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It's never too early to have some Christmas cheer

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/its-never-too-early-to-have-some-christmas-cheer/

November 12, 2020



Breanna Hill, *Features Editor*

The topic of whether celebrating Christmas too early is heavily divided on. There are two kinds of people: those who are ready to put up their Christmas tree the day after Halloween and the people who cringe when they hear “All I Want for Christmas is You” by Mariah Carey on the radio before the end of October.

The newest question to be discussed online is: can this year be any different because of ongoing circumstances? I.e. this year being the worst year ever.

There's no denying that this year has consisted of more downs than ups. This year has tested everyone and brought on different challenges for all of us. We've all experienced numerous heartbreaks together while dealing with our own challenges, and spreading Christmas cheer might be what everyone needs right now.

Though Thanksgiving is generally overshadowed by Christmas, I tend to see these two holidays as a pair. Both are filled with time spent with loved ones, traditions and great food. I don't mind that the holidays tend to bleed together into a haze. The Christmas cheer, and holiday spirit in general, is something to look forward to, not something to cringe away from. This year we need it most because of the hardships we've faced. This year is finally coming to an end, and with that hopefully we'll all receive what we're aching to have.

A new year, a new beginning used to be a saying I made fun of, but now I'm longing for what that inspirational quote stands for. Downing someone for playing Christmas music earlier than usual or decorating for the holidays earlier than usual isn't needed. It could be something that makes them happy, and we could all use something that makes us happy nowadays.

2020 has shown us just how precious time spent with loved ones is. We need to cherish the holidays and the times we get to see them. There has been an insurmountable amount of loss this year, and it has served as a reminder that time is precious and never promised.

Join in when your family decorates their Christmas tree. Help your dad hang the lights on the gutters. Go shopping with your grandparents. Bake cookies with your nieces and nephews. Cherish these moments because they may not be as often as you'd like.

Whatever your feelings are towards the holidays, power through and have a wonderful end to a bizarre year. Happy Holidays, everyone.

JSU basketball set to play 20 league games this season

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/jsu-basketball-set-to-play-20-league-games-this-season/

November 12, 2020



Jamerious Borden, *Correspondent*

The Ohio Valley Conference finalized its basketball schedules on Thursday, Nov. 5, giving Jacksonville State 20 league games this season.

Ohio Valley Conference teams typically play 18 league games, but the conference decided to increase conference play to 20 games due to the pandemic.

“Our athletic directors explored a number of scheduling options designed to address the scheduling challenges we may face due to the pandemic,” said OVC Commissioner Beth DeBauche.

DeBauche explained that the athletic directors made the decision to adopt the schedules and increase the number of conference games, but that the conference will stay true to “traditional conference scheduling structure.”

“Our intention is to play as close to a typical conference schedule as possible, but we stand ready to address scheduling challenges and modify the schedule during the course of the season should the facts warrant,” said DeBauche. “I am grateful to our OVC leaders for

their dedication, foresight and commitment to our student-athletes.”

Furthermore, teams will play every OVC team once and nine schools twice. In order to give teams proper flexibility to complete their non-conference schedules, schools were given absolute discretion to schedule their two games with their “travel partner” separate from the remainder of the conference schedule, according to the OVC’s press release. One of those two games must be scheduled before the holiday break and the other can be scheduled any time during the season, OVC officials said.

The 2021 OVC men’s and women’s basketball tournament is scheduled for March 3 to March 6 at the Ford Center in Evansville, Ind. It marks the fourth year in a row that the event will be held at the venue.

Jacksonville State’s men basketball head coach Ray Harper and senior guard/forward Kayne Henry fielded questions from the media via Zoom on Monday to preview the upcoming season. The Gamecocks open their season Wednesday, Nov. 25 in Tuscaloosa against the Alabama Crimson Tide.

“I am sure everyone is looking forward to getting started,” said Harper. “Obviously, with no scrimmages or exhibitions this year we will get started on Nov. 25, at Alabama.”

Harper said that his team is working each day to improve and that it was disappointing to see the season cut short with no tournament, emphasizing that the team is looking forward to playing.

“We have almost a whole new team, and we look at all of them daily and it changes from week-to-week” said Harper. “I don’t think I could name a starting lineup with just over a few weeks before we play.”

Competition exists for every position, Harper said, and he hopes that players will begin to separate themselves in the “next couple of weeks.”

