



## NEWS

# 8 defendants cleared in statutory rape case

**Ashleigh Crouch**  
Correspondent

According to online court records, at least eight of 12 defendants charged in connection with alleged sexual assaults at or near Jacksonville State University no longer face prosecution as of January.

In September of 2019, 11 men were charged with second-degree rape and one man was charged with second-degree sodomy after encounters with underage females. Several of the men charged were students at JSU.

According to state law, second-degree rape and second-degree sodomy are defined as "sexual intercourse or 'deviate' sexual intercourse with a person who is between the ages of 12 and 16 and who is at least two years younger than the perpetrator."

According to Calhoun County authorities, the arrests were made based on six rapes reported in JSU's online crime log.

Several of the alleged rapes were said to have taken place on or near campus at JSU, including Meehan Hall, Sparkman Hall, Dixon Hall, in the Rowe Hall parking

lot, and off campus on Mountain Street.

Bill Broome, the attorney of one of the men, stated in September that the victim, a then 15-year-old girl, told the defendants that she was a 19-year-old student at JSU. Broome claims that the victim even had a fake JSU ID card and social media accounts in her name that identified her as a JSU student.

According to Calhoun County court records, no indictments were returned against any of the eight defendants and a search for the other 4 men in question in the state court files turns up no records on the case.

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Photo courtesy of cnn.com

Damien Williams celebrates touchdown in historic Super Bowl game. He scored a total of two touchdowns in the Chiefs victorious game over the 49ers that ended in a final score of 31-20.

# CHIEFS WIN SUPER BOWL LIV

**Josie Howell**  
Sports Editor

The Kansas City Chiefs made a historic comeback in Super Bowl LIV against the San Francisco 49ers that ended in a final score of 31-20. This was the Chiefs first super bowl win in 50 years. This was the second-longest drought in NFL history. And while Kansas City walked away with the victory, the Chiefs did not seal the win until less than three minutes remained on the game clock.

In the first quarter, the 49ers were the first team to put points on the board, although they had to settle for a field goal as the Chiefs kept them from moving into the end zone. Eventually, Kansas City answered back with a much-needed touchdown that closed out the first quarter.

Almost right away in the second quarter, Chiefs Bashaud Breeland threw an interception to the 49ers. While this gave an opportunity to the 49ers to turn the game around in their favor, the Chiefs defense once again held back the 49ers, this time beyond field-goal range, forcing them to punt the ball. This later resulted in a successful field goal for Kansas City.

While the Chiefs were hoping to have

the advantage going into half time, 49ers fullback Kyle Juszczyk was able to put the first touchdown on the board for his team. This brought the score to an even 10-10 going into the break.

Going into the second half, the 49ers once again could not quite make it into the end zone and had to settle for another field goal. However, the 49ers were able to complete an impressive 49-yard field goal that once again put them back in the lead over the Chiefs with a score of 13-10.

Later in the third quarter, the Chiefs threw yet another interception. This time, the 49ers took advantage of the opportunity and put their second touchdown of the game on the board, increasing their lead with a score of 20-10 going into the final quarter of the game.

At this point in the game, it seemed like the 49ers might walk away with the win, but as history proves, the game was far from over. While the Chiefs did not start the last quarter out strong with Patrick Mahomes throwing his second interception of the game, the Chiefs were eventually able to get their footing and score back-to-back touchdowns, but the one that really counted was second one of the quarter with less than 3 minutes left in the game.

Damien Williams rushed for the touchdown and was able to barely get the ball over the pylon without stepping out of bounds. After the play was closely reviewed, the referees officially called it a touchdown, making it a two-possession game. All the Chiefs had to do was hold off the 49ers for a few minutes. Not only were the Chiefs able to do this, but they were also able to squeeze in a third touchdown to seal the win for Kansas City.

During the matchup, Williams scored two scrimmage touchdowns, giving him 11 total scrimmage TDs in his playoff career. Williams has now tied with Hall of Famer Terrell Davis for the most all-time in a player's first six playoff games.

Meanwhile, with 53 rushing yards, Deebo Samuel set the record for the most rushing yards by a wide receiver in a Super Bowl. He broke Percy Harvin's previous record of 45 rushing yards in Super Bowl XLVIII.

Following the game, Patrick Mahomes was named Superbowl MVP, being the youngest quarterback ever to be given the title, at 24 years and 138 days old, beating out Tom Brady when he was given the title in Super Bowl XXXVI when he was 24 years and 184 days old.

# Opinion: History lesson — what is censorship?

**Kaitlin Fleming**  
Editor in Chief

Censorship. What a fun word to throw around when something doesn't quite go your way. But what exactly is censorship and what does it look like?

As defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary, censorship (noun) is "the institution, system, or practice of censoring."

When most people use the word, they are stating that they or someone else is being censored, typically by govern-

10 MOST CENSORED COUNTRIES	
1	<b>ERITREA</b> Long-term imprisonment of journalists
2	<b>NORTH KOREA</b> Restrictions on electronic recording and dissemination
3	<b>TURKMENISTAN</b> Restrictions on journalists' movements
4	<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> Critical journalist murdered
5	<b>CHINA</b> Surveillance of journalists by authorities
6	<b>VIETNAM</b> Websites blocked
7	<b>IRAN</b> Targeted hacking/trolling campaigns
8	<b>EQUATORIAL GUINEA</b> Private media nonexistent
9	<b>BELARUS</b> "False news" criminalized
10	<b>CUBA</b> Media's regime mouthpiece

Photo courtesy of cpj.com

ments or corporations. Other people claim censorship when their comments are removed from a newspaper's Facebook

post. Obviously, the two are not the same.

True censorship dates as far back as ancient Greece and

Rome, where citizens were restricted in their religious beliefs. Moving on along the

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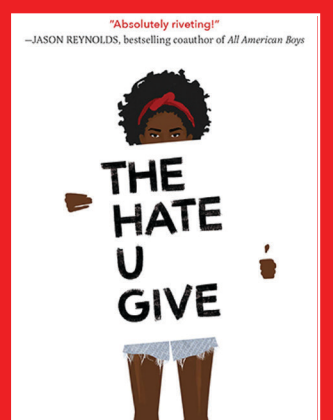


