

Stadium project on schedule



By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

The stadium expansion project is on schedule despite the weather, Walter McKee of McKee and Associates, the architectural firm hired to design the stadium expansion, told the Jacksonville State University Board of Trustees on Tuesday.

"Anytime you start a project in the winter, you face rain and cold weather," McKee said. "Everything is going well, on schedule."

McKee said the beginning of construction was going well and the contractors were preparing the site for the erection of the new building. The rock level the project is being built upon has, so far, been predictable to the point where progress is moving smoothly.

McKee said the building itself will begin to take shape over the next few months.

"The erecting will begin mid February," McKee said. "By next football season, you'll get a glimpse of what the completed project will be."

McKee said the new seats would be in place and portions of the tower would be visible as well.

The project began in December, a month behind when it was anticipated because of economic factors. It is expected to be completed for the 2010 fall semester.

The housing/stadium project is on schedule, contractors are already drilling holes for the support piers. Photo by Zach Childree

SGA readies for election season

By Mj Ortiz
Staff Writer

As one election season closes, another one dawns, as the Student Government Association prepares for elections for executive officers and justices to start at the end of the month.

At midnight, on February 8, campaign posters will be placed all around campus with the names of aspirants.

This will mark the beginning of voting season at JSU.

According to SGA President Jennifer Nix, in order to qualify for a position as an SGA officer, aspirants must have leadership skills and wishes to contribute to make JSU a great experience for all students.

Students looking to build a real college experience by making a difference and leaving a footprint behind, a spot as an officer representing in the JSU student senate seems like the right path. They are elected to represent the student body as an active voice passing and changing policies that affect all students at JSU.

Such is the case for inter-

national students, Murtaza Kanji from Tanzania, Ivayla Gyurova from Bulgaria and Caterina Lazzaroni from Honduras. These senators joined the student council with hopes to give a voice to minorities on campus.

They are the first international students to be involved directly with the SGA.

"I wanted to join to be aware of what is going on with students in general at JSU, but it is also way to represent us Internationals on campus," Lazzaroni said, adding that she will definitely do it again.

"We have really good discussions, it is great to be a part of making important decisions that affect all of us," Gyurova said.

General requirements include a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and candidates are also required to have served in the Student Senate for at least one term of office.

Candidates applying for SGA Vice President of Student Activities must complete a term in the Student Activities Council.

Justice applicants are re-

See "SGA," page 2

Stimulus school money could be hard to cut later

By LIBBY QUAID and JUSTIN POPE
AP Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — If the government spends billions on education to help jump-start the staggering economy, what happens when things improve and schools have grown used to the largesse?

Rep. George Miller, chairman of the House education committee.

State governments are making dramatic cuts to education as revenue from sales and property taxes plummet, said Miller, D-Calif. Class sizes are set to rise and hundreds of thousands of teachers have gotten layoff notices, he said.



WASHINGTON (AP) — If the government spends billions on education to help jump-start the staggering economy, what happens when things improve and schools have grown used to the largesse?

That is what Republicans are asking about President Barack Obama's recovery plan, the largest increase in federal money for schools.

Critics say it is not a short-term boost but an immense expansion that will be impossible to roll back.

"It'll never go away," said Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn, a Republican on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. "You're talking about a permanent increase at a time when we are in the worst financial shape we've ever been in."

"What will happen two years from now when the Democrat spending spree comes to an end?" asked California Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, top Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee.

The measure making its way through Congress would achieve a long-sought goal of Obama and other Democrats. For the first time, it would fully fund No Child Left Behind, former President George W. Bush's education program. Democrats complain Bush never provided enough money for the kindergarten-through-12th grade program.

Not a coincidence, critics said.

"These are political goals," said Checker Finn, president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, a Washington think tank. "In other words, other fish are being fried here."

Republicans can only imagine the pressure they will face, once spending goes up, to keep it that way.

Democrats say that is an argument for another day.

"At the moment, my interest is in rebuilding the economy," said

Rep. George Miller, chairman of the House education committee.

State governments are making dramatic cuts to education as revenue from sales and property taxes plummet, said Miller, D-Calif. Class sizes are set to rise and hundreds of thousands of teachers have gotten layoff notices, he said.

"This is two-year money," Miller said. "As their revenue base is restored, as sales taxes start to grow, if the economy recovers and home values start to stabilize, they will have to transition to return to reliance on that."

"But it's clearly not in the national interest to have this system collapse at this moment in time," Miller said.

School spending accounts for about one-sixth of the \$825 billion economic recovery package, which also includes money for health care, energy, highway projects and tax cuts. As with education spending, critics say the measure won't help the economy fast enough and will saddle the government with long-term, budget-wrecking commitments.

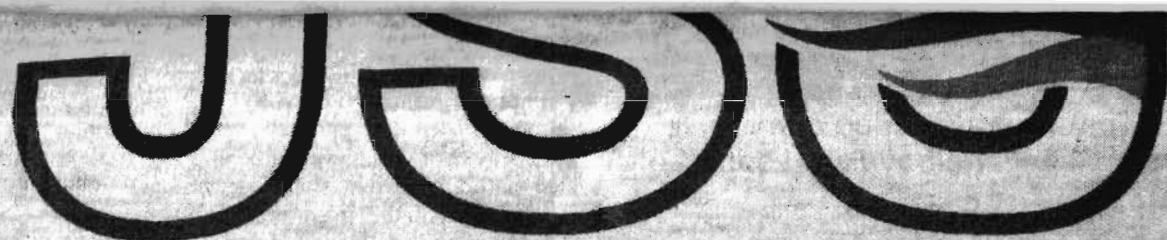
The plan would spend about \$20 billion quickly to build and fix up classrooms, from kindergarten through college, in an effort to spur job creation and growth. States would receive \$39 billion to stave off cuts in schools.

But it would also pump an extra \$26 billion into two long-term programs, No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The bill includes a \$15 billion bonus fund to encourage reforms related to teaching and student tests.

"None of this is going to stimulate anything," Coburn said.

School districts do spend a lot of the No Child Left Behind and special education money on teacher salaries. But they have five years to spend money from the two programs — and a long track record of spend-

See "Stimulus," page 2



JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

JSU unveils new logo, branding

By Jennifer Bacchus
Special to the Chanticleer

In an effort to update the university's image and, hopefully change the way prospective students view Jacksonville State, the marketing and communications department unveiled a new logo at the board of trustees meeting on Monday.

The open-faced lettering and gamecock tail insinuating itself across the U are meant to make current and potential students, alumni, faculty and staff think of a place that is progressive and full of energy.

