JSU theatre troup, museum pay tribute to folk quilters

By Matt Tyson
Online Editor

On Saturday, the Berman Museum of World History and the African American theatre group, "Th' Promise", will pay tribute to the women of the Gee's Bend community by performing the play of the same name. Alongside them, the Berman Museum will be displaying the famous quilts that were made for survival and ended up being an art phenomenon.

Gee's Bend is a community in south Alabama accessible only by ferry. At one point in time the ferry was shut down and the community became completely isolated. The play takes place from 1939 through the 1960's and tells the story about a hand full of the women at this time who knitted a collection of unique quilts from old scraps of saved material. The quilts were created out of necessity, however after a man named Bill Arnett traveled to Gee's Bend and discovered these women and their quilts, he realized that the quilts were more than tools of survival, they were pieces of rare and unique art.

Susan McCain, the director of "Gee's Bend", gave some insight about the play. When asked about why she wanted to get involved and perform this play, McCain says that it was mostly to show "appreciation for the culture". McCain stated, "It really gives us a microscopic look at how we act when we are completely isolated, outside of other influences and commercialism... Decisions are made by what they feel is right." McCain also says that she really wanted to simply honor the women of Gee's Bend and the other people who were involved with the art or the Civil Rights movement. She has faith that her cast will be able to get that message across through this play.

Peer educators, UPD team up to raise pedestrian awareness on campus

By Jalon Turner
Staff Writer

The next time you’re on your way to class, slow down. Watch out for your fellow classmates making that hike to class or riding a bicycle.

Tuesday, marked the second annual, Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day. The Jacksonville State University Peer Educators, teamed up with the Campus Police to host the event. The peer educators manned a table in the Therion Pressed the point of the dangers of being located on a major highway. "The fact that we have a major highway that splits our campus, students who are walking to Brewer, Merrill, and the library, highway 21 is a major highway with real traffic. So we want the student s to know to watch out, be careful and make sure the cars are stopping before you start to cross."

University Police Chief Shawn Giddy feels that the most dangerous crossing is in front of Brewer Hall, saying, "That’s the one I worry about the most. We have parked cars along pedestrian safety most people are driving, going to class, they’re not worried about anything but getting to class, on time," Giddy said. "We haven’t had a high number, but any is too many," when it comes to pedestrian accidents, he goes on to say, "A lot has been done this year, think about cars lined up around the circle, and all you had was a little room to go through, with cars on each side-students would come out between cars and get hit! And you had very little time to react. Now it is more open so it is a lot better."

"We know that you would be more careful if you..."
Over time, the quilts have risen in fame. Their artistic value comes from the shapes, colors and abstract patterns found in them. What makes the quilts so special is the simple fact that they were basic necessary items that fell into accidental art. Not to mention, woven into each quilt is a piece of this culture that for so many years was cut off from the rest of the world.

Dr. William Meehan, President of Jacksonville State University, joined Mayor Johnny Smith and members of the Jacksonville City Council in a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday. The ceremony celebrated the opening of the new Hampton Inn on highway 21.

Meehan said the hotel will be a great place for families visiting Jacksonville. “It’s an opportunity for students and their families to have a wonderful venue to spend weekends,” Meehan said.

Meehan also noted that when new students come to JSU for orientation, they are housed on campus, but parents must make other arrangements. Meehan said he hopes the Hampton Inn will be another option to visiting parents.

Meehan said he hopes the new hotel will attract more alumni to visit JSU for the homecoming game. “I think we’ll fill this facility, the University Inn and the Victoria,” Meehan said. “We really like a full house.”

Mayor Johnny Smith said the new hotel will be a good addition to the town. “It’ll be a great thing for Jacksonville,” Smith said. “When people come to visit they’ll have a place for guests to stay. It’ll be great for the university and their folks as well.”

Wes Long, who own this branch of the Hampton Inn and its sister hotel in Guntersville, said the hotel could bring up to 30 new jobs to the town. “We’ve interviewed 25 MBA graduates,” Long said. “Five are already working here.”

Long said he hopes the hotel and the yet to be built Wintzell’s oyster bar will attract more businesses to the development. “We’re hoping to get some more retailers in here and make this the spot to be,” Long said.