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## 4 Day Forecast

February 6 - February 9

Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Sunday



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# News

## UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS

- February 6, 2020 - International House Presentation Honduras, 11 a.m.
- February 7, 2020 - Accepted Student Day, 8:30 a.m., Leone Cole Auditorium
- February 7, 2020 - Military Students in College Training, 1 p.m., Self Hall
- February 7, 2020 - Free Practice LSAT, 1:30 p.m., Martin Hall
- February 10, 2020 - Safe Zone Part 1 Training, 1 p.m., Self Hall
- February 13, 2020 - International House Presentation India, 11 a.m.
- February 13, 2020 - Valentine's Speed Dating, 5 p.m., Theron Montgomery Building
- February 12-14, 2020 - Student Symposium 2020, Houston Cole Library Rooms 1101-C & 1103-C
- February 14, 2020 - 'Falling in Love' A Cappella Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church in Jacksonville
- February 20, 2020 - International House Presentation Benin, 11 a.m.
- February 20, 2020 - 'We Believe in Dinosaurs', 6 p.m., Longleaf Studios
- February 20, 2020 - Honors Program Trivia Bowl, 6 p.m., Houston Cole Library
- February 21, 22, & 24, 2020 - 'Once Upon a Mattress' performance by the Drama Department, 7:30 p.m., Stone Center
- February 22, 2020 - Canyon Jazz & Dinner, 6 p.m., Little River Canyon Center
- February 23, 2020 - 'Once Upon a Mattress' performance by the Drama Department, 2:30 p.m., Stone Center
- February 26, 2020 - Safe Zone Part 2 Training, 10 a.m., Self Hall
- February 27, 2020 - International House Presentation Cambodia, 11 a.m.
- March 5, 2020 - International House Presentation Mexico, 11 a.m.

## CAMPUS CRIME LOG

- February 3, 2020, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, The Pointe
- January 31, 2020, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Sparkman Hall
- January 31, 2020, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, The Pointe
- January 30, 2020, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Mountain Street
- January 29, 2020, Possession of Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia, Logan Hall
- January 28, 2020, Violation of Student Code of Conduct, Campus Inn
- January 22, 2020, Possession of Marijuana, The Pointe
- January 18, 2020, Possession of Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia, Curtiss Hall
- January 17, 2020, Possession of Marijuana, Daughette Hall
- January 16, 2020, Assault, Meehan Hall
- January 16, 2020, Possession of Marijuana and Drug Paraphernalia, Dixon Hall
- January 12, 2020, Arrest - Possession of Marijuana, Sparkman Hall
- January 12, 2020, Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor, Meehan Hall
- January 12, 2020, Domestic Violence, College Apartments

**Have an emergency?**  
Dial (256) 782-5050 or 911

## This Week in Headlines

**Pelosi rips up Trump speech at conclusion of State of the Union** – Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) on Tuesday ripped up her copy of President Trump's prepared remarks at the conclusion of his State of the Union address. As Trump finished speaking and most lawmakers stood to applaud, Pelosi stood, took the printed copy of Trump's speech and tore it in half. She placed the shredded copy in a stack on the dais as Trump made his way to greet members of Congress. Asked afterward why she tore the speech up, Pelosi told reporters it was "the courteous thing to do given the alternatives." (Courtesy of The Hill)

**Buttigieg maintains slim lead after second round of Iowa results released** – Democratic presidential hopeful Pete Buttigieg maintained his slim lead in the Iowa caucuses after the second round of results from the Monday night contest was released. The results, which accounted for roughly 71 percent of the precincts that voted, showed the former South Bend, Ind., mayor with 26.8 percent of the delegate share. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) nipped at his heels with 25.2 percent. Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and former Vice President Joe Biden rounded out the top four with 18.4 percent and 15.4 percent, respectively. (Courtesy of The Hill)

**Senators vote against hearing witnesses, paving way for Trump acquittal** – The US Senate voted against hearing witnesses in the impeachment trial of Donald Trump on Friday, paving the way for Trump's acquittal on charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The Senate voted 51-49 to block witnesses, with only two Republicans, Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine, crossing party lines to support the Democratic call for witnesses. (Courtesy of The Guardian)

**Coronavirus Cases Have More Than Tripled In Past Week; 17,000 Sickened In China** – China says it has more than 17,000 confirmed cases of the Wuhan coronavirus, representing a huge leap from the 4,400 cases reported as of last week. Chinese health officials said Monday morning that 2,829 new cases had been diagnosed in the past 24 hours alone. Outside of mainland China, nine countries or regions are reporting double-digit cases of the coronavirus, led by Japan with 20, according to a global dashboard created by the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering. (Courtesy of NPR)

**2 women dead, 1 child hurt in shooting at Texas A&M University-Commerce residence hall** – Two women are dead and a child is injured after a shooting at a residence hall at Texas A&M University-Commerce on Monday, authorities said. The child, who is about 10 years old, was taken to a hospital in stable condition, according to the school's police department. The incident was reported at 10:17 a.m. local time at the Pride Rock residence hall, which houses freshmen, according to the school's website. There appears to be no other threats, police officials said Monday afternoon. (Courtesy of ABC News)




## WLJS is partnering with Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival

### Grant Davis

*Special to the Chanticleer*

WLJS 91.9 FM is proud to announce we are partnering with Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival and giving away a pair of tickets through a contest on Instagram. The contest runs from February 3 to March 3, where we will announce the winner via Instagram @wljsjsu.

The contest will follow a points system, where the person who interacts the most with the Bonnaroo post will win the tickets. The point system will be as follows: a follow equals five points, liking the post equals five points,

tagging friends in the comments is five points per unique account tag (which is unlimited) and sharing our post via Instagram story equals 20 points. If there is a tie, we will decide on a tie breaker via Instagram.

We are so happy to be partnering with Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival and would like to thank everyone who supports WLJS!

Grant Davis currently serves as the program director for WLJS 91.9 FM, the official campus radio station for Jacksonville State University. For more information, you can reach Davis by emailing wljsprogramdirector@gmail.com.

### THE CHANTICLEER NEWSPAPER

JSU's student operated newspaper since 1934

The staff at *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to edit and change any submissions for any reason. We are not responsible for the opinions inside the paper; we simply print the opinions of others. Opinion pieces will be clearly labeled as opinion and news will be labeled as news.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact us by email at chantynewstips@gmail.com or by phone at 256-782-5701. You may also contact our adviser Mr. Mike Stedham by email at mstedham@jsu.edu or by phone at 256-782-5713.

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# News

## NEWS



Scott Young/The Chanticleer

Wallace Hall, pictured, was damaged by an EF-3 tornado on March 19, 2018. The future of the facility is still unknown.

## Wallace Hall plans on hold amid FEMA review

**Scott Young**  
News Editor

JSU officials have placed the demolition of Wallace Hall on hold after an official in the Federal Emergency Management Agency ordered a review of the building “to be reconsidered as a repair rather than a replacement”, according to Jim Brigham, the JSU vice president for finance and administration.

“One of his [FEMA official] reasons was that there had been six

earthquakes in the area that may have actually caused the damage rather than the tornado,” said Brigham. “I’m not aware that we’ve had six earthquakes here but clearly the damage was done by the tornado.”

On March 19, 2018, Wallace Hall, which housed the university’s School of Health Professions and Wellness, was significantly damaged by an EF-3 tornado. Nearly two years later, Wallace Hall still stands, with its

fate unknown to university officials.

