



Filling then launching waterballoons helped students take their mind off of the semester for a couple of hours.

Anna Lewis/The Chanticleer

TMB plays host to school carnival and kicks off spring

Ashley Colvin
Staff Writer

On Wednesday April 3, 2013 Jacksonville State University kicked off springtime with an SGA sponsored Cocky Celebration.

The school carnival allowed students to come together as they congregated on the lawn outside the Theron Montgomery Building to partake in an afternoon of activities. Some of the activities included things such as, inflatable water balloon launching, a safe way to get rid of frustration by launching water balloons at your roommate.

The inflatable football pass challenges targeted the competitive students. The classic but favorite, limbo showed just how low you could go. Student Government Association assisted students in becoming members and users of Jax Sports, and raffled off prizes.

Food was provided for students as well as the opportunity to dance the day away.



Children enjoyed the spring carnival entertaining themselves with all of the festivities.

JSU presents social media seminar on April 23

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-chief

Students use social media currently as a way to keep in touch with friends and acquaintances, but after graduation, they will use it for professional reasons.

JSU's Office of Public Relations and Office of Continuing Education are teaming up to present a social media seminar later this month. The seminar, "Power to the People: Revolutionize

Your Brand Through Social Media and Mobile Marketing" will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at Houston Cole Library.

Angie Finley of the Public Relations office especially encourages students majoring in Marketing and Public Relations to attend, but the skills obtained from the seminar are applicable to any field.

"Think about it: we all have some connection to a brand," Finley says. "If

See Social Pg. 2

JSU English department holds open house for all students

John Sterling
Staff Writer

The English department recently held its first annual Graduate Program Open house. The event was a rousing success, and the previous interest in the graduate program has gone up by 100%, this year, according to Dr. Andrea Porter, advisor to postgrad English majors.

In addition to discussing the postgraduate program, many professors were on hand to discuss

the undergrad English program as well. Students from all fields of interest and majors were in attendance, not only English majors, but CS, journalism, and others made an appearance.

The English department in general has expanded its sphere of influence somewhat over the last few years and students may find classes now in not only Shakespeare, Milton, and classic literature in general, but in broader, more esoteric

topics. As well, as media has expanded, so has the department's sphere of influence. Not only will you learn about literature, grammar, and writing in the department, but you might on any given day very well learn about film, television, and even comic books. For instance, the department is now offering a class specifically in graphic novels, starting this Summer with the May semester. The de-

See House Pg. 2



Dr. Andrea Porter/Special to the Chanticleer

Students gathered at the open house and socialized amongst faculty members of the English department.

From Pg. 1 House
partment covers a wide variety of genres now as well. Classes are offered in detective fiction, in romantic and Victorian literature, and the head of the department, Dr. Felgar, personally teach several courses in African American lit.

Additionally, an English degree grants a very useful skillset to graduates, beyond the normal perception given to it in academia. As Dr. Felgar himself puts it, "People who get a Bachelor's Degree and/or an MA in English learn intellectual skills that will enable them to handle a huge number of jobs." English does indeed grant a very broad skillset, including writing, not only essays and general expository writing, but there are classes on poetry, fiction, and speech writing. English graduates walk away with the ability to speak eloquently before a large group, to analyze and interpret text and other expressions of the English language, and obviously, they obtain a mastery in grammar, a far more useful skill than it is usually given credit for. Depending on their preferences, a degree in English will allow someone to write themselves, whether it is fiction, reviews, analysis, poetry, or speeches, or even to edit and condense written works, serving a variety of purposes. The postgraduate program itself, of course, offers a wide variety of courses, some of which overlap and build upon undergraduate courses.

So, to those who are interested in the postgraduate English program at JSU, or for more infor-



Dr. Porter

Top: Faculty members Dr. Steven J. Whitton and Dr. Randy Davis.

Bottom: From left to right: Dr. Joanne Gates, Mrs. Mica Mecham, and Dr. Teresa



Dr. Porter

mation regarding the English department in general, they may email Dr. Porter at aporter@jsu.edu. The department has opened its doors for you and anyone one else with an interest in literature,

media, and storytelling. Whether as a major or minor, pre grad or post grad, even if you're just looking for an interesting elective, the English Department has knowledge to spare.

JSU develops graphic novel class to be offered this summer

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

Fans of graphic novels will get a real treat next month, as JSU will offer a class on them for the first time.

EH 372: The Graphic Novel will be taught by Tanya Sasser as a four-week May term class. Reading material for the class will include Maus, Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Watchmen, V for Vendetta, and The Walking Dead.

"One book we'll be reading, Persepolis, was just recently banned by the Chicago school system," says Sasser. "There's been quite a bit of controversy surrounding that book and that decision."

Because the class is during the May term, the only daily homework is the required reading and active participation in class discussions. Students will also create a final project that is not due until the last day of class.

"Most universities have been offering graphic novel classes for a few years now, but I have not used any of those classes as models for what we do in this one," says Sasser. "I really want this class to be student-centered, so I'll be working with the class to develop the meetings on a day-by-day basis. I'll let them guide me rather than coming up with some predetermined, cookie-cutter class."

EH 372 fulfills a humanities elective, and is

open to any students who have successfully completed EH 102 or 104. According to Sasser, the class is designed for both people who are and who are not familiar with graphic novels. She would like for a wide variety of majors to be represented. "I'd especially like to encourage Art and Graphic Design majors, because they can bring some insight into the visual aspects of the texts, and History majors, because many of the texts we're reading are situated within specific historical contexts that are often very important to the story," Sasser says.

