



Rec Center Response: Survey shows students approve, despite some reservations



Matt Reynolds/JSU

The Chanticleer conducted a survey of JSU students and faculty to gauge response to Jacksonville State's new Recreation and Fitness Center.

Daniel Mayes
Editor-in-Chief

It's been a month since the long-awaited opening of the new crown-jewel of Jacksonville State University's campus, JSU's new Recreation and Fitness Center.

All University channels paint a well-deserved pride in the opening of the facility, praising the versatility the RFC provides for Gamecock students.

"The center is a game-changer for the university, both as a recruitment tool for future students and as a hub of campus life for cur-

rent students. More than a place to exercise, the center serves as a gathering space for students – featuring an outdoor patio, video game lounge, ping-pong tables, snack bar and study areas."

That's how Jacksonville State University's new Recreation and Fitness Center is described by the University in a press release announcing the opening of the brand new social center.

"We in University Recreation are very excited for JSU students," Joanna Prociuk, Director of University Recreation at Jacksonville State said about the opening. "The Rec Center

will become the prime location for students to hangout, build relationships, relax, and be active while on-campus."

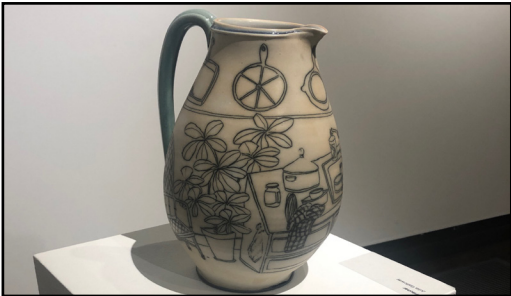
But how do the students feel?

With students having access to the Recreation and Fitness Center since the soft opening on January 14, the perception of the Rec Center has had the chance to be re-evaluated by the primary target of the facility.

A survey conducted by The Chanticleer finds that, after the opening of the RFC, the majority of the are happy with the new facility, despite some concerns about the operation

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CAMPUS

JSU takes over 'The Pointe', asks students to move in

Scott Young
Staff Writer

Jacksonville State now has ownership of the former Reserve Apartments—renamed to 'The Pointe@ JSU'—which were significantly damaged in the March 19 tornadoes.

The property has been fully renovated and repaired following the university entering into a management agreement with the owners of the complex, now operating it as a student residence.

The Pointe, which will operate just like existing campus-

owned apartments, is open to upperclassman and consists of four-bedroom, four bath units that are furnished and include amenities such as fully furnished bedrooms and common area, washer and dryer, balcony, pool access, exercise gym, Gamecock Express stop, gated entry, and other athletic facilities.

For students wishing to live at The Pointe, the cost is \$2,700 per student per semester, including utilities, and a meal plan is not required.

Following the announcement of The Pointe's opening, reports started popping up on social media that JSU Housing sent an

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Grace Cockrell/JSU

Sub-Aquatics Club opens on campus

Keeley Tibbitts
Staff Writer

JSU Student Aaron Risher has started a new club for those that like to be in the water.

With the help of JSU professors Dr. George Cline, Dr. James Rayburn and Ashraf Amshaqn, Risher is starting the Jacksonville State University Sub-Aquatics Club.

Risher says the club allows JSU students to group together in an activity they love, make friends and go on fun trips to dive and snorkel.

"It is an amazing experience that I want to do with a group of people and offer that experience to others," Risher said.

The club offers scuba certifications and trips at discounted prices. No certification is re-

quired, but for those wanting to become certified, scuba instructor John Valdes is offering lessons and certification at lower prices.

"Normally certification costs \$395, but through the club it will cost \$345. The price includes all class sessions, all pool work, and the use of the equipment," said Valdes.

The club's next meeting is February 25 from six to eight in room 130 of Martin hall. Meetings will carry on Mondays every other week, and activities like swimming and games at the pool will take place every other Monday.

Risher, who was fourteen when he got his certification, says he loves scuba because it offers him a glimpse into another world.

"You realize there is a whole other world out there that is so unique," Risher said.

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of the facility still remaining.

Of the participants who responded to the survey, 75.8 percent said they had a positive or highly positive view of the new facility, and 58.6 percent said that their feelings toward the rec center became more positive after experiencing the amenities for themselves.

“I think it’s an awesome addition to the campus!” one anonymous participant commented. “People complain about the fee but I think it’s somewhat reasonable for what all it has to offer.”

While the excitement around the opening of the RFC is certainly echoed by some students around campus and is evidenced by the droves of people that can be found utilizing the new space at most hours of the day, the new center has been subjected to its fair share of detractors in the student body.

The Recreation and Fitness Center has been mired in controversy and unrest amongst some conflicted students since the conception of the plans.

The decision by the university to implement a mandatory fee for students to help fund the rec center has been called into question by some since plans were first announced for the new facility back in January of 2017. Jacksonville State Students are now required to pay a \$190 fee per semester to pay for the Rec Center.

Despite the overall positive outlook, the mandatory fee still seems to be a hang-up for many.