“We are awaiting a word from FEMA and state insurance on what to do with Wallace,” said Don Killingsworth, the acting president of Jacksonville State University. “There’s still a chance that we could move back into Wallace with some kind of renovation and there’s still a chance it could be torn down.”

Brigham said that the Wallace Hall got to

the last step of the approval process for replacement before a FEMA official “sent it all the way back to the beginning”. Brigham also said that the university plans to appeal that decision once FEMA sends them a determination letter.

The university’s original plan was to renovate Wallace Hall and reopen the facility in the spring of 2019. Later, the university said in a press release that foundation

issues were discovered and that the building was declared a “total loss” and a \$31 million project to rebuild the facility was approved by the Board of Trustees in July 2019.

After the fall 2019 semester began, the university announced that a demolition ceremony for Wallace Hall would take place on October 17, 2019. The ceremony was later cancelled and three months later, the trustees approved plans to move

the School of Health Professions and Wellness to the RMC-JSU complex and Brookstone Medical Center, replacing the previous project to rebuild Wallace Hall.

Attempts to reach the Alabama Emergency Management Agency for comment were not successful at the time of publication. The Alabama EMA “manages the flow of federal resources, services and personnel” to incidents in the state.

## NEWS

## SGA Senate nominates four JSU groups for the ‘Organization of the Year’ award

**Miranda Prescott**  
Correspondent

The Jacksonville State University Student Government Association voted to nominate four student organizations for the annual Organization of the Year Award. Each organization was nominated based on contributions from the groups to their communities and JSU’s campus.

The first organizations that passed were the Full Spectrum and Umbrella Alliance in a unanimous vote. Both organizations were nominated for their joint work executing the first ever LG-BTQ+ Winter Ball at Jacksonville State. They will share the nomination and the award if they are to win.

“They’ve done a fantastic job providing representation,” said James King, author of the resolution. “They have provided a safe space for those of this orientation.”

The second nomination passed was for the History Club. They were nominated in another unanimous vote. The organization was nominated for their work on their annual Dead President’s Ball, “which provided around 150 students with a fun and safe way to celebrate Halloween on campus,” the resolution read.

“It has been getting bet-

ter and better in the years that the event has occurred,” said Justin Jones, author of the resolution.

“This event has grown into something amazing,” said King.

The final nomination was passed in an unanimous vote for the Secular Student Alliance. The organization was nominated for their annual Cocky Queens drag show hosted last semester.

“They raised money for the Magic City Acceptance Center and provided a piece of queer culture to campus,” said Jones.

“Giving back is part of the values of Student Senate,” says SGA Senator Adam McNeal, “To recognize this is an important deal.”

Upon approval for their nomination, each organization’s acting presidents and faculty advisors will be delivered a copy of the resolution for their records. This resolution will also be presented to Vice President of Organizational Affairs William Bowen and the Assistant Dean of Students Veronica Bjorkman.

### Other business

Among the nominations, several bills were introduced to appoint open positions within the Student Senate and the Presidential Cabinets. Those bills appointed Marina

Young, Daniel Washington, Caleb Howell, Adison Cook, Olivia Fenderson, Kaleigh Rhoades, and Tierra Thatch as Student senators for the remainder of the academic year. These bills were passed unanimously, and officers were sworn into office on the same night.

“Not a lot of art people are involved with the Student Senate,” said newly appointed SGA senator Marina Young. “I want to change that and be a representative for my major in the SGA.”

During the meeting, bills were passed to appoint members to committees for the remainder of the Student Senate term. One of those was a bill to appoint Natalie Walls as the Committee Head for the Code and Constitution Committee. This passed unanimously.

Another bill was passed unanimously to appoint Alayah Washington as the Committee Head for Athletic Support.

Finally, a bill was passed unanimously to appoint Nana Barimah as the Student Government Association Presidential Cabinet. She will be the representative for the School of Education.

“My plan is to use her as a student voice when communicating with the Dean of the school on issues that are



Grace Cockrell/JSU

**SGA Senator James King, pictured center, introduced a resolution to nominate Full Spectrum and Umbrella Alliance for the ‘Organization of the Year’ award for their work organizing the LGBTQ+ Winter Ball. The resolution passed unanimously.**

needing changed,” said Ulises Herrera, the SGA President.

“She has the right connections to succeed in this position,” said SGA Senator Justin Jones. “She is a very qualified individual.”

Minutes from the meeting of the Student Senate on November 18th, 2019 were unanimously passed during this meeting as well.

Officer reports included a recap from Herrera on the Board of Trustees meeting from last week. This included highlights of Dr. Tim King becoming Vice President of

Student Success. His previous position of Vice President of Student Affairs will be given to Terry Casey

Herrera also mentioned that the summer structure of miniature semesters could possibly be implemented in the fall and spring semesters. “There are a lot of logistics to work out with this, but it would help students be able to graduate faster,” he said.

The next meeting for the Student Senate will be February 17 at 6 p.m. in the Theron Montgomery Building auditorium.



# Chicken Scratch

## Weekly Crossword Puzzle

**Feb. 6**

**ACROSS**

1 \_\_\_ assets: accounting entry

6 Concerning Musical finish

14 \_\_\_ Arledge, of ABC News

15 Dealership, in securities

16 Chief of the Aesir

17 Sailboat

18 Window part

19 Straight

20 Shares sold, less than round

23 "Where the Boys \_\_\_"

24 Certain hog

25 Cul. measure

28 Bath powder

31 Some of 51

**Across**

35 Longfellow town

37 Broker's cold-call hope

39 About: Latin

40 What a margin player doesn't want

43 UT city

44 Forked-tailed hawk

45 Aunts, in Mexico

46 Business pressure, sometimes

48 Soybean product sold on the CBT

50 Abbr. for certain balloons

51 Some are cpls.

53 Bro's sib

55 Top of the list

**Wall Street**

7 Former Persian ruler

8 Up \_\_\_: so far

9 "Norma" and "Aida"

10 Squeeze

11 Musical halls, of old

12 One way to call a broker

13 Pay to play

21 Goad

22 Use transparent paper

25 Packs, as a pipe

26 Begin

27 Before

29 Tall and lean

30 Insurance \_\_\_

32 Object of a quest

33 Fanfare

34 Mambo-like dance

36 Stock in a warehouse

38 Grafted, in heraldry

41 Another 9 Down

42 Stop

47 Pelé's sport

49 Pioneer of antiseptic surgery

52 Trite

54 Something to mind

55 Penicillin producer

56 Mishmash

57 Scorch

58 Privy to

59 Suit-jacket feature

60 Certain surgeon

61 Example

62 Patella location

**DOWN**

1 Approximately

2 Spread a rumor

3 Stove canopy

4 \_\_\_ Gay, historic B-29

5 Company publication for stockholders

6 Vipers

## Weekly Sudoku Puzzle

				7			9	
7		3	9		2	1		4
	4	8			3		7	
6		4			1			2
2			8		5			9
5				2		7	4	
	7		6			3	1	
8			2		7			6
3	6			1		9		