"It's very important that it feels relevant," said Ford Wiles, chief creative officer of Big Communications, the marketing group working with JSU to create the new logo and new marketing strategy. "It's very important that that piece is marketable and that's what we want to create for the university."

The new logo will be part of a marketing push beginning this spring. The ads shown by Big Communications featured "students" in casual attire overlaid with a book — one page showing the attire they will wear to the job they get post-graduation and the facing page giving a description of how the education they received at JSU has helped them to be more productive citizens.

Board member Jamie "Red" Etheredge asked that the school also make an effort to have better communication with its students, faculty and the surrounding community through news items on the website.

"My concern and, I guess it's been a pet peeve, is the lack of daily communication that comes out of the university," said Etheredge, pointing to fellow board member Randy Owen receiving the Ellis Island Medal of Honor as something the university should have played up in the press.



Graham Lewis models a T-shirt bearing the new JSU logo. Photo by Angie Ayers Finley /JSU

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New columnist Sara Adams writes about her experiences with the paranormal

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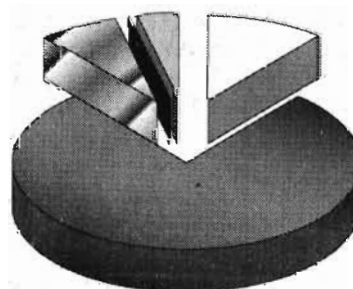
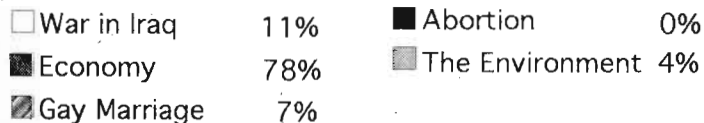
A familiar refrain

Jered Staubs compares this JSU Basketball season to last year.

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QUESTION of the WEEK

What issue should President Obama focus on first?



Next week's question:
What do you think of the new logo?

ONLINE @
thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Briefs

JSU President, Dr. William Meehan, was named to the Division I Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as the representative of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Campus Crime

January 20

- Brandon Singleton was arrested for using a false ID to obstruct justice.

January 23

- A theft of property was reported at the Houston Cole Library. Items stolen include a brown Dooney and Bourke purse valued at \$250, a debit card, a Dick's Sporting Goods gift card valued at \$100, a wallet valued at \$45 and a Kentucky driver's license.

January 24

- A theft of property was reported at Pete Mathews Coliseum parking lot. Items stolen include an Alabama license plate, a BMW license plate bracket valued at \$40 and damages done to the passenger rear taillight were valued at \$100.

What's Happening

Thursday, January 29

- Chartering Reception, International House

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

*Open to students/faculty/staff.

Friday, January 30

- JSU Calico Winter Guard Practice, TMB Auditorium.

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

*Contact: Lizzie DeGaetano @ calicowinterguard@yahoo.com.

- Regional Technology Fair, Leone Cole Auditorium.

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 pm.

*There is a registration fee for

Picture of the week



The Victoria Hotel, which was recently donated to Jacksonville State University. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week', email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com. Photo by Mandy Pearson/ The Chanticleer

Students reminded of dangers of tobacco use

By Cecily Sanders
Staff Writer and
Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

Wednesday, January 28 was Tobacco Awareness Day here at JSU. It was held from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in the TMB lobby. This gave students a chance to learn of the health and dependency issues related to tobacco use. Corretta Grant, of the health department's tobacco prevention and control program said information is key to preventing tobacco use. Grant said she hoped students walked away with some tobacco knowledge. "Everybody has a choice," Grant said. "If you know better then you do better."

According to tobaccofacts.com, tobacco is a tall, leafy annual plant originally grown in South and Central America, but now cultivated throughout the world, including southern Ontario.

Nicotine, a powerful central nervous system stimulant found naturally in the tobacco leaf, is classified as a drug. Nicotine is one of the main ingredients in tobacco. In higher doses, nicotine is extremely poisonous. Tobacco leaves can be burned and inhaled, or absorbed through the mouth. The membranes

Nicotine is highly addictive. This effect is the reason nicotine is so widely used. After using for awhile, it's hard for a person to quit. Withdrawal pains can be excruciating. So instead of having to deal, many tobacco users continue using just to avoid the depression, insomnia, irritability, difficulty concentrating, restlessness, anxiety, decreased heart rate, increased appetite, weight gain and craving for nicotine that are recognized as withdrawal symptoms.

Just remember that there is no safe way to smoke a cigarette. Cigarettes are the only legal product whose advertised and intended use -- smoking -- is known to harm the body and cause cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), tobacco use accounts for at least 30% of all cancer deaths in the United States. Smoking causes about 87% of lung cancer deaths. Cigars, pipes and spit and other types of smokeless tobacco all cause cancers, too. In the United States alone, tobacco causes nearly 1 in 5 deaths, killing about 443,000 Americans each year.

Grant said she has the best advice for students and smoking. "Don't start," Grant said. "And if you have started, quit now."

Grant said the health department has resources available to help smokers quit. "If you want to stop smoking, there is help

*Contact: Lizzie DeGaetano @ calicowinterguard@yahoo.com.

• Regional Technology Fair, Leone Cole Auditorium.

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 pm.

*There is a registration fee for participants from elementary/high school.

Monday, February 2

• SGA Student Senate Meeting, TMB Auditorium.

6:00 pm. – 7:00 p.m.

• Traffic Court, Office of Student Life Conference Room.

4:00 p.m.

• Faculty Training: Adding Content and Assignments, Room 174 Self Hall

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

To register contact the Office of Distance Education by noon, January 30.

Tuesday, February 3

• SGA Blood Drive, TMB Auditorium.

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

* Please bring a picture ID.

• SGA Organizational Council Meeting, TMB Auditorium.

6:00 p.m.

• Bake Sale, 2nd floor TMB.

10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 4

• SGA Blood Drive, TMB Auditorium.

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

* Please bring a picture ID.

• Faculty Training: Communication Tools, Room 174 Self Hall.

10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

* To register, contact the Office of Distance Education by noon on February 3.

The Chanticleer

Zach Childree

Editor in Chief

chantyeditor@gmail.com, 782-5701

Julie Skinner

News Editor

chantycampusnews@gmail.com, 782-5102

Jered Staubs

Sports Editor

chantysports@gmail.com, 782-5703

Mike Stedham

Faculty Adviser

mstedham@jsu.edu, 782-5713

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SGA: GPA req.

quired to have a cumulative GPA of 2.3, according to the SGA..

Applications for Mr. and Ms. friendly as well as Mr. and Ms. Jax State are also available, and petitioners must have a cumulative GPA of 2.3 and must be active in at least two on-campus activities and also be full-time students.