Sasser herself is a fan of graphic novels, and is excited about teaching from them. "Someone once described graphic novels as a combination of poetry and painting, and it really does require a deeper engagement than a strictly text-based novel does," she said.

Classes will be conducted in a seminar style, with time divided for lecture and student-led discussions as well as time for students to work on projects. Students will also have access to iPad apps while in class to assist with making comics.

"I'm really excited to introduce other students to graphic novels who may have never read them before. There's a misconception that they're for kids or they're silly or they're not 'real literature'. I'd like to change that misconception," said Sasser.

you're going out into the work force, chances are, the company that you're going to work for is going to have a social

media presence. Anyone going out to get a job anywhere now is going to have an opportunity to be an advocate for their brand. You have to have these skills now to really compete."

The seminar will feature Mack Collier and Christina "CK" Kerley.

The first 25 people to register for the conference will receive a free copy of Collier's book, "Think Like a Rock Star".

Finley explains, "Gaga's got her Little Monsters, the Grateful Dead have their Dead Heads, and Jewel had her Everyday Angels group. What all these people have in common is that they engage their fans to the point where the fans are promoting them now. Mack has a really good grip on this whole rock star marketing dynamic."

Kerley is known for mobile innovative technology. "You have to do something different now to get noticed. Just setting up a Facebook page is not enough now," Finley says. "Mobile devices are the one thing people always have with them now. They use them for everything, they're always there, they're always on. So [Kerley] really shows how to maximize that mobile technology. And she also has a lot of insight about what's coming next."

Kerley has a connection to Jacksonville State: her mother was a JSU graduate.

The cost of the conference is \$99 per person, which includes a light breakfast, lunch, admission to the post-seminar reception, .6 continuing education units, and admission to the seminar itself, which will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Each participant will also receive a free copy of Kerley's new eBook, "Innovation through Mobile."

Students may register for the seminar by calling 256-782-5918.

To infinity and beyond

Austin Faulkner
Senior Staff Writer

When one sees the iconic words in the title of this article their minds are drawn to a movie of the Disney persuasion. These words can not only be applied to a character known for patrolling the deepest recesses of the universe, but to a group of dedicated student film makers willing to do whatever it takes to put together a premiere product.

Billy Ramsey, a senior communications student, was charged with the task of creating a documentary on the history of the student-run radio station on campus, WLJS. The documentary, title "We Love Jax State," tells the story of the station's humble beginnings, broadcasting in Bibb Graves Hall, to where it currently resides, Self Hall.

Ramsey starts at the launch of the station in 1975 and works his way up to how the station has progressed from the small, 10-watt station to the 6,000-watt monster it is today. Throughout the history lesson are interviews from former DJs interwoven in the story to give each era context and tell how working at WLJS, or as it was then called, 92J, influenced their lives and careers.

While coordinating interviews with busy professionals is quite a task, it doesn't compare to what Ramsey did next.

Recruiting the services of fellow communications student, Ben Borrello, as his director of photography and acquiring the services of a State Trooper helicopter, Ramsey sent Borrello up to capture footage of the campus from above.

"The helicopter is the coolest shot [we did]," Borrello said. "When he [Ramsey] told me I was going up in a helicopter to film the city of Jacksonville, at first I didn't believe him."

After filming the aerial shots, Ramsey had little left to do outside of editing the piece.

The film is in the final stages of production and a release date has not been set in stone.



Kara Coleman/THE CHANTICLEER

The 2013-2014 Student Government Association executive officers, from left to right: Chief Justice Torsten Dryden, President Jade Wagner, VPOA Ariel Tolson, VPSA Kelsey Mann, and Director of Publicity Erica Warren. Not pictured: VPSS Brett Johnson.

New SGA officers inaugurated

Kara Coleman
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association executive officers for the 2013-2014 school year were inaugurated in a private ceremony on Monday night.

Awards were given to acknowledge the accomplishments of Freshman Forum members, SGA Senators, and the 2012-2013 executive team.

Outgoing executive officers are Chief Justice Krystal Hardy, Director of Publicity

Amanda Cave, Vice President of Organizational Affairs Jeremy Potts, Vice President of Student Activities Alex Rainwater and President Jason Sumner.

The outgoing Vice President of Student Senate, Jade Wagner, is now the 65th president of JSU's SGA.

University president William A. Meehan led Wagner and her new executive team in taking the oaths for their respective offices.

2013-2014 officers include Chief Jus-

tice Torsten Dryden, Director of Publicity Erica Warren, Vice President of Organizational Affairs Ariel Tolson, Vice President of Student Activities Kelsey Mann, Vice President of Student Senate Brett Johnson and President Jade Wagner.

In his farewell address, Sumner said of the presidential office, "This individual is the representative of the entire student population, embodying the general will and resolve of our students to the adminis-

tration, surrounding community, and the public. This requires a servant's heart, a firm resolve to always put the students first when making decisions, and when speaking on their behalf."

Meehan invited the families of all incoming officers to stand with them as they took their inaugural oaths. Wagner requested that the outgoing officers, "my other family", stand with her along with her parents and sister.



Kara Coleman/THE CHANTICLEER

Newly-elected SGA President addresses the crowd at Monday night's ceremony. For a complete gallery of pictures, visit The Chanticleer's Facebook page.

