

# FEATURES



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## A Goodfriend visits

By Kris Kirby  
Staff Writer

What would you do if Alabama was invaded today? How would you feel if you thought there was no tomorrow?

Answers to similar questions came from JSU's Holocaust Commemoration held on the 11th floor of Houston Cole Library last Thursday. Keynote speaker Cantor Isaac Goodfriend shared his testimony with dozens of students, faculty and the general public.

Goodfriend said the worst thing was when the Nazis brutally beat his father right in front of him and then took his father captive for 24 hours, leaving the family with doubt that he would ever return. When he was returned, he was beaten so severely that he was crippled for months. "We lived every minute in constant fear not knowing what the next one would bring," says Goodfriend.

Goodfriend—a singer who leads prayer in Jewish temples—is a native of Piotrkow, Poland. He was incarcerated there at the age of 15 and was forced to live in a four-room apartment along with 41 other captives. The 5-block stretch of ghetto that Goodfriend called home was shared by 28,000 children.

"Life in the ghetto was not really humane, you can live without much

bread or water, but when we are equal to a pest that has to be exterminated, you lose your mind," says Goodfriend.

After a brief welcome speech, the invocation and candle lighting ceremony invoked a quiet, still mood that filled the ceremony. Moments later, Dr. Russel Lemmons, Department of History and Foreign Language, informed the audience that Holocaust victims were "dis-

**"Learn as much as you can, because education is the biggest weapon against bigotry."**  
—Cantor Isaac Goodfriend

proportionately killed," as two-thirds of the fatalities were made up of women and children.

Immediately following, Mary Catherine Brown, Department of Music, reassured the audience in song.

In the Polish-Jewish community, three million people died during the Holocaust. One-half of those

deaths accounted for children. Goodfriend says that he "questioned God in those days." One reason was that his 4-year-old brother was shot while clinging to his mother's hand. In the big picture, he could not believe that God would let innocent people perish in such cruel fashions.

But then one day he realized, "God didn't build incinerators, people build incinerators." He continued, saying, "If we would have had refugee shelters built, like in Kosovo, it would have been like paradise."

Goodfriend said that there was no reason that the Germans were so "beast-like," but that "the Nazi Commission paid well for killing people."

When asked "If students could learn one thing at the commemoration, what would you want it to be?" Goodfriend replied, "Learn as much as you can, because education is the biggest weapon against bigotry."

After a second musical selection, the ceremony concluded with the Kaddish, a traditional prayer of mourners at public services after the death of a loved one, as enacted by members of the Temple Beth-El of Anniston. That night it was offered in remembrance of the millions who were exterminated during World War II.

## Still room at the top

Tom Petty brings out a fine echo of sounds from before

By Kevin Cole  
Layout Editor

Tom Petty and  
The Heartbreakers  
Echo  
Warner Bro. Rec.



Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers return to the music scene with their 12th CD "Echo". This new release is reminiscent of the 1996 "She's the One" soundtrack in that it's harder hitting than something like "Wildflowers". The lyrics are filled with typical Petty philosophies: defiance, stand up for yourself, the underdog who triumphs in its own way.

The first track "room at the top" starts off very melancholy but pick up as Mike Campbell breaks in with his usual style that has earned him a lot of respect in the music industry. Track two has a great feel, similar to "Breakdown", as the Hammond B-3 fills the track out. Songs like "Billy the Kid" and "Free Girl Now" are two of the tracks that are prime examples of how this CD can rock in typical Heartbreaker fashion.



In today's digital recording age Petty, Campbell and Rick Rubin resorted back to the days of analog. Using supposed outdated recording equipment the trio created a masterful CD that fits the style of music. The CD has an airy, "Roots" feel that is a refresher in comparison to the "almost too clean, it's scary" digital recordings of today. The idea of using all analog is fitting for a band who seems to be timeless. Petty and the Heartbreakers have become a staple in the rock'n'roll diet for nearly 26 years and they show no signs of slowing down. We can only hope they keep "running down a dream" and we can tag along for the ride.

## Riverfest '99 flows fast into Gadsden

By Eric L. Adler  
Staff Writer

The third weekend in May means only one thing in Gadsden: Riverfest. The 14th annual music festival will take place on the banks of the Coosa River on May 14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday). Gates open at 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Riverfest is the largest music festival in northeast Alabama, attracting crowds throughout the Southeast. Last year, 45,000 people attended the festival on Saturday night alone and between 30,000 and 35,000 people attended on Friday night. The city of Gadsden blocks off the streets along the river near Moragne Park for both days of the festival.

The festival has traditionally featured country music stars, but this year's list of performers also features rock artists. Friday's lineup of musicians will feature rock music from Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, The Commodores and Survivor. Bertie Higgins and the Key Largo Band will perform several times on Saturday



Rock groups Alabama and Joan Jett & The Blackhearts are some of the performers appearing at Riverfest '99 in Gadsden, Ala., on May 14 and 15.

afternoon and country music stars Alabama, Diamond Rio and Juice Newton will perform that evening.

In addition to music, Riverfest also offers a wide variety of other activities. One of these is a children's festival at Moragne Park. Magician Tommy Reese will perform throughout the afternoon on Saturday. Freestyle boat and ski exhibitions will take place on the river

on Saturday afternoon, 2 to 4 p.m., and a fireworks display begins at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday. Rock climbing and riverboat excursions will also be available, as will food booths, craft vendors and artisans.

Single day tickets are for sale only at the Gadsden Chamber of Commerce, located at 1 Commerce Square in Gadsden. Two-day passes are available through The Bank, Compass Bank, Exchange Bank, Regions Bank and Southtrust Bank branches in and around Gadsden. Tickets are also available through Alabama Power (Gadsden), MIX 102.9 and Z-93.

Tickets cost \$15 for one day and \$20 for two days. Children's tickets cost \$5 for one day and \$6 for two days. Ticket Link is also selling Riverfest tickets at (800) 277-1700.

Riverfest takes place on the west side of the Coosa River three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. Highway 431 on Albert Rains Boulevard. For more information on Riverfest, call the Gadsden Area Chamber of Commerce at (256) 543-3472 or visit the official Riverfest web site at <http://www.cybrtyme.com/rfest/htdocs/>.

### Featured Artists:

#### Friday, May 14th

6:30-7:45 p.m. Survivor  
8:15-9:30 p.m. Joan Jett & The Blackhearts  
10-11:30 p.m. The Commodores

#### Saturday, May 15th

Afternoon Bertie Higgins and the Key Largo Band  
7-8 p.m. Juice Newton  
8:30-9:45 p.m. Diamond Rio  
9:45 p.m. Fireworks display  
10:15-11:30 p.m. Alabama