Applications for Executive Officers are due by February 5 at 4:30 p.m.

Justice applications should be in by February 12, 2009 by 4:30 p.m. and all should be brought to the Office of Student Life.

All applications can be found on PDF format on the newswire, or may be picked up at the Office of Student Life at the Theron Montgomery Building (TMB).

Jennifer Nix's days as president of the Student Government Association are coming to an end; she will not be running for office again.

But when asked about advice for the upcoming officers she shares that in order to be a good leader, it is imperative to walk side by side with people.

Nix said she wishes the best for the student body and looks forward to having officers willing to lead with passion, dedication and enthusiasm.

For more information about Election Season, contact Jennifer Nix at (256) 782- 5491

States. Smoking causes about 87% of lung cancer deaths. Cigars, pipes and spit and other types of smokeless tobacco all cause cancers, too. In the United States alone, tobacco causes nearly 1 in 5 deaths, killing about 443,000 Americans each year.

Grant said she has the best advice for students and smoking. "Don't start," Grant said. "And if you have started, quit now."

Grant said the health department has resources available to help smokers quit. "If you want to stop smoking, there is help out there and it's free," Grant said.

-Mandy Pearson also contributed this report

Stimulus: from page 1

ing it slowly.

There currently is more than \$5 billion in unspent federal education money, according to the Education Department. In other words, schools and states are still sitting on the money, McKeon said.

Eventually, they do spend most of it, although the department says just under \$100 million is returned to the federal treasury every year.

"Is there any way our education system will be able to absorb the additional dollars?" McKeon said.

The measure would also double spending on Pell Grants, which help low-income students pay for college, raising the maximum award by \$500 to \$5,350.

With surging demand for college and relentless tuition inflation, congressional budget hawks have struggled to curtail the program. Only twice in the history of the program — amid recessions in 1980 and 1981 — has the maximum Pell Grant been lowered because Congress failed to authorize enough money.

Even those who asked for the money acknowledge it will be difficult to cut later.

Terry Hartle, lobbyist for the American Council on Education, the leading higher education group in Washington, called it "the tail problem," for spending

that stretches far beyond the short term stimulus package.

Sending the money through government programs such as Pell Grants and No Child Left Behind gets the money out faster, Hartle said, but it is also harder to cut later than if the money went directly to states through block grants.

"Don't get me wrong. I think this is a very good set of proposals for college students and families," he said. "We do know that college enrollments climb during recessions as people go to school to complete a skill or get a degree, so we're likely to see a big increase in enrollment."

Miller, the House committee chairman, said lawmakers talked several times with state governors who wanted the money in block grants. But he said Congress wants to make certain the money goes directly to schools and to kids.

"These are formulas that have been tested; they've worked," Miller said. "It directs it to schools in the most need, to the populations in the most need."

Miller hopes it helps.

"None of us have lived through these kinds of circumstances," he said. "Our parents can tell us about the Great Depression, but we haven't lived through it."

Don't miss these other happenings around campus

Thursday January 29

WISE V-Day Interest meeting
3 p.m. at Java Jolt Coffeehouse

JSU LGBT Interest meeting
4:30 p.m. 328 Brewer hall
for more info: jsu.lgbt@gmail.com

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Dating/Love: Money can't buy me love

By Julie Skinner

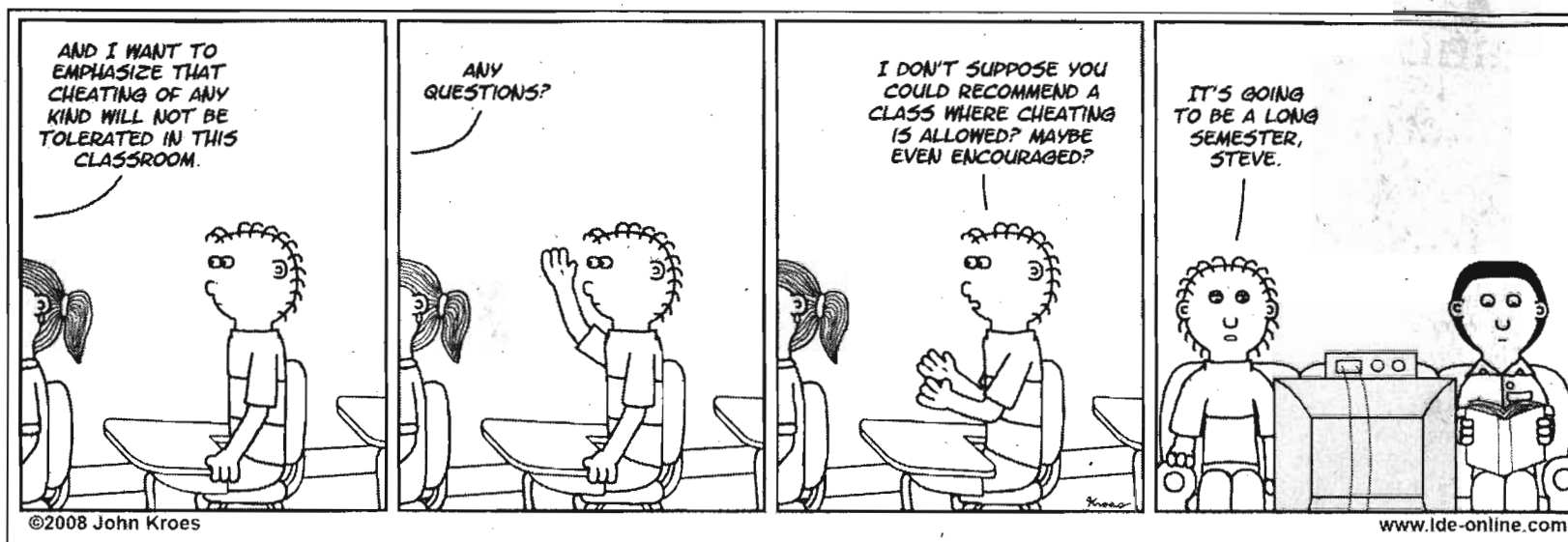
My favorite memory of my boyfriend, Sam, is simple. We were in Memphis. We were driving home from a movie, I think. It was raining. It was the kind of rain that falls straight down and flashes when the headlights catch it. I was wearing a sundress. Out of nowhere, he pulls the car over and leaps out, running to my side. He opens my door and helps me out. The rain was warm, and my eyelashes were weighted with water. Then, we danced to a random song playing on the radio. Though it's cheesy, cliché and unrealistic; it's stuck in my head and means a lot to me. It was spontaneous, and that one night defined our relationship from then on.