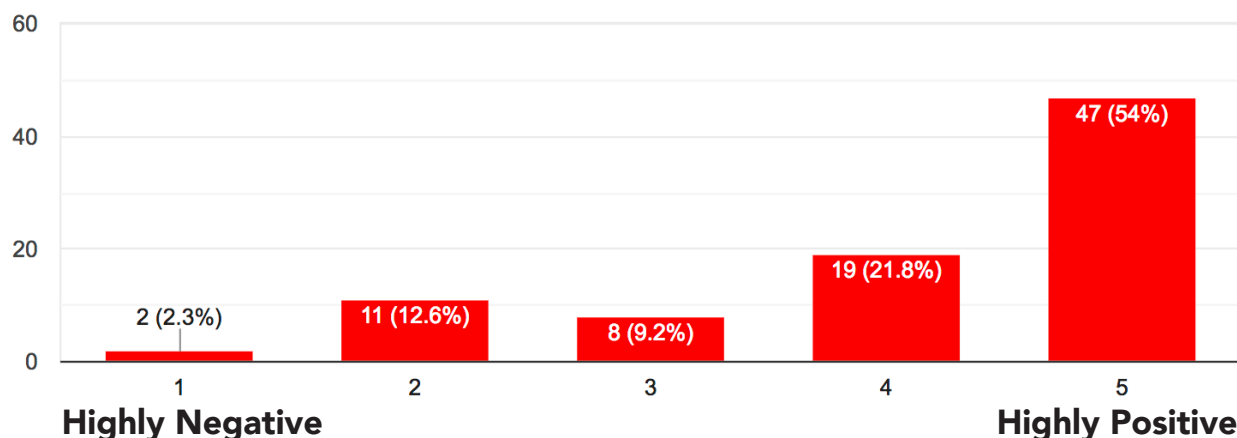
Of the responders, 47.1 percent said their feelings toward the mandatory fees were negative.

“If it wasn’t a \$190 fee, I may feel less negatively,” one student said. “But for that much, I can join a regular gym and pay monthly rather than all at once.”

The fee, whether too high or just not worth it for students who are uninterested in using the facility, gives many reservations. 74.7 percent of surveyed students said that

After the opening of the RFC, are your feelings toward it positive or negative?

87 responses



they would either be unlikely to pay the fee to receive access to the facility or that they were unsure if they would, while just 25.3 percent said the benefits of using the RFC outweighed the cost.

“I think the students should have the option to pay the fee or not,” a JSU senior majoring in Finance commented. “I will be using the RFC at least 5 days a week, so I think it’s an amazing price for all that is offered. I just know many students will probably not use it one time (especially commuters/online only students). So, there should be a different option for those students.”

Most students share a similar view that the fees themselves are not unreasonable, but the inability to opt out of them is a problem, especially for students who will not be using the RFC very often.

“I think a fee is perfectly acceptable,” said a senior pre-nursing major. “I disagree that it should be mandatory for online students who may not even have the opportunity to use it. The fact that students who will never use the center (for whatever reason) have to pay for it will always be a point of contention. I think JSU will eventually have to address that part of it.”

Some students have even questioned the need for the facility at

all, with upgrades and improvements seemingly needed at other buildings on campus.

“I believe this was an unnecessary build that the students were forced to pay for,” said one responder. “There were greater priorities than building a new fitness center. There are many buildings on campus that still have not even been touched after being damaged by the tornado. I think the campus priorities should be revisited and we as the students should not be forced to pay for these. Because of this I have been deterred from completing additional degrees through this school.”

The disastrous tornado of March 19, 2018 further sullied the population’s feelings toward the RFC, as it was no longer the only location on campus with droves of construction workers, fences and equipment surrounding its perimeter.

Still other students raised additional legitimate concerns about the Recreation and Fitness Center in their comments.

“I think the fee should have been announced to incoming freshmen,” said one comment. “Everyone talked about the new Rec center and how it was going to be like UAB’s rec center on tours but never mentioned a mandatory fee (UAB doesn’t have one), which makes the

rec center more negative, especially for people who can’t make it to classes and work out on their own.”

The university, however, did take into account the opinions of students throughout the process of designing, building, and implementing fees for the RFC.

“When I arrived to JSU in April 2018 I was immediately impressed by how closely JSU administrators listened to students in the design of the facility,” Prociuk says. “Students and Student Government have been involved in the planning, fee decision, and decision-making process for the Recreation and Fitness Center since the project’s beginning in 2016. Input from thousands of students was collected via surveys, focus groups, and meetings.”

Prociuk says that the University is listening to the concerns of students, and encourages all forms of feedback as the RFC continues to serve students.

“We will continue to work with students as we expand our programs and operations,” Prociuk says. “I’d encourage students to continue to voice their opinions about all of campus life to their representatives in Student Government. Student Government is well positioned to advocate on their behalf.”

CAMPUS

Symposium to Spotlight Student Research

The first time Jan Case wore a virtual reality headset is a moment she’ll never forget.

“It blew my mind,” said Case, a mathematics professor at JSU. “And this was way before everybody was using them.”

This mind-altering experience took place during the annual JSU Student Symposium, for which Case has served as director for 13 years.

“That’s what’s great about the symposium,” she said. “You never know what you’re going to see or learn.”

The 2019 JSU Student Symposium will be held Feb 13-15 in Houston Cole Library, room 1103C. The event gives students the opportunity to step outside the confines of the classroom and present their research projects in a professional setting.

“There’s so much good work going on at JSU, and so much of it is happening outside of class,” Case said. “Students are doing research projects, working in labs, and it seemed a shame that they were largely hidden or presenting their work at professional meetings away from campus.”