“Kayne Henry is a leader, and the guy that has probably been the most vocal guy has been Brandon Huffman,” he said. “He is that kind of guy that brings energy to practice and continues to get better each day. We just have so many new guys that it is about developing chemistry.”

Huffman is a senior from the University of North Carolina who recently transferred to Jacksonville State University.

“We knew he was a really good player when we saw him in high school and watched some clips of him when he was at North Carolina,” said Harper. “He gets better every day.”

Since the beginning of his coaching career at JSU, Harper said that he has not had a player like Huffman and that he's a mixture of many of the players the team has had.

"He is a quick leaper and runs the floor at 6'11, 260 [pounds]," said Harper. "He has a chance to be a really good player in this league. I know his numbers at North Carolina do not jump out at you, but I do not think you will see those types of numbers here. We are going to get him the ball and he has the ability to score it."

Harper explained that the schedule is going to be difficult, especially "when you play Austin Peay twice, Murray State and Belmont twice along with Eastern Kentucky twice."

"I think 10 of the 20 games are against the teams that are picked ahead of us, but it is what it is," he said. "Anytime you don't play everyone twice, there is going to be someone with an advantage with the schedule. We just have to go take care of business."

"It has been a while since we have played against outside competition, and we have been practicing a lot, so we are looking forward to the season opening," said Henry.

Henry said that he's been working on his ball handling since he could be playing more spots on the floor and that he's "improving every day."

"I think the one thing that excites Coach Harper is the energy on the team," said Henry. "He wants us to work hard every night and it is a great atmosphere when you can bring the energy every day."

The learning curve at the beginning of the season was difficult for his team without summer workouts, Harper said, but that it's been "pretty smooth."

"We did not get started until September with the four hours a week," he said. "We see progress and I think we will see progress throughout the season. We are not going to have a lot of time to adjust once we start playing. We will have to be ready to go from day one."

The JSU's women program was tabbed sixth in the preseason prognostication from league coaches and information directors, while guard Taylor Hawks was named to the OVC's preseason all-conference squad.

Hawks and head coach Rick Pietri joined members of the media via Zoom on Monday to discuss the upcoming season.

"I think going into this year and every new year, you are trying to figure out how to replace what you lost," said Pietri. "We lost four seniors last year in particular an all-conference player in Destiney Elliot and JSU's Eagle Owl award winner on the women's side in Chloe Long. Those are the two that we are going to have to replace in the team's production and how they helped us, so that is the first thing."

With a high number of newcomers, Pietri said, it's important to get everyone on the same page.

"As far as keeping everything as normal as possible," he said. "We do everything we can to keep everything as normal as it has been with the exception of how we gather. When we watch film, we watch in a large room wearing masks and lots of distance."

Pietri explained that film is an important tool to educating players and getting the newcomers acquainted to particular concepts.

There is no doubt that when a team loses multiple starters, it can be difficult for the team to adjust and find that new leader. However, in the case of Hawks, she has received a lot of praise from her coach and teammates.

"She has started at the point guard position her eight games of her freshman season and has played that spot ever since," said Pietri. "She has had a nice preseason in preparation for her senior year. Her teammates have a lot of respect for her."

"We are excited to get back to playing," said Hawks. "We have been preparing since July, so the adrenaline and energy is there and getting accustomed to one another."

Asked how excited the team was on a scale of one to 10, Hawks replied, "12."

Adjusting to the pandemic since March hasn't been easy, especially when finding a gym to workout in, Hawks said.

"It was tough finding a gym to get into," she said. "I think getting in the weight room has been a big thing because every gym was closed. It has been a big problem for us."

With the Gamecocks set to face off against Georgia on Dec. 9, Pietri said that the team is always excited to face off against Power 5 teams.

"We have represented ourselves well when we have played those teams in the past and I expect us to do that this time," said Pietri. "We have won games over Power 5 teams since I have been here. We won at Alabama in my second year and beat Ole Miss two years ago."

Pietri explained that the team's goal for the upcoming season is to go from the top 5 team to a "top-third team."

"When you look at the preseason polls, you see Belmont and UT Martin at the top and then you have Southeast Missouri, who won the tournament last year," he said. "We tied for fifth last year and got the fifth seed in the tournament last year, so we finished in the top half of a 12-team league. That is our objective, and we are going to try and accomplish that."

“This is a strong league and very well-coached from top to bottom,” he added.

