

THE OBSERVER

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The Adventures of Tigertail Lake Recreational Center

Naomi Volcy
Staff Writer

Broward College's Tigertail Lake Recreational Center has a multitude of activities for Broward College students to enjoy at a discounted rate.

The Aerial Adventure Challenge Course, a two-leveled ropes course between towers, is 46 feet in the air, is one of the more exciting activities offered and amongst the most popular. The Aerial Adventure Challenge Course, once only available for large groups, is now available for single visitors. Thus, students are encouraged to come and enjoy the course.

The Aerial Adventure

Challenge Course contains a series of rope challenges.

For example, visitors must climb a net to get onto the towers, tightrope across the towers holding onto hanging ropes and walk across the towers on mini wooden planks.

The Course is intense, but trained personnel do prepare visitors with Ground School.

During Ground School, visitors are instructed on how to properly wear the safety equipment (harness and helmet), taught how to fasten one's harness from one part of the rope course to another and what to do in the case of a mishap. Though, trained personnel are with you throughout the entire du-

ration of the course to assist with the challenges.

Anthony Phung, a weekend visitor said, "I enjoyed the ropes course. I would describe the ropes course as family friendly, challenging and safe. What I like about the ropes course is how safe it is, and the different obstacles on it. I feel very safe and prepared because they had someone showing us all the safety equipment that was on it and how to use our equipment. I would certainly do it again."

The Course can be booked online at www.tigertaillake.com and occurs in three sessions: 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The sessions last for about an hour. The

rate for Broward College students is \$10 and for staff it is \$15.

For visitors not affiliated with Broward College, the price of the course is \$25.

Natalie Justice, Manager at Tigertail Lake Recreational Center explains, "Students do get a \$15 discount... They make their booking, they pay and they can email us their student ID number and we check it. As long as they are a current student, we go in and take \$15 off and refund it to their credit cards... We used to do promo codes, but it was harder to keep track of who is a not a student or a current student."

Colby Baez, Recreational Coordinator at Tigertail Lake Recreational Center notes, "I think it is so much fun. I want to share it with the world.. BC students or any stu-

dents, we don't always have that much money to throw around and have fun with. I mean, coming here for \$10 is a steal. I mean what can you do for \$10 these days, as in something fun like this."

For more information on the Aerial Adventure Challenge Course or to book a session, visit www.tigertail-lake.com.

If you are interested in employment opportunities at Tigertail Lake, text 415-851-3180 with the code 784682 to apply.

Tigertail Lake is urgently hiring current lifeguards and also those who are great swimmers who want to become lifeguards.

Once hired, if interested, you will be cross trained to work on the ropes course as well.



Observer staff safely prepare to endure the Aerial Adventure Challenge Course. Naomi Volcy/The Observer

Keep up with BC: what's going on around campus?

THE OBSERVER

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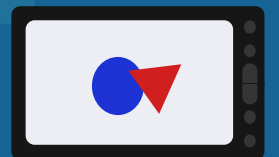
WANTS:



WRITERS



GRAPHIC DESIGNERS



PHOTOGRAPHERS



VIDEOGRAPHERS



jshapiro@broward.edu



[@thebcobserver](https://www.instagram.com/thebcobserver)

North Campus Club Rush Informs, Brings Students Together

Maya Mohan
North Bureau Chief



Club Rush on North Campus.

Maya Mohan/The Observer

North Campus Club Rush was a huge success with organizations coming out to bring students together. This semester it was themed as a “Candy Palooza.” Starting off with the International Club, @international_northbc, this organization aims to bring together students from all over the world. By doing so it gives the opportunity for students to learn about different cultures and support one another.

The Muslim Student Association is a club where students can learn more about Islam and connect with students. Their Instagram is @bcnorth.

msa where they post upcoming events. MSA meets in Bldg. 56 Rm 126 on North Campus. Both the Muslim Student Association and International Club are teaming up to help Afghan Refugees in South Florida. They are collecting donations at the Student life Bldg. 46 Rm 133 on North Campus. The items needed are adult face masks, hand sanitizer, bathroom toiletries, sanitary pads, baby supplies, clothing, stuffed animals and welcome to Florida signs.

CRU on North Campus is a Christian Student Organization that aims to help the homeless,

conduct food drives, as well as spiritually and emotionally support others. They meet on Zoom weekly and do activities such as game nights and bible studies @cru_browardnorth.