This year’s symposium will feature 42 presentations, most of which will involve multiple students. Demonstrations can involve anything from robotics to computer games to sculpture to film shorts. Prizes for graduate and undergraduate entries are given for Best of Showcase, Best of School, Best Paper, Best Poster/

Demonstration and Best Program Cover Design. The award for Best of Showcase is \$400 and the others are \$200.

The symposium can trace its roots back to 1995, before going on a brief hiatus. It was originally open just to students from the School of Arts and Sciences (now the School of Arts and Humanities and School of Sciences), but for the past two years it has accepted presentations from the entire university.

“Every year, there are at least a dozen talks that just blow me away,” Case said, explaining that when students are in front of a friendly audience that is genuinely interested in their project, it motivates them to continue their research.

“That’s really part of the goal – getting students to feel comfortable and confident in a professional research setting,” said Case.

After 13 years, this will be Case’s final symposium serving as director.

“These students really restore my hope in the future,” she said. “We hear so many negatives about young people, but seeing these students, how unselfish and hardworking they are, I don’t worry about the future. In their hands – they’re going to kill it.”

Presentations will take place on Feb. 13, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Feb. 14, 8:30 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.; and Feb. 15, 8:30-11:55 a.m. The awards ceremony will be held on Feb. 15 at 1 p.m.

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email to current residents of Campus Inn, Jax Apartments, and Colonial Arms Apartments informing them that they would be required to move out of their existing apartments and move into The Pointe by February 22.

JSU Housing later clarified to the Chanticleer that the email was sent only to residents of Campus Inn efficiency, a group of 46 students.

“No emails were sent to Jax Apartments, Colonial Arms Apartments, or Campus Inn One Bedroom Apartment Residents,” JSU Director of Housing Operations Brooke Lyon said. “We are encouraging residents of Campus Inn Efficiency to relocate now rather than later. This apartment complex will be closing at the end of the spring semester, and we wanted to give those students the first opportunity to live at our newest option, The Pointe @ JSU.”

Many have protested the decision by JSU Housing to move students mid-semester, wondering why the apartments aren’t waiting until the end of the semester to close.

“If enough students and parents complain, housing will postpone shutting down the apartments until the end of the semester, when everyone would be moving out anyway,” said Megan Gangl, a resident of one of the closing apartment complexes.

Lyon says that the decision was made to benefit the residents of Campus Inn.

“Campus Inn Efficiency units are some of our older and more outdated apartments,” Lyon said. “Our intention was to offer the newest and best to residents of Campus Inn Efficiency as a way to show our gratitude for their loyalty to JSU Housing.”

Lyon says they are working with each student individually to meet their needs, and students who move from Campus Inn Efficiency now will not be charged the difference in cost to move to The Pointe.

For more information, contact JSU Housing at 256-782-5122.



Viewpoints

Blind factionalism must go, and discourse must return

Devin Carter
Staff Writer

There is a tyrant in the White House. His name is Donald Trump, and we have to stop him.

I do not use the word, “tyrant”, lightly. Tyranny, after all, has led to the deaths of millions, and it was a response to what was perceived as tyranny that resulted in the American Revolution of 1776 and the formation of the United States.

I want to make something very clear: I do not care that Donald Trump identifies as a Republican, and I would be calling him a tyrant regardless of which party he claims to belong to. In fact, I won’t even criticize any of his particular policies, but will instead focus on his actions and mannerisms that I fear are putting us on the road to tyranny.

To begin, I want to give Trump some credit. His populist campaign, as theatrical and hateful as it often was, earned him a tremendous following of diehard supporters. He has done for far-right Republicans what many Democrats hoped Barack Obama could do for liberals. And, unlike Obama, Trump has stayed consistent with his political messages and actions throughout his presidency, which has allowed for the core of his voter base to continue to support him passionately.

But that is what makes him so dangerous. As he continues to throw America’s future into uncertainty, he continues to have passionate supporters. As I promised, I am staying away from the specific policies, in an effort to show that this is far more important than party disagreements. We all, as Americans, need to open our eyes and see the disastrous reality that blind allegiance has left us with.

Donald Trump has broken our checks and balances system. Or, rather, he has helped us to see that the system is broken, and may have been for a long while. A natural stabilizer, checks and balances has acted as a safeguard against tyrannical action for the entirety of our nation’s history, and is one of the most underrated aspects of our government. It has paved the way for things we now see as vital parts governmental functions, such as judicial review, presidential veto power, senatorial review of presidential appointments, impeachment powers, among other things.

Out of all of Trump’s characteristics, perhaps the most dangerous thing about him is his unpredictability. From his twitter rants, to his obscene remarks, to his seemingly random hostilities towards Canada and his friendliness towards authoritarian leaders, Donald Trump holds a tremendous amount of power in his hands and uses it in unprecedented ways. There is no obvious way to deal with Trump’s twitter activity, or his impulsivity, but when it comes time to stand up and stop his irrational usage of power, our elected officials should do so. They have failed, time and time again. I think this is the larger issue than just Trump himself. Our elected officials are not doing their jobs- they are not holding Trump accountable. And we, in turn, are not holding them accountable.