## Weekly Word Search Puzzle

### The Great Fire Of London

O	R	E	T	A	W	S	N	H	A	R	U	I	N
T	R	O	U	B	L	E	W	E	U	L	E	M	E
B	R	R	I	V	E	R	T	H	A	M	E	S	O
L	R	P	S	A	M	U	E	L	P	E	P	Y	S
C	S	U	A	L	S	E	R	I	F	U	P	H	W
A	N	D	B	B	E	G	I	R	R	A	E	J	E
T	I	D	U	R	S	N	L	R	A	Y	O	E	S
H	G	I	C	I	U	I	R	L	E	R	P	W	S
E	H	N	K	G	O	N	P	I	D	E	L	E	B
D	T	G	E	A	H	N	R	E	S	K	E	L	U
R	A	L	T	D	A	U	T	A	B	A	E	L	R
A	C	A	S	E	T	R	D	A	Y	B	P	E	N
L	R	N	C	S	U	E	G	U	H	H	E	R	T
E	N	E	H	L	D	O	O	W	U	N	I	Y	O

BUCKETS

DAY

WOOD

SAMUEL PEPYS

BURN'T

BRIGADES

WATER

PUDDING LANE

PEOPLE

TROUBLE

BAKERY

RUNNING

RIVER THAMES

RUIN

HUGE

NIGHT

CATHEDRAL

HOUSES

FIRE

JEWELLERY

## OPINION - from Page 1

timeline of censorship, we arrive at ancient China, where "...it was contrary to Chinese good taste to speak openly of the faults of one's government or of one's rulers," according to Encyclopedia Britannica.

Censorship also had a place in Medieval Christendom. Perhaps the most notable censorship came in the form of restrictions placed upon Galileo in 1633.

Rolling on along the timeline, we arrive at the 17th and 18th centuries, where censorship ran rampant. But in 1695, a great victory was had in the abandonment of prepublication censorship in England thanks to John Milton's Areopagitica in 1644. Areopagitica has remained a classic statement of the arguments against censorship.

Not only was England ripping up previous forms of Censorship, America was also finding its footing and its top priority was freedom of speech, as seen in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. That amendment, ratified in 1791, states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

But not every country has been granted the freedoms that America enjoys and abuses on a daily basis.

Let's look at the Soviet Union briefly. Before the 1991 dissolution of the Soviet Union, there was a comprehensive system of supervision of manuscripts before publication. Such supervision, in the light of official Communist Party doctrines, was not limited to political discussions or to books and newspapers but seemed to cover all kinds of subjects and all forms of publication, including broadcasts. Because of this intense censorship, the average citizen could not know more than the leaders allowed them to know.

Moving beyond the Soviet Union, to more modern examples of censorship, we find Cuba. Censorship in Cuba is extensive. It has resulted in European Union sanctions from 2003 to 2008 as well as statements of protest from groups and governments. Books, newspapers, radio channels, television channels, movies and music are heavily censored. Media is operated under the supervision of the Communist Party's Department of Revolutionary Orientation, which "develops and coordinates propaganda strategies," according to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) report of most censored countries in 2006.

The CPJ's current list of top 10 censored countries are ranked as follows: Eritrea, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Saudi Arabia, China, Vietnam, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Belarus and Cuba; with Eritrea being ranked as the most censored

country.

According to CPJ, "in the top three countries--Eritrea, North Korea, and Turkmenistan--the media serves as a mouthpiece of the state, and any independent journalism is conducted from exile. The few foreign journalists permitted to enter are closely monitored."

So, before this turns into a 30 page doctorate level dissertation on censorship, let's recap.

Censorship, historically, is the government or other large entities stopping people from saying things against them. Typically used in communist driven governments or in regions where religion heavily controls governments.

Throughout history, people were often killed, injured or threatened to keep them silent.

Censorship is not someone deleting a comment on a page they manage. If someone's Facebook page were removed entirely, that would be bordering on censorship.

Call me a snowflake millennial, but comparing a comment removal (after an explanation of why comments were removed was provided) to true censorship is ludicrous to me.

So, the next time things don't go your way and you feel like being upset at some young whipper-snappers who are just doing the best they can while learning how to do things better, don't claim you're being censored, because you aren't being censored. Feel free to say whatever, whenever about whomever you like on your own social media platforms, but don't expect and demand a seat on someone else's.

Here is a list of things that your time and energy is better spent on:

- Helping the homeless
- Feeding the hungry
- Donating to those less fortunate
- Recycling
- Spaying and neutering your pets
- Volunteering at a local animal shelter
- Picking up litter on the side of the roads
- Using sustainable items (like fabric grocery bags instead of plastic ones)
- Spreading the word about voter registration
- Supporting minorities in their fight for freedoms
- Researching political candidates
- Fighting against racial inequalities
- Supporting victims of sexual assault
- Encouraging children to get involved in STEM activities
- Donating to Australian wildfire relief funds
- Or anything else that is important to you or the people you love.

Kaitlin Fleming is the Editor in Chief of the Chanticleer Newspaper and is a senior at Jacksonville State University. She is obtaining her degree in Communication with a concentration in Digital Journalism and has over five years of real field experience as a reporter.

## 4 Day Forecast

February 6 - February 9

Thursday



64 °F  
35 °F

Friday



46 °F  
35 °F

Saturday



57 °F  
35 °F

Sunday



65 °F  
48 °F

CHECK US OUT

@ JSUCHANTICLEER



# Arts & Entertainment

SEASONAL

## Top rom-coms to binge this Valentine's Day

**Breanna Hill**  
A&E Editor

Valentine's Day is less than two weeks away which means binging the best of the best rom-coms is a must. Here's a count-down of the most iconic and memorable rom-coms to grace the public's television screens.

"10 things I hate about you" will always be number one on my favorite rom-coms list. It's a legendary film that is timeless and enjoyable for all ages. This movie was released back in 1999 and starred a cast of big name actors and actresses including Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles. The thing I love most about this movie is that it isn't overly romantic. It's not so mushy that I'm sitting on the couch cringing. It has the right amount of romance, and the perfect amount of humor to keep me giggling throughout the entire duration of the movie. Another plus of this movie is that the hunky Heath Ledger shows off his dashing singing abilities in one of, if not the most, iconic scenes of

the entire film. It is a must watch for sure.