Upcoming campus events

BA-BFA Art Exhibition
Thurs., April 11th, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 pm. at Hammond Hall Main, Student Gallery

Midnight Snack in the Caf
Tues., April 16th, 10:00 p.m.-11:59 p.m. at Jack Hopper Dining Hall

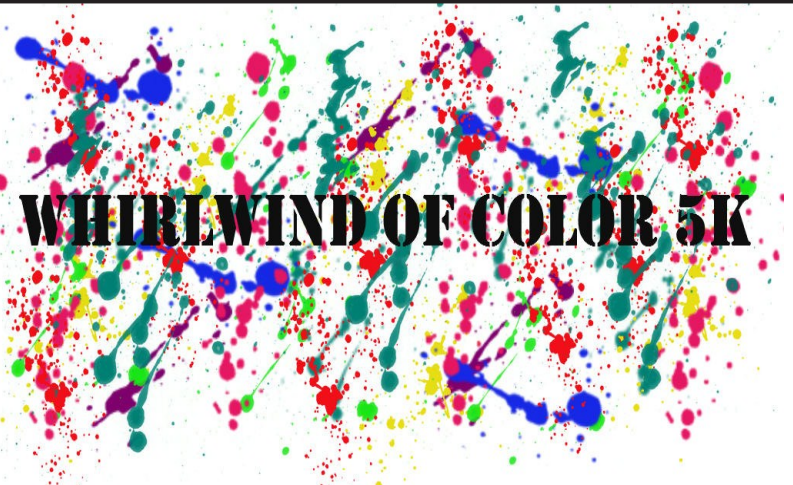
Spring Commencement
Fri., April 26th at Burgess-Snow Field

J-Day Spring Game
Fri., April 12th, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. at Burgess-Snow Field

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band, "Operation Ben"
Sun., May 19th, 6:00 p.m. at Burgess-Snow Field

Holocaust Remembrance
Tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Stone Center Theater

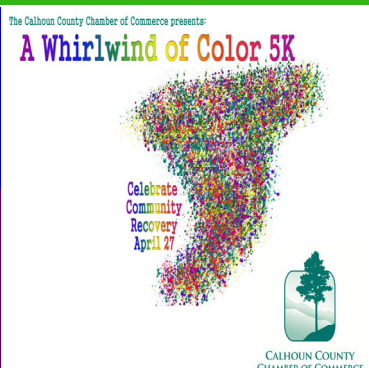
Due to illness, Mr. Steinmetz will not be in attendance. An alternate program has been planned which will feature him in a video.



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Arts & Entertainment

Celebrity concert in May to fund 'smart' house for wounded Jacksonville Marine

Meredith Speciale
Staff writer

Emmy award winning and Academy award nominated actor Gary Sinese will perform a special concert with his group The Lt. Dan Band at Jacksonville State University on May 19.

The concert, dubbed "Operation Ben," will benefit Marine Sgt. Ben Tomlinson, a Jacksonville native who was shot during his seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in May 2010.

He is now paralyzed from the chest down as a result of those injuries.

His family, friends and the Jacksonville community provided an outpouring of support for the young veteran, even throwing him a big welcome home celebration in the town square in January of last year.

Now, Jacksonville residents will come together again to help raise money to build



Concert proceeds will help build a customized "Smart Home" for hero Sgt. Ben Tomlinson

While serving in Afghanistan, Sgt. Ben Tomlinson was shot through the upper back. As a result of his injuries, he is paralyzed from the chest down.



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Tomlinson a new house in "Operation Ben."

Gary Sinese teamed up with the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Tow-

ers Foundation, an organization that raises funds to build "smart homes" for veterans who have been severely injured.

The new "smart" house will make it much easier for Tomlinson to perform every-day household activities in his

wheelchair. It will include features like retractable cook tops, cabinets, and shelving, and automated lighting, heating, and air conditioning controlled by an iPad.

"These homes not only give the wounded service member freedom, these homes also give the caregiver freedom," said John Hodge, director of operations for the foundation. Tomlinson is currently living with his parents.

"It is our desire, as the Tunnels to Towers Foundation, that he get to live and fulfill his dreams as if nothing had happened," said Hodge. "We're going to try to help as much as we can."

Hodge went on to say that the foundation would not be able to do what it does without the help of Gary Sinese.

Sinese is the bass player for the Lt. Dan Band, named after his famous role in the movie "Forrest Gump." The band did over 50 benefit concerts last year for

military service members.

Sinese even went as far as to meet with Tomlinson and his family a few months ago. Although he was unable to attend the press conference announcing the concert, he wrote a letter to Tomlinson stating, "It is our hope that this home will help to restore the independence and freedom you fought for to protect every one of us."

Sinese is the national spokesperson for The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, and passionately crusades to help injured veterans with the work he does through the Gary Sinese Foundation.

All proceeds from the concert in May will go toward building Tomlinson his new smart home.

Tickets can be purchased at www.OperationBen.com or by calling 800-293-5949.

JSU Encore! show choir to present movie-themed spring concert Friday

Taylor Brown
Staff writer

Are you a fan of movies? Do you enjoy timeless classics like "Footloose" and "Animal House?" Do you also like the music that accompanies them?

Then check out JSU Encore! show choir's spring concert, entitled "A Night at the Movies 2."

The concert will be held on Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mason Hall Performance Center, and is

a continuation of the concert series that began in the fall.

The show choir has been directed by Dr. Renee Baptiste, an associate professor of music education at JSU, for the last eight years.

Dr. Baptiste is a faculty advisor for CMENC, which is the collegiate chapter of MENC (Music Educators National Conference) and also teaches graduate music education courses in research methods, and supervises stu-

dent teachers.

When asked why people should go see this concert, Dr. Baptiste said that it's "a night of rousing entertainment."

"I think people should see it because it will bring back memories of going out to the movies on Friday nights," she continued.

JSU Encore! began rehearsing for the concert at their show choir camp last August, before the start of the fall semester.

They performed



Matt Reynolds/JSU photo database

Members of JSU Encore! show choir pose for a group picture while rehearsing for their performance during Homecoming weekend of last year.

the first part of this concert series that November, and will close it out with Friday's show.