Long said he hopes the new hotel will add to the appeal of Jacksonville. “It gives it more of a college student atmosphere,” Long said. “You have student athletes, parents can stay here close to campus and don’t have to feel like they’re driving 40 minutes at a time.”

Delishous Drama
JSU’s Drama Department debutes “The Man who Came to Dinner.”

Closets are for clothes
Aunt Edna helps a guy and his buddy out of the closet.

Get Cained
Sports writer Austin profiles Josh Cain.

Who wants cookies?
Me!! Oh! Oh! Me!! - 40%
I’m still waiting on the Bacon - 20%
No thanks, I’m on a diet - 20%

This poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole. And the cookie graph is not accurate.
ON Campus

Briefs

On Wednesday, October 7, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Bragg debuts his latest book, "The Most They Ever Had." He will stay around until there are no more necks to hug and no more books to sign. Hardback copies of "The Most They Ever Had" will be available for the very first time at the launch party. MacAdam/Cage published the title. The event will take place at Leone Cole Auditorium on the Jacksonville State University campus. It begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Campus Crime

Wednesday September 23

Theft of property was reported at the Stone Center parking lot. Stolen was a JSU Faculty Parking Decal.

Friday September 25

Andy Paul Andrews was arrested at Jamestown apartments parking lot for minor being a in possession/consumption of alcohol.

Monday September 28

Theft of property was reposted in room 316 Stone Center. Stolen were an Octavian DVD, a VHS tape and U.S. history books.

What's Happening

Does your club or organization have an upcoming event you would like publicized?
Send your events to The Chanticleer!
ChantyEditor@gmail.com

Thursday October 1

- Step Tease, Amphitheater/Leone Cole in case of rain 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Picture of the week

Sgt. Brian Mann (right) shares safety tips with a student at the Brewer Hall crosswalk on Pedestrian Safety Day. If you would like to submit your photo for "Photo of the week", email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com Photo by Ashley Gaither

Pedestrians: Look out!

Chief Giddy wishes one thing would come of this, believing that if more pedestrians would be aware and wait a couple of seconds on someone crossing the same crossing, things would be better.

"One thing I would like to see, don't be 10 to 15 feet apart single file line that far apart holding up traffic. People get tired of waiting. Pedestrian need to stop and wait for someone else to walk across with, it works both ways." Giddy believes that the transit system is doing some good. "The transit system is cutting down on the number of vehicles, and so if it cuts down on the congestion, I know it is working. If more people are walking, that is more to be aware of, if you get used to seeing a lot of people walking you get used to people walking, your more careful, where as if there are fewer you, won't pay as much attention."

Chicken Scratch

The Gamecock Express should make a stop at Sonic. Cheese ficks rule!!!! Sorry I just came from there.

Who's ready for family day? Anyone, Anyone?

To the person who thinks nobody on 92J knows what they're doing: Instead of complaining, why not get off your dead ass and do something about it?

Is it okay to sexually harass women on this campus? Well, some students try to on the shuttle buses or around campus. Shame...

How about that Hadron Collider. If you don't know what it is look it up! NOW!!!!
Thursday October 1
- Step Tease, Amphitheater/Leone Cole in case of rain 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Saturday October 3
- JSU v. University of Tennessee @ Martin, JSU 1:00 pm
- Native American Pottery Making, JSU Canyon Center 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monday October 5
- Traffic Court, TMB Auditorium 4:00 pm

Tuesday October 6
- “Translated Landscapes” Opening Reception, Hammond Hall Art Gallery 7:00-9:00 pm
- Homecoming Pageant, Leone Cole Auditorium 7:00 pm

Wednesday October 7
- Career Fair, Merrill Hall Atrium 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- National Debut of Author Rick Bragg, Leone Cole Auditorium 7:00-9:00 pm

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(Actually, we have no beer with any members of the SGA. We are on very good terms with the execs. Stick that in your pipe and smoke it! -D.)
Religious beliefs shouldn’t be made into laws

By Zach Childree
Editor In Chief

Sundays are always a lazy day for me. I like to tune in to public radio, sit back and read a book while listening to classical music, or maybe even a jazz compilation as the afternoon sun begins its long descent into darkness. It might seem a little pretentious, but it is what it is.