JSU men’s basketball schedule

Nov. 25, at Alabama

Nov. 27, vs. Florida Atlantic

Nov. 29, vs. South Alabama

Nov. 30, vs. Mobile

Dec. 4, at Florida International

Dec. 6, at Florida International

Dec. 13, at Tennessee Tech

Dec. 16, vs. Tennessee Tech

Dec. 18, vs. Georgia Southwestern

Dec. 30, vs. UT Martin

Jan. 2, at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville

Jan. 7, at Eastern Kentucky

Jan. 9, at Morehead State

Jan. 14, vs. Tennessee State

Jan. 16, vs. Belmont

Jan. 21, at Murray State

Jan. 23, at Austin Peay

Jan. 28, vs. Morehead State

Jan. 30, vs. Eastern Kentucky

Feb. 4, at UT Martin

Feb. 6, at Southeast Missouri

Feb. 11, vs. Eastern Illinois

Feb. 13, vs. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville

Feb. 18, at Belmont

Feb. 20, at Tennessee State

Feb. 25, vs. Murray State

Feb. 27, vs. Austin Peay

March 3 to March 6, OVC tournament at Evansville, Ind.

JSU women's basketball schedule

Nov. 28, vs. Georgia Southwest State

Dec. 3, vs. Tennessee Tech

Dec. 5, vs. New Orleans

Dec. 9, at Georgia

Dec. 13, at Tennessee Tech

Dec. 16, vs. Samford

Dec. 19, vs. Alabama State

Dec. 30, vs. UT Martin

Jan. 2, at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville

Jan. 7, at Eastern Kentucky

Jan. 9, at Morehead State

Jan. 14, vs. Tennessee State

Jan. 16 vs. Belmont

Jan. 21, at Murray State

Jan. 23, at Austin Peay

Jan. 28, vs. Morehead State

Jan. 30, vs. Eastern Kentucky

Feb. 4, at UT Martin

Feb. 6, at Southeast Missouri

Feb. 11, vs. Eastern Illinois

Feb. 13, vs. Southern Illinois-Edwardsville

Feb. 18, at Belmont

Feb. 20, at Tennessee State

Feb. 25, vs. Murray State

Feb. 27, vs. Austin Peay

March 3 to March 6, OVC tournament at Evansville, Ind.

JSU honors veterans in virtual ceremony

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/jsu-honors-veterans-in-virtual-ceremony/

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Logan Irwin, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University hosted a virtual ceremony on Wednesday for Veteran’s Day to honor veterans around the country, both near and far. The ceremony was streamed on YouTube.

The beginning of the ceremony highlighted key moments from previous Veteran’s Day celebrations, including many “Thank you, Veterans” shoutouts from organizations across campus like the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, the Students Government Association and the Marching Southerners. The 2018 ceremony entitled “Armed Forces Medley” was also highlighted in the video.

Gus Edwards, a Reserve Officers’ Training Corps and Jacksonville State alumnus, spoke at the 2018 ceremony, and his comments were noted at the ceremony.

“Through JSU’s ROTC program, 1,540 cadets have been commissioned since 1947, and that includes me,” said Edwards. “Nine have been killed in the line of duty. My hope is that I represent them in a worthy way. Veteran’s Day honors all who have served in our

military's armed forces. Most of us were volunteers. We willingly agreed to go anywhere, at any time, to do any mission, so lawfully ordered, no matter what the risk, or how dangerous it was."

Randy Owen, a JSU trustee and lead singer of the country music group "Alabama," highlighted the Veteran's Day ceremony from 2016 with his performance of "America The Beautiful," while many teary-eyed viewers in the crowd sang along.

Near the end of the ceremony, a quote from Judd Gregg, a politician from New Hampshire, flashed across the screen, reading, "The veterans of our military services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment."

The next portion of the ceremony featured a section containing photographs and videos of veterans and current servicemen and women.

"American Soldier," a popular song by country artist Toby Keith, was featured in the background. The next sections of photos featured families and spouses at the gravesites of those men and women who gave their lives for America and its freedom.

"JSU wants to say Thank You to the courageous men and women who have sacrificed so much for this country," the video in the ceremony concluded.

JSU Organization Spotlight: Full Spectrum

 jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/jsu-organization-spotlight-full-spectrum/

November 12, 2020



Breanna Hill, *Features Editor*

Full Spectrum was founded in 2017 after it came to the attention of its first president and counselors that LGBTQ students had no social or support groups to participate in.