"Isn't it romantic" has wormed its way onto my list since its release back in 2019. It stars Rebel Wilson alongside Liam Hemsworth and others. I was able to see this movie in theaters and to be quite honest, I didn't think I would like it as much as I did. I'm a sucker for rom-coms, and the whole idea of a rom-com that makes fun of rom-coms really intrigued me. I think the plot was brilliant, and something that has never really been done before in movies like most rom-coms. It was different and there couldn't have been a better cast.

"To All The Boys I've Loved Before" is a Netflix original that was released in 2018 that stars Lana Condor and Noah Centineo. I am absolutely obsessed with this movie, and I couldn't be more excited that the second installment of this trilogy, "To All The Boys P.S. I Still Love You", will be dropping February 12. I

think this movie franchise is so popular because Lana and Noah work so well together and really have that chemistry that is necessary in rom-coms for them to be successful. Keep an eye out for the second movie as well as the third.

"She's the Man" is not what comes first to most minds when thinking about rom-coms, yes there's romance and tons of comedy, but it is one that I enjoy immensely. This hilarious 2006 film stars Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum. It isn't only one of my favorite rom-coms, it's one of my favorite movies ever. I think that this film is perfect if you're more into the comedy aspect of rom-coms because it definitely keeps me laughing. I highly recommend checking this one out.

"The Proposal" has to be included on this list not only because of the stellar cast but also because of the generic, yet thoroughly interesting, plot. This movie was released back in 2009 and big name stars Ryan Reynolds and Sandra Bull-



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

"The Proposal" was directed by Anne Fletcher, and stars Ryan Reynolds alongside Sandra Bullock.

ock take the leading roles. This film also brings in the hilarious Betty White, which for me is enough to get me to watch it anyways. If I was to have to give one rom-com to someone to watch I would recommend this one. It is the perfect example of a rom-com. It checks off all the boxes and

happens to be a very well made film.

These films are some of the greatest that I'm able to watch time and time again without growing tired of them. They're great to watch alone or with a special someone. Give them a watch and have a good laugh.

**Breanna's Bops**

"What A Man Gotta Do" Jonas Brothers

"Sunflower, Vol. 6" Harry Styles

"Dusk Till Dawn" ZAYN & Sia

"Rare" Selena Gomez

"Hot Girl Bummer" Blackbear

"Falling" Trevor Daniel

"Everything I wanted" Billie Eilish

"Circles" Post Malone

"Lover" Taylor Swift

"Song like you" Bea Miller

**These are my top 10 songs of the week. Come back next week to see my next top 10!**

REVIEW



Photo courtesy of maplewoodartsandculture.org

## Top ten Black History Month books to add to your reading list

**Alexandra O'Neal**  
Correspondent

What's a better way to celebrate Black History Month than with a new book? I've compiled a list of some of the best contemporary novels either written by black authors or about black history. Maybe you'll find a new favorite read!

**X: A Novel by Ilyasah Shabazz**

If you love historical fiction and are interested in civil rights history, then this novel by Shabazz might be perfect for you. Told in the voice of Malcolm X's daughter, the novel focuses on Malcolm Little's childhood and early life.

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

This list couldn't be complete without Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. Since it was published in 2017, the novel has won numerous awards, been adapted into a screenplay, and included in high school curriculum across the United States. The book focuses on Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old girl balancing her mostly black home life with her mostly white prep school. Tragically, Starr witnesses a police officer shoot and kill her unarmed friend. With both sides of her life pressuring her to do different things, Starr must navigate an imperfect law enforcement system.

**Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick by Zora Neale Hurston**

Zora Neale Hurston—the author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*—returns with a series of short stories that deal not only with racism and society, but also with love, sexism and gender issues.

**How We Fight for Our Lives by Saeed Jones**

This memoir, published in 2019, has

already been named as one of the best books of the year according to *The New York Times*. The coming-of-age story follows Saeed Jones and his experience growing up as a gay black man in Texas.

**The World According to Fannie Davis: My Mother's Life in the Detroit Numbers by Bridgett Davis**

Set in 1960s and 1970s Detroit, this novel recounts the story of Fannie Davis, a black housewife that ran a numbers racket from her home. This story of illegal gambling is part memoir, part social history and a front-seat look into the life of an extraordinary woman.

**Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson**

Woodson's novel is a fast-paced, introspective and engrossing read. The main plot—two urban black families who become involved when their teen-aged children conceive a child—deals with tough issues like racism, teen pregnancy and poverty.

**The Deep by Rivers Solomon**

*The Deep* combines fantasy with history in a way that many readers will find enthralling. In Solomon's novel, mermaids are real, having descended from African women that jumped from slave ships into the water.

**Don't Call us Dead by Danez Smith**

If you're looking for a beautiful and thought-provoking collection of poems, Smith's book might be for you. Published in 2017, *Don't Call us Dead* concerns the complex subject of law enforcement violence and bias toward black men.

**Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid**

What happens when you combine a white inspirational speaker, a black babysitter and a racist newscaster? In *Such*

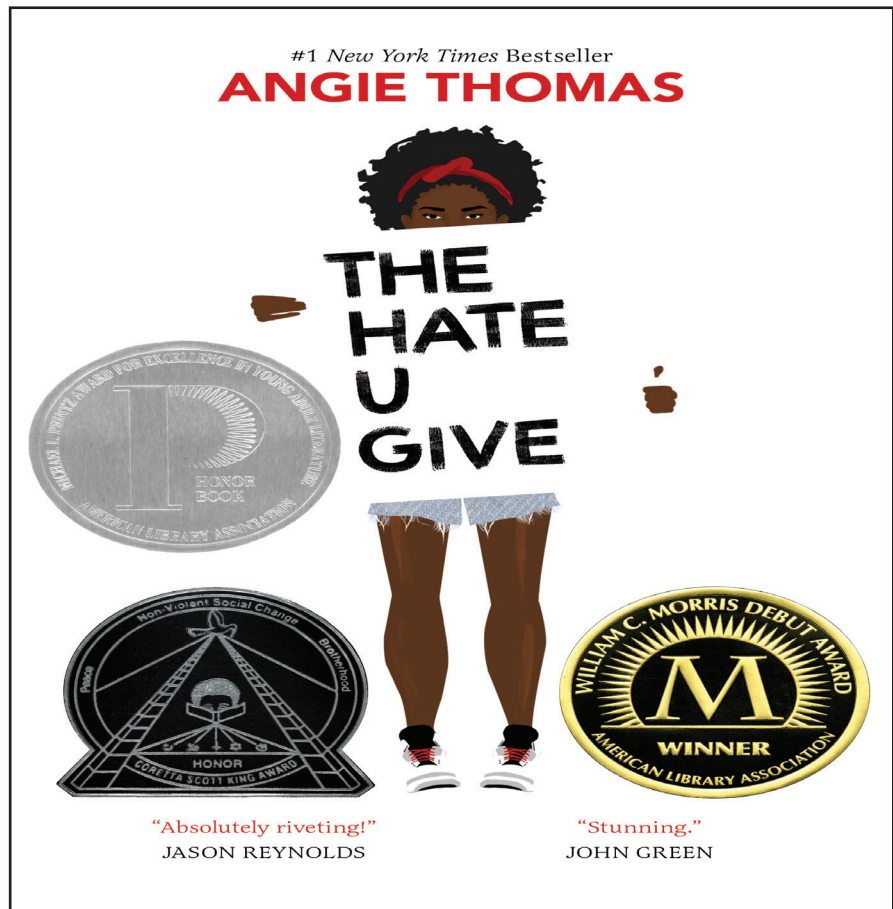


Photo courtesy of amazon.com

This 2017 young adult novel is the first book written by Angie Thomas. It is based off of a short story that she wrote back in college. It has since been given awards while also being adapted into a hit movie.

a *Fun Age*, Alix is forced to confront her own subconscious racism and deal with her husband's racist comments on-air.