Some days I even like to enjoy a glass of wine or maybe even a cocktail with my jazz.

The only problem is that in Jacksonville, you can’t buy liquor on Sunday.

Many states still have these laws left over from prohibition, called “blue laws” for the colored paper on which they were originally printed, though 31 states have repealed them.

The supreme court did uphold these laws in 1961 but forced states to come up with a justification for them that wasn’t religious in nature.

There is the problem. These are religious laws. These laws were created because the pious churchgoers, were (and arguably still are) afraid that the temptations of alcohol would be too much for the average god-fearing folk.

My point, of course, isn’t that I’m a raging workaholic who wants to drink or as many of my off days as I can muster. It’s that you can’t make your religion into my laws.

I’m loathe to interject the term “separation of church and state,” but in this case, it is apt.

Churches would be the first to cry foul if the government were to dictate to people what religious traditions they could and could not practice.

I would imagine the church service: “I’m sorry Brother Jones, No communion today. State law says we can only pass out the body of Christ on the third Sunday of each month.”

Still, churches see no problem in pushing their religious views into laws that affect everyone.

In fact, a few years ago as the state legislature hurriedly pushed through an amendment to the already bloated state constitution banning equality in marriage for same-sex couples, the main argument was that God created marriage for one man and one woman.

Despite the fact that the bible contains several cases of multiple-wife marriages, it shouldn’t matter what you believe about marriage when it comes to my life. I don’t believe God even exists, much less care about what he thinks about who gets my stuff when I die.

Still, the law passed by a large percentage and, as a gay man, I am now restricted by a religious law in whom I can marry.

I’m not telling you what to believe. You can believe that women should obey their husbands, you can believe that you’re eating the body of Christ at each communion and you can believe that drinking on Sunday is wrong. It’s when you turn your beliefs into laws that affect me, you begin trampling my rights.

Benign marijuana often overlooked

By Whitney Fitts
UWIRE
Univ. of Utah

The University of Utah has become quite the weed-friendly place lately. Marijuana use at the U is prevalent, and the school was ranked fifth in the nation for marijuana activism by High Times magazine. Way to go, Utes.

That last statement might be taken sincerely or sarcastically. I’m not here to tell anyone where to stand on recreational drug use—that’s something people need to decide for themselves. However, there are some serious social and health care benefits to society by taking a more mellow approach to marijuana. Marijuana has had a hard time historically. According to a report done by the Center for the Study of Democratic

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criminalization is misinformation, culture war and prejudice.” That’s a rough misrepresentation for a drug to bounce back from.

Such political blacklisting greatly slowed research and development of the drug, so we often don’t use it in a clinical setting. Instead we opt to write prescriptions for opiates such as morphine and OxyConti (heroin is also an opiate) with high potential for addiction to relieve long-term pain in patients. Long-term on a highly addictive substance is a bad plan. Besides being chemically dependent, it can and will wreak havoc on the body.

Although it might seem socially addictive, marijuana has no chemically addictive properties. And although Congress’ recent actions

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because of overcrowded prisons. It is unethical to continue prescribing drugs with high abuse potential for extended periods of time when we have the potential to be developing new, safer drugs that have less risk of dependency.

It’s still no surprise doe...
Marijuana has had a hard time historically. According to a report done by the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, “declassified Oval Office tapes from 1971-1972 (the Nixon Administration) demonstrate that the foundation of marijuana periods of time when we have the potential to be developing new, safer drugs that have less risk of dependency. It’s still no miracle drug without side effects, but marijuana does have its benefits.

Although it might seem socially addictive, marijuana has no chemically addictive properties. And although Congress’ recent actions would make you feel otherwise, I would hardly call working toward smarter health care as socially deviant behavior.

Who wants cookies?

“Cookies are the new cake!”
- Alicia Gilmore

“$%&## yeah!”
- Derrick Wright

I want cookies, and I LOVE cookies.
- Jacoby Parks

“Cookies are awesome!!”
- Jessica Leano

“Of course! Who doesn’t want cookies?”
- Kadeem Hubbert

Letters Policy:

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

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited for style, brevity or clarity. The Chanticleer reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.
A dinner date with JSU Drama

By Clint Vickery
Special to the Chanticleer

The Jacksonville State Drama University Department kicks off its 2009-2010 season with the classic comedy “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” It will be open Thursday, Oct. 1 at the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Theatre. Performances will continue through Sunday.