“We work to provide a safe and inviting social space for allied and LGBTQ students as well as people in our own community,” said Jacob Price, the current president of Full Spectrum. “We try to hit a healthy balance between support and social in Full Spectrum.”

In the past, Full Spectrum has worked with Alpha Psi Omega, Safe Zone and Umbrella Alliance on two shirt fundraising events during the month of October. They have also helped tremendously in creating the display for Jazzman’s at Houston Cole.

The organization works closely with JSU Counseling Services to ensure students involved with the organization are able to speak and set up an appointment with advisors in the department if need be.

Regulations have forced all organizations to take a different approach to their meetings. Full Spectrum decided to hold meetings on Microsoft Teams to respect the guidelines put in place by the university. They are also partnering with Alpha Psi Omega, Safe Zone and

Umbrella Alliance to continue holding fundraising events virtually. Their meetings are held on Teams every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Getting involved with the organization is simple: to join, follow the JSU Full Spectrum Instagram page. Students can send over their student email and the organization leaders will add you to the Teams call.

The organization also has a Discord server and consists of 30 members, with the mission of providing a safe and inviting space for allies and members of the LGBTQ community in Jacksonville.

“It is important, especially for new students, that are dealing with issues concerning gender or sexuality to know that a club like Full Spectrum is here for them,” said Price.

Full Spectrum prides their organization on their motto: “Remember to love each other.”

JSU partners up for Geography Awareness Week to promote new master's program

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/jsu-partners-up-for-geography-awareness-week-to-promote-new-masters-program/

November 12, 2020



Madison Bailey, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State University Department of Chemistry and Geosciences is partnering with the Office of Graduate Studies to celebrate Geography Awareness Week, which takes place between Nov. 16 and Nov. 20.

There will also be a celebration of World Geographic Information Systems Day during Geography Awareness Week on Wednesday, November 18.

During this week of celebration, the Department of Chemistry and Geosciences and Office of Graduate Studies will promote JSU's new Geographic Information Science and Technology master's degree program.

There is a big demand for it out there," said Joe Morgan, head of the department. "The need for GIS skills is growing every day – of all the research I've seen, we're looking at continuous job growth of 15 to 20 percent over the next 20 years."

The master's degree was officially launched this semester and branches from the Department of Chemistry and Geosciences in the School of Science.

Emily Yeend is one of ten graduate students enrolled in the new GIST master's program.

"The GIST Master's Program is designed for anyone no matter your previous GIS experience," said Yeend. "Students will learn how to use drones, GPS units, sound recording equipment, and so much more through the technology side of the program."

Yeend emphasizes how students can learn skills in the program that can be applied to numerous career fields depending on the student's personal interests.

"My personal interests are biogeography and conservation, and I would love to work at a National Park someday," Yeend explained. "I had the chance to travel to Yellowstone National Park with a JSU study tour group last year, and the trip showed me how many GIS opportunities are out there."

Yeend addressed the assumptions often associated with geography majors — usually relating to the memorization of state and country capitals — and how a geography degree can be put to use.

"The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts the field of GIS to grow by 35% each year and expect a shortage of trained GIS workers to fill these new jobs," Yeend noted. "Students enrolled in the GIS program can expect job openings in every state and have the privilege to work wherever they choose."

James King is another graduate student in the GIST master's degree program.

"The GIS Masters program teaches us how to both gather and present spatial data using various computer programs, like ArcPro and ERDAS Imagine," said King. "How we use the knowledge we gain in this program varies from cartographer to cartographer; that's the beauty of the program."

James describes himself as an "oddity" in the GIST master's program. He is a physical geographer who focuses on studying physical earth processes more so than creating maps on a computer.

"I see the incredible potential that GIS has to offer in my field," King explained. "I study the cartography and cartographic practices of maps that deal with planetary and celestial bodies within our solar system. It crosses over well with my background in geomorphology and physical geography."

King emphasized the relevance of the field of geography in our everyday lives. According to King, the recent presidential election map was “no doubt created and maintained by someone with a geography background.” He also notes that geographers created Google Maps and most likely assisted in collecting some of its data.

King believes that World GIS Day is more than just a celebration of the technologies that help maintain our awareness of the world around us.