The reason for this is clear. There is a sharp divide between Republicans and Democrats, and two parties that used to be in many ways solid compliments of one another have morphed into what are seen as polar opposites, and due to this political discourse has died. To many liberals, Trump supporters are racists, bigots, and hateful white supremacists. Meanwhile, for many conservatives, liberals are socialists who are looking to strip them of their inalienable rights and hand unprecedented control over

to the government. Both sides’ hatred of the other has reached an extreme, and it is only getting worse. Politics is no longer a discussion of ideas, but is more like supporting a sports team. And, like with sports, political parties have the blind support of their followers, and there is no middle ground to be found.

The most recent government shutdown is perhaps the most poignant example of factionalism crippling our country. President Trump refused to agree on a Congressional budget without adequate appropriations for his proposed border wall, and the Congressional Democrats would not approve for the wall’s \$8 billion funding. As a result, the government was shut down for 35 days, the longest in history. The wall is not a Republican policy area, nor is it a part of the party’s platform. It is something that Donald Trump ran his campaign on, and it is because of him that it is relevant policy. Despite this, Republican congressmen did not rise with Democrats to oppose the shutdown. If 2/3 of each chamber of Congress had voted to end the shutdown, then they could have overridden a Trump veto and reopened the government. However, the Republicans stood firmly (or, at least, silently) with Trump and allowed for nearly one million people to be unemployed. They stood idly by while a single man essentially held the government of the United States hostage. For Congressional Republicans, standing behind their “R” was more important to them than stopping a tyrant. They allowed for our checks and balances system to fail.

I do not mean to pick on Republicans. Based on much of the rhetoric and factionalism I see among Democratic officials and supporters, I think they would have done the same thing had they been given the chance. In addition to this, their support of liberal policies seems to be more about beating Trump than about helping the country. This is an alarming sign of a lack of political discourse. Factionalism has always existed in this country, and always will. But the amount of hatred each side is showing one another is not sustainable. Eventually, something will burst. It burst in 1861, when eleven Southern states seceded from the Union in an act that led to the Civil War, and it will burst again unless we come together to stop it.

We live a Democratic Republic. In order for our system to work effectively, the general public has to be informed and educated, and our elected officials must exercise prudence when making decisions for the country. I am afraid that our increased factionalism has caused us to largely abandon our rationality, and our biases have often blinded us to reality. We live in a time where the least qualified person to ever be President can hold the government hostage and commit questionable actions while going largely unchallenged by his base. We as Americans, on all sides of the political spectrum, need to come together to challenge this threat. We have to look past our differences and instead see our similarities, bring to our political institutions a new, higher standard. For the sake of our country, we must. This is not a liberal vs. conservative outlook. Tyranny and abuses of power do not have a party affiliation. It can be found on all sides of the political spectrum. I will end with this.

After successfully constructing our Constitution in Philadelphia, Benjamin Franklin was leaving Independence Hall when a lady approached him and asked what sort of government the United States was to have. His answer was, “A republic, if you can keep it.” I am afraid that we are losing it, and we must fight every day to preserve it, no matter the cost.

No Valentine? No Problem...

Breanna Hill
News Editor

Are you going without a Valentine this year? Feel a bit bummed out? There’s no need! There are plenty of ‘pros’ when it comes to not having a special person when February 14th comes around. One of the most obvious being that there’s no need to plan some elaborate outing in hopes of impressing someone. Nice, huh? Treat yourself! There’s an endless amount of things you could do to spoil yourself today. Buy yourself some food, hit up Redbox, or even make a date with your other friends who are free for the day. You can still have fun! Oh, and don’t even bother making a trip to the store to get the sweet treats that seem to be on every aisle, just go after Valentine’s Day has come and gone (hello, discount). No matter whether or not you have a guy or gal on Valentine’s Day just make sure to make the most of the day as best you can, and have fun.



Photo Credit: dayoftheshirt.com

Happy Valentine’s Day!



CAMPUS

Alabama Clay Conference opens annual exhibition

Sydney Sorrells
A&E Reporter

The 34th Annual Alabama Clay Conference Presenters' Exhibition and National Invitational had its opening reception Thursday, February 7, 2018 in the Hammond Art Gallery. At this reception, the public was allowed to view work from the main conference presenters which include artists: Richard Burkett, Julia Galloway, Liz Ziot-Summerfield and Lisa Clague. The show is titled "Atmospheric". It features soda-fired work from presenters and artists all over the country. Soda firing is a kiln firing technique where baking soda or soda ash is introduced into the kiln at top temperature.

This exhibition is one of the concurrent exhibitions to the Alabama Clay Conference, which will be hosted at Jacksonville State University by ceramics professor, John Oles, from Thursday, February 21 through Sunday, February 24, 2019. The conference itself is closed to the public, but there are other opportunities for outsiders to get a look at what Alabama artists are creating.

The Alabama Clay Market is an open-to-the-public event during the conference. The Clay Market has been going on for 10 years and it is an invitational for 16-20 artists and presenters who are known in Alabama and in-the-field to sell their work to an audience they may not normally be able to reach. This work is normally functional work for the home and office, but also includes some sculptural pieces. The Clay Market will be open on Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23, 2019 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Many of the selling artists are professors and hobby potters who make their living through selling works.

Another public event is the closing reception for the Presenters' Exhibition and National Invitational on Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 5-7 p.m. This opportunity includes the vendor area and participants' show.

The Alabama Clay Conference has been hosted in different cities and at different universities across the state of Alabama during its course of 34 years. This will be Jacksonville State University's third time hosting the conference.