That memory is priceless, yet it didn't cost anything.

What makes a rich person truly rich? Their worth in dollar signs, or their worth in memories? And, what makes a relationship fulfilling? What you spend or what you gain?

I can't lie. I'm a sucker for pearls and chocolate covered strawberries. I like my thorny roses red and sharp, just like my wine. I enjoy eating out and doing fun things whenever possible. But looking at my relationship, I realize that I only vaguely recall the memories that were created while doing costly things.

I don't remember every time I ate \$9 popcorn at the movies, but I do remember sneaking in shrimp burritos Sam and I had leftover from our favorite Mexican restaurant. I don't remember the extravagant party we went to on New Year's Eve, or much about the over-priced hotel we stayed at. However I do recall us walking four blocks to a restaurant that night, and laughing about how cold it was (it was a bit far from frozen) and



Cheap dates can be good dates

By Chris Foshee
Opinion Writer

With a couple of weeks into the college semester you might already be looking under the couch cushion for spare quarters. According to the latest report for the College Board (collegeboard.com) the 2005-2006 tuition and fees at a public university grew 7.1 percent over the previous school year with a total cost of \$5,491. That does not leave the average college student with a lot of extra money for social events like dating.

On an average date I spend anywhere from 50 to 75 dollars," said a 22-year-old senior, Zack Blume. "And that's just taking her out for a nice dinner and something to do afterwards."

Dating is stressful enough without the money issue involved. You have to make sure you are dressed right, your car is cleaned out, and that you plan something your date will not be bored to tears with. That is a lot of pressure to overcome. Most people make dating harder than it really is.

It should not be as hard as quantum theory. It is just a date.

There are some guidelines that you must follow before you plan the date, a pre-game if you will. First, get a date and find out her interest. Talking is very important in a relationship. This is as true in a marriage as it is in the first date. This is important because you don't want her to be bored. According to Maxim Magazine women get all the information they need from the first date. Plan something that she likes to do or even introduce her to something she might like to do.

Once you understand your date's interest start planning around your budget. Most girls don't expect you to spend a lot of money on the first date.

"It's the first date, I am not even worried about how much money the guy is spending," said 20 year-old junior Reagan Williams. "I am more interested in making sure if he's a nice guy or not."

Even if you have been dating a girl for a while you can still get away with cheap dates now and then. You just have to do it with style. Stay away

from fast food places and dollar theatres because that gives off the impression that you are a cheap-skate.

When planning food in a date a picnic is always a good idea. Get to know your date's favorite sandwich or fruits. It shows that you put effort into the date and comes off as caring and sweet. If that sounds like a bad idea ask around for a reasonable place to eat that is still considered nice. It really just depends on your budget, and you can never go wrong with a good dessert like ice cream.

When planning an activity always run it by the date first. Although it is good to keep your date guessing it is never good if they dress incorrectly. If you plan on a picnic and fishing you don't want your date wearing a skirt or slacks. Dates outdoors are always an inexpensive and smart move because you have a better opportunity to talk and nature has a way of being romantic. You can never go wrong with a zoo or a drive-in movie either.

Obama should end 'Don't ask, Don't tell'

UWire Editorial

Congress passed a law in 1993 regulating the treatment of gay people in the U.S. military. Commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law dictates conditions for dismissing gay people from the armed forces. Because of this law, the military has discharged at least 12,000 soldiers

— 10 U.S.C §654 — states that, because the military functions as a separate society from civilian life with its own rules and customs, "the armed forces must maintain personnel policies that exclude persons whose presence in the armed forces would create an unacceptable risk to the armed forces' high standards of morale, good order and discipline

likely that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will be struck down, regardless of moral qualms that some people have against homosexuality. But still, is now the right time?

It seems like this isn't the best time to radically alter the nature of the military, given that the United States is waging war in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention suffering a

problems would pass over time.

It's certainly bold of Obama to tackle such controversial legislation so early in his term, and he deserves praise for holding true on this campaign promise.

While this could just be a political move to gain support from the LGBT community, it seems as

tos Sam, and I had leftover from our favorite Mexican restaurant. I don't remember the extravagant party we went to on New Year's Eve, or much about the over-priced hotel we stayed at. However I do recall us walking four blocks to a restaurant that night, and laughing about how cold it was (though it was far from funny), and how numb our toes felt. I can't quite remember what my steak tasted like at the restaurant that night, but I do remember another time where Sam and I cooked spaghetti at 1 a.m.

When your relationship is good, it's golden. Spending time only on the materialistic things will cloud what your happiness should really be fueled by. Sincerity, kindness, loyalty, honesty and forgiveness are probably the most valuable characteristics of a relationship, to me. When you expect more than your significant other can give, and it's over something of a dollar value, you have to ask yourself "is it worth it?"

Don't let money destroy your happiness. Soak in the value of one another. The times you'll look back and remember will hopefully be the ones that weren't planned and didn't cost much. It's hard to appreciate the tiny things when it feels like it should be all about the big things. The delicacies in life are too often defined as what costs the most and what's in short supply. But look around. The purest, most meaningful delicacies cost nothing: a smile from a stranger, a hug from your best friend and sharing laughter with the one you love. You decide what's important, what means the most and what your money can and can't buy you. Love between two people is free. Take advantage of it.

Uwire Editorial

Congress passed a law in 1993 regulating the treatment of gay people in the U.S. military. Commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the law dictates conditions for dismissing gay people from the armed forces. Because of this law, the military has discharged at least 12,000 soldiers over the past 15 years, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

Now, President Barack Obama wants to end it.

During his campaign, Obama stated that he opposed the law. On Obama's transition Web site, a Michigan resident asked spokesman Robert Gibbs whether the new administration planned to change the law. Gibbs responded, "You don't hear politicians give a one-word answer much. But it's 'yes.'"

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law

— 10 U.S.C. § 9834 — states that, because the military functions as a separate society from civilian life with its own rules and customs, "the armed forces must maintain personnel policies that exclude persons whose presence in the armed forces would create an unacceptable risk to the armed forces' high standards of morale, good order and discipline and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

But society has progressed substantially over the last 20 years regarding the acceptance of gays and lesbians in everyday life. It's almost universally acknowledged that homosexuality isn't a disruptive force, except in relation to people's personal feelings.

Given the nature of civil rights progress over the last 100 years, it's likely that gay people will continue to gain rights and privileges that most people take for granted. It's

likely that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" will be struck down, regardless of moral qualms that some people have against homosexuality. But still, is now the right time?