“It’s a celebration of those that work tirelessly to create, maintain, and update maps so that our species may always know where it is going and where it has been,” he said. “The world can always use more geographers!”

During Geography Awareness Week, students can apply to the GIST master’s program for free and pick up a complimentary program t-shirt in room 206 of Martin Hall.

To apply to any JSU master’s degree programs, students must first create a JSU graduate account. After creating an account, students can access the JSU graduate [application list](#) and select the GIST program. Students can use the code GIS2020 to waive the application fee for the GIST program.

JSU students react to election victories of Biden, Tuberville

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/jsu-students-react-to-election-victories-of-biden-tuberville/

November 12, 2020



Ashleigh Crouch, *Correspondent*

On Saturday, Nov. 7, Former Vice President Joe Biden was projected to be the winner of the presidential election after Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes were awarded to Biden.

This election marks the first time that a sitting president has lost re-election since Bill Clinton defeated George H. W. Bush in 1992. Biden also won the most votes cast in any presidential election in U.S. history.

As of Thursday, the Associated Press has Biden with 290 electoral votes and incumbent President Donald Trump with 217.

Alabamians also elected a new U.S. Senator. Former Auburn football head coach Tommy Tuberville defeated incumbent Democrat Doug Jones handily, with 60.4% of votes cast to Jones' 39.6%.

The Chanticleer received comments from students on both sides of the political spectrum with reaction to the recent election victories of Biden and Tuberville.

“I feel like he will do more than Doug Jones has done while in his senate seat,” said one anonymous JSU nursing major.

“He’s proven himself to be an extraordinary leader over his many years of coaching football and I’m excited for what he’s going to do for the state of Alabama,” said a JSU freshman.

Some JSU students — who primarily said they tend to vote liberal — expressed dissatisfaction with Tuberville’s election.

“It’s disappointing as I feel people elected Tommy Tuberville simply because he was republican,” said Jeff Howard, a JSU sophomore. “I feel Doug Jones was the better candidate with better policies and he didn’t have a chance to win only because of his associated party.”

Other students displeased with Tuberville’s victory suggested that the former Auburn football coach does not have the necessary experience to serve in the U.S. Senate.

“A washed up football coach with a degree in PE doesn’t know how to be a senator,” Sarah Boger, a JSU junior majoring in forensic investigation wrote.

The reactions to Biden’s victory in the presidential election were just as broad.

“I feel much safer having Biden as president, and really think this will bring our country back together,” said an anonymous JSU forensic investigation major.

Some respondents said that they believe Joe Biden is the best person for the presidency out of the two given candidates, like secondary education major MacKenzie Taylor.

“I think that a Democratic leader is what the majority wants right now,” said Taylor. “I have no issue with Joe Biden, or anyone else really, beating Donald Trump.”

Caleb Martin, a JSU junior majoring in computer and information systems said he voted for Trump, but doesn’t “really support either candidate.”

“I’m not mad that Joe Biden is the President-elect,” said Martin. “I’m more confused on why he and Harris are the democrat party’s choice. If I had to talk about the public’s reaction to the election, I’d say everyone was worried about the outcome.”

One nursing student student, who asked to remain anonymous, echoed false claims of voter fraud.

“I believe that [Biden’s] victory is not apparent,” said the anonymous nursing student. “Statistical experts have come out and said that it is statistically impossible for hundreds of thousands of votes to suddenly appear for only ONE party. I believe that the Democratic Party has lost the last bit of integrity they once held onto during this election.”

There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud, according to the New York Times, which reached out to election officials in every state, all of whom confirmed that there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud or irregularities that affected the outcome of the election.

Overall, the one thing students could coalesce around is their distrust and dissatisfaction with government.

“We need to expect our presidents and elected officials to do more for us as a nation,” said JSU sophomore PD Stone. “Politicians pander to themselves and their own interests rather than ours. We need to change that.”

OPINION: An open letter to the President-elect Joe Biden

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/opinion-an-open-letter-to-the-president-elect-joe-biden/

November 12, 2020



Dear Joe,

Congratulations on becoming the 46th president-elect of the United States of America. Your months of debating, organizing and fundraising resulted in you receiving the most votes of any presidential nominee in American history. It is uncertain that any other nominee could have motivated and united the entire Democratic Party as you have.

In February, media organizations were predicting your team to drop out of the Democratic primary by late March.

In direct contrast, you gained momentum. South Carolina's Jim Clyburn's endorsement jump-started the overwhelming victory that you saw on Super Tuesday, including my home state of Alabama.