For those who are looking for academic opportunities and support for their educational dreams, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) may be the club for you. PTK is an international honor society that helps support students through their educational and professional ambitions. You need a gpa of at least a 3.5 and 12 BC credits to be eligible. In order to join PTK on North Campus, contact Dr.

Kyla Williams at kwill3@broward.edu.

The Minority Male Initiative at BC North is committed to creating a brotherhood that supports male learners by helping them achieve more. The Minority Male Initiative is currently seeking to attend The Black, Brown, and College Bound Summit Trip from March 2-5 at the Tampa Convention Center. Registration fees, lodging and transportation are all covered by The Minority Male Initiative @ignitiebcmi. Meetings are twice a month on zoom at 3:30 p.m., contact jaiken1@broward.edu to join.

BC North’s Sustainability Club is about working together to create a positive impact on our environment by fighting climate change. They want to inspire others to become a part of the mission too. In order to join, contact skhan3@broward.edu.

DECA and Political Science Association are both clubs run by Shir Gilad as president. DECA is a club that is perfect for those who have an interest in business by preparing students in the aspects of marketing, finance, hospitality and management. To find out more about it email costerga@broward.edu.

The Political Science Association is a club where students can engage in civil discourse about political issues in the

United States. Join by emailing moneill@broward.edu.

Prison Reform Club and Leadership Development is an organization that has a main goal of reducing mass incarceration and fixing the social issues facing our community. They are working on establishing a tutoring program to help inmates learn basic educational skills so that they are prepared to seek a higher education and secure a good paying job.

The Gender Sexuality and Alliance Club (GSA) on North Campus is a club that seeks to create a safe place for the LGBTQIA+ community. They meet at the Coffee House on Thursdays and virtually on Friday via Discord.

The well-known North Campus Science Club has changed its name officially to STEM club for the foreseeable future. The decision for this change comes from the fact that Science is advancing every day and STEM is much more inclusive to all of its branches. To join the STEM club, reach out to professor Daniel Kulangara at Dkulanga@broward.edu. All of the information for these clubs can be found on Broward College’s website under “Club Roster”

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Young Democratic Socialists of America Club Provides New Perspective on Politics in the US

Ryan Marin
Staff Writer



Image courtesy of Broward College

“The Young Democratic Socialists of America” is a new club on Broward College’s Central Campus.

The club, founded fall 2021 by Anthony Nash, is a youth chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, a nonprofit socialist organization.

The club is sponsored by Jure Rozman, music professor on Central campus.

While the club is named Democratic Socialists of America, members have a variety of political perspectives. “In our group, the spectrum reigns from students who are

socialists to students who are your average democrat,” Nash said.

The club is aligned with left-wing politics and supports programs like Medicare for All and providing free college and supports politicians such as senator Bernie Sanders and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The club currently meets every Friday at 6 p.m. on Zoom, where students have discussions on things affecting their lives and the current state of politics.

Topics include the rising cost of rent, student debt, and other issues affecting

students.

Nash said the club does not “hate America,” but instead wants to change it for the better.

“The political spectrum to the U.S. is different compared to the rest of the world, and right-wing solutions to problems have been tried for 50 years. Our main goal is to say

we have solutions to problems we are currently facing, and they are on the left.”

Nash was shocked by the reception to the club and is proud of the amount of activism in the club.

“When we started this, I did not expect this amount of attention. We have 25-30 members in our group chat, and I expected 5 or 10.”

The club is open to students who have other perspectives, and who are willing to have open discussions with them.

During Club Rush, Nash had a productive discussion about issues in America with a student on the other side of the political spectrum.

“After our discussion, he still held firm on his opinions, but I am glad we could admit to each other that these issues are problems. We have the same problems, let’s work on solutions.”

The club has an upcoming event for Black History Month where the club will be putting on a screening of the movie “Judas and the Black Messiah.”

The event is planned for the end of February, in building 19 on Central Campus.

There are also plans for a voting drive for the end of the semester.

In the long term, the club plans on developing activities like food drives that are focused on helping people instead of political discussion or

debate.

While the club’s meetings are currently on Zoom, they plan to soon meet in person on Central Campus.

If you want more information on the club or want to join, please email browardydsa@gmail.com.

Marir34@mail.broward.edu

Student Life Saves The Day: Broward College Resource Fair

Naomi Volcy
Central Bureau Chief

Central Campus’s Student Life hosted a Resource Fair Wednesday, Jan. 19 under the building 19 Patio.