It seems like this isn't the best time to radically alter the nature of the military, given that the United States is waging war in Iraq and Afghanistan, not to mention suffering a major recession. The law does have a point — allowing gay people in the military could disrupt troop morale and cohesiveness.

It's also likely that the military is simply set in its ways. Path dependency, the idea that past decisions affect current choices and policy, is a useful way to look at this tendency. The military simply could be wary of gays and lesbians because it always had in the past. While changing the law could create some immediate difficulty, the increasing tolerance of society at large indicates that the

problems would pass over time. It's certainly bold of Obama to tackle such controversial legislation so early in his term, and he deserves praise for holding true on this campaign promise.

While this could just be a political move to gain support from the LGBT community, it seems as though Obama truly feels interested in reforming the military, from ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to closing the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba.

Overall, the existing law is openly discriminatory and probably wouldn't pass if it were proposed in Congress today rather than 16 years ago. Given that the U.S. is progressing toward greater tolerance and acceptance, scrapping the law is one more step forward, and doing it now is better than doing it later.

Purple mixed with green is beautiful

Interracial relationships still a challenge for younger generation to accept

By **Trenice Chandler**
Staff Writer

Yes, let's go there. Personally, I have no problem with interracial relationships. I think that it's a beautiful thing and that the babies produced (pertaining to straight couples) are beautiful. Everyone is beautiful, no matter what skin color you have, if your hair is curly, if your hips are wide or if you lips are thin. Everyone is beautiful. Therefore, I don't understand when people look at a mixed child and turn up their noses. Yes, there is that possibility of not "fitting into one world," but in all honesty, it's still

a child. It's still beautiful.

Of course, interracial doesn't mean just black and white. It means, Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Middle-Eastern, green, purple, whatever. Racial boundaries should not exist anymore, and yet they do. People tend to focus on others in their own racial group. Looking outside of that still has a bit of a taboo effect on people. They treat it like it's something wrong. But people are people.

Everyone is a person and everyone has the right to love whomever they wish to love. You can't help whom you fall in love with. No one should be forced to feel wrong

for that.

In this day and age, race still plays a part in the selection of a better half. I believe that cannot be changed until people change. But sadly, you can't force anyone to change their views or their beliefs. And just as people shouldn't be forced to feel bad about their interracial relationship, no one should be forced to feel bad about their views on dating inside their race.

Everyone has a preference, but everyone should also be respected for that. I see this more in older people that have fought against prejudices and racism. They feel they need to keep their family as

pure as possible, and that keeping it to one race would keep their thoughts and beliefs alive. Sadly, they will not live forever. And no one wishes to see those people die, but they will. And I believe these racial lines will die along with them. When people accept and treat everyone with respect, the human race grows. We understand and we learn more about other people. You can't receive, nor give with, a closed fist. And as we move further in our technological world, we must also move further in our acceptance of differences.

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

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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.

A good scare

Hunting ghosts can be a distraction from worries

By Sara Adams
Staff Writer

My Name is Sara Adams and with this column I begin an exploration of the life outside the classroom here at JSU.

A popular pastime in Jacksonville is late-night ghost hunting. On a recent expedition, my merry band of cohorts and I ventured out to search for spirits in an abandoned building.

We readied ourselves, armed with a good camera, Wal-Mart flashlights, colorful hoodies and open minds.

We were almost like Elmer Fudd "shhh, I'm hunting spiwits."

I piled into the car with four boys, Zach, David, Steele and Chad and we were on our way to what we've been told is an abandoned mental hospital.

The whole way there, we talk to each other excitedly about what we might find, who would freak out the most. We also made bets on who would end up back at the car first.

When we arrive, the "abandoned mental hospital" appears more like a closed office building than anything one might see in a "Saw" film.

Zach and David win the last bet, immediately opting to stay with the car "just in case". So Steele, Chad and I walk through the overgrown weeds and bushes to the conveniently open door. As we approached the building I remembered the three rules to use when searching for the paranormal:

1) Stay together and stay alert. Never go off on your own.

2) Don't disturb the sanctity of the site. No stealing, no breaking windows, no vandalism and for God's Sake don't do anything else illegal

on something crunchy! I hope it was just a bug. Just a bug. Not the bones of some evil pirate with an axe and a vendetta against redheads OH GOD WHO'S TOUCHING ME!!??" We walked through the building, taking pictures of strange doors, stairwells and broken glass. We jump at every sound, occasionally followed by a scream and nervous, embarrassed laughter.

We walk the length and breadth of the building, climb every ladder and stair case, get lost three or four times, and "almost die" twice. Yet, we see no phantasms, no disembodied limbs, and no sorrow-laden spirits looking to us to send a message to a relative.

Most people would consider this fruitless quest a failure, but not us. We leave the building, and get in the car, giggling like five year olds. We were eager to show off our creepy but ghost-less pictures. In retrospect, the scariest thing about the place was that is appeared people were using it as a crack lounge. But, we don't lose hope that one day we will trip upon the most terrifyingly horrible thing we could possibly imagine.

Our biggest worry is that we will end up like the dog who finally catches the car; not knowing what to do with it once we've finally caught it. We only hope that we come away from that moment with dry pants. There are a lot of terrible things that are happening right now, lots of negativity and sadness. We, however, don't think about them as we scare ourselves goofy in the rain on a Friday night.

Our way of forgetting the terrible things around us is to

George Clooney joins his dad to talk journalism

By BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Clooney traded jokes with his father, veteran journalist Nick Clooney, before a screening Monday night of the actor's 2005 film "Good Night and Good Luck."

The 47-year-old actor wrote and directed the film about legendary journalist Edward R. Murrow, which his father is now using to teach journalism students at American University. Both Clooneys appeared at a screening of the film for students, alumni and others at the Newseum, a museum about the news.

Nick Clooney said it's important to him that college students can learn from his son's work.

"I don't care for that," George snapped back.

"Never cared for this kid! His sister's great," the elder Clooney quipped.

"I always wanted to be adopted, couldn't find anyone," the son said, drawing laughs.

The younger Clooney said he grew up hearing about Murrow, and their family took pride in how journalists held the government accountable during the paranoia of the 1950s communist threat. Clooney said he wanted to make a movie to let people hear some "really well-written words about the fourth estate again."

Clooney, a vocal critic of the Iraq war, said he felt pressure to get the movie right because of criticism at the time that Hollywood actors were becoming too politically active.

"I realized if I was going to do a movie like this, I was going to have to get everything right," he said.

Part of Clooney's film portrayed Murrow's struggle to maintain support from CBS executives for critical reporting on Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

"You will get precisely the news you deserve if you accept mediocrity," Nick Clooney told his journalism students.