However, I say all of this to ensure you that your mission is just beginning. I would compare your situation to a quarterback: winning the starting position means that you must perform well on the field. The White House and the nation is your field.

After decades of partisan division, we need you to unite us and improve our way of life. We need you to be a president that all of America is proud of.

It is not a secret that the last four years have flooded our minds with racial division, a disease outbreak, broken foreign policy and a diminishing climate. The Trump administration introduced important policies, but their rhetoric and conspiracies crippled our Democracy. The very Democracy that our founding fathers fought and died in order to create.

Albert Camus, a Frenchman who received a Nobel Prize for literature in 1957, once said, "Democracy is not the law of the majority but the protection of the minority."

That perfectly states the rhetoric that the Office of the President should spread in the next four years. It is your job to speak on the behalf of those portions of the population that are unvalued, underappreciated, underfunded and/or unmotivated.

The late John F. Kennedy told us to ask ourselves, "What you can do for your country?"

The answer: love and care for the person next to you. The American public must understand that a random stranger on the sidewalk holds just as much potential and value as a millionaire. By instituting public programs, funding education and caring for the poor, that answer becomes possible.

You will be attempting all of those things listed while also blocking out the opposition that you will face.

Although Donald Trump will no longer hold office after Jan. 20, he will still own a Twitter account and his MAGA followers. You will be swarmed with lies, criticism and conspiracies for the entirety of your service. However, you can not cripple to this. We need a person in the oval office who will rebuke false claims and not embrace them. A president who will protect the legitimacy of our media networks and social platforms. This is important because without trust in our news platforms, we cannot have trust in what our government is doing.

Joe, you have overcome great loss during your life. Often to the point where it had to be near impossible to get out of bed in the morning. However, this is a brief period of celebration. A reflection of how every day of your 77 years led to this moment.

Watching your speech on Saturday night was heartwarming for my family and I. Seeing you on stage celebrating with your family shows just how much of a family man you are. And I know everyone you lost would be so proud of you.

I want to challenge you to transform our government's ideals. It must be a priority to eliminate partisan bias within the courts and Congress. This takes the help of Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Stacey Abrams, Nancy Pelosi and many more. The entire Democratic Party must be willing to listen and understand the Republican point of view. It is highly unlikely for there to be a compromise on their part, but it is possible to make the Democratic platform more representative for all of America.

Your hope in the 2022 midterms and 2024 general election relies on the ability to grow your coalition. But, if anyone is able to understand and listen to other's vision, it is you.

I know that you are a proud practicing Catholic and God plays a big role in your life. So, I will give you one of my favorite verses in the Bible: Revelation 22:21. It actually happens to be the very last verse of the Bible.

It reads, "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."

It sounds simple until you look into that last word: Amen. When translated into "Southern terms" it means "let it be."

The last word that God left us with in the Bible is let it be. So whenever you face opposition or challenges remember that God always takes care of his children.

I anticipate what your administration has planned for the next four years. Whatever the result, I could not have given my vote to a better candidate or a better man.

— Coley Birchfield

Review: ‘Come Play’ fell victim to predictability

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/review-come-play-fell-victim-to-predictability/

November 12, 2020



Breanna Hill, *Features Editor*

During my time as an editor for The Chanticleer, I have written numerous movie reviews and I’ve had something nice to say about every film. I’ve never felt the need to give a bad review for any of the films I’ve seen... until now.

I recently found myself with a ticket to see “Come Play” in theaters. This movie is categorized in the horror/thriller genre.

The preview I saw for the movie made it seem like it would be worth my while to watch it. The appealing trailer partnered with the need to have a fun night out landed me in a recliner with a bag of popcorn and great company.

I was thrilled and hopeful going into the theater. The lack of movement in the movie industry lately was a painstaking experience for a movie-lover like me. COVID halted anything and everything it seemed, and affecting the release dates of movies was part of it. Needless to say, this movie did not give me what I was hoping for.

The beginning of the movie looked promising because there was no build up whatsoever to the action.

Moments into the beginning, eerie things were happening to the little boy who played the protagonist in the movie. Right off the bat, I could tell when the jump scares were going to take place, which is not a good sign in this genre of entertainment. Predictability is the horror genre's worst enemy, and unfortunately, this film fell victim to its genre's enemy.