Sydney Sorrells/Chanticleer

Pre-Columbian Stirrup Vessels by Richard Burkett

FILM REVIEW

Suspiria is a remake that forgets the original

Breihan Dryden
A&E Writer

Wayyyy back in the yesteryear of 2008, director Luca Guadagnino somehow convinced Italian horror master Dario Argento (probably via a dump truck of money) to let him option off the rights to his magnum opus *Suspiria*. The original *Suspiria* was released in 1977 and became a grindhouse hit, what with its quick pace, gorgeous lighting/sound, dubbing, and mysterious story about a coven of witches working out of a dance academy in Italy. While the original film isn't a masterpiece by any stretch of the imagination, it still manages to be a fast paced little horror movie with style to spare. So of course the remake threw all out that out that window and replaced it with a drab look, artsy fartsy editing, bland acting, and a three hour runtime. Also, it has Tilda Swinton. Lots of Tilda Swinton.

Let's start with Mrs. Swinton, shall we? Not only is she the head of the dance troupe, Madame Blanc, but she also plays the head of the witch coven (*The Three Mothers*) Mother Helena Markos AND Dr. Joseph Klemperer, who is the psychiatrist of one of a former dancer who has now gone missing. Got all that? Now, before the film came out, it was leaked that Swinton was going to be playing a dual role, one of which being an elderly man (Dr. Klemperer). Both Swinton and Guadagnino came out and called this fake news and maintained that the character was played by an actual German psychiatrist by the name of Lutz Ebersdorf. But oh man, it turns out that the old dude who looks like Tilda Swinton in old man makeup was actually *drum roll*, Tilda Swinton in old man makeup. "But Breihan, why are you getting all butt hurt about Tilda Swinton playing a man? Is It BeCaUsE yOu'Re SeXiSt?!!" Well you see, dear fictional person complaining about a real person complaining, it's not that I care that a woman is playing a man, it's that it's a pointless casting decision that could have easily been changed to just have the character be female. Besides, T-Swint (as I will now exclusively refer to her as such) doesn't even pull the performance off. In fact, she doesn't pull ANY of her performances off. She's bland, uninspired, and reeks of *insert snobby actor voice* *an actor that is acting*. The rest of the cast doesn't do anything interesting, either. We have Chloe Grace Moretz being wasted in an extremely minor role, the chick from *Fifty Shades of Grey* being about as charismatic as a leather studded whip that was left out in the rain, and a handful of generic dance girls. Sure, there are other characters, but they don't matter. Nothing matters. This movie sucks.

Alright, now that I've had a chance to take a deep breath and jam out to some *Goblin*, let's discuss how this film acts as a remake. It sucks. Sorry, allow me to go into a bit more detail. The film stays in the same year, that being 1977, and remains to be a story about an American girl unraveling the mystery surrounding this dance academy and the witches that run it. Other than that, the film changes its setting from Italy to Germany (just so that we can have an ultimately pointless side story involving the German Autumn) and replaces the neon drenched color scheme of the original with a drab, lifeless look that is devoid of primary colors. It's not like this remake doesn't have its own identity and look, because it



Amazon Studios

most certainly does and I can respect that, but that doesn't mean I have to like it. Another drastic change is that of the music. While the original film had a very proggy, eclectic soundtrack performed by the band Goblin, the new film is scored by Thom York of Radiohead fame. The new soundtrack gets a solid "meh". It's just sort of there, meandering about in the background. I get that remakes don't have to be shot-for-shot like the original, after all, that's how we got that awful *Psycho* remake with Vince Vaughn, but this feels like it was made in spite of the original film, and that doesn't sit well with me, no sir.

All in all, skip this movie. By all means, if you're a fan of the original film and are curious to see how this turned out, go for it. But for anyone who has never heard of *Suspiria* (I assure you that most people haven't) do yourself a favor and pick up a Blu-ray of the original. Trust me, it'll be a much more entertaining time for



FILM REVIEW

Manchester is a sad masterpiece

Devin Carter
A&E Writer

Movies can do a lot of things. They can inspire, depress, elate. They can also give somebody a new perspective on life, or challenge them in numerous new ways. And then there are films, such as *Manchester by the Sea*, that remind us of the sorts of things life is all about, showing both the good and the bad. With this film, there is a special emphasis on the bad. There is a sense of despair throughout the movie, and this heavy emotion is presented to us in slow increments. And all the while we get a sense that these characters are walking an emotional tightrope, just trying to make it to safer ground. Sometimes they fall to the side, and let their pain come out, and other times they are able to keep their balance, and press on with life.

The film ultimately concerns itself with loss, and how to cope with it. It opens with a death, and it is this death, as well as others, that hang over our characters as they try to pick up the pieces. And, as you will see, some have an easier time with it than others. *Manchester* asks a question no other film I have ever seen has dared to ask: What if you *can't* move on after you lose a loved one? What if you are so filled with desolation, that all that awaits you from here is superficial happiness? It is much easier to make an inspirational movie about perseverance, but it is another thing entirely to make a movie such as this.