The event had many resource booths with their respective personnel ready to provide information on the resource and answer any student questions or concerns.

The resources present were as follows: Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness, TRIO student support services, Academic Advising, Admissions and Registration, Student Achievement Initiatives, Teacher Education, Academic Success Center, Robert “Bob” Elmore Honors College, Minority Male Initiative and UFC Fit.

As an incentive to participate, students were given a bingo card, which would be marked as the students navigated through the booths.

When the students received five stamps on their bingo cards, they were able to indulge in the free refreshments that were offered. Students could choose between Publix Chicken tenders, Publix macaroni, Publix potato salad, along with a variety of chips.

The Safety, Security & Emergency Preparedness booth had information on how to spot human trafficking, and contact information on where to report such cases.

The TRIO Student Support Services booth discussed what their organization provides, benefits, and eligibility. TRIO provides academic and financial support programs, such as guidance on course selection, FAFSA assistance and assistance for transferring to a four-year university. First-generation college students and students with disabilities are eligible. For more information, contact sss@broward.edu.

The Academic Advising booth discussed step-by-step directions on how to schedule an academic advising appointment. Students should go to their myBC account, click on BC Navigate, click on appointments, and follow the steps to complete the process. To cancel an academic appointment online, go to BC Navigate and cancel your scheduled appointment. For more information, or any further assistance, you can call 954-201-7350.

The Student Achievement Initiative offers free help



Naomi Volcy/The Observer

from peer student mentors. They can pair you with students in your major to help you succeed academically, along with offering emotional support. If interested, visit bit.ly/bcmentoring1.

The Teacher Education booth discussed the three bachelor’s programs that are offered at Broward College. They are as follows: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, Bachelor of Science in Science Education, and Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Student Education (ESE). For more information on the Teacher Education program, visit Broward.edu/teach, or 954-201-2500.

The Academic Success Center has four labs (the

math lab, tutoring lab and reading lab), a stem center, writing center, math review sessions and lab review and tutoring. Along with many other services, for example, laptops/Ipads and an open computer lab. The Academic Success Center is located in building 17 on the second floor.

The Robert “Bob” Elmore Honors College provides access to transfer scholarships, funds academic teams, such as the Model United Nations and helps students take advantage of Broward College’s study abroad programs. To be eligible for the Honors college you would need a 3.5 GPA, earned at least 6 college level credits, and be eligible for college

level math, reading, and English courses. For more information, you can visit broward.edu/honors or call 954-201-7645.

Lastly, the Minority Male Initiative provides minority male students with financial assistance, one-on-one mentoring, social engagements, and networking opportunities.

For more information, visit www.broward.edu/mmi or contact MMI@Broward.edu.

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Central Campus Takes On Club Rush

Colette Tamburini
Staff Writer



Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society



Muslim Student Association



Gay-Straight Alliance



Star Wars Club

tambc@mail.broward.edu

FIU
Online

Same World-Class University, Online.

onlinenow.fiu.edu/BC



Valentine's Day Hangout Spots

for Couples, Friends, and Singles

Monster Mini Golf



Couple Golfing at Monster Course

Image Courtesy of South Florida Date Ideas

In Miramar, FL, a unique and quite monstrous mini golf experience awaits you. In a dark area dawning with glowing, neon-lights, the 18 courses will have you interacting with lifelike monsters that squawk, talk and wiggle around. During this, you'll also be able to enjoy some vintage and modern tunes provided by the W.I.R.D. Radio. If you're looking for different attractions with a monstrous twist, the arcade and virtual reality sets provide players with equally thrilling experiences for low prices. For more information, visit monsterminigolf.com

Xtreme Action Park



Arcade and Go Karts

Images Courtesy of Xtreme Website and Boca Raton Magazine

In Fort Lauderdale, FL, the Xtreme Action Park allows visitors to indulge in a variety of different experiences, such as Go Kart Racing, Escape Rooms, Roller Skating, Laser Tag, Rope Courses, and more. If you're looking for a less "Xtreme" trip, there are also bowling lanes, virtual reality games, and an arcade available with titles such as "Pump It Up Dancing" and "Guitar Hero." For more information, visit xtremeactionpark.com

