as a whole.

## Funky love at the theater

### Does age really matter when it comes to relationships?

By Trenice Chandler  
Staff Writer

Is this really true? Can you honestly say that when you see a 40-year old man with a 20-year old girl you don't feel odd in anyway? What if the roles were switched and it was woman that was much older than her boyfriend? As much as I would like to say no, there are times when age difference in couples makes me feel a bit uncomfortable.

I didn't always see it the way I do now. That love has no age limit, but is blind to all things good and bad. A friend of mine turned eighteen this past summer and finally started a dating a man that she had been working with. The man is 28. Of

course, I was very apprehensive about her relationship with him. I wondered why he would be interested in my friend, a girl fresh out of high school working at the local movie theatre. He worked with her. Red flag number one. What was a 28-year-old man doing working at a movie theatre? He lived with his mother. A strict no-no when you're pushing 30.

He was interested in a girl that had never had a real boyfriend. What was this man thinking? Did he really think he would get away with it? Then, it hit me as I started to think back to a previous psychology class. He was in his prime for having kids...and his man parts were pointed at the nearest girl he could find!

That was my friend! She was fresh

into the whole woman scene and he leapt at her like a damn panther.

Naturally, I kept it a secret. Well, until I could no longer bare the thought of my friend running her hand over his receding hairline. I had to tell someone, so I did. Just as expected, there was an "ew" from the other end of the phone.

Alright, so I wasn't crazy. This was not normal and not at all something I wished to witness or hear about any longer.

Therefore, I told her how I felt and she definitely didn't have the reaction I wished for. She said, "Of course I understand what you mean Trenice, I'll break up with him immediately! Thanks for being such a great friend!"

She stayed with him, until her parents

found out and now there are secret cell phones involved.

Needless to say, that story is still being written.

My point is that age isn't going to stop people from being together. No matter who turns their nose up at it or which best friend can't cope with it.

Apparently, they're in love and nothing is going to change that. I met him once, and he seemed nice enough. He treats her well, and that's all I ask of him. If she's happy, then I'm happy for her. I'll stand by her no matter what.

I can't say that there should be an age limit on attraction, even though sometimes I feel there should be. I'm still undecided.

## The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

Editor-in-Chief.....Zach Childree.....782-5701  
Sports Editor.....Jered Staubs.....782-5703  
Assistant Sports Editor.....Jared Gravette.....782-5703  
News Editor.....Julie Skinner.....782-8192  
Advertising Director.....MJ Ortiz.....782-8191  
Distribution Manager.....Charity Sellers.....782-5701

### The Chanticleer

Room 180 Self Hall  
Jacksonville State University  
Jacksonville, AL 36265

<http://www.thechanticleeronline.com>

Editor in Chief: 782-5701, News: 782-8192,  
News Desk / Web site: 782-8521,  
Sports Desk: 782-5703, Advertising: 782-8191,  
Newsroom Fax: 782-5932

