



inTHE NEWS

Empowered

Camden Swatts crowned Miss JSU 2017

JoAnna Mitchell
Staff Writer

2017 as winner of the Lifestyle and Fitness portion.

Friday the thirteenth turned out to be a lucky night for freshman Camden Swatts. In front of a cheerful audience, the 18-year-old Dietetics major was crowned Miss JSU 2017 and received a \$4,600 scholarship for Fall 2017 and Spring of 2018. She will go on to compete in the Miss Alabama Pageant which will be held June 5-6, 2017.

The theme of this year's pageant was chosen by last year's winner, Madelynn Barker, who chose the "Empower" theme to honor the pageant's history of creating "confident young women with a servant's heart".

The first runner up and talent winner, Brianna Lucas, of Springville, Ala., received a combined \$1,500 towards her tuition for Fall 2017. Taylor Sloan, of Warrior, Ala. took home \$250 for Fall

In an interview with the Chanticleer, Miss JSU 2017 shared what it feels like to be chosen to represent her campus in the next phase of the competition: "I feel so blessed. I am excited to have the opportunity to represent JSU!" Swatts said. "I cannot wait to start serving the campus and community that I love."

Swatts is from Beauregard, Ala.

See SWATTS page 2



JoAnna Mitchell/The Chanticleer

TOP: Camden Swatts is crowned Miss JSU 2017 by Miss JSU 2016, Madelynn Barker.

Diversity Lecture Series Returns

"Mixed Messages: Sexual Conduct and Social Institutions" is the subject of Thursday's lecture. The lecture will be held in room 1103B on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Magic Palooza

Sponsored by Active Minds and Counseling Services, Magic Palooza is a free event for students. Come out to the TMB Auditorium between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fun!

Aurora Colorado Theater Shooting Debrief

Aurora Police Incident Commander and Aurora Police SWAT Commander will give a detailed debrief on the Century 16 active shooter incident. 8:00 a.m -12:00 p.m. in the Stone Center Theater. Free and open to all.

Board of Trustees

There will be a public Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, Jan. 23 at 1:00 p.m. on the 11th floor of the library.



Matt Reynolds/JSU



JoAnna Mitchell/The Chanticleer

LEFT: Swatts performs a contemporary dance routine in memory of her cousin during the talent portion of the Miss JSU pageant. ABOVE: Newly crowned Miss JSU 2017, Camden Swatts, waves to the crowd.

New men's basketball coach scores big points at JSU

Daniel Mayes
Staff Writer

"Coach Harper has won championships everywhere he's been, and there's no reason to think he won't continue that success at JSU. The future of JSU Basketball is a bright one."



Katy Nowak/JSU

JSU Men's Basketball head coach, Ray Harper, looks on as the men play Dalton State College on Nov. 22. JSU would go on to win 81-50.

That's what Jacksonville State University Athletic Director Greg Seitz said on April 6, 2016, the day that Ray Harper was announced as the new head coach of the men's basketball team, and, so far, Seitz's confidence in Harper seems to be well placed.

Harper came to JSU after leaving Western Kentucky, where he spent 5 years as head coach and led the Hill-

See COACH page 2

MLK Service Week benefits community

Dustin Fox
Staff Writer

To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, the American Democracy Project is hosting several service events for students and organizations at JSU. In addition to making a difference, students will be able to participate in a competition, earn prizes and make new friends.

A book drive will be held from January 17-27 for United Way. Donated children's and adult books will be given to those in need through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library

See SERVICE WEEK page 2



SWATTS from page 1

where she attended Beauregard High School. She was involved in cheerleading and several other school organizations. Swatts says she loved the close-knit nature of her hometown. In the next phase of the competition Swatts hopes to make many new friends.

“It is going to be a challenging competition, but I know I am going to make memories to last a lifetime” said Swatts.

Meg McGuffin, Miss Alabama 2015, is Swatts’ biggest inspiration. Swatts called McGuffin “fearless in all that she does.” The two met at Make Your Move Performing Arts where McGuffin teaches dance and Swatts used to take lessons.

“She was such an inspiration and confidence builder to all of the kids by promoting her platform, ‘Healthy is the New Skinny’,” Swatts said.

Swatts is also thankful for and inspired by her

time with the other Miss JSU contestants.

“I will always cherish how loving and supportive all of the girls were,” Swatts said.

For her talent, Swatts performed a memorial dance for her late cousin, Trey Martin. According to Swatts, her cousin’s memory helped her maintain her passion throughout the pageant.

“Remembering my cousin, Trey, makes me want to work hard and always do my best,” Swatts said.

Swatts sees her future being filled with helping others maintain their health.