Painting With A Twist



Couples Painting Event

Image Courtesy of Painting With A Twist Trip Advisor Page

In Davie, FL, Painting With A Twist gives anyone a chance to create colorful memories, regardless of their painting experience. Painting With A Twist hosts many events, such as Girls Nights, where you can paint and drink wine with your friends, Date Nights, where you can forgo the traditional date and embrace the realm of creativity with your partner, Trivia Nights, ranging from sci-fi to 90s coffeehouse trivia, and Paint Your Pet events, where you can turn your beautiful friend into a portrait with step-by-step guidance from a professional. They also host Valentine's Day Themed events during the days leading up to Valentine's Day, including the "Van Goughing Together" Event on the 13th. For more information, visit paintingwithatwist.com/studio/davie.

Paul Bakery



Paul Bakery Food Photos

Images Courtesy of USA Restaurants

In Sunrise, FL, Paul Bakery is the best location to get your favorite French baked goods. Paul has been baking French goods since 1889, and specializes in serving high-quality French products such as sandwiches, croissants, macarons, cakes, pastries, coffee and more. There are over 620 restaurants in 34 different countries. For more information, visit <https://www.pauldmv.com/>

Building Community Through Social Activism

Yestin Arvin Gochuico

Staff Writer

Following the murder of George Floyd and escalating racial injustices in the U.S., Prof. Rhonda Bobb and Prof. Jennifer Killiam of South Campus recently hosted Social Justice Week. It is a series of events held virtually from Jan. 24 to 27 aiming to drive conversations in the Broward College (BC) community about addressing racial disparities through Social Justice movements.

In the 5th event Activism 101 – You Can Make a Difference, Faculty Librarian Dawn Stahura discussed the youth's role in activism and how all forms of activism can lead to change. She also shared resources for people who want to start engaging in activism. “[Change] is coming in the form of young people,” she said, “I have highlighted the word act because I think that is such a big part of it. It's about action.”

During the event, attendees watched various videos of youth activists in action, with one about 11-year-old activist Naomi Wadler. Sta-

hura wanted to display that “anyone can be an activist. Anyone can create a change. There's no barrier just because of your age.”

The presentation showed ways to participate in activism like fact-checking sources, boycotting products, writing letters to officials, and creating zines. It's significant for all people to participate even in micro-activism, according to Stahura, because “it can and does lead to macro-activism. The small turns something into larger.”

“So many of us don't call ourselves activists, or we don't think that the work that we're doing is considered activism ... not all of us can risk getting arrested, attending protests, or things like that for various reasons. But that doesn't mean that we're not activists,” Stahura said, highlighting that people can and do engage in activism no matter how small they may be.

The event featured a comprehensive research guide Activism 101 published on the BC libraries website, aiming to provide foundational readings about activ-

ism, social justice and understanding of the system at play in the country. People can use the guide as a starting point to figure out where to start making a difference.

As a zinester, a person who publishes a zine, Stahura shared how it is one of the many ways to participate in activism accessible to many. Typically, hand-made and small-circulated, a zine is a type of magazine that “democratizes” publishing by self-publication. With zines, activists can write their own narratives and be “in control” of how their stories are distributed.

“[Zines are] about the sharing of stories, starting movements,” Stahura said. In response to various pressing issues that don't make national headlines, they are a way to “push against the dominant narrative” played out by disproportionate media coverage.

The discussion concluded with the message, “be the expert of your own lived experiences.” “Your stories matter,” Stahura said, “If there's one person who's brave ... that bravery to stand up and say ‘hey, this



Image courtesy of Inclusivity Zone By Margaret

isn't right,' I can guarantee you that there'll be other folks sharing a space with you that agree.”

For any questions about Activism 101, contact Faculty Librarian Dawn Stahura at dstahura@broward.edu. You can access the mentioned research guide through this link: <https://libguides.broward.edu/activism101>. The hosts partnered with the BC Arts, Humanities, Communications, Design department and the Festival of Music, Film, Literature,

Art to make the series happen. For more information about Social Justice Week, contact Prof. Rhonda Bobb at rbob@broward.edu or Prof. Jennifer Killiam at jkilliam@broward.edu.

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Gaby Petito Case Sparks Renewed Interest in Colored, Missing

Megan Vineberg

Editor-in-Chief

Broward College is committed to celebrating diversity through Social Justice Week which includes bringing awareness to those issues such as trafficking and missing persons cases of all kinds.