The plot itself was a little far-fetched for me, but seeing the preview made me believe that the movie would take a different angle, and sadly, I was mistaken.

I was willing to look past the odd storyline if the jump scares were able to get to me, but they didn't. They were way too overly predictable. I didn't even flinch. The acting was subpar at best. I didn't recognize a single cast member which appealed to me at first, and then slowly subdued as the movie continued.

The worst part of the whole movie happened at the very end. I won't give any spoilers, but the ending only made me hate the movie even more.

This movie only contributed to the fact that the horror/thriller genre is going around and around in circles. Movies in this category have a bad habit of repeating history and stealing from movies alike to try and get more people to the box offices. I'm beginning to question even more if I'll see anything new with movies like this. There's room for improvement in genres like these, yet I keep seeing the same predictable plots and endings with every movie I take a chance on.

I can appreciate the initial thought behind the storyline because it is unique. I have never even thought about something evil living behind screens, but I definitely think the movie could be better if more time was spent on trying out different angles to go along with the plot.

I would not recommend this movie if you're the type who lives for a heart-stopping jump scare. You won't find it in this movie. It's a predictable, and overdone piece of work and you wouldn't be missing much. 4/10.

Review: JSU-produced documentary ‘Forever Wild’ highlights Alabamian James Martin’s important conservation efforts

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/review-jsu-produced-documentary-forever-wild-highlights-alabamian-james-martins-important-conservation-efforts/

November 12, 2020



Whitney Ervin, *Correspondent*

The beauty of the state of Alabama is easy to take for granted if you’ve lived here your whole life. Taking in this wild life whether on the coast, hiking at Cheaha or exploring the Cathedral Caverns are staples of many of our lives.

Yet, the man who led the vast conservation efforts in Alabama, James D. Martin, has often gone overlooked. For this reason, “Forever Wild: The James D. Martin Story” is a must watch.

Martin served the state of Alabama for many years, including in Congress and is credited with having revolutionized the Republican Party in Alabama.

When Martin was asked to be on the Commission of Conservation, nobody guessed he would end up once again revolutionizing the state. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Alabama was quickly becoming toxic due to waste disposal. Not to mention our state parks

were in disarray.

Martin took it upon himself to renovate every single one of Alabama's state parks, and he did. He also helped oversee the acquisition of many other sites to become state parks, such as Cathedral Caverns State Park. His most revered achievement of all being the Forever Wild Trust Fund, an idea which he spearheaded in which 10% of the profits Alabama makes off natural gas is put into the trust for conservation purposes.

While the documentary mostly focuses on Martin's conservation efforts, he lived a very fascinating life overall.

The documentary clocks in at just under an hour, but I found myself wishing it was a bit longer. I would have liked to have seen Martin's military and political career get a bit more attention, considering we are told over and over again in the first twenty minutes how influential he was.

As someone who doesn't remember a time when Alabama wasn't predominantly Republican, I feel I could have appreciated Martin's efforts to bring the Republican party to the main stage in Alabama politics if I had more of an idea of what the political climate at that time was like. This part of Martin's life feels a bit glossed over and rushed through, with only about twenty minutes dedicated to both his military and political careers.

From the documentary, it is easy to see why he was able to achieve the remarkable feats he took on. Even in his personal life, Martin was willing to give extreme dedication to the things he loved.

His wife of 52 years, Pat Martin, described how when she lived in New York City for three years to study music he visited her so often that the stewardesses knew him by name.

Martin was a man who was always willing to take on the odds, and when he set his sights on a goal he was going to get it done. He was at his core an idealist who loved the state of Alabama. His story is an inspiring example of what one person can achieve with enough motivation.

He is an inspiration to remember that we should all try to do things for the betterment of the future generations, even if we don't necessarily get the praise for it that we deserve in our own lifetimes.

Riley Green set to perform at JSU on Nov. 20

jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/12/riley-green-set-to-perform-at-jsu-on-nov-20/

November 12, 2020



Staff reports

Country music singer and Jacksonville native Riley Green is set to perform a benefit concert at Jacksonville State University for JSU athletics on Nov. 20.

Green and other musical guests will perform in Burgess-Snow Field, and the gates will open at 5:30 p.m. The show will begin at 7 p.m.

The university is offering a limited amount of discounted tickets to students for \$20 [on the JSU ticket website](#).

General admission tickets are \$30 for upper level and \$50 for lower level.