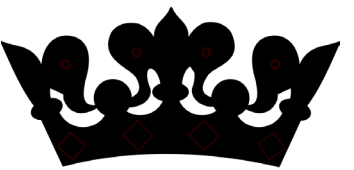
“I see myself being a registered dietitian, educating people on how to improve their health. I hope to help others understand how their diets can affect certain medical conditions,” said Swatts.

Swatts had this advice for aspiring con-

testants: “I would tell any aspiring Miss JSU to always enjoy the journey no matter where you are. Always work hard and prepare the best you can, then have faith that the outcome of the pageant will be the best for you.”

The pageant also spotlighted a “Rising

Star.” Lois Ann Wester, a straight A student from Oneonta, was honored for her accomplishments with the National Elementary Honor’s Society and her community service for the Oneonta Education Foundation. The Miss America Foundation is the world’s largest scholar-



Matt Reynolds/JSU

Chain of Success: Miss JSU 2017, Camden Swatts (left) poses with Miss JSU 2016, Madelynn Barker (center) and Miss JSU 2015, Cortlyn Watson (right).

COACH from page 1

toppers to the NCAA tournament twice.

Harper had first-hand experience with the heyday of JSU basketball in his final game as a collegiate player.

Jacksonville State defeated his Kentucky Wesleyan team in the 1985 Final Four en route to becoming NCAA Division II National Champions.

JSU’s previous coach, James Green, spent eight years in charge of the program, but found limited success, posting a winning percentage of above .500 in only one season during his tenure as head coach. Green’s JSU career culminated with an 8-23 campaign in his final season last year.

Despite arriving on campus at JSU less than a year ago, coach Harper already has the men’s basketball program heading in a positive direction.

Through 20 games of his initial season at the helm, Harper’s Gamecocks have already tallied 12 victories despite playing 16 games away from the friendly confines of Pete Mathews Coliseum.

Through five games of Ohio Valley Conference play, Harper’s Gamecocks stand at 4-1, their best

start since 2004-05, after managing just a 4-12 conference record last season.

The Gamecock basketball resurgence under Harper has been spearheaded by improved play from returning players from last year’s squad as well as some key newcomers to the program.

Malcolm Drumright has grown into a star player at the point guard position for the Gamecocks, leading the team in scoring with 12.9 points per game and assists with 4.2 per contest this year.

Senior Erik Durham has upped his scoring output from last season and has become a deadly threat to opposing defenses from the perimeter, shooting 53.4 % from behind the 3-point arc this season, good for third-best in the NCAA.

Christian Cunningham has made a huge impact on the defensive side of the ball for JSU in his sophomore campaign, leading the team in both rebounding and blocks with 8.2 and 1.4 per game respectively.

Newcomer Norbertas Giga has been a big addition to the Gamecock squad this season in more ways than one.

The 7-0, 245 lb. cen-

ter is a native of Kaunas, Lithuania, and made his way to JSU after a year spent at Midland College in Texas last season.

Giga averages 11.8 points and 7.9 rebounds per game for JSU, and was named the OVC Newcomer of the Week earlier this month.

Freshmen Tyrik Edwards and Jacara Cross also make valuable contributions off the bench for the Gamecocks in their first seasons at Jax State.

Harper’s turnaround of the JSU men’s basketball program since he began his coaching duties has been nothing short of remarkable so far, but there is still a long way to go for the Gamecocks before they can be considered an elite program in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Jacksonville State has momentum on their side right now after winning five out of their last six, but the Gamecocks’ next game, a road contest Thursday night against OVC power Belmont, is sure to be a litmus test for just how far coach Ray Harper has brought the JSU program since taking over the job.



Katy Nowak/JSU

LEFT: JSU men’s basketball head coach, Ray Harper, talks to Andre Statam (left) and Erik Durham (right) during the JSU vs. Dalton State College game on Nov. 22 in Pete Mathews Coliseum. The Gamecocks beat the Roadrunners 81-50. Harper was hired in April 2016. As of January, the Gamecocks are ranked second in the OVC. The Belmont University Bruins, whom JSU plays at Belmont on Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m., are currently ranked first.

SERVICE WEEK from page 1

and Little Free Libraries. Books can be dropped off in bins around campus including the TMB, Meehan Hall and in Room 107 of Martin Hall. Members of student organizations are encouraged to leave a note with their organization name with their donation. A prize will be awarded to the organization that donates the most books by the end of the drive.

On Saturday, January 21, food will be distributed at the Piedmont Benevolence Center from 7:30-11:00 a.m. Students are invited to help with the of a monthly drive, where food will be given to those in need, which they can take home to use throughout the month.

From 2:00-5:00p.m. on January 24, students can help at Anniston HOPE Women’s Services, doing yardwork and cleaning both indoors and outdoors. A group will carpool to Anniston, but others are welcome to attend even if they cannot stay the entire time.

Finally, the American Democracy Project will be spending time and playing games with residents at the Legacy Village Retirement Community in Jacksonville on Wednesday, January 25 at 1:30 PM.