As reported by NBC Today, the Gabby Petito case raises an interesting question: Why aren't we bringing attention to those colored and missing?

A national database of missing children who are Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (or BIPOC) exists online today to assist in the efforts to find these people, namely women and children going missing around the world. Still, no one has heard of them. NPR reports that in the last year as many as 100,000 Black women vanished without a trace.

Founded in 2008 by two Black women themselves, The Black and Missing Foundation raises awareness to those cases that receive little to no media attention.

Entertainment Journalist Erika Marie Rivers launched Our Black Girls in 2018 as an organization that centers around telling the stories

of those women who were found dead under suspicious circumstances.

Rivers will go through the missing persons databases herself trying to dig up and piece together any information she can.

She will go through old news reels, and scour the internet for hours after she finishes her day shift.

She publishes on a nearly daily basis because it is not lost on her that she “could've been one of those girls. Anyone could. I don't want to be just the latest person who writes about these girls and these women,” she says.

“I want there to be an end to their story or an end to this chapter, whether we find out what happened, whether somebody got justice, whatever it is.”

She adds, “I know that there are a lot of stories like that about girls and women who look like me, so why am I not seeing them as much as I'm seeing everything else? And then it became, why am I waiting for somebody else to pick up this banner when I'm the one who's passionate about it? It's not about asking for more attention or

being in “competition” with white people. It's about other groups getting the same attention as white victims and having their lives honored in the same ways. I'm talking about getting investigations up to par with what is already going on.”

Each piece published by Rivers provides perspective on who the girl was and how she is loved by many, provided by friends and family.

In accordance with the National Crime Information Center, 200,000 women were reported missing in the last year, only a third of those reported were Black. In contrast, Black women account for up to 15 percent of the population.

White girls (to include Hispanics) made up about 59 percent of reported missing persons cases, and about 75 percent of the female population.

18 year old Jalajhia Finklea was a member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, who has been missing since October.

Tribal Council Chair Jessie Baird said in a statement, “Our women and girls are treated much like our Moth-

er Earth. They are stolen and violated, with very few giving voice to either the occurrence or expressing any outrage or solutions.” As reported by the Patriot Ledger, Native American women represented 0.7 percent of the FBI's missing-person cases in 2017.

Podcasts like Crime Noir, Black Girl Gone, and Black Girl Missing all account for



Image courtesy of David Robinson II; Find Lauren Cho/Facebook

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Netflix's The Witcher: Where The Monsters Under The Bed Live

Jamonique Waite

Staff Writer

Set in an era where magic and the legend of the creatures that live under our beds exists, *The Witcher*, a TV series on Netflix written by Lauren Schmidt Hissrich, Declan de Barra, Andrzej Sapkowski, Beau DeMayo, Jenny Klein and Haily Hall, tells the story of Geralt of Rivia, played by the impeccable Henry Cavill, who is an estranged, beleaguered, battle-hardened 'Witcher,' who is a biogenetically engineered warrior forever tasked with hunting down this magical realm's numerous monsters. He then was suddenly smacked with the job of a father-figure to the exiled Princess Cirilla, played by an excellent Freya Allan. This unlikely pairing must travel the length of the continent, avoiding monsters as well as the agents of ambitious royals who will stop at nothing to eliminate the young royal.

While the description of "Harry Potter" meets "Lord of The Rings" may suffice to rally up fans, the show flows seamlessly and its set-

ting is so smooth that it can perfectly immerse newcomers with no idea of any other prior material related to the plot. The plot is riddled with heart wrenching and new-found love, friendship and creates a sense of belonging, at some point the movies becomes more of real life despite prior knowledge that magic never existed. Normally, Netflix original movies are a hit or miss depending on what you like, but this one was knocked right out of the park.

The cinematography holds a splendid display of gut busting drama and spine-tingling thrill tied together with ever evolving features made this series what it was, perfection. Another movie would have failed because the world of *The Witcher* is densely compacted and setting up characters with their own backstory is something that is risky, but the TV series producers gave enough time to let each individual shine, and the casting direction absolutely nailed it.

There were some head scratching moments whereas there are some spots here and there that create confu-



Supeman's Henry Cavill stars in *The Witcher*.

Image courtesy of Netflix

sion, and some of the cuts between multiple stories being told in a single episode can be quite jarring, especially for newcomers to the *Witcher* universe. I could see this series being quite daunting as someone uninitiated with the franchise, as they are dropped into the middle of a very complex story already in progress, though anyone who sticks with the series will be rewarded with top-notch world and character building as the series develops into the first eight episodes.