The play is written by the 1930s creative duo George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, who were also responsible for such classics as “You Can’t Take It With You” and “George Washington Slept Here.” Dr. Wayne Claeren is directing the play, which has a cast of more than 30 students.

The production is set in a small town in Ohio during the 1930’s, just a few weeks before Christmas. A famous radio personality from New York, Sheridan Whiteside, is invited to dine at the home of a wealthy factory owner. Before Whiteside can enter the house, he slips on a patch of ice and is injured. Due to his injury, the demanding and difficult Whiteside is forced to stay in his host’s house. This brings about all of the humorous situations and conflicts of the play.

Many of the characters that are portrayed are satirical types of famous personalities of the day. There are countless references to other famous personalities from the 1930’s, such as Noel Coward and Tallulah Bankhead. Some of the references are very recognizable, while others may slip by the average individual. Claeren said JSU’s production will not be updated to enhance audience recognition. “It’s a period piece and to update it would violate copyright and take away from the spirit of the play.”

Carlton Ward, Head of the Drama Department, is the scenic designer for the show. This production is the third time Ward has designed a set for “The Man Who Came to Dinner.” In the 1977 production, the play was performed in the Leon Cole Auditorium, before the construction of Stone Center,” Ward said. They had to perform on the floor due to an excessively high stage.

Ward has designed a set that has the authentic feel of the 1930s. He said the house in which the action takes place would have been built around 1919, so the set includes 16-foot walls to accommodate a staircase, which was standard at the time. Five different types of molding are used to give the house an elegant look, like what one would expect from the owner of a successful business. Ward also points out that even the color of the walls is significant.

“We didn’t choose green because of the setting being close to Christmas,” Ward said, “Green is a restful color and Whiteside’s presence disturbs that rest.” Ward likes to refer to the house’s state as “controlled mayhem.” The main action of the play takes place in the living room of the home, in which Whiteside is ordered by the doctor to remain. Whiteside is in a wheelchair for the duration of the production, so there is a minimal amount of furniture on the set. The vintage wheelchair used in the production is authentic.

The title role is played by JSU education graduate student Rick Gwin, who is one of the largest roles he has had the privilege to play. While the lines are generally complex, and quite lengthy at times, the show has “come together quite nicely,” said Gwin. He is not a newcomer to the JSU drama department or to the work of Kaufman and Hart. In the fall of 2003, Gwin played the role of Grandpa in the JSU production of the Kaufman and Hart comedy “You Can’t Take It With You.” He said the two roles are very similar, even though Grandpa is a nicer character than Whiteside.

“This is a delightful show,” Gwin said, “Highly entertaining.”

Aunt Edna: The importance of being true

Aunt Edna,

I am a 21 year old male. I have a girlfriend always have. I can’t remember a time when I wasn’t dating a female. I am in a fraternity, grew up playing sports and hunting, I enjoy football and beer on the weekends, just an average guy. My girlfriend is always there beside me, cheering on Bama, and now our winning Gamecocks. We don’t have sex, I’ve never even had sex with any woman. On the outside it seems I am a normal college guy, but I’ve been having a secret relationship with a male buddy I grew up with. Sometimes he comes here and I just tell my girlfriend that we’re going to stay up all night playing video games or party with friends and she understands and never questions me. I don’t want to lose her, so I don’t want to lose my girlfriend, friends, or family, but I don’t want to lose this special relationship with my buddy either. I know I can’t have my cake and eat it too, whatever that means, but I do want a girlfriend and my buddy, and I want my friends and my family to still love me. Should I tell her these things go on with you and your ‘buddy’, or should I say boyfriend, is pretty normal. Not normal in the wife and two kids kind of normal, but normal still. If she found out she’d probably dump you as soon as the words leave your mouth, and then the rumor mill will crank out some pretty hurtful things about you and your ‘buddy’. It’s Jacksonville, the gossip in this town travels faster than swine flu.