The American Democracy Project plans

a service week around Martin Luther King Jr. Day to celebrate his mission. King strove for unity, giving back to people, and helping one another. This is a big part of the ADP’s mission, according to Angela Marino, who serves as a graduate assistant for the program at JSU.

“Our goal is to get students civically involved,” she says. The American Democracy Project works on college campuses across the nation to help students become informed, active members of their community. JSU has worked with the American Democracy Project since 2007, and Marino says the project isn’t about political leanings, but instead about learning about democracy and how to work together.

In the past, JSU has seen appearances from former Congressmen and a panel of Freedom Riders through the ADP. Marino says she hopes events like these and the upcoming service events will get more students involved with the American Democracy Project.

For information about volunteering and the American Democracy Project, call Angela Marino at (256) 604-6325 or email her at amarino@stu.jsu.edu.

Got something you want us to see?
Use #JSUChanticleer or send it to chantynewstips@gmail.com

STUDY BREAK



By: L. A. Bonté

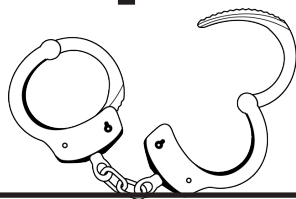


Comic by Anthony Labonte



For more comics visit FilbertCartoons.com

Campus crime report: 1/12 to 1/18



01/12/2017
Violation of the Student Code of Conduct
Curtiss Hall

01/15/2017
Medical emergency
Ampitheater

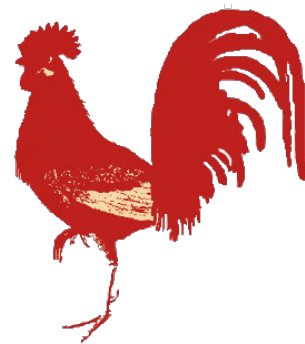
01/16/2017
Violation of the Student Code of Conduct
Crow Hall

01/17/2017
Criminal mischief
Merrill Hall

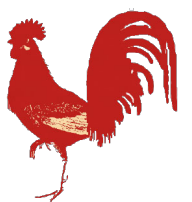
01/18/2017
Unlawful breaking & entering of a vehicle
Penn House Apartments

Witness a crime?

For emergencies, dial 6000 from any campus phone.



Chicken Scratch



Can David Bowie text you from Heaven?

I should be doing homework, but instead I'm looking at apartments in Memphis that I can't afford...

All my friends are saying "Rise Up" because Atlanta Falcons, and all I can think about is Hamilton.

When you would rather sleep on a bed of nails for the rest of the semester than fulfill this three hour obligation.

Kinda wanna sleep, kinda wanna start rewatching The Office.

I can't remember which book to bring to class half the time, but thank goodness I remember all the words to "Don't Trust Me" by 3oh!3

If feelings could just not be a thing. Yyeeaaahhh. That'd be great.

Opened up the center console in my car to get my charger and found a pack of Reese Cups I bought yesterday. #blessed

7-day weather outlook



Scattered Showers
High: 71°
Low: 58°



Scattered Showers
High: 72°
Low: 59°



Thunderstorm
High: 68°
Low: 57°



Thunderstorm
High: 69°
Low: 53°



Scattered Showers
High: 64°
Low: 47°



Mostly Sunny
High: 62°
Low: 46°



Showers
High: 68°
Low: 45°

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Engadget.com

Dive into the dreary world of the Baudelaire orphans in new “The Series of Unfortunate Events”

Alissa Camplin
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This week, Netflix unveiled its new and highly anticipated TV series, “A Series of Unfortunate Events.”

This series is a drama and mystery based off the children’s book series of the same title by author Lemony Snicket and follows the tales of the orphaned Baudelaire children

after their parents die in a fire.

Lemony Snicket is a pen name for author Daniel Handler, who wrote the series from 1999-2006.

They were released around the same time of the Harry Potter novels and film versions were considered being made to coincide with later releases. This brought about a feature film that covered the first three novels. Other movies were expected to release, but a falling out between Handler and DreamWorks occurred due to a “big crisis,” as explained by Handler.

Netflix’s first season consists of eight episodes that adapts the first four books: “The Bad Beginning,” “The Reptile Room,” and “The Wide Window.” The second season has already been renewed and has been rumored to entail ten episodes and contains books five through nine.