JSU Encore! consists of 24 JSU students from many different areas of higher education—not just music. Dr. Baptiste said she has students working on Drama, Criminal Justice, Elementary and Secondary Education and Psychology majors.

Four students perform with the 24 sing-

ers as instrumentalists.

The concert will include classics such as "Let's hear it for the Boy" from the movie "Footloose," "Old Time Rock and Roll" from "Risky Business," "Ladies' choice" from "Hair-spray" and "Time of my life" from "Dirty Dancing."

There will even be an a cappella rendering of "Shout" from the movie "Animal House."

The concert should delight movie and music fans alike, or anyone looking for a fun-filled evening to round out the semester.

Best of all for cash-strapped college students: admission is free.



WLJS Top 10 for the week of April 8, 2013

1. Trouble with Templeton - Old Habits
2. Kate Nash - Friend
3. Caitlin Rose - Everywhere I Go
4. Cloud Cult - Complicated Creation
5. Evil Eddie - Golden Age
6. Sallie Ford & The Sound Outside - Ad-dicted
7. Home By Hovercraft - Modernized
8. Kim Logan - Black Magic Boy
9. Old Man Markley - Hard To Understand
10. The World Record - Come On Summer

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Game review: go above and beyond Rapture with 'Bioshock Infinite'

John Sterling
Staff writer

"Bioshock Infinite," Irrational Games' long-awaited third entry in the Bioshock series, was released at the end of last month. Many players held their breath to see if it could live up to the legacy of its predecessors. This author's opinion: it's a little complicated.

The game itself is a spiritual rather than direct sequel to the franchise, leaving the darkened tunnels of Rapture to soar above the clouds of the floating city of Columbia.

Columbia is beautiful, a testament to early turn of the century imagery and ideas and a fine send up of the steam-punk genre, at least in some places.

Booker DeWitt, a former Pinkerton detective with a trou-

bled past, is sent into Columbia to find a mysterious young girl named Elizabeth. Inside the city, his rescue of Elizabeth is hindered by fanatical religious zealots.

The narrative attempts to be cohesive. However, without knowledge of certain scientific theories and literary tropes, the story will likely make no sense at all—especially the ending.

The most notable game-play element may be Elizabeth herself. Shortly into the game, Booker picks up his tagalong.

Most players are already groaning in anticipation at this, as escort quests are a legendary irritation across virtually all genres. Thankfully, Irrational Games has taken steps to avoid this in "Bioshock Infinite"—as the game repeatedly informs



you, Elizabeth can handle herself.

And indeed she can; you never have to worry about protecting her. It's a common occurrence mid-way through a firefight for her to throw a health pack, a

salt phial (the fuel that powers plasmids), or ammo while you're diving for some form of cover.

She'll even shout out a warning whenever something particularly dangerous takes the field. Outside of combat, Elizabeth is more than just window dressing, too.

Unlike the first two games, Booker is not a silent protagonist. As they explore the city, Elizabeth and he maintain a running dialogue, through which character development takes place.

To me, this was one of the game's high points, and I looked forward to the exchanges between the two characters as they try to uncover exactly what has been going on in this city for the past twenty years.

The game-play itself has its pros and cons. Plasmids return in a new form, known as vigors, scattered about the city in bottles and flasks reminiscent of those you'd find on the side of a snake oil salesman's cart.

However, many of the classics of the first two games are either missing or have been drastically reworked. While this does streamline gameplay a good bit, this is not necessarily a good thing.

Gunfights often come down to abusing a specific vigor (Bucking Bronco in my case) over and over, rather than the old standard, where you would switch back and forth on a case by case basis. The new vigors are a fine concept and each one has its individual uses, but in comparison to the old system, they feel dull.

As for the other aspects of gameplay, it is definitely a shooter, and not a bad one in my limited experience. The main complaint is that you may only carry two weapons at a time.

This leads to you constantly having to decide between exchanging the gun you've come to favor whenever it runs out of ammo for whatever the last enemy dropped, or trying to tough it out and just hope there's another box of shells around the next corner.

There are a wide variety of guns this time around, though I can't comment on many of them. In the same way that most people will find a particular vigor and stick with it, most will likely find a specific pair of weapons for their play style to stick with.

Not to fail to mention the game's much touted gimmick, the sky rails—I'm happy to report, they are one of the more enjoyable aspects of game-play. While they do show up on a regular basis, they never feel overdone or shoe-horned in—whipping through mid-air on a rail system is an entertaining way to get around.

Overall, while the game itself might be a bit too easy (I was playing on medium, and with my very limited FPS experience I still tore through just about every firefight), it is still an enjoyable and worthwhile experience.

The story is good, if a bit confusing and all over the place at times, the characterization is excellent, and the game-play itself is above average.

So yes, I would recommend this to any of you who are still on the fence about rising above the clouds to explore "Bioshock Infinite."



www.bioshockinfinite.com

Elizabeth, whom protagonist Booker DeWitt is charged with rescuing from Columbia. Her interaction with DeWitt develops both characters through an ongoing stream of dialogue.



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Op/Ed

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Zach Tyler
A & E Editor

Hey Jacksonville State University students—especially Public Relations majors—how would you like to work for the greatest country in the world?

I'm talking about the last land of mystery—more mysterious even than long-forbidden Cuba. I'm talking about a place where no one has ever heard of "Glee," Kim Kardashian or Justin Bieber.

They have heard of Dennis Rodman, though, and they really like the Harlem Globetrotters.

You'll probably lose the freshman 15 you picked up from eating regularly at the Caf and drinking too much beer, too. In this country, everyone is kept in "top physical condition" by the government's "careful rationing" of food.