I think what’s going on with you and your ‘buddy’, or should I say boyfriend, is pretty normal. Not normal in the wife and two kids kind of normal, but normal still. If sexuality were black and white then everyone would like it in the same position, orifice, speed, and no one would have a problem with the lights on. These openly gay men who happen to be very comfortable in their own skin. Your sexual orientation is a very personal part of who you are. Gay men and lesbians are a misunderstood minority that usually end up the punch line of jokes instead of being respected for their humanity. You being the golden boy jock speaks volumes for stereotypical homosexuals portrayed on TV and in pop culture.

Not all gay men like Beyonce, and not all lesbians like to spend the weekend at Home Depot.

It’s fortunate that you wrote in this week and that I picked your question. October is LGBT History Month and October 11th is National Coming Out Day. Go make some friends!
even had sex with any woman. On the outside it seems I am a normal college guy, but I've been having a secret relationship with a male buddy I grew up with. Sometimes he comes here and I just tell my girlfriend that we're going to stay up all night playing video games or party with friends and she understands and spends the night somewhere else, when he and I actually get pretty physical with each other. I'm not gay, I think, and he's the only guy I've ever had a physical attraction to. He gets along very well with all my other friends and even my girlfriend. No one knows that he and I are like this with each other. We come from a rural part of Alabama that looks down on this sort of thing. We both grew up in church and scouts, we even played football and baseball together in high school. We said that once we got to college this thing between us would have to stop, but it's worse now it tells my family. I don't want to lose my girlfriend, friends, or family, but I don't want to lose this special relationship with my buddy either. I know I can't have my cake and eat it too, whatever that means, but I do want a girlfriend and my buddy, and I want my friends and my family to still love me. Should I tell her and stop lying to her, even if it ruins my life?

-My Buddy

Buddy,

Yes, you should tell her, and here's why. Nothing is more masculine as being responsible and honest with yourself and those you care about. I think in today's culture, we view men as this hyper-masculine image of big muscles and flannel with big beards and some supernatural ability to not cry at funerals. That's just a load of crap. Being manly has nothing to do with your "buddy", or should I say boyfriend, is pretty normal. Not normal in the wife and two kids kind of normal, but normal still. If sexuality were black and white then everyone would like it in the same position, orifice, speed, and no one would have a problem with the lights on. Thankfully sexuality is a colorful area. You used the word girly like some gay men have a choice in acting like that. They are probably just as masculine as you claim to be, some people just let their own nature dictate how they should act, not stereotypes and what others think is normal. It takes balls to act like a nelly queen when you're surrounded by football jocks and construction workers. Maybe your discomfort with effeminate men is somehow your way of passing judgment on yourself. You may feel like your friends will judge you like you judge all lesbians like to spend the weekend at Home Depot.

It's fortunate that you wrote in this week and that I picked your question. October is LGBT History Month and October 11th is National Coming Out Day. Go make some history and spill the beans, it will be the best decision of your life. I can guarantee that after the waters still themselves, your decision to be honest with your friends and family will leave your circle a little smaller. Some people will not be in your life anymore, at least in the same capacity. Many people lose not just friends, but family after they come out. This is the burden that you must carry, whether you make it heavy or light is totally up to you.

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**Dear Julie**

**Where angels fear to tread**

**By Julie Skinner**  
Columnist

It's October. This is the month that I stuff my face with candy corn and count the days until my birthday. But this year I'm not really that excited about my birthday. I guess things really do change when you get a little older, and turning 22 doesn't bring any new freedom or legal right with it. What I am excited about, is getting married and getting this really old house restored. And by old, I mean over a hundred years old.

As I'm standing in front of the house, turning the rough sketch of the floor plan around and around because I can't tell which way is up, I realize I have no clue what is going on. Over three years of college and I feel like a complete idiot when it comes to this kind of stuff. My fiance, Sam, (introduce him every time in this column because, well, I don't know why) doesn't know much about this stuff either. In fact, he's probably just as lost as I am. Every day I hear a familiar term: septic tank, insulation, foundation, plumbing. I just don't really know how it applies to the house or how to go about helping with it.