**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.

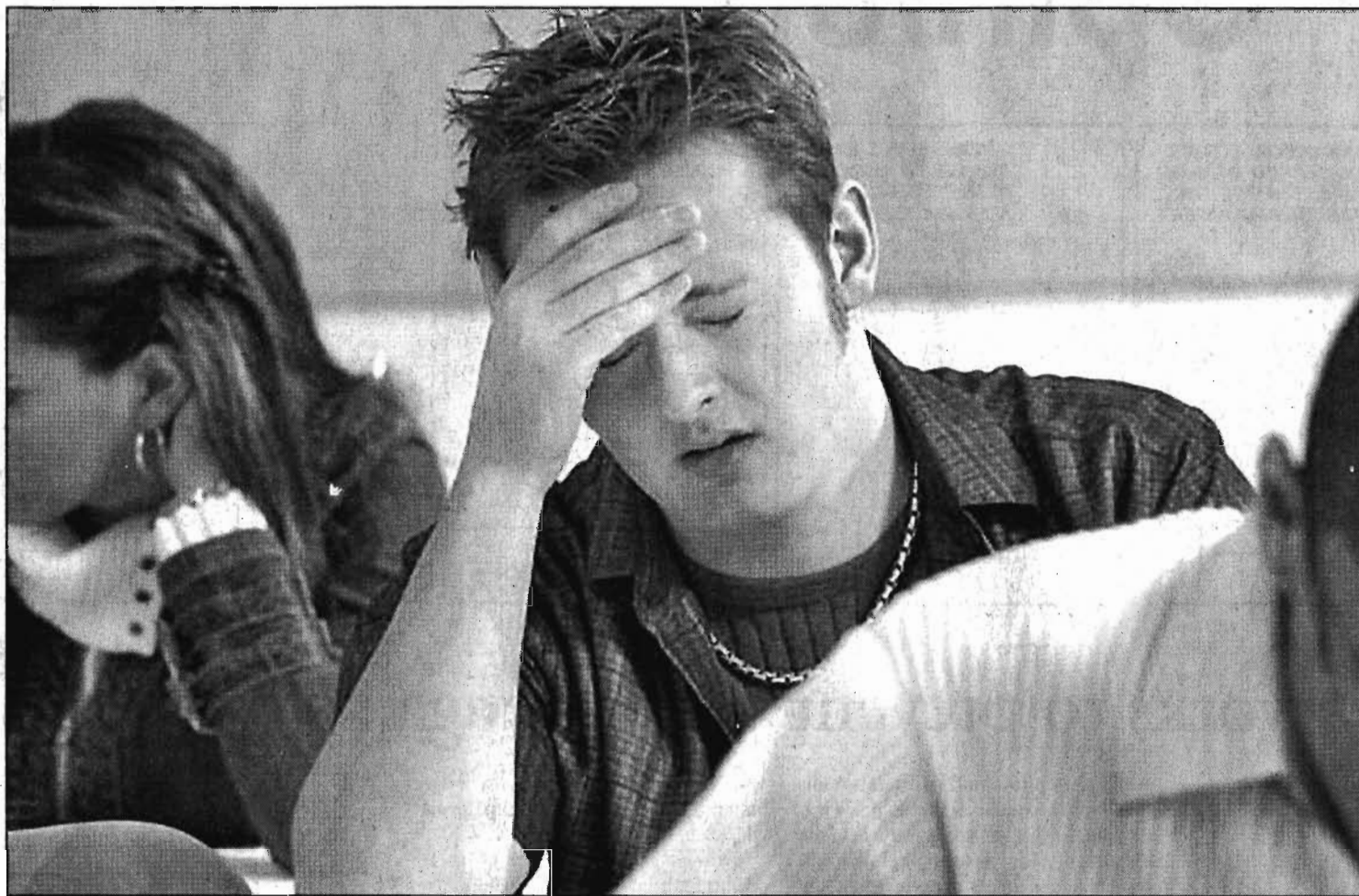
Single copies are free from newsstands. Unauthorized removal of multiple copies will be considered theft and prosecuted as such.

### 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](mailto: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.





Often, cram study session can lead to a very stressful situation. File photo

# How to De-stress!

## Experts say it's for your own good

By Sara Adams  
Columnist

**T**his weekend, I did nothing earth-shattering.

I took time for myself. I sat around with a drink and a 2,000-page book to indulge my inner nerd.

And thank GOD I did.

I was at the end of my rope, about to hang myself by it.

Why, you ask?

STRESS.

Stress, ladies and gents, is a part of everyday life.

Of course, we're in college, but we often don't realize is that we don't have to let it **RULE** our lives.

Stress, defined simply, is the physical, mental, and emotional demands we en-

### SIGNS YOU'RE TOO STRESSED

■ The last time you had a real lunch break, your mom made the sandwich and even cut off the crusts for you.

■ When you suddenly had to take off of work for a funeral, you were psyched about the vacation.

■ While your classmates beat midday energy slumps by downing candy and soda, you chase antacids and antianxiety meds with a Redbull and 5 sugar packets.

■ Even though you don't have a kid, you find yourself commiserating with new

parents: "Only an hour and a half of sleep? Clothes covered in slobber? Constant crying? Whoa, man, I feel ya."

■ As he's being escorted from the building, your newly fired manager, who's also a single father of 10 kids, looks at you and says "Wow, you look stressed!"

■ Your voice mail greeting is "WHAT??!!" or "If it can wait, then WAIT."

Happy relaxing, everyone.

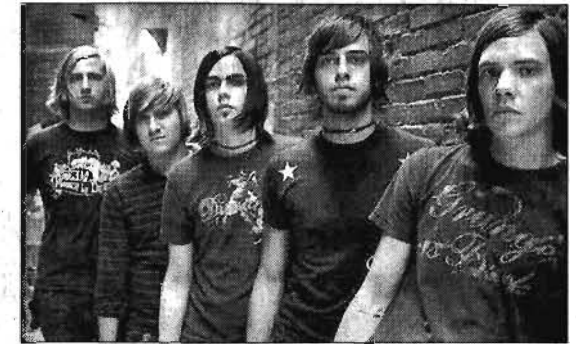
— Cosmopolitan

Start out by doing something as simple as changing to an alarm clock that plays music. It is much less stressful and jarring than the

little while evens people out and clears your head, something you need if you really have to focus.

## Music Corner

### ALBUM OF THE WEEK



The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus  
*Lonely Road*

Known for their amazing hits such as, "Face Down" and "Your Guardian Angel," The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus definitely keeps the ball rolling in their new CD, *Lonely Road*. Although, I have to say the sound is a bit different, possibly more mature. They seem to take themselves a bit more seriously now. As if they woke up one morning and said "Hey, We're not just another crappy band, but people actually like us. We should better ourselves." In their earlier days, their songs seemed to be a bit more serious, or at least from the instrumental use and vocals it seemed serious. I love the Red Jumpsuit Apparatus. You can tell from their sticker on my binder. And as others may be disappointed by the new turn in music they seem to have taken, I have to say I like the lighter sounds in some of their songs. You don't have to be heavy and screaming to get your point across. The lead singer, Ronnie Winter, has a great voice.