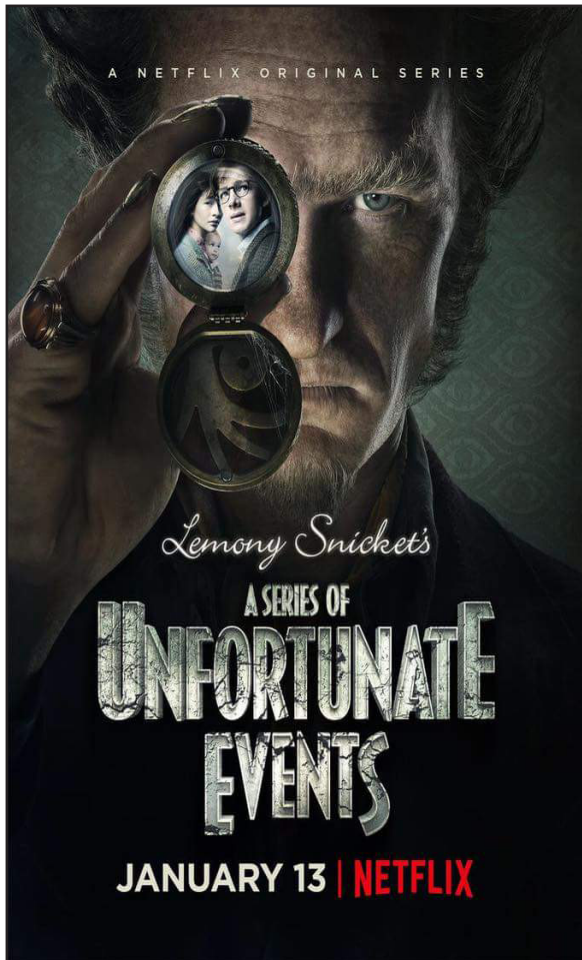
Famous faces have been seen and recognized throughout the series. Neil Patrick Harris takes on the role of Count Olaf, the evil guardian, flawlessly. Other actors include

Patrick Warburton as Lemony Snicket, Malina Weissman as Violet Baudelaire, Louis Hynes as Klaus Baudelaire and Presley Smith as Sunny Baudelaire.

The first season has received critical acclaim. Rotten Tomatoes gave an approval rating of 92% based off 37 reviews and an average rating of 8.2/10.

The series has been higher praised than the 2004 feature film which starred Jim Carrey as Count Olaf. USA Today’s Kelly Lawler said that, “The television format gave the stories more room to develop, the addition of Warburton as the fourth wall-breaking Snicket helped to convey some of the wordplay humor used in the books, and Harris’ portrayal of Olaf was ‘much more dynamic, and creepier’ than Carrey’s version.”

The episodes range from 42-64 minutes each and are excellent for an afternoon Netflix binge. Just cuddle up, have some popcorn, and engulf oneself into the dark and disastrous world of “A Series of Unfortunate Events.”



ReCap Blog



Collider

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Planetarium event out of this world

Kate Fleming
Staff Writer

Space is vast and wonderful, but it can also be incomprehensible. That's why, on this past Saturday, the Jacksonville State University Planetarium provided another Second Saturday Space Safari, an event dedicated to educating the community about astronomy. The Second Saturday Space Safari program

is a tradition at JSU. The second Saturday of each month, from December to April, is dedicated to these amazing events. The JSU Planetarium hosts these family-friendly events in order to educate the community on different aspects of the Final Frontier each month. January's theme was "Winter Stars" and focused on constellations visible during the winter months and stories from other cultures.

In the past, the program has offered viewings of the Star of Bethlehem, Larry Cat in Space and other educational experiences. General admission for the Space Safari is \$5 for the community and \$2 for JSU faculty, staff and students. James Gilbert, a JSU sophomore, took advantage of the student discount and learned all about winter stars. "It was a fascinating experience," said

Gilbert. "I had no idea JSU even had an event like this. It's pretty cool." The Space Safari program is geared for people of all ages. Many local schools plan trips to visit the planetarium a part of their science class. "I really wish we went on trips like this when I was younger, maybe I would have been an astronomer instead of an accountant," joked Kelly Perkins, another JSU student who has attended

these events in the past. Gilbert and Perkins are just two of the many students who have visited the planetarium's Second Saturday events. The JSU Planetarium is located on the third floor of Martin Hall and it is home to many year-round programs and events, led by members of the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences at JSU. The planetarium houses the Digistar 3SP projector,

which gives it the most modern digital planetarium technology in the southeast. The next Second Saturday Space Safari is scheduled for February 11. If you are interested in attending one of these events, contact the Jacksonville State University astronomy program coordinator Dr. Laura M. Weinkauff at (256) 782-5743 or e-mail weinkauff@jsu.edu.

Ed Sheeran releases new singles

Alissa Camplin
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Ed Sheeran has ended his three-year hiatus with the release of two new singles and a promise of his forthcoming album, *Divide*, stylistically shown as ÷.

Last week, Sheeran released, "Shape of You" and "Castle on the Hill," two drastically different songs that showcase his variety as a performer and as a songwriter.

Sheeran revealed recently that "Shape of You" was actually first written with Rihanna in mind.

The artist took to Twitter to announce the singles saying, "Cause I've been away for a bit, here's two singles rather than one."