Even though it's pretty overwhelming at times, there's two things that comfort me. First, there are some amazing people working on the house. These people can close their eyes and sketch an amazing floor plan faster than I can say "huh?" They're awesome. Second, I feel really comfortable in the relationship Sam and I have. It never occurred to me when in the past few years how important it is to spend your time with the people that make you feel like everything will work out fine. Even if they're just as scared as you that they won't.

Thanks for reading. I'll finish up with a question that was sent in to me this past week. Happy October!

---

Dear Julie,

I have a boyfriend who I have been with for over 2 1/2 years now. I really want him to propose. We have talked about it and I know he's been saving up. I don't mean to pressure him, but it's beginning to really bug me that he hasn't really committed and bought a ring yet. Is it wrong that I feel mad at him?

- RingRangRung

---

RingRangRung,

I think I answered a question similar to this not long ago, and I'll say to you what I said to them. Getting engaged really doesn't change much. It is a big step that should only be taken if you're ready, but don't expect it to be done. I think sometimes people get so caught up in the idea of getting married that they lose sight of what really matters. And if he's really committed, he'll know that too.

And just a little tip for you: if you feel like you're not getting what you want, maybe it's time to re-evaluate your priorities. It's a big decision, and it's important to make sure you're both on the same page.

---

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Not Dawgs
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Teens steal lawn mower, ride to store to buy aerosol cans, then get high and crash into cop car.

Two Fraser teens face felony charges of theft, alcohol possession, resisting arrest and destruction of police property after crashing into a police cruiser with a lawn mower. Fraser Police say 17-year-old Cameron Marchiori and 18-year-old Nicholas Evanoff stole a riding lawn mower and drove it to a nearby Meijer.

They bought some aerosol cans at the store and huffed, or inhaled the noxious fumes, from them to get high. When the teens attempted to ride back, they ended up hitting a cop car in their path.

Fat man who likes to drink a lot swims the length of Amazon River

Amazon River - He's middle-aged, his ample belly bulges over his Speedos and he thinks drinking two bottles of wine a day keeps him in shape. Swimmer Martin Strel would be the first to admit he makes the unlikeliest of athletes. He swam the Amazon - swimming 3,274 miles in 66 days, nontop.

Trapped girls used Facebook for help call

Australian authorities said two girls lost in a drainage well system used their phones to update their Facebook statuses instead of calling police. Glenn Benham, a spokesman for the Metropolitan Fire Service in Adelaide, said the girls, ages 10 and 12, posted Facebook updates saying they were lost in a storm drain in the city's south suburbs and a friend who noticed the updates called police.

Whitney Harris
Music Critic

After two years of preparation NLX was finally ready to release her debut album entitled Bitch Get Fit. During these two years she spent a lot of time recording in NYC and in Toronto. On this album she joined forces with producer Bryon Kent Wong to give this album its distinct sound.

Since the release of her album, earlier this year, NLX has been touring throughout New York and Canada all summer. With the exception of taking a break for the month of September, NLX plans to make her way back to the scene early October. She will be performing a benefit show in Toronto, Ontario - Canada to support a foundation called "Babes for Breast" on October 2. NLX whose real name is Natasha Alexandra is originally from Hamilton, Ontario.

The album Bitch Get Fit has sixteen tracks of an edgy pop / electric sound. This album exemplifies a true reflection of NLX, because all sixteen tracks were written by her. Although the album's title is a bit bold, throughout this album she does mention a lot about that famous four letter word we all know as "love". This is something I think we all can relate to.

Track number eight entitled "Young Love" and track number fifth teen entitled "Find Love" are two highly recommended tracks to get your love juices flowing. I enjoyed listing to this album, but I don't think I will be adding it in to my current cd rotation anytime soon.
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Cunningham named No. 20 College Baseball Prospect for 2010 MLB Draft

by Haley Gregg
Sports Editor

He has come along way from slagging baseballs into a piece of plywood in his backyard.

Todd Cunningham is a junior baseball player here at Jacksonville State University. He is majoring in psychology and plays the piano in his spare time. He is your typical guy, but different seeing that he is listed as the No. 20 College Baseball prospect for the 2010 Major League Baseball Draft, announced by Baseball America.