**A+** I feel he actually showed off that range and talent in the new sound. I have to say I'm very proud.



Drazy Hoops  
*Into the Red*



Why, you ask?

STRESS.

Stress, ladies and gents, is a part of every-day life.

Of course, we're in college, but we often don't realize is that we don't have to let it **RULE** our lives.

Stress, defined simply, is the physical, mental and emotional demands we encounter as a result of responsibilities. The problem is, stress activates the sympathetic nervous system, which releases stress hormones. These hormones trigger a "fight-or-flight" response, the same one activated when someone is in a life or death situation.

Short-term, this is good for sudden stressful situations, like a surprise test or a sudden death of a loved one. However, long-term stress can suppress the immune system and cause sleeplessness, chest pain, headaches, diarrhea, nausea and stomach aches.

So lets see: Either relax, or suffer bowel turbulence. **SUCH** a hard choice.

It appears that we simply **MUST** de-stress, for our own good. So here are a few easy tips to help smooth out our lives.

you chase antacids and anxiety meds with a Redbull and 5 sugar packets.  
■ Even though you don't have a kid, you find yourself commiserating with new

or "If it can wait, then WAIT."  
Happy relaxing, everyone.

— Cosmopolitan

Start out by doing something as simple as changing to an alarm clock that plays music. It is much less stressful and jarring than the all-too-familiar screech we hear all the time. That screech doesn't make anyone actually want to wake up, but it **DOES** make us fantasize about turning our alarm clocks into projectiles out the bedroom window.

Take time out to yourself. When I do this, I meditate, concentrating on my breathing and repeating a mantra to myself. A mantra is a relaxing or pleasant thought one focuses on intently. Word of warning: If your mantra is Johnny Depp as Captain Jack Sparrow, you won't get much relaxing done.

Make time for friends. Vent your stresses and turn them into funny stories. Split an ice cream brownie at Applebee's, or go hang out at Pelham's (there, I recommend the 57 Chevy). Having fun and forgetting for a

little while evens people out and clears your head, something you need if you really have to focus.

For those of you that believe in "Cram" study sessions, that is undoubtedly one of the worst ways to learn anything. The lack of sleep that will imminently occur causes short term memory problems, and its crazy hard to take a test when all you can focus on is how great it would be to munch a Unisom and sleep for three days.

Last but not least, laugh. Tell a joke, call a funny friend, watch Katt Williams, anything, just **LAUGH**. Laughter releases feel-good endorphins that, well...make you feel good.

Laughter is without a doubt, the best medicine. More people on this planet need a near-fatal dose of it.



### Drazy Hoops Into the Red

I've never heard of Drazy Hoops before listening to this CD. This is their seventh CD and they are described as "an eclectic blend of acid rock, power pop, alternative country, Floydian psychedelic spauciousness...." That's what I said! What the hell is that supposed to mean? But as I listened, I understood. They are exactly that. Something I've never heard before, but as you listen you hear the acid rock and alternative country. There are some songs that I like. As I continue to listen, some stick out and some just make me want to switch to the next on the list. I like all kinds of music. I can say that for myself.

# A+

Drazy Hoops is different. Just as different as their name and if you're brave, and I mean really brave, take a listen.

## WISE endeavor to help end violence

Meredith Garrett  
Staff Writer

Statistics indicate that the state of Alabama leads the nation in reported domestic violence and sexual assault. Categorized further, the alarming figures determine that Calhoun County records the most domestic violence incidences in the state. Facts like these need not be overlooked.

WISE, Women's Issues Support and Empowerment, is an organization dedicated to increasing awareness regarding issues of violence and assault.

To motivate this awareness and promote an end to violence, WISE is offer-

ing a scholarship for the 2009 Fall semester worth \$700. The scholarship is available to any student in good standing with the University.

Applications can be picked up in room 307 or 309 of Brewer Hall and must be received no later than March 13.

Along with the application, candidates must write an essay that meets certain requirements. The essay must be 1500 words and must express the applicant's own portrayal of what an end to violence against women might look like and how the money from the scholarship would help achieve those goals.

Tina Deshotels, a sociology professor here at JSU and member of WISE, re-

alizes that domestic violence is a huge problem in Alabama and attempts to express that sense of urgency through her involvement with WISE.

"We try to address the cultural reasons behind the violence," Deshotels said.

The Scholarship is funded by the production of the "Vagina Monologues." A stirring, yet straightforward production, "Vagina Monologues" depicts real women struggling in a male-dominated society.

The "Vagina Monologues" plays March 26th, 27th and 28th. Stay posted for the official listing in The Chanticleer.



