Chief Warrant Officers Ronald Young Jr., 26, of Lithia Springs, Ga., left, gets off of a CH46 helicopter in Numaniyah, Iraq, en route to a C130 to take him to Kuwait, Sunday. Young and six other American prisoners were found alive and well Sunday after their captors fled from U.S. Marines advancing towards Tikrit.

**Rescued POWs recount capture**

By Juan O. Tamayo
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

ABOARD A C-130 OVER IRAQ — Sunday, on her 21st day as an Iraqi prisoner of war, Army Spec. Shoshana Johnson thought that she and six other American prisoners of war would be killed because their guards were afraid of the ever-approaching American attacks.

“We were a hot potato,” said Johnson, 30, an Army cook with six-inch braids. The POWs were moved through six holding places in the last six days alone, she said. “It was getting to the point where I believed they were going to kill us.”

Instead, a squad of Marines stormed into the room where they were being held, rescuing the last Americans known to have been captured by Iraq.

A few hours later, the POWs were telling of their ordeal: of being overwhelmed by Iraqis in a firefight where their weapons jammed from the sand. One of the POWs said villagers had held a knife to his throat and had beaten him and a fellow captive with sticks.

At one point, a U.S. bomb sent the bricks of their prison showering down, and one of the prisoners, Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young, reached through a crack that had been opened and unlatched his cell door. But guards thwarted the escape.

“I was asking them if they were gonna kill me,” said Pfc. Patrick Miller, 23, of Park City, Kan.

His guards assured him they would not, Miller added, “but I still didn’t believe them, so I

see POWs, page 2

**Annual JSU event remembers the Holocaust**

By Rosalind Moore
The Chanticleer Staff Writer

“It is important that we remember the Holocaust and that it not happen again,” said Dr. Steven Whitton, professor of English and member of the JSU Holocaust Committee.

Each year, JSU remembers an element of history that has been associated with senselessness and grave adversity. The tragic plight of those who were persecuted, executed, and tortured during the Holocaust of World War II, is forever etched into the history of our world.

The JSU Holocaust Remembrance began in 1982 as a project of the Wesley Foundation. Through years of development, the memorial has become a major event, and a dedication to learning from past wrongs.

Last Thursday the JSU Holocaust Memorial Committee hosted this year’s remembrance ceremony. The keynote speaker for the night was Henry Aizenman, now a resident of Birmingham.

The mission statement of JSU’s Holocaust Committee emphasizes a dedication to “educating members of the University community and the community-at-large” in a time of Remembrance.

This year’s remembrance was moved from the library conference area to the Ernest Stone Performing Arts Centre Theatre.

“The new venue worked very well for the program,” Whitton said. “I heard many comments and people were very pleased. They were more comfortable and they could see better in the theatre.”

The program began with a welcome from newly elected SGA president, Chris Cook, English department professors, Susan Sellers and Teresa Reed, who also announced winners of the “Imagining the Holocaust” writing contest for middle school and high school students.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, Aizenman. Aizenman was nine years old when, he and his family were put into the Warsaw Ghetto and were transported to over a dozen different concentration camps.

He answered questions from the audience and also gave words of wisdom to the nearly 200 listeners that crowded into the Stone Center theatre.

Aizenman was liberated by American forces at the age of 14, and he commented that “That’s when [his] life began.”

“I am a great American patriot,” Aizenman said. “Not a mindless patriot, that thinks everything America does is

see Holocaust, page 2

**Student injured in accident will graduate**

By Ben Cunningham
The Chanticleer Editor in Chief

A JSU senior seriously injured in an accident that killed two people this month will be able to graduate next week, his mother said Monday. Bradley Gordon, a 23-year-old senior from Acworth, Ga., will graduate with a degree in geography his mother, Nancy Gordon, told The Chanticleer on Monday. That’s despite the fact that the accident crushed his foot and broke his collarbone and jaw.

The accident took place on U.S. Highway 278 near Piedmont, on April 5. Bradley Gordon’s jeep collided with a vehicle occupied by Gregory Scott Westbrook, 41, of Jacksonville, and Saratha Jackson, 32, of Piedmont. Westbrook and Jackson died shortly after the wreck, according to accident reports.

Westbrook was treated at Gadsden Regional Medical Center, and was released on Monday evening, his mother said.

Nancy Gordon told The Chanticleer that her son was determined to graduate despite his 10-day hospitalization.

“It took a lot of hard work,” Nancy Gordon said. “It took a lot of work just to get him out of this hospital.” She credited her son’s friends, his Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity brothers and his sister Jessica, also a JSU student, with supporting him through his hospitalization.

**Students sell themselves at JSU Interview Day**

Last Wednesday 10 companies came to JSU to interview potential employees. Students scheduled more than 100 interviews with companies such as McCartney Construction, Anniston Army Depot, BOA2 Printing, BellSouth, Enterprise, Equity Group Georgia Division, L.L.C., Gazelle Consulting, Honeywell, Primerica and Sherwin Williams.

“It gives two avenues,” said Janet White, director of Career Placement Services at JSU. “One gives student the opportunity to participate in multiple interview styles. Secondly, it brings new companies to campus. Many of them don’t know we’re even here.”