"It feels good, but it's not been all me. I've gotten lucky being put in the situations I've been put in. I don't want to be the guy that gets content with just being drafted," said Cunningham.

Last year JSU baseball player, Ben Tootle (who was selected as the 101st overall pick in the 2009 Major League Baseball first-year player draft by the Minnesota Twins) played for the Cape Cod Baseball League in 2008. Cape Cod is the premier amateur baseball league in the nation since 1885. Through connections from Tootle, Cunningham was invited to join the prestigious league this past summer.

When Cunningham arrived he was known as the kid from Alabama with the funny accent but he proved himself by hitting a .427 in the month of July for the Falmouth Commodores. This earned him the Cape Cod Player of the Month award. He was then selected to play in the Cape Cod All-Star game, where is diving catch in centerfield was featured as one of the Top 10 plays on ESPN's SportsCenter.

Cunningham wasn't done there; he also won the Thurmon Munson Batting Championship for the Cape, which previous winners include Chuck Knoblauch (1988) and Pete Rose (1947).

Cunningham found out that he was the No. 20 College Draft pick by his roommate's girlfriend who told him congratulations, and he replied, "for what?"

"I look at myself as more than just a baseball player and it's kind of a pet peeve of mine to not just be known as Todd the baseball player, because there is so much more," said Cunningham. "Baseball is great and it's a huge part of my life right now and will be hopefully for a while, but that's not it. I do a lot of other stuff that makes up my personality, my character and my makeup."

Cunningham is involved in church and considers himself to be a spiritual person. He was also involved in the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America program during high school.

When asked if he plans on finishing his career here at JSU or enter the draft? He simply replied, "We will see, I'm not going to put all my eggs in one basket, but I will eventually finish school just because of what I want to do as a profession (sports psychology) requires a degree and I would go for my doctorate as well," said Cunningham.

Baseball has opened up a world of opportunities for him, including a couple of speaking engagements at local church youth groups.

"Baseball has definitely been a blessing, an opportunity and it's been a platform for me to reach others and possibly touch them in some way," said Cunningham.

Baseball is Cunningham's way of expressions and he plans on taking advantage of every opportunity that comes his way to improve his game this season.

"I just want to enjoy the time I have left and not get caught up in everything else," said Cunningham.

Cunningham graduated from Jacksonville High School and came to JSU where he had a great freshman and sophomore year, batting an impressive .339, scored a team high of 66 runs, also earning Freshman All-American, Ohio Valley Conference Freshman of the Year and All-OVC Second Team. Be sure to check out JSU's baseball team this upcoming season and watch one of baseball's rising stars add to his long list of accomplishments.

Get to know Josh Cain

by Austin Faulkner
Staff Writer

Our profile player this week, Josh Cain, wanted to play football. "I wanted to play. They had the major I wanted and it's the right distance from home," said Cain.

1. Chelsea Pelletier, sophomore soccer player, has been selected to represent the OVC's Student Athlete Advisory Committee.
Our profile player this week, Josh Cain, manages a 4.0 grade point average, a hectic football schedule, all the while working on receiving his Masters in computer science. Cain has also traveled to Africa on mission trips, received academic awards, and been nominated to the Allstate AFCA Good Works team.

The senior defensive back from Wetumpka, Ala., grew up wanting to play football, but his father said he had to wait until he was ten. He has loved it ever since, becoming successful as a collegiate player. Growing up, he wanted to model his game after that of Hall of Fame running back Emmitt Smith.

When asked what football means to him, Cain replied, “God has called me to play football and given me this platform as a way to spread his word.” His pregame ritual includes spending time in the Holy Bible reading the passage Psalm 18: 32-38, which he has done before every game since his freshman season of high school.

People may ask why JSU? “I prayed about it, they had a good football program and they wanted me to play. They had the major I wanted and it’s the right distance from home,” said Cain.

When asked about his favorite memory while playing for the Gamecocks, Cain hesitates. After a minute or so of debate, he finally decides that the 2008 Tennessee Tech game is deserving of that title because he got his first career start, making 11 tackles and 8 of those were for a loss.

His hobbies consist of playing sports, anything having to do with the outdoors (backpacking and similar activities), and playing video games.