Have you figured out which country I'm talking about yet? I'll give you another hint: they recently threatened all-out nuclear war with America, their immediate neighbor South Korea and anyone else whack enough to disrespect them.

That's right: it's the tiny tough-kid-on-the-Korean-peninsula block, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea.

I'm going to be honest—the DPRK pretty much hates you right now. Their fascist government really doesn't like Americans, capitalists or people not born in North Korea (you're probably all three), so gaining their trust isn't going to be easy.

Luckily for you, there is a man who has done it before, and by following his example, you might succeed.... Or die horribly in one of the great country's many forced labor camps—it's pretty much 50/50 odds.

Alejandro Cao de Benós may not have been born North Korean, but the 39-year-old Spaniard has an officially designated Korean name now—



days—it's Cho Son-il, which means "Korea is one."

In 2000, he founded the Korean Friendship Association and became webmaster of the first officially-sanctioned DPRK website... but only after lobbying the country for permission to do so for a decade.

He described his efforts to begin the website as a courtship in which he brought flowers to his girl—in this case, the North Korean military regime—every single day for 10 years before she finally said yes.

That's dedication.

But Cao de Benós didn't stop there. In 2002 he became the first non-North Korean to ever hold an official government post—the North Korean regime actually had to change an existing law to give him the job.

His title: Special delegate of the DPRK Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Now he's got a North Korean passport, and as mentioned earlier, a government-issued Korean name.

Cao de Benós fulfills the role of public relations practitioner for what he believes is the greatest nation on the planet. That's quite a task when you realize how badly the rest of the world views the DPRK.

He claims that all the stories about a starving population kept firmly under the iron grip of a mili-

tary regime through a careful regimen of prison camps, torture and public executions are simply Western lies.

He travels the world countering atrocious reports from the United Nations, agencies like Human Rights Watch and Koreans that have successfully fled the tiny regime with lies of his own.

According to him, the citizens of North Korea couldn't be happier—they receive enough money and plenty of food directly from the government, which definitely doesn't torture or execute them.

And the country's recent increase in aggressive rhetoric towards America and its ally South Korea is really just an equal and opposite reaction to the imperialistic stance of the United States, which clearly wants to invade and destabilize the famine-stricken country in the name of capitalism.

So, if you'd like a public relations job working for the world's last best hope for communism, you need to get started now. Develop credibility as a sympathizer with the DPRK—apparently making websites can be effective.

Be prepared to leave behind your family and friends. You probably won't ever see them again, whether you get the job or not. Also, you'll need to be OK with telling whoppers to anyone who asks about the food situation, government-sanctioned torture or forced labor camps.

If any of that interests you, contact the Korean Friendship Association at korea@korea-dpr.com. Only serious applicants interested in upholding the honor and dignity of the DPRK need apply.

Emily Hayes
ehayes@times-journal.com

This is a story about Julia and Paul.

Julia is my first cousin, an older sister figure (but not that much older, so perhaps I should just say 'sister,' so as not to offend her). Although we never lived in close proximity growing up, somewhere along the way, she became one of my favorite people. I can tell her anything without fear of judgment. And, I have. If ever there's a person with the ability to blackmail me, it's Julia.

Enter Paul. They've been together for more than 10 years, and if my math is correct - which is iffy, because hey, I'm a words woman - they've been married for eight. Their son came along just two years after my daughter, but I've always looked at them as an example of model parents, just as I have the model married couple.

Because they simply are. They work hard at their marriage - they've had ups and downs like everyone, because they're not perfect. And, perhaps that's why they work so well - they understand their own faults, and work to make sure they're taking care of each other and their son, but also themselves.

Their son is an amazing little boy. So smart, so funny ... so blessedly loved.

As I said, my husband and I look to them as examples of how to be better part-

ners, better parents. We spend several weekends a year together - our family of three with their family of three.



Easter was one of those weekends. Saturday morning we drove to Nashville to continue an Easter tradition we began three years ago, this time in their new house they built in the fall. The weather didn't allow for our usual grilled dinner on the back porch, but I learned how to make Julia's amazing guacamole dip. Our kids woke Sunday to Easter baskets and an easter egg hunt was held in the front yard.

It's a nice little story, right? And, if I stopped right here, (almost) no one would have a problem with a word I've written.

But, it all changes when I make just one tiny tweak - a few letters, is all.

This is a story about Julia and Paige.

Amazing how one word can completely change a perception, isn't it?

Julia and Paige have been together more than 10 years. Julia and Paige have been married for eight. Julia and Paige have an amazing son.

And, it's Julia and Paige that my husband and I look to as model spouses, mod-

el parents.

Because in our eyes, their gender - their sexuality - doesn't make a bit of difference.

The Supreme Court heard rulings about Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act two weeks ago, and I changed my Facebook profile picture to the red square so many of you may have seen in your news feed. These two women - whom I consider as close as sisters - deserve for their marriage to be recognized. Millions of people in this country work just as hard - or in many cases, harder - at making a happy, healthy family. They shouldn't be denied the same rights that my husband and I enjoy.

It warmed my heart to see so many red squares among the blue. There were the ones I expected, but it was the ones I didn't that brought a smile to my face. The random girl from high school. The elementary school teacher. An old sorority sister.

Those of us that support equal rights for the ones we love - the Julias & Paiges in our lives - are growing. And, we'll continue to grow, as long as we keep telling their stories.

Emily Hayes is a staff writer for the Fort Payne Times-Journal, where this column first appeared.



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With the Bitcoin, is money real anymore?