This came after a week-long series of ambiguous tweets that gave small clues and even snippets of songs.

Sheeran just returned from taking a year off of social media to, "travel the

world and see everything [he] missed," Sheeran declares that his third album was coming and, "...is the best thing I've made thus far."

Not one to disappoint, Ed Sheeran's singles dominated the Official Chart for last week. The two songs outperformed the rest of the Top 20 combined. Each have largely surpassed the 100,000 mark within three days of their digital release.

Sheeran is the first artist to enter the Official Singles Chart at Number 1 and Number 2 with two new tracks. The tracks have passed 4 million streams apiece.

The official track list has been released and includes twelve songs on the studio album, and sixteen on the deluxe.

÷ will be available on March 3rd, while preorders began on Friday, January 13th. Although, that was not the original plan.

The recently released singles were

going to be dropped in September and the album was set to be released in November. He made the decision to hold off, saying, "The week the album was coming out was the week (of) the Presidential elections... I was, like, obviously if I come out with a record then no one's going to care".

He doesn't regret his decision, though, and adds: "It felt like a clean start to this year."



Idolator



Derek Brad Photography

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OPINION & EDITORIAL

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Thank you, Maintenance

Albert Einstein once said, “I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.” And I think that’s a pretty good life motto to live by.

I don’t know if you notice the many maintenance workers around campus, but I thought about them on my way into the office on Tuesday morning. We had just finished a long weekend, so trash was piled too-high in the trash cans, and some of it had blown out. Being the daughter of a biologist, I instinctively picked up the few pieces that I passed and threw them away in an empty trash can.

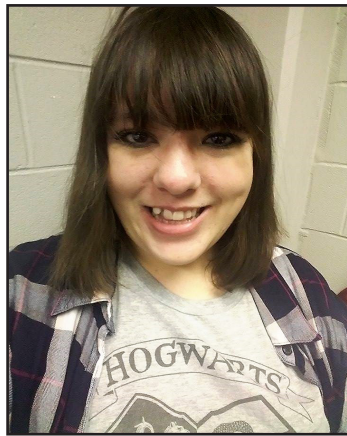
And then I thought, “Who would have had to do this if I didn’t?” And I looked out in front of me, and saw the trash that had been strewn across campus. I was going into work early that day, and it wasn’t even 8 o’clock. And then I answered my question: “Maintenance.”

Five minutes after I got to *The Chanticleer* office, Ms. Ramona came in to vacuum. It was barely eight, and I knew my office wasn’t her first stop that morning. And I found myself thinking about the Maintenance Department for the second time that day.

JSU’s maintenance workers—and I’m using that to include groundskeepers and custodians, too—come in early in the mornings or stay late into the night, mopping and vacuuming and taking out trash from the day. Sometimes, I don’t even see them, but I know they’ve been by when my trash can is empty like magic the next day.

It is pretty magical what they do. They do the things we groan to do: wake up early to unlock buildings; they take out the trash, blow the leaves and set up and take down events. They fix air conditioners and elevators, and, on more than one occasion, Maintenance Gary has been paged to my room in Stadium to fix our toilet or replace our microwave. Maintenance does the real work on campus.

And very rarely do we talk about them. A lot of times they’re forgotten about. Overlooked. But always happy to see you, even when you know they’re exhausted. Like the House Elves



Katie Cline

in *Harry Potter*. But without the men in women in Maintenance, JSU *would* fall apart within a month. And that’s being generous.

Plus, like my mom says, the cleaning ladies know everything.

So, the next time, there’s a stray napkin, like, three extra steps to my right, I’ll pick it up without internally groaning to myself. Because it’s not going to kill me to do it. And if I do, I’m saving the maintenance people three steps.

If I don’t pick it up, it’ll have to be Ms. Linda or Ms. Ramona, who always stopped to ask me about my classes when I worked in Bibb Graves.

Or Ms. Cindy, who leaves me candy canes and Christmas cards on my desk and asks about the paper.

Or the lady who washes the windows at Stadium at 7:00 on Thursday mornings (whose name I should have learned by now) and always makes me genuinely glad to be awake so early when she greets me.

Or Maintenance Gary, who leaves us notes on paper towels to gently point out that it’s *not* pee dripping from the ceiling but probably lemonade dripping from the trash bag on our door.

And they shouldn’t have to do more work than they already do.

So here’s what I should have been saying every day that I’ve ever set foot on campus:

Thank you, Maintenance. Thank you, Groundskeepers. Thank you, Custodians. YOU make JSU a pleasurable experience for me and so many others. Thank you.

Perception Check

Discussing the misconceptions of Dungeons and Dragons

Peter Abney
Special to the Chanticleer

Since the release of the original Dungeons and Dragons booklets in 1974, geeky college students have been huddling around tables pretending to be elves, setting up figurines on grids, and making silly voices. For equally as long there have been voices of criticism, ranging from those who simply find the hobby unappealing, to more serious accusations with eternal implications.