As mentioned earlier, he is a Computer Science major and already has his degree. He chose it because he has always enjoyed computers and had a good head for math. His career path, however, is still unclear. If he goes into the IT field he wants to try his hand at network security. He is still praying about it and will make the decision he feels God tells him is the right one.

Whether on the mission field or the football field, his work ethic, determination and faith will always help him achieve his goal.

1. Chelsea Pelletier, sophomore soccer player, has been selected to represent the OVC’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee on the NCAA SAAC this year.

2. Ryan Perrilloux, Patrick Tatum, and Jamal Young all earned the OVC Player of the Week honor following the JSU 60-10 road win at Nicholls State University. Perrilloux - OVC Offensive Player of the Week / Tatum - OVC Special Teams Player of the Week / Young - OVC co-Newcomer of the Week.

3. JSU continues to climb in both football polls as the Gamecocks are now ranked No. 20 in the FCS Coaches Poll and The Sports Network Poll.


5. JSU Volleyball defeated Murray State last Friday (25-14, 26-24, 19-25, 25-22)
Coach Crowe anxious about home game

by Austin Faulkner
Staff Writer

Coach Crowe opened his weekly press conference with a review of the Gamecocks’ 60-10 performances against Nicholls State University stating that they played a complete ball game. According to Crowe, linebacker Eric Russell and kicker, Patrick Tatum stepped up in the special teams, along with Jamal Young who had a 95-yard kick-off return for a touchdown (sixth longest in school history). He was also proud of the way Jax State’s lineman dominated the line of scrimmage on both sides of the ball.

The defense only gave up 98 yards rushing the entire game and offensively the offense racked up 202 yards on the ground. There are still areas, however, that need some work. “We need to get better,” Crowe said bluntly.

He then moved forward to preview this week’s game versus the Skyhawks of UT-Martin. Coach Crowe pointed out that the ‘Hawks have beaten JSU two out of their last three meetings, leaving a bitter taste in the players’ mouths and leaving them hungry for redemption. He said this will probably be the most balanced team, offensively; they have played so far this season. They also look stout on the defensive side. This will be a very revealing game in terms of finding out where the Gamecocks stand in key areas of the game, both offensively and defensively.

Coach Crowe says the four straight road games have given his players a road warrior mentality, toughening them and preparing them for their slim home schedule. He expects the home crowd to be the “12th man” on the field and help cheer on the team.

“To hear their own fans cheering, their own band playing in time to what they are doing on the field, I think it will help bring out their best,” Crowe said assuredly.

The game looks to be a real nail biter, being the first conference game of the season, and should not disappoint.

“It should be a heck of a game,” said Crowe.
Due to the traffic around Trustee Circle and Paul Snow Stadium on Game Day, the Central Stop for Gamecock Express will be relocated to the Houston Cole Library parking lot on HOME GAMES ONLY. The downtown route will run as scheduled, but will only be stopping on campus at this location. Students wishing to ride may take the Game Day Shuttle, which will be stopping in University Circle (in front of Bibb Graves) and also at the Kennamer Hall and transfer at the Houston Cole Library parking lot.

Two Parking Lots MUST be CLEARED by 6 a.m. on SATURDAY!

There are two parking changes for students this Saturday, due to the home football game.

1. Any students parked in the Jerry Cole Parking Lot, which is located in front of Curtiss Hall and the Football Field House, must have their car moved from this parking lot by 6 a.m. on Saturday morning. This lot becomes FOOTBALL PERMIT ONLY parking lot on HOME football games.

2. Any students parked in the Kennamer Hall and Gamecock Center Parking Lot must have their car moved from this parking lot by 6 a.m. on Saturday morning. This lot becomes GAMECOCK CLUB permit parking only on HOME football games.

Student parking is available at Patterson Hall, Crow Hall, Dixon Hall and also in front of Stephenson Hall.

Parking WILL be allowed around Trustee Circle on GAME DAY ONLY, but there will be NO PARKING on any YELLOW CURBS. Cars must be parked in a designated parking spot or is subject to towing.

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Jacksonville State University
Football Game Day Parking

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October 7, 2009
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Merrill Hall Atrium, JSU

Education Fair
February 19, 2010
8:30a.m.–12:30p.m.
Location, TBA