Quinn Scahill
The Rocky Mountain Collegian
Colorado State University
via UWIRE

A while back I covered a story about the deep web, a hidden part of the Internet where you can log on to sites such as Silk Road and purchase any drug or other prohibited commodity in a secure, anonymous fashion.

I claimed that the deep web and Silk Road would be revolutionary, but I overlooked something entirely: the bitcoin.

Bitcoins are a rela-

tively new digital crypto-currency, created by the mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto in 2009. They hold the potential to rattle our largest financial institutions, and at the very least, make us question our conception of currency.

Just like the gold that we base our currency on, bitcoins are 'mined' by groups of computers using special programs to answer totally insane, irreversible cryptographic equations. When the computer or group of computers calculates an answer for a given question, a bitcoin is

produced.

It's odd to think that a currency could be made digitally and still possess value, but there are costs involved (electricity and time), and there will be a finite number of them in the future, (21 million bitcoins by 2140, exactly).

However, the most important and revolutionary aspect of the bitcoin is that no governments currently regulate it, and will likely not be able to unless they shut down the Internet entirely. Also, there is no way to artificially inflate them, because

unlike gold, you cannot 'shave off' part of a bitcoin. Paying with bitcoins is the equivalent of exchanging actual gold for a product, and there is no tax involved yet.

A new startup company, Pizza for Coins, is a website allowing users to purchase Domino's pizza using bitcoins through an exchange service. Some ultra-hip restaurants are already starting to accept bitcoins for dine-in customers as well.

These sort of entrepreneurs claim that if enough people begin to use bitcoin, it will be cheaper to pay

with than real money.

This all sounds good and dandy, a currency created by the people and for the people, not one controlled by banks and scheming corporate lizards, but is it really the way to go?

I'm not at all an expert on economics, but I can tell that bitcoins are going to start a fiasco whether they succeed or not. Lawmakers have already condemned them, saying they are illegal and used mainly to buy drugs off the Internet. However, deeming them 'illegal' is not even an option yet, because

no legislation currently exists to define them as such.

Aside from the question of whether or not this currency is feasible, I'm most intrigued by what the metaphor of the bitcoin reveals.

It's something I've always suspected, and it's also a romantic, highly clichéd notion, but with a digital currency like this it becomes quite literally clear that money isn't real anymore.

Sports



The greatest Gamecock you don't know about

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

He's the greatest Jacksonville State Gamecock you've never heard of; not necessarily the greatest, just the one you don't know about. His name is Ralph Brock, well... Dieter Brock. He's from Birmingham but hardly anyone in Alabama has ever heard of him. Hardly anyone in American has heard of him for that matter. He played football at Jacksonville State in the early 1970s. You'll find him throughout the JSU record books. But search Ralph and Brock; they're the same person.

A sense of mystery surrounds Brock's career. He seemed to come out of nowhere and then after a brief time in the spotlight returned to obscurity, which in reality was just Alabama. The tales of Brock are legendary in their own ways, with it being difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.

Brock grew up in Birmingham, where he was always known as Ralph. His middle name was Dieter. His mother wanted to name him that to represent some of her German heritage, but his father pushed for it to just be a middle name that would never really catch on. Brock was heavily recruited by Alabama, and dreamed of playing for coach Paul "Bear" Bryant, until he tweaked his knee one game in high school and scared off the UA recruiters. Brock was fine. He missed one game but didn't have surgery. It's believed he never had knee surgery his entire career, an abnormality for athletes now.

He instead headed south to Auburn. He was a great player but never had a chance to play as he sat behind Heisman winner Pat Sullivan. After two seasons Brock decided to transfer. He would lose a year going to another FBS school so he chose, as some athletes do today, to go to Jacksonville State.

Brock led the Gamecocks in passing in 1972 and 1973, and his

27 career touchdown passes rank ninth all-time in school history. He played under coach Charley Pell and led JSU to 14-4-1 record during those two seasons. While on campus Brock met his wife, Kathy.

After his final season he waited for offers to roll in to play pro ball, but no one was knocking down the door. Here's where the legend of Dieter Brock begins to grow. Hayden Riley, the basketball coach at Alabama, remembered Brock from when UA was recruiting him. Hayden told his brother about Ralph. Bud Riley, Hayden's brother, was the head coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers of the Canadian Football League (CFL). Bud offered a contract to Brock, who eventually accepted and figured he'd spend a season or two in Canada and improve his NFL chances. He stayed for 11 years.

In Canada, Brock became an icon. Brock was an unknown backup but became the starter by 1975. When he went to Canada he introduced himself as Dieter, the name he prefers, and no one knew him as anyone else. He was a two-time CFL All-Star and named CFL Most Outstanding Player in 1980 and 1981. He threw for just a few hundred yards shy of 30,000 yards from 1975-1983 for Winnipeg and claimed almost every honor imaginable. He was the Peyton Manning of the CFL.

When ESPN began filming CFL games, one broadcaster noticed Brock's strong arm and remember a kid from the states. He asked, "Is this Dieter Brock related to Ralph Brock?"

It was said that sometimes during a slow practice, Brock would take a knee and throw balls through the goal post 55 yards away, just to amuse himself. During a practice at Auburn he once threw a pass to a receiver just turning around. The pass reached the receiver before he got his



Dieter Brock wuth Winnipeg

fanbase.com

hands up and the ball got wedged between his facemask. At another practice, Brock threw a pass that made everyone stop. It went 90 yards in the air. Brock noticed a slight breeze was behind him, so he turned around and threw the ball 70 yards. His teammates calculated that on a fair day he could throw it 80 yards.