Dungeons and Dragons, or D&D, as it is commonly known, is said by some to be a game for nerds. To those people I say, “Yep.” The game is undeniably linked to mainstays of nerd culture such as *The Lord of the Rings* and other fantasy novels. However, there are many notable non-nerds who enjoy the game. Robin Williams, James Franco, and Vin Diesel are among the many actors who play. Author Stephen King, two time NBA MVP Tim Duncan, reporter Anderson Cooper, and entrepreneur Elon Musk all play or have played the game. The stigma of nerdiness that accompanies D&D is embraced by some and ignored by many, so it shouldn’t be the reason anyone decides not to try it.

More colorful criticisms of D&D sprang up in the early eighties from certain religious groups, usually concerning the games references to magic and devils. A common accusation was that *Dungeon and Dragons* was a tool for the recruitment of young people into occult activities. Jack Chick, author of many religious tracts, published a story in which a young girl gets involved in wicca as a result of the “occult training” she received while playing the game. The same tract stated that Hell would be the destination of all D&D players.

Patricia Pulling, of Richmond,

Virginia, founded (and was the sole member of) Bothered About Dungeons & Dragons (BADD). She founded the group after her son committed suicide, convinced that her son’s interest in the game caused his death. A man named William Schnoebelen, who claimed to be both a former Wiccan and Satanic Priest, claimed he was contacted by the creators of the game to “make certain the rituals were authentic.” The game has no mechanics requiring the literal performance of a ritual, so the meaning of Schnoebelen’s comment is unclear (unless of course he’s lying.)

For most people, Dungeons and Dragons is simply a way to relax and have fun with a group of friends. While many interactions with friends have moved to the computer screen, D&D brings people face to face, where they can talk, laugh, and fight with each other. Each person acts as a character in a story, either prewritten by the creators of the game or created by one of your friends. This method of cooperative storytelling is the perfect fit for those who enjoy improv, which is likely why so many actors enjoy it.

My advice to anyone interested in Dungeons and Dragons is to grab the starter set at your local bookstore, grab some friends at your local friend-store, and jump right in. The rules will guide you, but aren’t critically important, so there’s no need to be intimidated by them. If you end up disliking it, then that’s fine. Maybe you can use the boxes and dice to create a nice Christmas ornament. However, if you find that you enjoy it, it may just become one of your favorite ways to spend time with your friends.



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SPORTS

Muske's near perfect mark over OSU highlights Gamecock Rifle

COLORADO SPRINGS, Co. – The Jacksonville State rifle team ventured out to the Air Force Academy for a pair of two matches over the weekend against Air Force and Ohio State.

In Saturday's tri-match, the Gamecocks turned in an aggregate score of 4626. The Buckeyes edged the host-Falcons, 4673-4671.

JSU posted a 2292 in smallbore and 2334 in air rifle.

In Monday's battle with OSU, Jax State collected a 4624 to fall to OSU, who tabulated a final mark of 4666.

Senior Brandon Muske was the top overall individual against OSU with a combined score of 1180.

The Benham, Texas native had the top mark in both the smallbore and air rifle.

Muske counted a 581 in smallbore and a 599 in air rifle, which was a season-best for him and one mark off of a perfect score in NCAA rifle.

In the first match of the weekend, Muske recorded a 591 in air rifle.



JSU Sportswire

In the tri-match, Trace Haybes tallied JSU's top mark in smallbore with a 578, Garrett Rabel, Carter Santrock and Mekenna Richardson all finished in the top-10 individually in smallbore.

Santrock added a 588 in air rifle to claim a top-10 spot and was sixth overall.

JSU's David Sink turned in a top-

five finish in smallbore on Monday with a 578, while Santrock finished behind Muske in air rifle with a 584.

The Gamecocks continue action this weekend, traveling to Murray, Kentucky for the annual Withrow Invitational, hosted by Murray State.

-JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Brandon Muske (FAR LEFT) turned in a the top individual score of 1180 against Ohio State University. Garrett Rabel (LEFT CENTER) and Mekenna Richardson (RIGHT CENTER) both finished in the top-10 in the small bore individuals. David Sink (FAR RIGHT) finished in the top-5 small bore individual.

Edwards wins high jump, JSU has solid season opener

BIRMINGHAM – The Jacksonville State women's track and field team had a strong showing in the season's first meet at the UAB Vulcan Invite on Saturday.

Sophomore Erica Edwards brought home the Gamecocks' sole first-place finish in the high jump event.

The sophomore from Thomasville, Ga., recorded a height of 1.69 meters, nearly five and a half feet.

She was only a few inches shy of her program record set as a freshman last February.