Overall, if you're a fan of fantasy, drama, and thrillers this show will be right up

your alley, but the series has a little something for everyone. Action fans will find plenty to like here in the gorge filled choreographed fight sequences, and those who enjoy character-driven drama will be thrilled to know that the characters and their interactions and dialogue is really the series' bread and butter.

It certainly isn't perfect, but it has a lot to love and a lot of potential for the future as the best parts of the *Witcher* story are yet to be told. With a four-star rating on Rotten Tomatoes, this emotional roller-caster of a series is sure to take you on

a wild ride; keeping you at the edge of your seat as you watch the hardened heart of Geralt beats and the life of a princess changed forever.

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Here's Where Deathloop Went Wrong

Ryan Marin

Staff Writer

Deathloop, the newest game by developer Arkane Studios and released exclusively for PS5, is a game that had the potential to be a masterpiece. While so much of the game feels like it was planned out and created with painstaking detail and care, the story misses the mark and fails to take it over the edge as a masterpiece.

To start, you wake up on a beach and it is quickly explained to you that you've been here before. You learn that you are stuck in a time loop where you are living the same day over and over; everyone forgets what happens after that day ends except for you and Julianna, a rival assassin you communicate with and learn from throughout the entire game. After the day ends, it resets itself, and you are stuck in a time loop. The goal of the game is to create a "perfect day," where you use the time loop to kill the leaders in charge of protecting the island

and end the loop.

Deathloop is incredibly fun to play. The game feels smooth and incredibly responsive to your actions and decisions. The best way I can describe it is that it feels like the controller is an extension of your mind. Whether you are using magic powers to teleport around the map to get to an enemy, engaging in a gunfight with ten enemies, or kicking an enemy off the side of a mountain, it felt like I was always in control.

You can roam the world in stealth or get aggressive and run and gun like you're in in the middle of a *Call of Duty* match; this provided me with a considerable amount of flexibility for how I wanted to get through a level and allowed me to experiment with my loadouts and how my decisions impacted the environment around me.

The game's premise was incredibly interesting and fun to uncover. Moving through the island and uncovering the secrets of the island was engrossing and



Rivals engage in a deadly shootout.

Image courtesy of PlayStation

addicting. Throughout the game, you are given bits of information and promised a full explanation of what is going on after you kill everyone you need to and have your "perfect day." As I continually uncovered more and more of the story, I was excited to find what was waiting for me at the end of the day and uncover the answers I had been desperately searching for.

Sadly, the game never gave me the closure I was looking for. While I

was engrossed in the narrative, it needed that final story beat to really tie everything together and help make sense of it all. However, Arkane promised me an explanation that it never actually provides. The ending felt underdeveloped and rushed, which disappointed me due to how much I had enjoyed the game.

I'm all for player interpretation, but *Deathloop*'s story simply feels unfinished. After an incredi-

ble buildup, *Deathloop* fails to stick to the landing. It left a bad taste in my mouth, which is sad to say considering how great every other part of the game is. With a more satisfying conclusion, this could have been an all-time great, but after my 16 hours I was left thinking about what could have been.

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Best Films of Andrei Tarkovsky

Lachin Kerbabaeva
Online Editor

Andrei Tarkovsky is considered one of the most influential authors of world cinema. He was a Soviet director who lived only 54 years and created seven feature films that are considered a masterpiece of cinema and studied in film schools worldwide. In the center of his stories, there is always a person whose fate falls on complex life tests. Tarkovsky created his unique cinematic language, making him one of the most incomprehensible authors of world cinema.

The military drama *Ivan's Childhood* came out in 1962. It is the first feature film directed by Tarkovsky. The film is based on the story *Ivan* by Vladimir Bogomolov. This story is about a 12-year-old boy who lost his childhood due to the outbreak of World War II. His father died on the front. Soldiers of the Third Reich shot his mother and sister. Suddenly an orphaned boy leaves for a military unit and becomes an elusive scout. Crippled by fate, the boy is obsessed with hatred and the desire to avenge the death of his family. This film has stunning cinematography and a heartbreaking story. According to Tarkovsky, he wanted to convey all the unnaturalness of war and chose



Image courtesy of Ivan's Childhood

the theme of childhood because it is the opposite thing to war. The contribution of the film is impossible to convey, and it is quoted by many directors, for example, in the movie *Dead Man* (1995), *The Revenant* (2015), and the TV series *True Detective* (2014-...).