The Clooneys are from Kentucky, where Nick Clooney worked as a TV news anchor before moving to stations in Cincinnati, Salt Lake City and Los Angeles. He also wrote a newspaper column in Cincinnati.

Former TV news executive Bill Small, who was president of NBC News and a CBS Washington bureau chief, joined the Clooneys to critique the film.

"It's kind of nice to see these pleasant looking actors and actresses pretending to be the people I knew," he said.

Congress sends fair pay bill to Obama

By JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress sent the White House Tuesday what is expected to be the first legislation that President Barack Obama signs into law, a bill that makes it easier for women and others to sue for pay discrimination, even if the discrimination has prevailed for years, even decades.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Obama would sign the bill, a top priority for labor and women's rights groups, Thursday during a public ceremony in the East Room.

The bill is a response to a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that said a person must file a claim of discrimination within 180 days of a company's initial decision to pay a worker less than it pays another worker doing the same job. Under the bill, every new discriminatory paycheck would extend the statute of limitations for another 180 days.

The measure, said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi after receiving a congratulatory phone call from Obama, is "a bold step to move away from

she did not become aware of the pay discrepancy until near the end of her 19-year career at a Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. plant in Gadsden, Ala.

The Bush White House and Senate Republicans blocked the legislation in the last session of Congress, but Obama strongly supports it and the Democratic-controlled Congress moved it to the top of the agenda for the new session that opened this month.

The House on Tuesday passed it on a 250-177 vote.

"What a difference a new Congress and a president make," said Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., sponsor of the bill and chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Obama invited Ledbetter, for whom the bill is named, to accompany him on his train trip to the inauguration ceremony in Washington. After the Senate vote last week, the 70-year-old retiree said Obama "has assured me that he would see me in the White House when they sign the bill."

"By swiftly passing this legislation, Congress sets a new tone for employment rights," said ACLU legislative counsel Deborah J. Vagins. "The

Having succeeded with the Ledbetter bill, labor rights advocates can turn to tougher issues, including a controversial measure, expected to come up later this year, that would take away a company's right to demand a secret ballot when workers are deciding whether to join a union.

The Ledbetter bill focuses on pay and other workplace discrimination against women: The Census Bureau last year estimated that women still only receive about 78 cents for every dollar that men get for doing equivalent jobs. But the measure, which amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964, also applies to discrimination based on factors such as race, religion, national origin, disability or age.

Supporters argued that the 5-4 Supreme Court decision throwing out Ledbetter's claim was unrealistic for most work environments in which employees are unaware of, or even barred from talking about, the salaries of their co-workers.

They said it rewards companies that manage to keep wage discrimination secret for more than six months.

Opponents contended that

that employees could wait to file claims in hopes of reaping larger damage awards.

"Enriching trial lawyers is simply the wrong way to ensure a fairer, more just workplace," said Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon of California, top Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee.

But backers pointed out that the bill does not change current law limiting back pay for claimants to two years, so there would be no incentive to wait to file a claim.

The House first passed the bill on Jan. 9, just days after convening the new session of Congress. The Senate approved it last week by 61-36, with all 16 female senators, including four Republicans, voting for it.

The House had to vote again because it originally coupled the bill with another labor measure making it easier to receive damage awards for discrimination. The Senate separated the two, putting off the second bill, which faced more opposition for later in

act. Never go on your own.

2) Don't disturb the sanctity of the site. No stealing, no breaking windows, no vandalism and for God's Sake don't do anything else illegal or unsafe.

3) Always have one person with "nerves of steel"

I was designated as the "nerves of steel."

Great. Just great.

The whole time we were walking through the building, I keep thinking "Oh God, what was that? I just stepped

negativity and sadness. We, however, don't think about them as we scare ourselves goofy in the rain on a Friday night.

Our way of forgetting the terrible things around us is to search for the terrible things that may or may not exist. Why? Because sometimes people just need a distraction and terror can be an amazingly effective one.

It just goes to show that sometimes, all you need is a good scare.

the statute of limitations for another 180 days.

The measure, said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi after receiving a congratulatory phone call from Obama, is "a bold step to move away from that parsimonious interpretation" of the Supreme Court.

The plaintiff in the case, Lilly Ledbetter, argued that

see me in the White House when they sign the bill."

"By swiftly passing this legislation, Congress sets a new tone for employment rights," said ACLU legislative counsel Deborah J. Vagins: "The Ledbetter legislation restores a clear, bright-line rule for determining the timeliness of claims."

about, the salaries of their co-workers.

They said it rewards companies that manage to keep wage discrimination secret for more than six months.

Opponents contended that the legislation would gut the statute of limitations, encourage lawsuits and be a boon to trial lawyers. They also argued

measure making it easier to receive damage awards for discrimination. The Senate separated the two, putting off the second bill, which faced more opposition, for later in the year.

The bill is S.181.

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Sports

A familiar refrain

JSU's season beginning to resemble that of a year ago



Jered Staubs

chantysports@gmail.com

Media Illiteracy

The power of the Chanticleer reared its head again this past week.

For 11 years, Mark Gottfried was allowed to wallow in mediocrity, but four days after being called out in this publication, he found himself unemployed. That's no coincidence.

I must admit, I was a bit perplexed at the lack of "Gott-fired" headlines.

It's funny how we overlook the simplest things. Gravette and I meticulously comb every word within articles, making sure there are no dangling participles, sentences ending in prepositions, etc.

So, a week after the printer screwed up our headlines, surely we would at least make sure all last week's headlines were pristine, right?

Maybe not. We managed to misspell, of all words, basketball. Right in the headline.

Of course most of you probably didn't even notice. When you're expecting a word, as long as what you see is a reasonable facsimile, that's what you read.

At least that's what happened to us.

Enough of my drivel. Here's some news and notes from around JSU athletics.

- Jacksonville State stands to earn the largest one-game payday in the history of its athletic program after signing to play a football game with reigning national champion Florida in 2012.

The Gamecocks will pocket a cool \$500,000 for the November game, which was confirmed by JSU athletics director Oval Jaynes on Monday.

"The contract's been signed by them and (JSU president) Dr. (Bill) Meehan signed it, so that makes it official," Jaynes said.

Athletic department officials have been directed by the university board of trustees to seek out guarantee games in football and basketball as a revenue stream. The football team has played Mississippi State, Memphis, Kansas and Georgia Tech during coach Jack Crowe's nine-year tenure at JSU, but the Florida game represents its biggest guarantee to date. The men's basketball team played four this season.

"To get an opportunity to play a program like Florida is a tremendous honor for us," Jaynes said. "To go play a team that consistently competes for the national championship, we're excited about going there, and I think our

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

It's beginning to look a lot like last year for the JSU men's basketball team.