The field events yielded the top results for JSU on Saturday.

In the Pole Vault competition, juniors Samantha Patterson and Laura



JSU Sportswire

Sewell finished back-to-back with Top-10 spots.

Patterson finished sixth (3.35m), while Sewell (3.20m) came home seventh.

Courtney Bennett con-

tinued her dominance at the shot put.

Her toss of 14.42 meters was good enough to place fifth, while freshman Sophia Merritt place 8th with a distance of 13.71 meters in her first collegiate meet.

Bennett later had another Top-10 finish in the weight throw.

Sophomore Brittany Cook finished fourth in the Triple Jump at 11.66 meters.

She also recorded a Top-20 finish in the women's long jump competition.

On the track, JSU had one of its better runs in the mile event.

Ju-ells McLeod fin-

ished 11th with a time of 5:23, while teammate Emily Sorrell was just a few spot back in 14th at 5:25.

Aubrey Cole provided another strong distance run with an 11th place time in the women's 5,000 meter race.

Jax State also had Top-20 times from Kayla

Thompson in 200 Meter Dash, Jasmine Parham in the 400 Meter Dash, and Emily Sorrell in the 800 Meter Run.

In the 4x400 relays, JSU finished with the eighth fastest time for Division I programs with a 4:06.50 mark.

-JSU Sportswire



JSU Sportswire

Ju-ells McLeod (LEFT) finished 11th in the track competition race with a time of 5:23, while Emily Sorrell (RIGHT) finished 14th with a time of 5:25.

Gamecock Side Bar

Upcoming Gamecock Action

1/19
-Men's Basketball
at Belmont*
Nashville, Tenn. 7 p.m.

1/21
- Rifle
at Murray State*
Murray, Ky.

- Women's Basketball
at Tennessee State*
Nashville, Tenn. 5:30 p.m.

- Men's Basketball
at Tennessee State*
Nashville, Tenn. 7:30 p.m.

1/25
- Women's Basketball
at Eastern Kentucky
Richmond, Ky.

1/26
- **Man's Basketball**
vs. Eastern Kentucky
"The Pete" 7 p.m.

BOLD = Home Event * = OVC Event

OVC Men's Basketball

School	OVC	O/R
EAST		
Belmont	5-0	11-4
Jacksonville State	4-1	12-8
Tennessee State	3-2	12-6
Morehead State	3-2	7-11
Tennessee Tech	3-2	7-13
Eastern Kentucky	1-4	8-12
WEST		
Murray State	4-1	10-9
Austin Peay	2-3	6-13
UT Martin	2-3	12-8
SEMO	2-3	7-13
Eastern Illinois	1-4	9-9
SIUE	0-5	5-14

OVC Women's Basketball

School	OVC	O/R
Belmont	6-0	14-5
Murray State	4-1	12-6
Eastern Kentucky	4-1	7-11
Morehead State	4-2	14-5
Tennessee Tech	3-2	6-12
Austin Peay	3-3	9-10
Tennessee State	2-3	7-8
SEMO	2-3	8-10
Jacksonville State	1-4	8-9
SIUE	1-4	5-13
UT Martin	1-4	4-14
Eastern Illinois	1-5	5-13

NCAA Rifle Top 20

1. Texas Christian
2. West Virginia
3. Murray State
4. Air Force
5. Kentucky
6. Alaska Fairbanks
7. Ohio State
8. Nebraska
9. NC State
10. Nevada
11. Memphis
12. Army
13. Ole Miss
- 14. Jacksonville State**
15. Akron
16. Navy
17. UTEP
18. Morehead State
19. UT Martin
20. North Georgia



JSU Sportswire

Gamecocks stop Tennessee Tech

Rebekah Hawkins
Staff Reporter

The Gamecocks moved up to second place behind Belmont in the OVC standings with a win over Tennessee Tech on Saturday 74-59.

Norbertas Giga helped tremendously with the victory.

He was 9-of-24 for shots made as well as perfect on free throws.

Jacara Cross also made waves going 6-for-11 and 2-of-3 on free throws.

The Gamecocks also had 18 offensive rebounds compared to TTU's seven.

Giga's 20 points made were a career-high.

The Gamecocks controlled most of the match from the beginning.

They jumped out to a fast lead in the first half.

Giga's layups and Malcolm Drumwright's 3-pointer helped them be ahead 7-2 early.

TTU began to close in while the Gamecocks halted at 12.

The Golden Eagles came within one but Tyrik Edwards hit a jumper to push the Gamecocks back out ahead by three.

TTU fought to keep the score within reach and were able to until a layup by Christian Cunningham gave the Gamecocks a five-point lead.

From there JSU built on their lead steadily.