But the film is too good to simply ask these heavy-handed questions and place them in the foreground. Despite the overwhelming feeling of sorrow, the characters mostly continue living, and we experience much of their everyday lives as they try to come to terms with things. In this movie, we have strange, fascinating scenes, such as a man making funeral arrangements while eating cereal with the deceased person's son, a young man named Patrick who is played brilliantly by Lucas Hedges. Keeping true to the film's purpose to show how life goes on, Patrick does not let the death of a parent get in the way of his sexual endeavors, and his interactions with multiple women take up a decent amount of screen time. We do have emotional scenes, and, trust me, there is more than enough emotion to go around. And yet it often takes the back seat to more mundane things, such as school, band practice, and legal arrangements. And is that not what life is all about? Even when tragedy strikes, we still have responsibilities. We still have life to live.

And even still, there is the possibility that you cannot just move on with your life, sometimes your tragedies will break you, and you just can't beat it. We wonder if this is what has happened as we watch the main character, Lee, played brilliantly by Casey Affleck in an Oscar-winning performance. Perhaps not since Marlon Brando have I seen an actor show real sorrow so well. It is not over-the-top, but contained. And yet everything that Lee does, he does with a sense of sadness. Every word he speaks, every action he takes, he does with a heavy heart and a battered soul. It is a beautiful, devastating thing to watch.

Manchester by the Sea is a masterpiece. And yet it is not a masterpiece in the conventional way. It does not have any obvious universal message, nor does it stand out as being especially grand in scope and ambition. The masterwork



Amazon Studios

lies in the screenplay, as it uses some of the best writing in years to allow the events and emotions to slowly unfold, in combination with some of the greatest ensemble acting in any film. It's a quiet movie, and sometimes it may seem as if it isn't going anywhere. But that's its secret. By keeping everything grounded, it keeps its big questions and messages closer to reality, and makes the things that the characters are going through more relatable.

Many of the characters in the movie are battling inner demons. Some of them stay with us for the entirety of the film, and their problems are in the foreground. But there are other characters that help this world feel expansive, such as a woman who has overcome drug problems and is now trying to get her life back together, and another who has a special connection with our main character, Lee. But there are also other characters, such as Patrick's girlfriends and his teachers, who are aware of the awful events but are largely unaffected, and their presence helps provide a greater sense of realism to the movie, and also helps make our grieving characters' pain more distinctive. The setting is also used to great effect. The city the characters inhabit is by the ocean, and the emotions and events that unfold against the beautiful landscape make the feelings in this movie even more complex, and for whatever reason, even more sad.

After seeing how the characters try

to go on with life, we are reminded that the past is always right behind them. Towards the end of the film, there is a scene between Lee and a woman from his past, played by Michelle Williams. The encounter does not last very long, but thanks to the masterful buildup to it and the incredible writing, it becomes one of the most moving scenes of any film I have ever seen, and nearly brings tears to my eyes each time I see it. I will not dare to spoil how this movie ends, for it is one of the most impactful endings of any film. But rest assured that it does not disappoint, and will leave you thinking for a very long time after it is over.

Manchester by the Sea does not show us anything new, but presents familiar themes and messages to us in a new way, and it forces us to consider them in ways that make us uncomfortable. But I think it is important for us to ask ourselves tough questions, even if we do not like the answers. For some, it may seem like a boring drag. But if you take the time to look a little closer, just a bit below the surface, you will see an entire world of emotions. And if you have enough patience to take in and consider the importance of the seemingly unimportant scenes that unfold, you will realize just how important those scenes are. And, if you allow yourself to become invested in the characters and make it to the end, you will be reminded of just how heart-wrenching and how powerful movies can be.



Study Break

Trivia Answers: Feb. 7th Edition!

1.) Which NFL team overcame a 25-point deficit to win the 2017 Super Bowl?

Answer: New England Patriots

2.) Who is the only athlete ever to play in a Super Bowl and a World Series?

Answer: Deion Sanders

3.) Which team won the 2016 Super Bowl?

Answer: Denver Broncos

Planet Trivia!



1.) In our solar system, which planet has the shortest day?

- A.) Earth
- B.) Jupiter
- C.) Saturn

2.) In our solar system which two planets are known as ice giants?

- A.) Mercury and Neptune
- B.) Venus and Neptune
- C.) Uranus and Neptune

3.) The Great Red Spot is a gigantic storm located on which planet in our solar system?

- A.) Jupiter
- B.) Mars
- C.) Saturn

Valentine's Day Word Scramble!



LOAHCCETO

DCIPU

LWRSEFO

DRFEIN



URFYREAB

WLEYJRE

TVIAELENN

WROAR

TSHAER

ELDUCD



SKSI

GHU

Sports

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Basketball

at Tenn. Tech

2/14

vs Tenn. State

2/16

Women's Basketball

at Tenn. Tech

2/14

vs Tenn. State

2/16

Baseball

vs UNA

2/15-2/17

Men's Tennis

@ ASU

2/16

vs UNA

2/27

Women's Tennis

@ ASU

2/16

vs UNA

2/20

Rifle

NCAA Qualifier

2/16

NCAA Nat. Championships

3/8 & 3/9

Softball

@ ASU

Tournemant

2/15-2/17

JSU SOFTBALL

Gamecocks go 3-2 in opening weekend at Mercer Invitational

Baylee Morris
Sports Editor

This past weekend the Jacksonville State Gamecock Softball team traveled to Macon, GA to compete in the Mercer Invitational. For the overall weekend the Gamecocks finished with 3 wins and 2 losses to start the opening weekend of softball off right.