# AD HERE

Call 782-8191 to advertise in  
*The Chanticleer*

## Popular Stories On The Web

"A good scare"

"JSU unveils new logo, branding"

"Ey, girl, can I get cho numbah?"

Comment on these stories and more



[www.thechanticleeronline.com](http://www.thechanticleeronline.com)

### Add the Chanticleer on

# twitter

[Twitter.com/ChantyJSU](https://twitter.com/ChantyJSU)

Get updates on your  
mobile device!





Jared Staubs

chantysports@gmail.com

## There's only one Keano

And he's back where he belongs.

Six of you got that reference, but it's about English soccer.

More about that subject, I re-watched *Green Street Hooligans* this week. I enjoyed it the first time, the second time I realized it was one of the best movies of the decade.

I would BS more, but too much happened around JSU this week. Here's some news and notes:

- The Jacksonville State men's basketball team found out on Monday that it would face Georgia Southern in Statesboro, Ga., on Feb. 21 as their game in the ESPNU Bracket-busters Event.

The ESPNU Bracket-busters Pool is comprised of 100 teams from which 50 matchups were announced on Monday evening. Thirteen television matchups were selected first before the remaining teams were paired against each other. For each team that hosts, they are required to return the game the following season, meaning the Eagles (7-12, 5-6 Southern Conference) will travel to Jacksonville to face the Gamecocks for a non-conference game early next season. Georgia Southern has yet to set the game time.

- Jacksonville State forward Geddes Robinson has been

# Sports

## "D the Disc"

*JSU's Ultimate Frisbee team wins three of six in Tuscaloosa*

By Ryan Gaither  
As Told to Jared Gravette

Everybody knows about Jacksonville State's traditional sports teams, but there are also several club teams floating around campus that often fall through the cracks without recognition from the university. One such team is the JSU Ultimate Frisbee squad, nicknamed AJAX.

AJAX has been practicing hard all year long and recently competed in a tournament in Tuscaloosa, hoping to prove something to the more experienced teams by breaking seed.

"A good goal for a team of our caliber is to 'break seed'. Meaning, finish in a higher place than what the pre-tournament rankings were. However, we're ranked dead last, which I think is ridiculous. So instead of breaking seed, I'd like for us to aim for 3 wins this weekend. I think that is a very obtainable goal. We'll do well, party, get some rest, and be ready to play the next day. Or we'll do poorly, party a lot more, not get much rest, and not be ready to play the next day. It's a win-win. But let's do well anyway," AJAX captain Judah Chafin said.

The weekend started early Saturday morning at the University of Alabama's intramural fields. AJAX was ranked last going into the tournament because it is a fairly new team with only three years of experience under its belt. Expectations were low but the team came away with several big wins.

Its first game was against Mississippi State-B. The team started off behind but pulled ahead for a 13-9 win. The team played hard even though several players on the team had no tournament experience.

"We ran hard and we didn't get broken much," Ryan Gaither said.

AJAX had a bye after their win over Mississippi State-B and was able to rest before

its next game against Harding University out of Searcy, Arkansas. Harding was the 2nd seed in the tournament, and its ranking really showed, as it defeated team AJAX 13-2.

"We can't do s--- against their zone, damn we suck at zone," Chafin said.

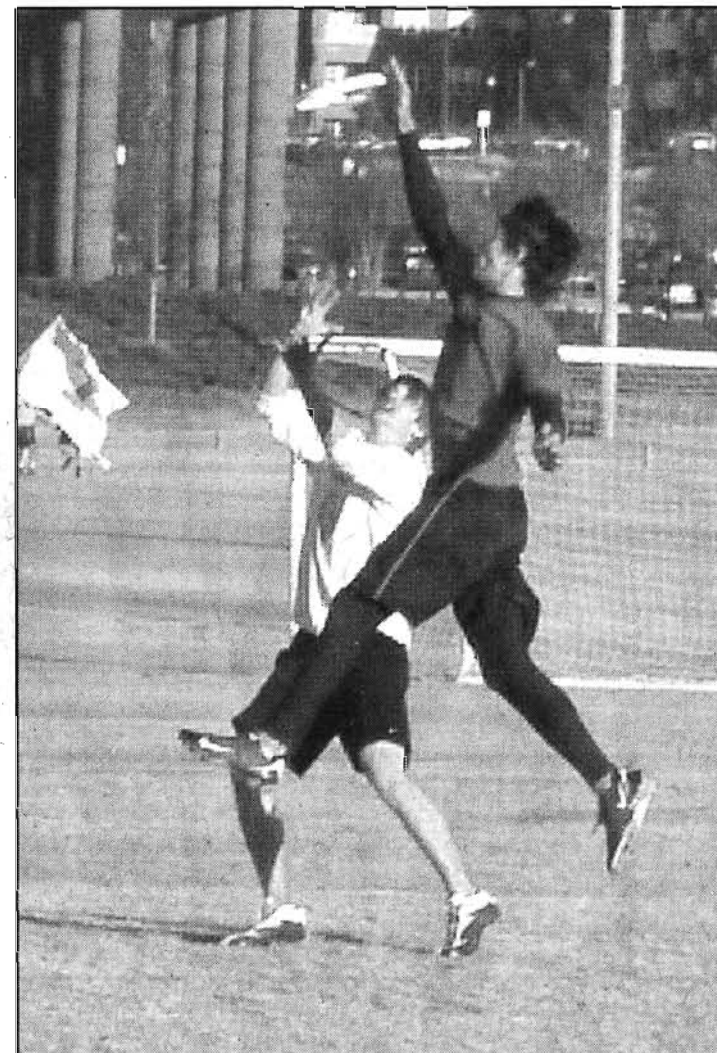
Although the team had just been brutally beaten by the well-worked zone play of Harding University, they came out strong against Wisconsin-B. Wisconsin's A team, the Hodags, is a renowned team in the Ultimate Players Association (UPA) and has won several UPA championships. Nonetheless, AJAX played hard and with the luck of a few good calls came away with a 12-10 victory over Wisconsin-B.