After a sparkling 6-1 start that included impressive victories at UMASS and Tennessee Tech and a home thrashing of VMI, the Gamecocks' schedule reads very similarly to last season.

The team continues to play competitive games, but the results have gone sour, as JSU (8-10, 2-7 OVC) has dropped six in a row, which is especially painful considering all those losses have come to OVC teams.

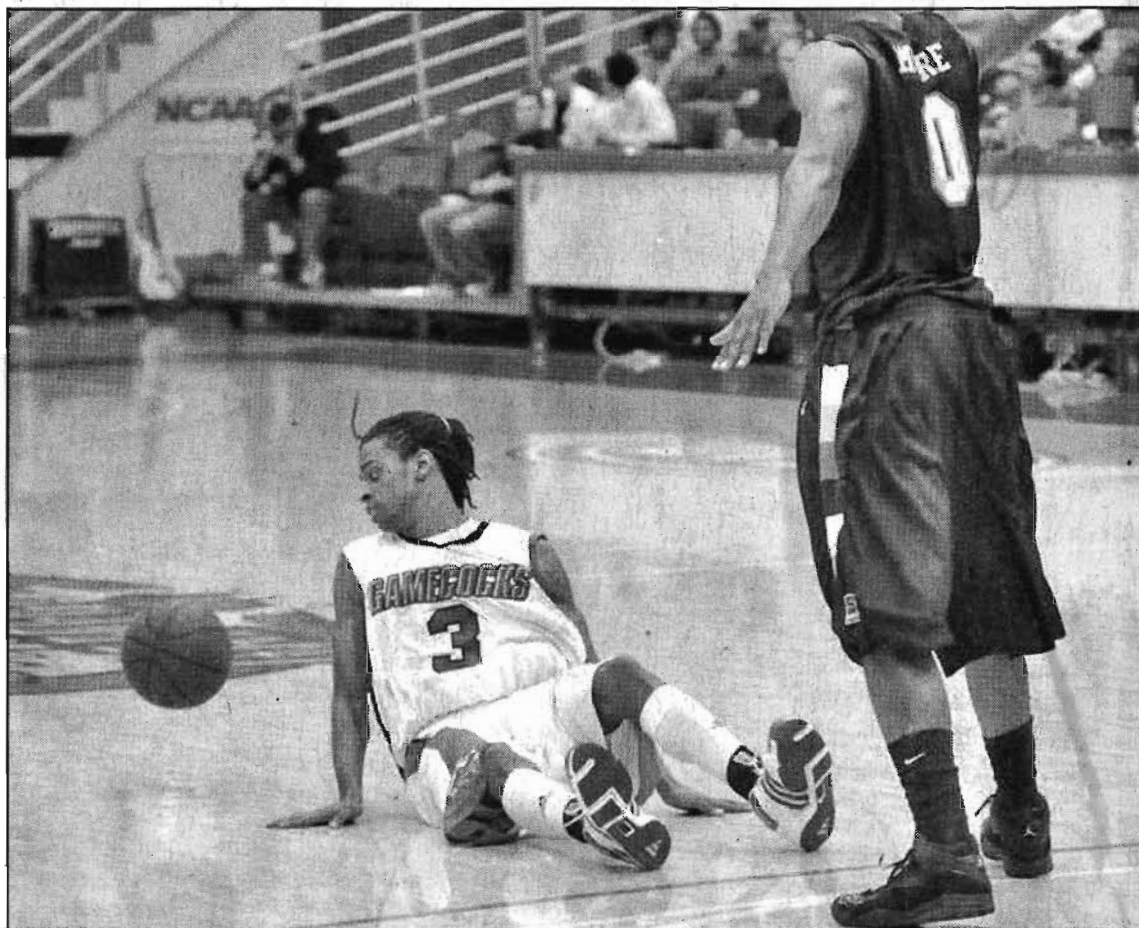
Last season, the Gamecocks played 29 games, and lost 15 of them by 11 points or fewer on their way to compiling a 7-22 record.

The formula has been pretty similar recently, as JSU has only been beaten by double digits three times and has yet to lose by 20. The ability of the team has been shown, there is no questioning the desire of the players and coaches, but a certain cutting-edge is lacking.

Maybe it's knowing how to win in conference play, maybe it's handling the early season success, maybe it's the difference in the top OVC schools expecting to win and a school like JSU hoping to win.

Whatever it is, the Gamecocks remain stuck on the precipice of OVC success. Thursday's 59-57 loss at Tennessee State exemplified the way too many of JSU's OVC games have gone the past couple years.

Trail by 10 at halftime? Check.



SEMO's Kenard Moore watches as JSU's Jonathon Toles loses his balance and control of the ball during the Gamecocks' last win on January 5. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Give up a heartbreaking buzzer-beater? Check.

Jerrell Houston capped a 13-2 Tennessee State run with a tip-in at the buzzer to win the game and send the Gamecocks spiraling further into the OVC cellar.

JSU led 55-46 with 4:31 remaining, but would not make another field goal.

Tennessee State's 10-point halftime lead was quickly erased thanks to a 21-2 JSU run, but it was not enough for the Gamecocks, who struggled from the floor the rest of the night.

Even with that run, JSU was only able to shoot 38 percent

points. Brandon Crawford led JSU with 17.

It was a crushing loss for the Gamecocks, and one not made easier by the knowledge that they would be playing conference-leading Austin Peay two days later.

The Governors have made a habit of capitalizing on opponents who are not ready to go from the opening tip, and they buried JSU in the first half, leaving some leeway for the inevitable Gamecock run.

Austin Peay led by 15 less than 13 minutes into the game and continued its hot shooting all night. Not surprisingly, All-OVC forward Drake Reed led

first time JSU has shot over 50 percent since the VMI game on November 29 — but a lot of that came too little too late.

A hot finish brought JSU to within five with 25 seconds remaining, but Austin Peay did what champions do, taking care of the ball and making free throws at the end of the game.

JSU did have two players score 20 (Jonathon Toles, Jeremy Bynum) and four players (Toles, Bynum, Geddes Robinson, Nick Murphy) finish in double figures, an encouraging sign for what has recently been a stagnant offensive team.

JSU concludes its long road

game represents its biggest guarantee to date. The men's basketball team played four this season.

"To get an opportunity to play a program like Florida is a tremendous honor for us," Jaynes said. "To go play a team that consistently competes for the national championship, we're excited about going there, and I think our coaches and players will be excited about it, too."