On Friday, the Gamecocks had a huge day and discovered their diamond in the rough in Kirsten Titus. Before this weekend Titus only had two career hits as a Gamecock. By the end of this weekend she had four hits with three of those being home runs. Titus also did not do too bad in the circle where she only gave up three hits.

Another Gamecock pitcher that had a huge weekend is none other than Faith Sims. On Friday Sims pitched the first no hitter, against Army, for the Gamecocks



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since 2016. On the whole weekend she struck out 16 batters and only allowed two hits. This weekend also served as Sims' first outing since having elbow surgery in the off-season.

On Friday following the 6-0 win against Army the Gamecocks showed up and showed out against Rutgers winning 11-0. However, on Saturday both Army and Rutgers

got their revenge on the Gamecocks beating them respectively 6-11 and 5-13.

On Saturday against Rutgers the Gamecocks used pitchers Alexis Jimmerson and freshman Lexi Androlevich. Against Army even though the Gamecocks fell 5-13 center fielder Taylor Beshears had a big day with all four appearances at the plate ending with four hits. Of those

four hits three were homers and one was a single.

With the two losses ending the day Saturday the Gamecocks had to regroup and come back Sunday for one game against the host team Mercer. Sunday the Gamecocks placed Sims back in the circle to end the weekend. JSU topped Mercer 15-0 in 5 innings.

In those five innings Sims looked as

pretty a picture striking out seven batters and only allowing two hits and no errors. Her team around her helped cap off the win with their offensive and defensive.

Overall the Gamecocks had a decent weekend and hope to have a better weekend when they head down to Montgomery to participate in the Alabama State Black and Gold Tournament.

JSU BASEBALL

JSU's Edwards named to NCBWA Stopper of the Year Watch List

NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

CHRISTIAN EDWARDS

1.91 ERA

3-1 RECORD

55 STRIKEOUTS

@JSUBB



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GREENVILLE, N.C. – Jacksonville State sophomore Christian Edwards was named to the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year ahead of the start of the 2019 season, announced by the organization on Monday.

The award is given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I Baseball. The organization's list included 75 players on the 2019 edition.

Edwards, the leading candidate to take over the closers role in 2019, was groomed for the

role as a freshman with a solid first season as a Gamecock. The right hander from Hartselle, Alabama collected 55 strikeouts in 33.0 innings of work and registered three saves. Edwards posted an earned run average of 1.91 in 33 appearances out of the bullpen. His best outing of the season came in the season finale in the 2018 Ohio Valley Conference Baseball

against Eastern Kentucky. He collected nine strikeouts in 4.1 innings of work out of the pen.

Edwards was one of four pitch-

ers from the OVC to be named to the preseason list. Belmont's Kyle Brennan, ECU's Aaron Ochsenbein and Aaron Stretch from Southeast Missouri were on the list.

The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Dick Howser Trophy to the nation's top player. It also selects All-America Teams for all Divisions, a Division I Freshman All-American team, Division I, II and III Players of the Week and Division I, II and III Players of the Year.

The Gamecocks will usher in the inaugural season at Rudy Abbott Field at Jim Case Stadium on Friday, Feb. 15 against in-state rival North Alabama. First pitch on opening day is set for 3 p.m. Season tickets are available for purchase online at JSUGamecocksTickets.com, by phone at (256) 782-8499 and on campus at the JSU Ticket Office at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Children 18-years-old and under and JSU students are admitted free.

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Sports

JSU MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hunter leads men's basketball to road win over SEMO



JSU Sportswire

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – Marlon Hunter's first-career double-double helped the Jacksonville State men's basketball team to an 81-64 win over Southeast Missouri at the Show Me Center on Saturday.

The senior guard had career-highs in both points scored (27) and rebounds (12) during the Gamecocks (17-8, 9-3 OVC) 17-point road win over the Redhawks (8-17, 3-9 OVC).

"We had a lot of kids compete today," head coach Ray Harper said. "I thought we had some guys really step up. Marlon Hunter, obviously. He had a great day with 27 points and 12 rebounds."

"Our kids did what they needed to get a win today." Hunter helped the Gamecocks to a 42-28 lead at the break with 19 first-half points. The Panama City, Fla., native set a new

career-best within the first 20 minutes, hitting three 3-pointers. He came just two boards shy of earning his double-double in the first period.

In total, Hunter finished the game with five 3-pointers; three more than his previous career-high.

Trailing 5-4 three minutes into the game, Jacksonville State found its second gear and went on a 26-11 run over the following eight minutes to go up 30-15. Harper played a small five for part of the period, getting an extra four points from sophomore Derek St. Hilaire and five from freshman De'Torrior Ware off the bench.

Southeast Missouri began the second half with a 6-0 run, cutting the JSU advantage to eight, then found a 5-0 streak a few minutes later to shave the lead to eight again, but both times the Gamecocks answered and stretched

their advantage back to double-figures.

Jacksonville State's lead reached a game-high 20 with 38 seconds left to play. A 3-pointer from SEMO's Gabe McGlothan saved the Redhawks from taking a 20-point loss in the scorebook.

McGlothan paced Southeast Missouri with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Ledarius Brewer pitched in 11 points from the guard position, and Alex Caldwell added 10 of the Redhawks' 23 bench points.

Jacksonville State now 9-2 in conference games this season, representing the best league record in the program's Division I history after 12 games played.