**How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi**

What is racism and how should

we fight against it? Kendi's new novel questions the preconceived notion that it's good enough to not be a racist. This nonfiction read starts the conversation about racial injustice in a way that many Americans may have never considered.



# Arts & Entertainment

## HISTORY

# Famous Firsts by African Americans



Photo courtesy of WEWS

**Black History Month is an annual observance of African American history in the United States, celebrated in the month of February. The first celebration of Black History Month took place in 1970 at Kent State.**

### Government:

Local elected official: John Mercer Langston, 1855, town clerk of Brownhelm Township, Ohio.

State elected official: Alexander Lucius Twilight, 1836, the Vermont legislature.

Mayor of major city: Carl Stokes, Cleveland, Ohio, 1967–1971. The first black woman to serve as a mayor of a major U.S. city was Sharon Pratt Dixon Kelly, Washington, DC, 1991–1995.

Governor (appointed): P.B.S. Pinchback served as governor of Louisiana from Dec. 9, 1872–Jan. 13, 1873, during impeachment proceedings against the elected governor.

Governor (elected): L. Douglas Wilder, Virginia, 1990–1994. The only other elected black governor has been Deval Patrick, Massachusetts, 2007–2015

U.S. Representative: Joseph Rainey became a Congressman from South Carolina in 1870 and was reelected four more times. The first black female U.S. Representative was Shirley Chisholm, Congresswoman from New York, 1969–1983.

U.S. Senator: Hiram Revels became Senator from Mississippi from Feb. 25, 1870, to March 4, 1871, during Reconstruction. Edward Brooke became the first African-American Senator since Reconstruction, 1966–1979. Carol Mosely Braun became the first black woman Senator serving from 1992–1998 for the state of Illinois. (There have only been a total of five black senators in U.S. history: the remaining two are Blanche K. Bruce [1875–

1881] and Barack Obama (2005–2008).

U.S. cabinet member: Robert C. Weaver, 1966–1968, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Lyndon Johnson; the first black female cabinet minister was Patricia Harris, 1977, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under Jimmy Carter.

U.S. Secretary of State: Gen. Colin Powell, 2001–2004. The first black female Secretary of State was Condoleezza Rice, 2005–2009.

Major Party Nominee for President: Sen. Barack Obama, 2008. The Democratic Party selected him as its presidential nominee.

U.S. President: Sen. Barack Obama. Obama defeated Sen. John McCain in the general election on November 4, 2008, and was inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States on January 20, 2009.

U.S. First Lady: Michelle Obama became the nation's first black First Lady when her husband, Barack Obama, defeated Sen. John McCain in the general election on November 4, 2008.

First African-American Republican woman to serve in the House: Ludmya Bourdeau "Mia" Love won her race in Utah in the 2014 midterm elections.

### Law:

Editor, Harvard Law Review: Charles Hamilton Houston, 1919. Barack Obama became the first President of the Harvard Law Review.

Federal Judge: William Henry Hastie, 1946; Constance Baker Motley became the first black woman federal judge, 1966.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice: Thurgood Marshall, 1967–1991. Clarence Thomas became the second African American to serve on the Court in 1991.

### Diplomacy:

U.S. diplomat: Ebenezer D. Bassett, 1869, became minister-resident to Haiti; Patricia Harris became the first black female ambassador (1965; Luxembourg).

U.S. Representative to the UN: Andrew Young (1977–1979).

Nobel Peace Prize winner: Ralph J. Bunche received the prize in 1950 for mediating the Arab-Israeli truce. Martin Luther King, Jr., became the second African-American Peace Prize winner in 1964. (See King's Nobel acceptance speech.)

### Military:

Combat pilot: Georgia-born Eugene Jacques Bullard, 1917, denied entry into the U.S. Army Air Corps because of his race, served throughout World War I in the French Flying Corps. He received the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor, among many other decorations.

First Congressional Medal of Honor winner: Sgt. William H. Carney for bravery during the Civil War. He received his Congressional Medal of Honor in 1900.

General: Benjamin O. Davis, Sr., 1940–1948.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Colin Powell, 1989–1993.



Zachary Grizzard/The Chanticleer

**At left - SGA vice president of public relations Kate Seibert and SGA vice president of organizational affairs Will Bowen assist students in the sign-in process for laser tag. At right - SGA vice president of student activities Desmond Thomas poses for a photo.**

## SGA hosts laser tag event at Leone Cole Auditorium

### Zachary Grizzard

#### Correspondent

Tuesday night the Leone Cole Auditorium was transformed from a table and chair auditorium to a laser tag warzone.

Students gathered in the lobby of Leone Cole to register for the laser tag games, which ensued in the blacked-out auditorium just a door away.

As students filed in out of the drizzling rain, they were greeted by several SGA representatives helping to streamline the check-in process and ensure the

students had a fun experience.

As one game ended, the laser tag supervisor would file the previous students out and assist the newcomers into the laser tag arena.

As students entered the arena, they were presented with two tables, a red team and a blue team. Each team was also provided with a reset tent on the backside of each team's territory. Each player was given a headband that would buzz when fired at, and a rifle that listed a health bar. After being fired at, players would have to return to their reset tent

to have their rifle reactivated. Players that "killed" someone from the other team would have their rifle options for firing improved throughout the game. The rifle provided reload options, and a unique preset nickname for each player.

Each game lasted approximately 10 minutes. The auditorium was completely dark, sparing some lanterns on the columns scattered about. The floor had roughly 20 small camouflage tents with windows to shoot from or to hide in.

After games ended, the game su-

ervisor would explain which team won, and the specific players who played exceptionally throughout the match. Students could play multiple rounds, after returning to the back of the waiting line each time.