The Gamecocks open the 2009 football season at Georgia Tech and have a game scheduled with Ole Miss in 2010. There is the possibility of a second money game in 2009, with Florida State, Illinois and Houston among the teams being discussed.

"We're kind of waiting," Jaynes said. "The ball is in somebody else's court."

The Atlantic Coast Conference and ESPN are said to be involved in the talks for making a JSU-Florida State game a reality.

— Al Muskewitz
Consolidated News Service

• JSU President William A. Meehan has been named the OVC representative to the Division I Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

The NCAA Board of Directors is the primary decision-making body in Division I, with the ultimate responsibility for the policy and direction of the division and for adopting any changes to the operating bylaws and rules of Division I. The NCAA Board of Directors is comprised of 18 Division I CEO's, with each member serving a four-year term. Other duties of the board include establishing the budget, general policies and strategic plan for the NCAA.

• In other news that will make Meehan proud, JSU's athletic programs have made a marked improvement in overall GPA.

Eleven of JSU's 16 athletic teams posted cumulative 3.0 or better GPAs for the fall semester. The athletic department as a whole compiled a 2.93 GPA.

Both the football team and basketball team had the highest team GPA since the school began keeping record of the statistic. The basketball team improved nearly a whole point, from 1.85 to 2.70.

• Spearheaded by a team that returns seven All-OVC players from a year ago, the JSU softball team received votes in both major polls.

The OVC coaches picked JSU to win the conference, and the Gamecocks were the highest ranked team from the OVC in both polls.

In both the ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll and the USA Today/NFCA Poll, the Gamecocks were ranked 40th.

• Last week we reported that JSU's Softball Fan Day is on Sunday, Feb. 1 from 1-2 p.m. According to the school Web site (jsugamecocksports.com), that is still the scheduled time.

However, flyers are circulating the campus and the town that say the event is from 2-4 p.m.

As we have not been able to receive clarification, I guess just go whenever you like.

Staff reports contributed to this column.

Thursday's 59-57 loss at Tennessee State exemplified the way too many of JSU's OVC games have gone the past couple years.

Trail by 10 at halftime? Check.

Make a big second half run to take a seemingly comfortable lead? Check.

Go cold down the stretch and allow the other team to get back into the game? Check.

erased thanks to a 21-2 JSU run, but it was not enough for the Gamecocks, who struggled from the floor the rest of the night.

Even with that run, JSU was only able to shoot 38 percent from the floor.

Gershom Jordan was the unlikely go-to-guy for TSU. Jordan, who also plays for the football team, made 10 of his 11 field goals to finish with 21

leaving some leeway for the inevitable Gamecock run.

Austin Peay led by 15 less than 13 minutes into the game and continued its hot shooting all night. Not surprisingly, All-OVC forward Drake Reed led the way for the Gobs with 29 points, and as a team Peay was able to shoot 56 percent.

The Gamecocks almost matched them, shooting 53 percent from the floor — the

enemy Bynum) and four players (Toles, Bynum, Geddes Robinson, Nick Murphy) finish in double figures, an encouraging sign for what has recently been a stagnant offensive team.

JSU concludes its long road trip through the OVC this weekend. Tonight, SEMO hosts the Gamecocks at 7:45 p.m., and JSU will play at Eastern Illinois Saturday at 7 p.m.

Both men's and women's hoops teams currently out of tournament picture at midway point

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

Both the Jacksonville State men's and women's basketball teams began their respective seasons with high hopes, but both squads have failed to reach expectations and now find themselves on the outside looking in when it comes to an OVC tournament berth.

• Men's Standing

The men were consistently ranked among the bottom five teams in the country throughout the 2007-08 campaign, but the arrival of James Green seemed to rejuvenate the program.

The Gamecocks played a tough non-conference schedule with games against the likes of Massachusetts, Iowa State, South Carolina, VMI and UAB. At the beginning of the season, many believed that JSU would be lucky to even hang close with these teams, but not Green and his Gamecocks.

After losing to South Carolina in its opener, JSU proved that they belonged, defeating UMass 75-74 on the road one game before crushing VMI 95-67 inside Pete Matthews Coliseum.

The Gamecocks would continue to roll, winning six straight, and their 6-1 start didn't go unnoticed. In fact, JSU even cracked the Collegeinsider.com Mid-Major Top 25.

But things started going south after the Gamecocks lost to UAB 75-48. Since defeating Tennessee Tech on December 6, JSU has compiled a 2-9

Men's Basketball		
Team	OVC	Overall
Austin Peay	8-1	12-7
Morehead State	7-2	11-10
UT Martin	7-3	14-6
Murray State	5-4	10-9
Eastern Illinois	5-4	8-11
Eastern Kentucky	4-5	11-9
Tennessee Tech	4-5	10-9
Tennessee State	4-5	6-13
Jacksonville State	2-7	8-10
Southeast Missouri St.	0-10	3-18

record, losing its last six conference games.

The Gamecocks now find themselves in ninth place — with the top eight teams making the conference tournament — two games behind both Tennessee State and Tennessee Tech. Only Southeast Missouri State's record is worse, as the Redhawks have yet to win a game in OVC play.

JSU does have time to turn things around with nine games left on the schedule, and the Gamecocks have been playing better of late.

JSU lost on a last second shot against Tennessee State on Thursday and hung tough against league-leading Austin Peay on Saturday.

• Women's Standing

While the men weren't expected to be much of a factor this season, the Lady Gamecocks (4-15, 1-8 OVC) were picked to finish fifth in the preseason poll and have been disappointing at best after making the conference tournament a year ago.

Women's Basketball		
Team	OVC	Overall
Murray State	8-1	13-6
Eastern Illinois	7-2	13-7
Tennessee State	7-2	11-9
Austin Peay	7-3	11-10
Morehead State	6-3	12-9
Southeast Missouri St.	5-4	9-10
Eastern Kentucky	3-7	6-13
Tennessee Tech	2-7	4-16
Jacksonville State	1-8	4-15
UT Martin	0-9	2-17

Like the men, the women's squad is currently in ninth place in the standings. However, Becky Geyer's team is only one game out of the eighth spot.

The injury bug bit the Lady Gamecocks early, and they have yet to get on track this season. Geyer's squad also misses the play of Cierra Duhart, who led the OVC in field goal percentage as a freshman.

JSU did get its first conference win of the season two weeks ago, defeating UT-Martin 55-49, but the Skyhawks have an even worse record than the Gamecocks and have yet to win an OVC contest.

Geyer's team still has a chance to turn things around and could climb up the standings quickly with a string of victories.

The men's team finished at the bottom of the conference last season with a 5-15 record.

The women's team finished eighth with an 8-12 record, losing in the first round of the tournament.