After a successful CFL career, Brock still wanted to have a shot in the NFL. He walked into the LA Rams office in 1985 and asked if he could play quarterback. He told them his named was Dieter Brock and heard a response of, "Who the [heck] is Dieter Brock?" But after handing over film, Brock was signed by the Rams and played for two seasons before retiring.

In 1995, Brock was inducted into the CFL Hall of Fame. In 2005, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers celebrated their 75th anniversary and named the 20 greatest Bombers of all-time. The list included Brock. He is also found in the Jacksonville State Gamecock Hall of Fame.

Alabama loses Mal Moore

article previously ran online

Bradley McGuire

Host, WE R SPORTS on WLJS

Former University of Alabama Athletic Director Mal Moore passed away at the age of 73 at Duke Medical Center on March 30th from pulmonary problems. Moore has been at the University since 1958, first playing under coach Paul "Bear" Bryant as the quarterback and played for the 1961 National Championship team with teammate and current Athletic Director Bill Battle. Moore recommended Battle to take over as the Athletic Director while Moore was going to be the special assistant for university President Judy Bonner.

Multiple athletes from the university tweeted out the day that he passed, including starting quarterback A.J. McCarron. McCarron stated, "I love you coach

& know you will be watching over us from above. We will always remember you. #loveU."

Coach Moore did a lot for Alabama, from the multiple facilities that he built totaling a total of 240 million dollars plus the renovation of Bryant Denney Stadium, making it one of the biggest in the nation. Moore was hired as Athletic Director in 1999 and was instrumental in the hiring of four head football coaches, including Dennis Franchione, Mike Price, Mike Shula, and Nick Saban.

Throughout his tenure as AD, Moore won several championships, including this past year which had an amazing feat of winning 4 national championships with football, gymnastics, softball and women's golf. Mal Moore was a winner as a player, coach and administrator at the University of Alabama, being part of 10 total football National Championships and multiple ac-

colades throughout his career. Moore was a winner at Alabama but was also a great person. Head football Coach Nick Saban said, "Mal was truly a special person in every sense of the word. We can talk about all the championships Mal has been involved with, but I think what will be remembered most was the man he was. He always put the best interests of others ahead of his own, he carried himself as a first-class gentleman, and he helped bring out the best in those around him. Mal was an outstanding leader in terms of all he did for Alabama athletics. Most importantly, he was a great friend to me and my family. Mal was the number one reason we decided to make the move to Tuscaloosa."

Mal Moore will be missed at the University of Alabama not only for winning championships but for the man that he was.

Gamecock ranks/standings

Enjoy the Summer!

OVC M. Basketball
final standings
East division

Belmont (14-2) [26-6]
Eastern Kentucky (12-4) [24-9]
Tennessee St. (11-5) [18-14]
Jacksonville St. (8-8) [17-11]
Morehead State (8-8) [15-18]
Tennessee Tech (5-11) [12-17]

West division

Murray State (10-6) [21-10]
SE Missouri St. (8-8) [17-16]
Eastern Illinois (6-10) [11-21]
SIUe (5-11) [9-18]
UT- Martin (5-11) [9-21]
Austin Peay (4-12) [8-23]

* OVC Tournament champ
Belmont earned an 11 seed
and will open the NCAA tournament
against 6 Arizona

OVC Softball standings:
East Div.

Eastern Kentucky 23-14 (10-4)
Jacksonville State 23-17 (8-5)
Tennessee Tech 16-17 (5-4)
Morehead State 16-14 (2-8)
Tennessee State 11-27 (2-10)
Belmont 12-21 (2-11)

West Div.

Eastern Illinois 26-10 (13-1)
SIUe 28-8 (11-2)
UT-Martin 27-11 (9-4)
Murray State 13-21 (6-7)
SE Missouri St. 11-23 (3-9)
Austin Peay 12-18 (3-9)

OVC Baseball standings:

Belmont 23-8 (10-2)
Tennessee Tech 23-10 (12-3)
Jacksonville State 16-16 (9-3)
austin Peay 25-8 (8-3)
SE Missouri St. 18-16 (9-6)
Eastern Kentucky 9-19 (5-7)
Murray State 12-19 (6-9)
SIUe 8-19 (6-9)
Eastern Illinois 11-18 (3-8)
Morehead State 9-23 (4-11)
UT-Martin 9-23 (2-13)

Upcoming Action:

Friday: J-Day Game
Baseball @ Murray State
Saturday: Track @ Ole Miss
M/W Tennis @ Murray State
Baseball @ Murray State
Softball vs Morehead St. (DH)
Sunday: M/W Tennis
@ Austin Peay
Baseball @ Murray State
Softball vs Morehead State

Remember tomorrow is the Spring J-Day Game, the game will be run just as a normal gameday around campus from tailgating at Kennermer to the Southerners playing in the stands during the game. It will be the debut of Coach Clark's new offense and defenses. Game starts at 6:30 at JSU Stadium.

2013 Home FB games:

Sept. 7 - Jacksonville Univ.
Sept. 14 - North Alabama
Sept. 28 - Murray State
Oct. 12 - Tennessee State
Nov. 9 - Eastern Kentucky
Nov. 23 - SE Missouri State





Sportswire

Jacksonville State men's golf team

Gamecock golf wins fourth straight Grub Mart Intercollegiate

GLENCOE - For the fourth consecutive year, the Jacksonville State men's golf team captured the Grub Mart Intercollegiate, contested at the par 72 layout at Silver Lakes Golf Course on Tuesday.

JSU, who led by ten shots entering the final round, turned in a 2-under par round of 286 to run away with the team title with a three-round total 5-over par. Columbus State was 17 shots back of the Gamecocks at +22. In-state rival North Alabama rounded out the top-three in the team standings with a final mark of +30.