The last game on Saturday was against Louisiana Tech. This game was looked at as a quick, painless win. Big surprise it was when team AJAX was down at half 7-5. After regaining some composure and putting together a decent strategy against Tech's never-before-seen type of zone, AJAX pulled off a close 10-8 win. The night continued with a celebration at the Mellow Mushroom hosted by Tuscaloosa's team.

Sunday morning started with a game against Auburn-Y. The Auburn team had several players over the required amount so they split their team into two groups, X and Y. AJAX pulled ahead with a quick two-point lead but slowly ran out of steam as the half approached. Auburn quickly pulled back and went on to win 13-6.

"I just made too many bad decisions," co-captain Ty Adams said.

The last game was against Montgomery Bell. This was a high school team and no one really remembers the score, but JSU won. It was looked at as a scrimmage and did not count toward the final ranking of JSU. All in all the team played well and broke seed winning three games out of six.



JSU's Ultimate Frisbee team — named AJAX (after the Dutch soccer team or the household cleaner, we aren't sure which) traveled to Tuscaloosa to play in a tournament. Pictured is team captain Judah Chafin making a leaping catch over a Louisiana Tech player. AJAX also has an intramural basketball team, which hasn't fared so well. Photo by Jessica Thompson.

# Finally home again



ence) will travel to Jacksonville to face the Gamecocks for a non-conference game early next season. Georgia Southern has yet to set the game time.

- Jacksonville State forward Geddes Robinson has been named the Ohio Valley Conference's Freshman of the Week for his efforts in helping the Gamecock men's basketball team to a 1-1 record last week.

Robinson, a 6-foot-5 native of Bronx, N.Y., scored 10 points in each of the Gamecocks' outings last week, while grabbing his second career double-double in Thursday's win at Southeast Missouri. It is the second time he has earned the honor this season. He was also named the league's top freshman on Nov. 24.

- The Jacksonville State women's track posted eight top 10 finishes at the TSU Invitational hosted by Tennessee State at the Gentry Center on Saturday.

Crystal Estes highlighted the day by winning the weight throw with a toss of 52-feet, 7 1/4 inches.

Takisha Parham jumped 19-feet, 2-inches to claim second place in the long jump.

- Scott Robertson overcame a 5-4 deficit in the third set to defeat Fausto Rocha, 7-6 (8-6), 5-7, 7-5 and give Jacksonville State a 4-3 win over Belmont University (1-2) in the season opener at the JSU Tennis Courts on Saturday.

Eduardo Saratt defeated Scott Rodriguez at No. 2 singles to give JSU a 2-0 lead before Belmont claimed wins at No. 3 and No. 5 singles to tie the match 2-2. Solomon captured the win at No. 6 over Felipe Curne-Lima while Rodrigo Amaral's win at No. 3 singles tied the match at 3-3 with No. 1 singles still playing in the third set.

- The First Pitch Luncheon to promote the 2009 JSU softball and baseball seasons is scheduled for noon on Monday at the Gamecock Center. The event is free and limited to the first 75 who call the athletic department (782-5368) to register.

*JSU information from staff, wire reports*

# Finally home again

## *Gamecocks struggle on road trip*

**By Jared Gravette**  
Assistant Sports Editor

Both the Jacksonville State men and women's basketball teams are back from their longest road trip of the season — a journey both squads would probably like to forget.

### Men

To James Green's credit, the men's basketball team (9-11, 3-8 OVC) managed to stay competitive throughout the two-week stretch, but always seemed to fall apart late, as only 11 points decided the Gamecocks' three losses.

The men did manage to come away with the only victory of the road trip, for either team, defeating SEMO 78-68 last Thursday.

JSU led for the majority of the contest thanks in large part to the sharp shooting of Jeremy Bynum, who hit five shots from behind the arc and finished with a season-high 26 points.