The SGA asks that all students come check out their events and have fun, as well as give input to help them plan for future events. The next SGA sponsored event this month is Speed Dating, which will be held February 13, at 5 p.m. in the Theron Montgomery Building.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

Courtesy of JSU

Kayne Henry shoots the ball in a game earlier in the season against Morehead State. The JSU Gamecocks came out on top with a 72-51 victory.

## Men's Basketball Falls Into Losing Skid

**Stephen Duke**  
Correspondent

After an emotional win at Pete Mathews Coliseum last Saturday, January 25, against Morehead State, the JSU's men's basketball lost back-to-back matchups against Tennessee State on Thursday, January 30 and Belmont on Saturday, February 1, by a combined 24 points. This rounded out a four-game home stretch in which the Gamecocks went 1-3.

In Thursday night's game against Tennessee State, the Gamecocks were hoping to ride the momentum from the emotional and crucial win against Morehead State. However, the game would not end in the Gamecocks' favor as the Tiger walked away with the 72-62 win.

The game against the Tigers started out promising for JSU. The Gamecocks began the game strong with a 19-8 lead over Tennessee State with about 10 minutes into the game and eventually went into halftime with a strong 27-point lead over the Tigers.

Coming into the second half, Tennessee

State surged out of the locker room with a 6-0 run, and eventually outscored the Gamecocks 44-31 in the second half. The Tigers were led in the second half by Shakem Johnson, who scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half.

For the Gamecocks, Jacara Cross led his team with 18 points, with Derrick Cook following behind with 13 points. While the Gamecocks forced 18 turnovers, the Tigers significantly out rebounded JSU by a margin of 53-30.

Following the loss against Tennessee State, the Gamecocks welcomed Belmont University to the Pete Mathews Coliseum on Saturday. The Bruins, a top-four team in the OVC, came to Jacksonville and left with a 78-64 win over the Gamecocks. The Gamecocks gave up many turnovers in this game, which led to 39 of Belmont's 78 points.

The Bruins went into halftime up 37-31, but a 9-1 run beginning around the 18-minute mark put the Gamecocks in front 42-41, giving them an opportunity for a comeback. However, Belmont went on an 18-point scoring run of their own, putting the score at 59-42.

The Gamecocks did not come back from this scoring run and trailed behind for the remainder of the game. The Bruins eventually closed the game out with another win to add to their record. The Gamecocks will get a second chance at the Bruins on the road on February 15.

"Turnovers got us," said head coach Ray Harper. "We get ourselves back in the game, but then we gave the ball up three or four possessions in a row. Any time you turn the ball over like we do, it makes it difficult."

Despite the loss, the Gamecocks still had some memorable performances. Senior Jacara Cross scored 25 points, a career high for him. Meanwhile, Kayne Henry contributed 16 points, seven of which came during a four minute stretch in the second half, while Ty Hudson added 13 points for the Gamecocks.

Missouri State RedHawks on the road this Thursday, February 6. Tip-off will begin at 7:15 p.m. Fans can stream both games on ESPN+ or listen to the action live on 91.9 WLJS and 97.9 WVOK.

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

## Gamecocks split weekend home games

**Kyle Davie**  
Correspondent

An exciting week of basketball had both its ups and its down for the Lady Gamecocks. On Thursday night, the ladies notched their fourth victory in the Ohio Valley Conference over the Colonels of Eastern Kentucky.

The Gamecocks were on fire, thanks to an outstanding showing from their Senior graduate, Destiny Elliot, as her impact was felt early and often. Elliot had nine points in just the first quarter and her offensive presence was dominant and obvious all night.

Elliot had four three pointers on the game and finished the night with a career high 24 points, a total which she has matched last season against Harvard. Elliot's production was not only in the points column as she also tacked on nine rebounds, four assists, and a steal.

As a team, the entire offense was clicking and jumped on Eastern Kentucky early with 41 points in the first half. The Gamecocks were scorching from beyond the arc with 10 three pointers and capitalized on their lead with consistent free throw shooting, 12 of 14 from the line on the night.

The win was the ladies second in a row and also completed the season sweep of the ECU Colonels for the second year in a row. The ladies have been strong at home this season as the win brought their home record to 6-2 on the season. The game also brought the Gamecocks record to 4-3 in conference play this year and 8-10 on the season overall.

Unfortunately, Saturday was not the Gamecocks day as they lost in gut-wrenching fashion to the Morehead State Eagles. A truly peculiar game as the ladies held a lead for almost two and a half quarters, taking a nine-point lead at one point, before going stone cold in the second half.

Junior Taylor Hawks led the team with 17 points, but that wasn't enough to keep the Gamecocks in the game as they shot a porous 1 of 13 in the fourth quarter. A game sealing 19-2 run would secure MSU its first lead of the half and one that they would go on to hold for the rest of the night.

The loss completes the sweep of JSU for the MSU Eagles this season and the Gamecocks are now 1-4 vs MSU, including postseason play, in the last two seasons. As for the Gamecocks this season, the loss brings their record to 8-11 on the season and 4-4, in conference play. The Gamecocks hope to turn things around and continue their typical home dominance as they prepare for two teams on different ends of the spectrum next week.

On Thursday, the Tennessee State Tigers, the lowest seeded team in the conference, come to town as they look for their first conference win. Then, the Gamecocks will face the Belmont Bruins on Saturday who are the second-place team in the OVC with only one loss in conference play this season. They follow this homestand up with a four game road trip the following two weeks.



Courtesy of JSU

Mckenna Lawrence shoots a three-point shot in a game against Murray State the Gamecocks played earlier in the season that resulted in a 68-51 win for the Gamecocks.

**MEN'S TENNIS**


Courtesy of JSUgamecocksports.com

Joaquin Vallejo competes in a singles match at Jackson State where he won back-to-back sets with final scores of 6-3 and 6-4.

# Men's tennis has four-game win streak

**Sadie Appleton**  
Correspondent

Jacksonville State's men's tennis team recently saw much success on the road in Jackson, Mississippi with matches against Mississippi Valley State, Alcorn State, and host Jackson State. Following their win against the University of West Alabama, the Gamecocks would walk away from these matches with a four game winning streak on their record.

The Gamecocks winning streak began on Wednesday, January 29 against 0-2 Mississippi Valley State. Sweeping the doubles point and only three singles points pushed the team past the Delta Devils.

Consecutive 6-0 scores and match sweeps from junior Jordi Blanchar, senior Sergio Lizarraga, and junior Aljaz Kaplja helped Jax State capture its second win for the season. This winning theme continued in the doubles matches, with all three sets being 6-0 decisions.

The Gamecocks secured yet another win, improving to 3-0, on the following day after a 7-0 win against the Alcorn State Bravehawks. With junior Joaquin Vallejo and Lizarraga at No. 1 and senior

Guillermo Agost and Blanchar at No. 2 for the doubles teams, JSU claimed the first point of the match. Lizarraga and Vallejo continued to defeat Santiago Rocco and Gjorgji Popovski handedly with a 6-0 decision while Agost and Blanchar took the match against Stojan Stojanovski and Kareem Bowe at 6-2.

