Paying tribute to those who paid the ultimate price

By Stephanie Pendergrass
News Editor

JSU will soon be commemorating an appalling event that took place during World War II. The Jacksonville State University Holocaust Commemoration will take place on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library.

The Holocaust Commemoration began as a Wesleyan Foundation project in 1982. Dr. Steven J. Whitten of the English department began working with the program at this time and has continued to be an active participant in the event. Whitten is not only the Jewish faculty member participating in the commemoration and has seen the project grow in attendance from 25 to as many as 250 people.

The committee for the Holocaust Commemoration consists of Dr. Whitton, Dr. Lemmons, Dr. Cadawallader, Ms. Cain, Ms. Suco and Stephen Brackett acts as SGA representative.

The Holocaust Commemoration will feature many participants. The keynote speaker for the program will be Mr. Henry Stern of Opelika. According to the Opelika-Auburn News, Mr. Stern, born Heinz Stern, escaped Germany in 1937 at the age of 5. He, along with his parents, sister, grandmother and an uncle left Hamburg, Germany and sailed to Ellis Island, N.Y., on the “last boat to carry Jews from Germany to other countries before the Second World War.”

Stern “graduated from Auburn University and helped found the Hollingsworth, Norman and Stern department store in downtown Opelika.” Mr. Stern later went into real estate and finally filled the position of executive director of the Opelika Chamber of Commerce, which he retired from in 1987.

Other features for the Holocaust Commemoration include readings from the English department. “The English department has a Holocaust Education Program entitled, ‘Imagining the Holocaust’ and win-

Student symposium offers intellect at JSU

By Stephanie Pendergrass
News Editor

Jacksonville State University students will soon be able to show off their hard work from this year.

The seventh annual Student Symposium will be held on April 9, on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. The program will begin at 8 a.m. and last until all the presentations have been made.

Admission to the Symposium is free and everyone is welcomed.

Planning for the Symposium is year round. Students are selected by their instructors to be a part of the program. A student must have done a project between last May and this spring and pre-

sent their research to be apart of the event.

Guidelines to participate in the Symposium can be found on the College of Arts and Sciences website. Some of these guidelines include:

- The participants should be among a professor’s most accomplished students.
- Presentations should be the result of research, defined in the broadest sense (including library and field work).
- Presentations are to be approximately 12-15 minutes long.
- Presentations may include, or consist of, poster sessions.

Members of the Symposium Committee include Dr. Carmine DiBiase-Chair, Ms. Diana Cadawallader, Ms. Jennifer Ferrell, Dr. Karen Henricks, and Ms. Janet Smart. DiBiase is in charge of putting the event together, while Cadawallader “oversees the design of the program cover,” said DiBiase.

According to DiBiase, “The Student Symposium features the best student work done in the College of Arts and Sciences, from laboratory experiments to research papers on literary topics.”

While this will be the seventh annual Symposium, DiBiase desires at least an equivalent program to past years. “I hope that it will be at least as rich and various as it has been for the last two years. We have been getting about 40 presentations for the last two or three years.”

Students preparing presentations for the Symposium are respected by the committee and their mentors. Participants in the program have worked hard to be apart of the Symposium and their work will be recognized on a higher level than the classroom. “They are the best of the lot. Their professors have judged them as such, and they can hold their own at any university,” said DiBiase.

Past Symposia have been marked by new and stimulating features. “Last year’s event was especially interesting because it included a new... Continued on page 3. Symposium exhibition.
JSU offering help during stressful tax season

By Dani Lusk
Staff Writer

Tax returns are one of the last things on a typical college student’s mind this time of year.

With finals and summer vacations coming up, most students get a late start on filing their federal and state tax returns. But there is some numerical relief available, if you get an early start.

The JSU Student Accounting Association will provide their annual free tax help for students until the end of tax season.

“We provided tax assistance for the simpler tax returns for students that would come by with their information and felt like they needed to ask some questions or we’d even sit down with them and do the tax returns,” said Floyd Kirby, faculty sponsor of the SAA.

The officers and members of the SAA will give the assistance for federal and state tax returns until tax season is over. However, the SAA will not file the students’ returns. “If [the students] wanted to file over the phone or electronically they did it somewhere else. We could direct them to the place where they could get that done,” said Kirby.

Along with free tax assistance, students can also find information through the IRS web site on education deductions for federal returns.

A new student loan deduction offers the opportunity to write off up to $2,500 in 2000 on a loan used to pay college expenses of the taxpayer, the taxpayer’s spouse or dependent. The deduction can be claimed for the first 60 months in which interest payments are required on the loan.

The Hope Credit provides a tax credit of up to $1,500 for qualified tuition and related expenses. Unlike a deduction, which reduces the amount of income subject to tax, the Hope Credit directly reduces the tax itself.

Some students may not qualify for the Hope Credit. A student who was awarded 2 years of academic credit for postsecondary work completed before 2000 cannot qualify for the credit, according to the IRS web site. Also, the student must be enrolled for at least half of what is considered full-time at their school.

Student-activity fees and fees for course-related, books, supplies and equipment are included in tuition and related expenses that can be claimed only if the fees must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.

Students may also claim a Hope Credit for qualified tuition and related expenses paid with the proceeds of a loan. However, if tuition or expenses are paid with a tax-free loan, such as a Pell Grant, a credit cannot be claimed for those amounts.

Students seek to cash in on apartment filth

By Stephen Shathey
TMS Campus

It’s all over but the cleaning. There’s $10,000 on the line for one of those lucky finalists who can boast living in the messiest college apartment in the U.S.

Friday was the last day votes were tallied for Apartments.com “Messiest College Apartment” contest, and the competition is getting sticky. Each of the three final contestants is eagerly coveting the grand prize of $10,000, as well as a free house cleaning which may cost Apartments.com another ten grand.

“I like to call my apartment Matt’s Dark Pit of Filth,” said Indiana University senior Matt Robinson, whose messy living space has now denied him the option of having guests over. “I eat a lot of take-out, the remains of which rot in the collection of paper bags that litter my floor,” said Robinson in his Apartment.com defense case for the messiest apartment.

Right now it is clean-up or clear-out time for Robinson, who after seven messy months in his apartment is faced with eviction by his landlord, making the $10,000 grand prize of particular importance to his future living situation.

But Robinson isn’t worried about eviction. He says, “that just gives me the opportunity to move on and start my mess all over again.”

The Associated Press reported Robinson as saying, “I don’t even care about the money; it’s more about the fame I expect to get out of being a slob.”

Apartments.com would not release the names of the other college slobs. But their apartment descriptions speak for themselves.

“We know that our landlords are filling up fast, so we have done our part to keep our trash inside,” said two University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point sophomores, who are striving to promote “biodiversity” in their toilet. They claim their porcelain god has more microorganisms growing in it than most biology laboratories.

A Harold Washington College sophomore defends her mess by saying “The best defense is a good offense,” in reference to the smell that permeates her apartment.

Pictures on the Apartments.com Web site show filth-ridden clutters of boxes, clothes, books and garbage. All of the finalists seem to have lost their sense of order in the clutter of their floors, and each contestant has grown used to the idea of sleeping on a mattress without sheets and covers.

Robinson doesn’t mind living in such mess, though. “I’m just too lazy to care,” he said.

The finalist apartments can be viewed online at www.apartments.com/messycontest.htm. Contest winners will be announced on Monday, April 9.