By the four-minute mark of the



JSU Sportswire

Norbertas Giga (LEFT) led the Gamecocks with a double-double with 20 points and 12 rebounds in their win over Tennessee Tech. He was also a perfect 2-for-2 in free throw attempts. Malcolm Drumwright (CENTER) and Jacara Cross (RIGHT) both recorded 14 points and eight rebounds for JSU. Drumwright was a perfect 6-for-6 in free throw attempts, while Cross went 2-for-3 from the charity stripe.

half JSU was ahead by ten.

A late three-pointer from TTU's Hakeem Rogers gave the Golden Eagles a boost the cut the Gamecocks' lead to just six.

Jacara Cross hit a layup and gave JSU an eight-point lead again.

Two free throws from the Golden Eagles later and the half closed with the Gamecocks ahead only by six 33-27.

The second half opened with the Gamecocks effectively taking care of business with the lead.

Cunningham, Cross and Drumwright helped JSU stay ahead by eight or more points until around the 15:00 minute mark.

Free throws from TTU finally

cut the score back down to six but Drumwright hit another three-pointer to give the Gamecocks a nine-point lead 44-35.

TTU's Aleksa Jugovic hit a three-pointer to cut the lead to just four.

Edwards answered for the Gamecocks to push it back up to six.

A foul on Norbertas gave TTU the opportunity to hit two more free throws cutting the lead back down to four.

Jugovic and Rogers hit two layups in succession to tie the game for the first time since the opening seconds of the game.

Cross gave the Gamecocks a two-point lead with his layup.

It was cut to one after a free throw

from TTU.

The score sat at 54-53, the Gamecocks still clinging to a lead.

Two free throws from Giga started a nine-point scoring run by the Gamecocks before TTU was able to score again.

Late in the half JSU broke away from TTU and went ahead by double digits.

They secured their 15-point victory with a dunk by Cunningham.

The Gamecocks move to 12-8 on the season and 4-1 in OVC play.

They will play first place Belmont on Jan. 19 then they travel to Tennessee State on Jan. 21.

Late basket lifts TTU over Gamecocks

Daniel Mayes
Staff Reporter

The Jacksonville State University women's basketball squad suffered a heartbreaking, 56-54 defeat at the hands of the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles on the road in Cookeville, Tenn. on Saturday night.

The Golden Eagles scored the final 2 points with just 3 seconds remaining in the game to take down the Gamecocks in a game that saw JSU possess the lead for most of the afternoon.

Junior forward Tasha Magruder scored the first points of the contest to give the Gamecocks a 2-0 lead, and a back and forth first quarter ended with Jacksonville State on top, 11-9.

Magruder and Tyler Phelion shared the lead in scoring for the Gamecocks, as both chipped in 13

points in the losing effort.

The Gamecocks' stifling defense held the Golden Eagles to only 6 points in the second quarter while JSU's Lacey Buchanon scored 6 by herself in the period.

The Gamecocks stretched their lead to an 8-point margin, 23-15, at the halfway point.

Jacksonville State struggled from the floor throughout the first half, shooting just 30.0%, but managed to hold TTU to just 19.23% from the field in the opening half, leading the Gamecocks to the halftime advantage.

JSU came out on fire in the third period, scoring 13 points in the first 5 minutes and taking a 15-point lead, their largest lead of the game, at the 4:00 mark of the third quarter with the scoreboard reading 38-23.

However, the red hot Gamecocks then went ice cold on both sides of the ball, connecting on just one free

throw over the next 9 minutes of game action, allowing the Golden Eagles to soar back into the game and snatch the lead with a 20-1 run, making the score 39-43 in favor of Tennessee Tech with 5:36 remaining in the fourth.

Jacksonville State refused to surrender to TTU following their huge run, however, and the Gamecocks regained the lead at 45-44 with 3:12 remaining in the game.

The two teams scored huge basket after huge basket down the stretch of the game, as the lead changed possession 5 times in the final three minutes of action.

TTU's Yaktavia Hickson converted on a three-point play to give the Golden Eagles a 54-52 lead with just 28 seconds remaining in the game.

The Gamecocks answered almost immediately after a quick timeout, as a defensive bust by TTU on the

inbounds pass allowed JSU's Tyler Phelion to get open under the basket.

Phelion converted on a layup despite being fouled, but was unable to sink the ensuing free throw, leaving the score tied up at 54 with 26 seconds remaining.

After draining most of the remaining time off of the clock, Tech's Hickson connected on a clutch jump shot to give the Golden Eagles the lead with only 4 seconds left in the game.

Buchanon received the inbounds pass, stormed down the floor and let fly a desperation attempt as time expired, but the shot was off the mark.

The Golden Eagles came out on top 56-54 after the frenetic final sequence.

After the defeat, JSU's record falls to 8-9, including a 1-4 in OVC play.

The Gamecocks travel to Tennessee State on Saturday to play the Tigers at 5:30 p.m.



WHERE YOU'RE GOING.