Agost went on to win the bout against Popovski in three sets at No. 1 singles. While he slipped in the first set 6-2, he put JSU up with 6-3 and 10-1 wins in the last two sets, bringing the overall score to 2-0 for the Gamecocks.

At No. 2, Vallejo took the match 6-2 in straight sets while Vasilev won 6-1, also in straight sets, against Kareem Bowe at No. 4. A three set win over Santiago Rocca from sophomore Thomas at No. 3 singles Norwood put the Gamecocks up again. By default, Suarez and Moro won at No. 5 and No. 6.

Jax State continued their winning streak the following day, extending their overall record to 4-0 for the season. Facing off against Jackson State, the Gamecocks routed the hosting Tigers. JSU took not only the doubles point, but also three singles points to pick up another win.

With Kaplja and Norwood at No. 1 and Agost and Blanchar at No. 2, the Gamecocks won both of their sets 6-2 in doubles matchups. Freshmen Dmitrii Vasilev and Agustin Suarez took down Richey Gamo and Thomas Torres with a 5-2 set win at No. 3, sweeping the doubles bout.

The first singles point for JSU on the day came courtesy of Paraguay native Vallejo following a two-set victory at No. 2 over Game. Vallejo captured the sets with 6-4 and 6-1 decisions, respectively. Kaplja's performance nearly mirrored the scores at No. 3, sealing the sets 6-4 and 6-3 against Hiromu Ikeda.

A win over Agustin Agosto in straight sets, 6-0 and 6-2, by Blanchar finished off Jackson State and wrapped up the match. Jacksonville State improved to 4-0 for the season, extending their win streak.

The Gamecocks take to the court once again on February 6 to face Nicholls State in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Jax State will then travel to New Orleans for a matchup against the University of New Orleans on February 7.

**OPINION**

# Opinion: one of the worst choke-jobs in sports history

**Garrett Sanders**  
Correspondent

Last Sunday in Miami, Florida, we witnessed one of the worst choke-jobs in sports history. Super Bowl LIV featured the two hottest teams in the National Football League, but what we saw on Sunday with the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs was that no matter how aggressive one coach has shown to be, there is always a moment where they can crumble and fold.

Let's flashback to Super Bowl LI. The Atlanta Falcons were soaring high with a 28-3 lead over the New England Patriots. Everything seemed that it was over for the Patriots, but there was just one problem, Kyle Shanahan was the offensive coordinator for the Atlanta Falcons.

With the Falcons having a commanding lead, one would think that the game was over, but the Falcons failed to do three crucial things on offense: run the ball, kill the clock and not make any mistakes.

Ultimately that was the biggest mistake that Shanahan could do. Tom Brady was the hottest quarterback in the NFL. Giving him a chance to win the game was the last thing the Falcons could afford.

Yet, with epic bad play calling by Kyle Shanahan, the Falcons did just that. They choked in classic fashion and found a way to lose. What's worse is, it was against the New England Patriots, the most hated team in America.

Now, it's one thing to choke in the biggest stage of sports. However, who would have thought last Sunday in Miami that Kyle Shanahan would be in the exact same position he was in Super Bowl LI? And to make things worse, it was against Andy Reid, a coach known for not winning the big game.

To be fair, Andy Reid had a secret weapon, Patrick Mahomes. He and the Kansas City offense had the potential to explode at any given moment. It was up to Shanahan to do what his team had done best all year long. Finish the game. But like Super Bowl LI, Shanahan failed to learn his lesson. When you have a lead, you don't want to give the football back to the hottest quarterback in America.

What makes things worse is that the 49ers were capable of running the ball and melting the clock to where Kansas City would not have enough time to make that comeback a reality. But, instead of doing what the 49ers do best, they did the complete opposite. This led to Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City offense to have a chance to march down the field and take the win once and for all.

Now, I talked about how Shanahan choked this game away for the 49ers. What I did not mention was that Shanahan was not the only one who contributed to the epic collapse. While the 49ers had the lead, the NFL officiating that was displayed in the biggest event of the year was dreadful. What was supposed to be the NFL's best, turned out to be one of the worst.

There were several bad calls made in the Super Bowl, on both sides, but there were two plays in the Super Bowl that made the difference in what could have changed the outcome.

The 49ers had a chance to put points on the board before halftime. After a series of poor clock management by Kyle Shanahan, the 49ers still had a chance to salvage the moment. Jimmy Garoppolo threw a dime to George Kittle for a long pass. It seemed as if the 49ers were going to get points after all, but, of course, that's when everything went haywire.

The officials called an offensive pass interference call on Kittle, but when you look at the replay in slow motion, Kittle laid a fingertip on the Kansas City defender. What would have been a sure momentum changer for the 49ers only ended up being a dud.

Later in the game, down by four points, Kansas City needed a touchdown. The



Courtesy of apnews.com

**The Chiefs and 49ers faced off in the Super Bowl LIV where the Kansas City Chiefs were able to take home their first Super Bowl win since 1969.**

49ers were playing great defense in the red zone. All they had to do was stop Kansas City four times in the goal line and the Super Bowl would be theirs. Well once again, the officiating ruined it for everybody.

The Chiefs running back Damien Williams caught a pass from Patrick Mahomes. When he caught the ball his foot landed out of bounds. But at the same time Williams stretched the ball which looked as if it had crossed the plane. The referee ruled it a touchdown.

Of course, all scoring plays in the national football league are automatically reviewed. This was no exception. When you look at the replay in slow motion, when William stretches the ball, the tip of the ball was half an inch short from the goal line. With the NFL putting in the best officials in all of what they had to offer, you would think they would make the right call.

Ultimately, the officials deemed that there was not enough video evidence to overturn the call, so it was ruled a touchdown. After all of what happened, San Francisco waved the white towel and it was over.

Kansas City did everything wrong for the first three and a half quarters, but with poor play-calling by Kyle Shanahan and the incompetence of the NFL officiating, they won their second Super Bowl. The final score ended up being 31-20. At the Lombardi trophy presentation, it was also announced that Patrick Mahomes ended up being the Super Bowl MVP.

When one talks about Super Bowls, you want it to be an exciting moment, but with the way the NFL is producing these "entertaining" games, it's slowly becoming unwatchable. With the recent Super Bowls that have happened, we are starting to see a pattern as fans.

While the NFL knows the media is about having the biggest headline, what they are doing is ruining the game of football. It is only a matter of time where enough is enough. What we can only hope for is that the future of the NFL will produce better Super Bowls in the upcoming years. However, at the end of the day, we are just fans.