The Gamecocks play one road game and one home game next week, visit Tennessee Tech on Thursday while hosting Tennessee State on Saturday at Pete

Mathews Coliseum. Saturday's tip time is set for 7 p.m. Both games will broadcast live on ESPN+.

Season tickets and single-game tickets are now available for purchase online at JSUGamecocksTickets.com, by phone at (256) 782-8499 and on campus at the JSU Ticket Office at Pete Mathews Coliseum. Children 18-years-old and under and JSU students are admitted free.

For more information on the JSU men's basketball team, follow the Gamecocks on Twitter (@JSU_MBB). For more on all Gamecocks sports teams, follow the official social media accounts of JSU Athletics on Twitter (@JSUGamecocks), Facebook (Facebook.com/JSU-Gamecocks), Instagram (@JSUGamecocks) and Snapchat (@JSUGamecocks)

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JSU WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women's tennis gets four wins in two days on the road



JSU Sportswire

LOMAN, Miss. – The Jacksonville State women's tennis team picked up four wins in two days in Mississippi with wins over Jackson State and Alcorn State on Thursday and Friday.

The Gamecocks topped the Tigers 6-1 in the first match and 4-0 in a rain-shortened match Thursday afternoon, while downing the Braves 4-1 and 4-0 in consecutive contests.

"Everybody played really well," head coach Andres Amores said. "It was a great week on the road with wins for both of our teams. It's nice to have such a great start to the season."

Jackson State managed just one point against the Gamecocks in the first match with Jacksonville State taking the other six – including back-to-back doubles sets.

The second match was a 4-0 sweep that did not include a doubles point due to inclement weather.

Freshman Harriett Hamilton and sophomore Marine Alberteau put the Gamecocks up with back-to-back set wins, and Elena Tendo made it a 3-0 match with a 6-0, 6-4 win over the Tigers' Maria Martinez. Cristina Moll Alles received a win by withdraw in the No. 6 slot, handing the Gamecocks the win.

JSU won both matches over Alcorn State by singles play. The Gamecocks allowed the Braves just one point in the first match, while Jacksonville State swept the second match with four points.

The 4-1 win came down to just three matchups. Down 1-0 following the No. 2 singles game, Alba Conejero and Tendo earned wins at No. 3 and No. 4 with identical scores (6-0, 6-1) to complete JSU's four-win week.

The Gamecocks are off to their second 5-0 start in as many seasons. Last season, JSU improved to 7-0 before dropping their first match.

Jacksonville State is back in action Saturday, Feb. 16 against Alabama State in Montgomery, Ala. The Gamecocks' next home match is set for Wednesday, Feb. 20 at noon against North Alabama.

For more information on the JSU tennis teams, follow the Gamecocks on Twitter (@JSU_Tennis) and on Facebook (Facebook.com/JSUTennis). For more on all Gamecocks sports teams, follow the official social media accounts of JSU Athletics on Twitter (@JSUGamecocks), Facebook (Facebook.com/JSU-Gamecocks), Instagram (@JSU-Gamecocks) and Snapchat (@JSUGamecocks).

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JSU WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jax State's defense key in 56-39 win at Southeast Missouri

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. – Jacksonville State's women's basketball team displayed its stingy defense in full force on Saturday, limiting Southeast Missouri State to just 39 points as the Gamecocks won their seventh road game of the season.

JSU's 56-39 victory marked the second-fewest points allowed this season, after setting a Division I school record allowing just 31 to Florida A&M in the season-opener. The Gamecocks improved to 11-12 overall and 5-7 in Ohio Valley Conference action with the program's second all-time win inside the Show Me Center, and first since Feb. 11, 2010.

The Redhawks fall to 11-12 and an even 6-6 in OVC play. JSU will have the potential tiebreaker for postseason seeding courtesy of winning the only regular season meeting.

While defense was the

show in the Show Me State on Saturday, a trio of Gamecocks still managed to reach double figures with senior Rayven Pearson, sophomore Taylor Hawks and freshman Yamia Johnson all finishing with 10 points. Pearson also led the way with 15 rebounds in her third-straight double-double game and 20th of her career. The Hazel Green, Ala., native is now one shy of tying Shanika Freeman's program record of four-straight double-doubles set during the 2004-05 season.

Four of JSU's first six points came at the free throw line where Jax State would finish 13-of-20 overall. Tied at 10-10, Jayla Walker hit JSU's first triple of the afternoon to give the Gamecocks the lead again, but SEMO would add a couple of late baskets to lead 14-13 at the end of the opening period.

The two sides exchanged the lead throughout most of the second until a three by Elliott made it 24-20. JSU



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would carry the four-points advantage into halftime at 26-22.

In the third, Johnson's first bucket of the day was a three-[pomyet that made the lead double digits at 38-28. The Gamecocks would tack on a few more to make it 41-28 after three quarters. The lead reached as many as 17 early in the fourth after Johnson muscled her way inside for a layup that made it 48-31 and forced a Redhawk timeout.

The margin would re-

mained similar the rest of the way as JSU went on to hold an OVC opponent below 40 points for the first time since Jan. 14, 2015 – which coincidentally came against SEMO in a 70-34 win in Jacksonville.

JSU has another road test at Tennessee Tech on Feb. 14, before coming home to Pete Mathews Coliseum for three-straight games. JSU will then complete the regular season in Illinois in early March.

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