Jax State Tomasz Anderson went wire-to-wire atop the individual leaderboard to claim

medalist honors. The sophomore was one shot off of matching the tournament record for a 54-hole finish. After back-to-back rounds of 67 and 71 on Monday, the Hertfordshire, England carded his third consecutive round under par with a 1-under par 71. Anderson finished the tournament with a three-round total of 7-under par 209.

Anderson held off a third-round charge by JSU's Franco Grillo to win the event. Grillo turned in the round of the day by scoring a 3-under par round of 69. Grillo, from Buenos Aires, Argentina finished at 5-under par for the three rounds. His mark was bolstered by an opening round score of 4-under par 68.

Playing on their home course, Anderson and Grillo combined for 23 birdies for the three rounds.

Junior Dorian Fernandez bounced back after rounds of 79 and 75 on Monday to card an even-par round of 72 on Tuesday. Fernandez shared a top-15 finish with JSU's Andres Schonbaum as both finished 14th in the individual standings. Schonbaum concluded the event with a 2-over par 74. Freshman B. J. Chung finished with back-to-back 2-over par rounds after opening with an 85.

~ Sportswire

Border's blast lifts Jax State over ASU

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

The Jacksonville State Gamecocks knocked off Alabama State in a break from OVC action.

Freshman Casey Akenberger began in the circle for the Gamecocks, but the start wasn't as smoothly as planned. A hit batter and walk put two Hornets on, but Akenberger managed to get out of the first inning without any real damage. In the bottom half of the first, Jax State struck early after leadoff hitter Jessica Guy doubled and then scored on Kalee Tabor's RBI.

In the top of the second, Alabama State had runners on second and third when a roller to third base was thrown past the first baseman. This allowed both runners to score. ASU added another run and led 3-1. Jessica Guy's RBI shot to the outfield brought JSU within one in the bottom half of

the inning.

The score would remain the same until the bottom of the fourth when Sara Borders, the sophomore from Alexandria, blasted her ninth home run of the season. The two-run shot gave the Gamecocks a 4-3 lead.

Jacksonville State would hold the lead as the final nine ASU outs came facing just 10 batters. The Gamecocks advanced to 23-17 and prepare to play eight games on the road before returning for a final weekend at home against Eastern Kentucky April 27 and 28, which will be senior night.

The Gamecocks have now beaten Alabama State and A&M, along with Samford, in every game this season. The only team from inside the state the Gamecocks have lost to was Alabama earlier this month, when JSU lost an early lead. Jax State plays UAB on May 1.



Sportswire

Sara Borders went 2-4 on Tuesday.

Baseball falls to rival Troy Trojans

TROY - Troy plated seven runs in the fourth inning as the Trojans claimed an 8-4 win over Jacksonville State on Tuesday evening at Riddle-Pace Field.

Ryan Source (4-0) had seven strikeouts and scattered five hits over five innings to earn the win for the Trojans, while Adam Polk (2-5) gave up seven runs in just 2/3 of an inning to suffer the loss for the Gamecocks.

Jax State (16-16) took an early lead after Michael Bishop led off with an infield single and moved to third on Griff Gordon's single, before scoring on Coty Blanchard's infield grounder as the Gamecocks took a 1-0 lead.

The Trojans (22-9) tied the game in the second inning on a RBI single by Garrett Pitts,

before taking control of the game in the fourth inning.

Polk came in to pitch in relief of Gamecock starter Taylor Shields, who allowed just three hits in three solid innings on the mound. Danny Collins led off with a single and Trae Santos followed with a two-run home run to give the Trojans a 3-1 lead.

Matthew Howard then walked and scored on a double by Josh McDorman, before Tyler Vaughnss had a RBZI single to right field and Logan Pierce then walked to chase Polk from the game. Jax State then committed an error to allow two more runs to score as Troy built an 8-1 lead.

Jax State cut into the lead in the sixth in-

ning after Eddie Mora-Loera drove in a run with a single to right field, while Andrew Bishop drove in another run with a single up the middle and Mora-Loera scored on a wild pitch to cut the lead to 8-4, but the Gamecocks could get no closer.

The Trojans did not allow a hit over the final three innings to seal the win.

Michael Bishop and Andrew Bishop each had a pair of hits to lead the Gamecocks, while Vaughnss, McDorman, Danny Collins and Garrett Pitts each had two hits to lead the Trojans.

~ Sportswire

A memorable year for Gamecock sports

Daniel Porter
Sports Editor

It's been a great year in Gamecock sports. Volleyball had another solid season. Soccer struggled some but it looks like they may be headed in the right direction under new head coach Neil Macdonald.

Women's basketball had the worst season by losses in program history, and changes need to happen soon, but the men's team under coach James Green turned the tides and had a strong season, finishing 17-11 and recording the most wins since the 2002 campaign.

Football played two SEC powerhouses in Arkansas and Florida and still finished 6-5, but again missed the playoffs and second winningest coach in JSU history, Jack Crowe, was let go.

Coach Bill Clark takes over in his first collegiate head coaching job, looking to take JSU to the next level.

Rifle again was one of the sharpest teams in the country, reaching their third straight NCAA championships match.

Golf and tennis each shone at various points during the season, while the Track and Field athletes also had success and broke a few

school records.

Baseball and softball are both on the right track as well and in the midst of strong seasons that could result in postseason play.

As the first year being the Sports Editor, I'm proud to have had the opportunity to meet with and interact with so many players and coaches. Jacksonville State can be, and is, very proud of the competitive athletic teams they support, and Athletic Director Warren Koegel truly is one of the best in the business.

I'm already looking forward to the Fall.