With the win, the Gamecocks pulled to within a game of Tennessee State for the eighth and final spot in the conference tournament.

JSU could have pulled even closer on Saturday night with a win over Eastern Illinois, but that didn't happen.

Down by nine at halftime, the Gamecocks fought back in the second period, taking the lead with 1:38 remaining in the contest.

However, the Panthers would go on to score the next six points of the game from the free throw line, defeating JSU 63-60.

### Women

Unlike the men, the woman's squad had trouble even staying in games during JSU's four game road trip. In fact, the Lady Gamecocks (4-17, 1-10 OVC) were outscored by a staggering 73 points.

In arguably its worst loss this season, Becky Geyer's team scored a season low 37 points, falling to SEMO by 20 on Thursday night.

Poor shooting has been a thorn in JSU's side all year long and that was the case again against the Redhawks, as JSU hit only 15 of its 49 shots.

Jolie Efezokhae was the only Gamecock to reach double-figures with 14 points, and Zenobia Pitts had her worst game of the season, shooting 1-for-14 from the floor.

The Lady Gamecocks were much more competitive on Saturday against Eastern Illinois, who currently sits in second place in the conference.

JSU hung with the Panthers in the first half, going into the locker room with the score knotted at 29, but Eastern Illinois outscored the Lady Gamecocks by 13 in the second to win 71-58.

Despite losing both games over the weekend, JSU is still only one game out of eighth place.

## *The student-athlete/student-journalist dynamic*

**By Jered Staubs**  
Sports Editor

It's kind of strange being a student journalist. I don't think people really get that.

I had worked at two other newspapers before I even knew what The Chanticleer was. There are benefits to working here, like more creative control and, um, well ... more creative control.

But the real difference is that people expect me to be kind to the JSU athletic programs 100 percent of the time. The PR people are aghast when I point out obvious things like the soccer program is in shambles.

The problem is, this. Every editor I've ever had — and I've had a couple I really respect — and every class I've ever taken has taught me to be objective and/or fair.

When any team goes on an extended losing streak, it's hard to sit here and paint a rosy picture. It's not accurate, it's certainly not my style, and nobody wants to read that.

But, as a student, it's still strange because I have random encounters with JSU athletes.

One happened Monday night.

### A conversation with Jonathan Toles

Normally when JT and I run into each other, we acknowledge each other — a nod of the head, a "How's it going?" or whatever — and that's about it.

So when he came up to me Monday night and started talking, I was a little surprised.

Basically, he felt the "Diagnosing the ills of JSU basketball" article was a bit over the top.

(In retrospect, the headline was a little harsh. To be honest, headlines suck and any time anything sounds good, it's pretty much going to be in the paper.)

I didn't feel like the article came off as too nega-

tive. The point wasn't supposed to be that the players on JSU's basketball team suck, it was that the team overachieved early, predictably regressed, and still has some things to improve before getting to where James Green wants his team.

But JT said some of the guys were coming up to him saying, "Man, look what they wrote about us in the paper."

To his credit, when I explained how it was meant to come across, he was understanding and actually admitted I made some good points.

(He did say he could score 20 a game, but that isn't his role on the team. Which is reasonable. It's definitely not his role, though I think he may be overestimating his scoring prowess a little. But who doesn't?)

Anyway, JT felt it was his duty as a team leader to say something. He handled it well, not that I would have expected anything different.

There's not a player on the team — at least in my experience — who has an attitude problem or with whom I dread speaking.

JT and DeAndre Bray are probably the best guys on the team to interview. I talked to DeAndre about it later. While he wasn't ecstatic about the article, he obviously wasn't too worried about it.

But that's what you expect from seniors. By that time, they've figured out nothing written in print — by me or anyone else — should really affect them.

They were more concerned about the younger players. I don't think I slighted any of them. I certainly didn't intend to do so. There's not a player in the rotation that I feel hasn't earned playing time.

But I also stand by what I said.

If Geddes Robinson was 6'9", he's playing at St. John's. If Amadou Mbodji was as accomplished offensively as he is defensively, he's playing at Georgetown. Et cetera.

(Those schools were total guesses, for anyone who didn't realize that.)

I'm never just going to throw a player under the bus. Well, not for anything that happens on the court.

I'm not going to write that Toles sucks and his hair looks stupid. (I'm jealous of him on both counts — I'm slow and can do little on a basketball court besides be an above average shooter and passer and block the occasional shot. Also, my hair is certainly my weakness and everyone I talk to — albeit mostly dorky white guys like myself — thinks his hair is awesome.)

I would write that Toles turned the ball over eight times and missed an open 10-footer to win the game as time expired.

Fairness.

I get that everyone isn't always at their best. Maybe their girlfriend broke up with them recently, maybe their mom is in the hospital.

(Though I'm a better writer when I'm depressed. I doubt if that translates to athletics.)