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**By the numbers:**

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POWs: flown to Kuwait for check-ups (from page 1)

 kept asking.
 “I thought I would never see my wife again,” said a sobbing Chief Warrant Officer David Williams, of Orlando, Fla.

 The POWs, some still wearing striped pajamas issued by their captors, were flown by C-130 transport to Kuwait for medical checkups.

 “All the words in the world can’t explain how I feel,” Hernandez, 21, from Mission, Texas, said during the one-hour flight to Kuwait.

 Col. Larry Brown, operations chief for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said the POWs were rescued after some of their guards approached Marines near the town of Samara north of Baghdad. The guards told the Marines their officers had deserted and they wanted to hand over the Americans.

 The rest of the convoy was scattered all along the highway. Nasiriyah residents first looted the American trucks, then turned their wrath on the soldiers. “A couple of people punched me, a couple of people hit me in the back with sticks,” said Miller.

 Not Johnson. They opened her chemical weapons suit “and noticed I was a female,” she said. Then they treated her “very well. I don’t know why.”

 At almost the same time, Williams was piloting his Apache southwest of Baghdad, with Young manning his guns, when a 23 mm cannon round split the leather on the toe box of his left boot, burning his foot and forcing him to land.

 “We tried to evade. Unfortunately there was a lot of infantry around,” said Williams, 31. They got on their survival radio, hoping to be picked up by another chopper, but saw only another aircraft with flames shooting out of its belly.

 Williams said they jumped into a canal and swam “a quarter, half a mile, real slow, you know, just the head showing.” They emerged and headed for a stand of trees but were spotted by armed villagers.

 “They shot a couple of warning shots at us. We decided to surrender,” said Williams.

 The villagers “beat us a little, one of them with a stick,” he said. “One of them even put a knife to my throat,” before the prisoners were thrown in the back of an open truck at 2 a.m. and driven around, making stops every once in a while “to show all the other people that they had captured Americans.”

 Five of the POWs were members of the Army’s 507th Maintenance Company’s “Lost Patrol,” a lightly guarded supply convoy that got lost and wandered into an ambush in the southern Iraqi city of Nasiriyah on March 23, the first Sunday of the war. Nine soldiers were killed and six were captured, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, who was rescued last week.

 Two of the POWs were aboard an Apache attack helicopter when it went down over southeastern Baghdad on that same day.

 “It wasn’t a little ambush. It was a whole city and we were shot from front, rear, left,” along a one- or two-mile stretch of highway with wide aprons to the side, said Sgt. James Riley, a lanky 31-year-old from Pennsauken, N.J.

 Johnson, from El Paso, Texas, dove under her truck but was hit in the ankles. Near her were Riley, Hernandez and Hudson. The rest of the convoy was scattered all along the highway.

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 The two groups of prisoners came together about two days after their capture in what they assumed to be an Iraqi police station in Baghdad, where they were given medical care, received blue and yellow striped pajamas and stayed for 15 days. They heard heavy U.S. bombings every night they were in Baghdad, the prisoners said, and on one terrifying night a bomb landed about 150 feet from their cells, buckling the tin roofs and blowing open the food hatch on Young’s cell door.

 “A lot of the bricks fell down on top of us. I was lying on the ground, against the corner with the wall,” said Williams.

 Their conditions grew better as they were shifted through six locations in the last six days of captivity.

 “We could feel that Iraq was collapsing,” said Williams. “I could see the guards were nervous.”

 Their guards for the last three days were the best of all, they all agreed, reaching into their own pockets to buy them food and medical supplies.

 And then the Marines came to their rescue.

 “They broke down the door and shouted ‘Down, Down, Down,’” said Johnson. Added Miller: “They shouted, ‘If you’re an American stand up.’”

 “At first they didn’t realize I was an American,” said Johnson. They gave her a jump-suit from one of their light armored vehicles’ crewmen, but she held on to her prison pajamas in a hurry and she took them.

 Correction: In the April 3 edition of The Chanticleer in Students debate Arab issues, we named Shane Magbie as the recipient of the best delegate award.

 Allen Parris actually received that honor.

 From Holocaust, page 1

 I just believe that the United States is the best country in the world. I have never regretted my stay in the United States.”

 Aizenman talked about his experiences in the concentration camps of Poland and also talked about his new life in the United States. He is now a father and lives in Birmingham where he worked as a jewelry salesman.

 “I used to have nightmares for about 20 years,” Aizenman said. “When my son was in high school, I went and spoke to his class for a history project. I think he helped me more than I helped him, because my nightmares started to fade. I have been talking to groups ever since.”

 The remembrance ended with a traditional Jewish prayer, the Kaddish. Mourners at public services traditionally recite the Kaddish after the death of close relatives. Members of the Temple Beth-El in Anniston recited it at the remembrance as a memorial.

 “Sometimes, I think like it [the Holocaust] was yesterday,” Aizenman said. “Most times I think it was a dream or my imagination. I just want people to ask me questions because after I am gone, you will have to read about these things from a book.”

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