Of course the answer is simple. Win more.

As a JSU student, that's what I want, even if I'm not allowed to show it as a journalist.



**Jonathan Toles surveys UT-Martin's defense in JSU's last home game.** Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com



# Soaring to new heights

*With seven All-OVC performers returning, Jana McGinnis and the JSU softball team have their sights set on another conference title*

By Jared Gravette  
Assistant Sports Editor

After arguably the most successful season in school history, expectations are at an all-time high for the Jacksonville State softball team.

The Gamecocks finished with a 40-16 record in 2008, dominating the Ohio Valley Conference with a league best 22-4 mark. JSU continued its dominance into postseason play, sweeping the OVC tournament and making it all the way to the regional championship game before falling to No. 3 Alabama.

The Gamecocks return seven All-OVC performers from last year's championship squad and another from the 2007 season. Needless to say, JSU is the odds-on favorite to bring back another conference championship to Jacksonville.

However, 2008 OVC Coach of the Year Jana McGinnis was quick to point out that this year's team will be different than any other she has coached in her 16 years at JSU.

"Regardless of how many players we return, we always expect better things than the year before. That is always how we start out," McGinnis said. "With this team, we have veterans in the pitching circle. We have some veteran hitters, but we could possibly have three freshmen starting."

"I think the expectations are higher, but every year is a different year. If we had returned every player on last year's team, it's still a different year. They probably wouldn't have come back the same players. I hope they would have come back better players, but every year is different."

Pitching could be key for the Gamecocks in 2009. McGinnis' squad has more depth in the pitching circle this season than at any other time in her coaching career.

JSU returns second team All-OVC performer Melissa Dowling and OVC Freshman of the Year Ashley Eliasson. Dowling finished 2008 with a 23-9 record, but it was Eliasson who carried the Gamecocks late in the season, finishing with a 16-5 record and a 2.42 ERA.

Making JSU's rotation even more potent is



The Jacksonville State softball team celebrates after defeating Tennessee Tech in the finals of the OVC tournament last year. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

the return of Karla Pittman, who missed the 2008 season with a knee injury. Pittman was the Gamecocks best starter in 2007, posting a 21-10 record to go along with a 1.57 ERA on her way to being named a first team All-OVC performer.

JSU also brings back pitchers Kayla Collins and Kelly McGregor, both of whom have shown improvement in preseason practices.

In the past the Gamecocks have traditionally used two starters during conference play, but the return of Pittman allows JSU to throw three different pitchers during a three game series, offering a distinct advantage over the competition.

"We have five pitchers that could be starters," McGinnis said. "What I would like to have happen — and this is what we as a coaching staff have worked hard for — when we open up conference and play three game series, it would be

awesome if we have a game one starter, a game two starter and a game three starter.

"That's one thing that we've never had is three starters. It's always been two starters and then on Sunday it's a slugfest because everybody has seen each other's pitching. There just hasn't been enough depth, but it would be great if we could have three pitchers that could start each game."

The Gamecocks did lose some firepower from last year's squad on the offensive side of the ball, as seniors Rachel Fleming, Whitney Elder and Alana Hicks played out their last year of eligibility.

"All three gave us different things that are hard to replace," McGinnis said. "Alana was the best pinch hitter/DH I think we have had come through our program. Not many players can accept that role and do it as good as she did. Whitney Elder was solid defensively at third

base and gave us good leadership.

"Rachel Fleming did it all. She was a leader, she was the igniter, she gave us speed, she gave us power and she gave us the short game. We will never just replace her with another clone of Rachel Fleming, but we are hoping that our veterans improve their game and their numbers from last year and for some of our freshmen and newcomers to come in and perform at a high level."

Of the three, Fleming will be missed the most, as she was the catalyst for JSU's offense late last season. She was absolutely brilliant in the OVC tournament, batting .556 on her way to earning tournament MVP honors.

It's almost impossible to replace a player of Fleming's caliber, but JuCo transfer Hillary Downs will likely be asked to do just that. Downs played her last two seasons at CACC where she finished as a career .453 hitter.

"Hillary Downs is the player that we signed to replace Rachel, and she is very similar to her," McGinnis said. "She is really fast. She will be one of the fastest players on our team. She can hit for power, she can bunt and she has a great arm. She is very similar."

Without a superstar player, JSU relied on balance in its lineup last season. It appears that could once again be the case in 2009, as the Gamecocks return the likes of Allie Barker, Nikki Prier, Chrissy O'Neal, Courtney Underwood and Mary Beth Ledbetter.

"There is not one player that we are leaning to that has to hit so many homeruns," McGinnis said. "I want to be strong one through nine, and I think we have the potential to do that. So far in practice, we have had different people step up at different times so I hope that is the way it is again this year."

The Gamecocks open up the season against Memphis on Friday in the South Alabama Jaguar Invitational. JSU will also get another crack at Alabama in this tournament before coming home to take on Auburn next Tuesday at University Field.



ried the Gamecocks late in the season, finishing with a 16-5 record and a 2.42 ERA.

Making JSU's rotation even more potent is

pen — and this is what we as a coaching staff have worked hard for — when we open up conference and play three game series, it would be

come through our program. Not many players can accept that role and do it as good as she did. Whitney Elder was solid defensively at third

at Alabama in this tournament before coming home to take on Auburn next Tuesday at University Field.

## NEW ORGANIZATION FOR JSU STUDENTS!



# ALPHA KAPPA PSI

*The Professional Business Fraternity*

*SERVICE*

*FRIENDSHIP*

*DEDICATION*

*PROFESSIONAL*

*LEADERSHIP*

*SCHOLARSHIP*

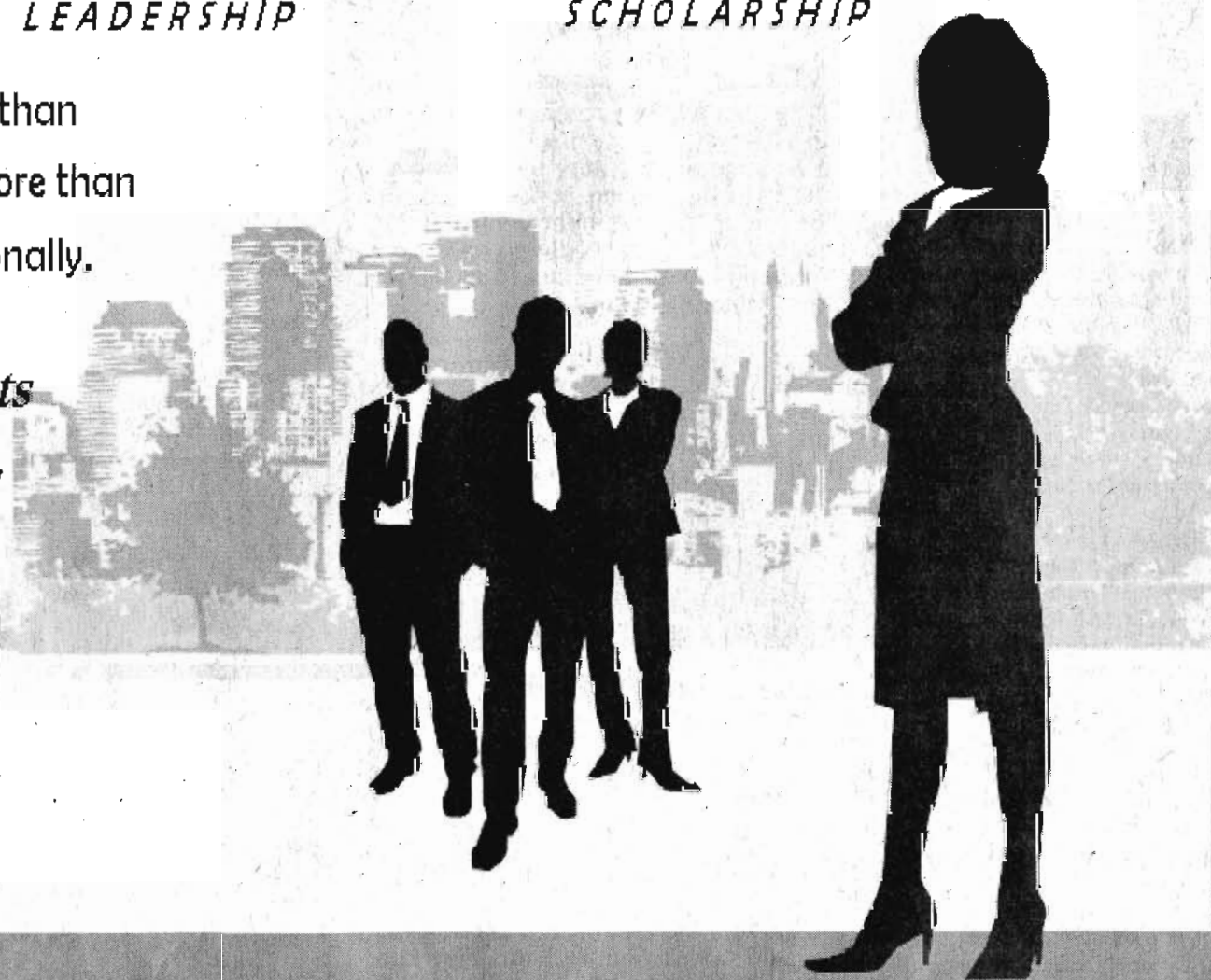
Established at New York University

in 1904, Alpha Kappa Psi boasts more than 200,000 members worldwide from more than 200 colleges and universities internationally.

*Membership is for all students with an interest in business.*

### **CONTACT:**

Shannon Kelley  
srkelley@akpsi.org  
www.akpsi.org



**become a founding member**