The historical film *Andrei Rublev* was released in 1966. The film describes the life of Andrei Rublev, a prominent Russian icon painter, taking place at the end of the 14th - beginning of the 15th centuries. The plot is divided into eight novel episodes. Tar-

kovsky, striving for the truth, demanded Anatoly Solonitsyn, who played the role of Andrei Rublev, not to talk to anyone for three months. He did it because the monk Andrei Rublev takes a vow of silence according to the plot. The actor, all this time, spoke only with gestures and then recalled that he had difficulty developing vocal cords after filming the movie.

The next film *Solaris* is a science fiction drama directed by Andrei Tarkovsky in 1972. It is based on the novel of the same name by Stanislaw Lem. The story is about the ethical problems of humanity, viewed

through the prism of contacts with extraterrestrial intelligence. The plot is set in the future on a space station. Scientists are trying to study a distant planet covered in the ocean, *Solaris*, and scientists come to a standstill. The protagonist, a psychologist, Chris Kelvin, arrives at the space station to deal with what happened to three scientists who have been on the

station alone for many years. At first, it seems that the few scientists who survived at the station have gone crazy, but then he experiences a terrible vision: He sees his wife, who committed suicide some time ago. Lem, the book's author, was very unsatisfied with the film adaptation despite the film's huge success. Tarkovsky and Lem had a massive fight during the making of the film due to creative differences. In philosophical discussions, the heroes of Tarkovsky refer to the names of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Martin Luther, Goethe's work *Faust* and ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche.

Tarkovsky's next film, *Stalk-*

er (1979), is challenging to classify into one genre. It's a drama, a philosophical parable, and post-apocalyptic fiction. Three men - the Professor, the Writer, and the Stalker - travel to a mysterious and forbidden territory known as the Zone. It is the place where a meteorite fell 20 years ago. In the Zone, everything is not what it seems; objects there change locations, and landscapes shift and move. The most important thing that attracts people to this dangerous territory is the legend that there is a bunker room in which there is a specific room that can fulfill any of the most secret desires. But on the way to the room, people experience their determination and faith in what they really want to achieve.


Tarkovsky lived a short life but made an incredible contribution to the development of cinema. His films inspire, captivate and make the audience think. Many consider him a genius, while others strongly criticize his artsy style. One thing is certain: 36 years have passed since the director's death, but his works continue to live. Isn't this the main value for the creator?

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Republicans Crack Down on Critical Race Theory Through Misguided Context and Semantics

Yestin Arvin Gochuico
Staff Writer

Politically divisive and anti-American—Republicans say Critical Race Theory (CRT) has infiltrated public institutions by teaching historically inaccurate events and indoctrinating people to be against core American values. But CRT isn't driving a wedge in society, unlike they say.

Introduced during the first half of January 2022, the new Senate Bill (SB) 148 and House Bill (HB) 7 would limit discussions of various race-related topics in classrooms and workplace training sessions. A step forward to Gov. Ron DeSantis' push against CRT, the bills would further suppress racial dialogues told through the lens of African Americans if passed.

It has only been a month since DeSantis announced a legislative proposal that would give "private right of action" to employees and parents of children taught with CRT concepts. Now, Republican legislators are boosting their efforts to crack down on racial discussions they deem cause "psychological distress" by seeking to require educational instruction to be "consistent with specified principles of individual freedom."

In one example stated in Section 2 of SB 148, American history should be "viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable,

teachable, and testable ... based largely on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence." On the contrary, if we look at the history of the Second Continental Congress in the context of slavery, it shows independence wasn't for every individual but rather only afforded to the colonists at that time.

How can history be nuanced if education gets based on "universal principles" of a founding document without explaining the context of its racist past? Mind you, this is only scratching the surface.

These legislative actions pose a facade of neutrality and claim to fight discrimination through misguided instructional reforms. It fails to address the concept of covert racism, where ideas, structures, and historical narratives can appear neutral and the same for everyone, as this bill regards, but in actuality, they have destabilized marginalized communities when looked beyond the surface level outcomes.

The American education system perfectly illustrates a structure operating with covert racism. Many consider all Americans have equal access to education, but economic disparities create an uneven playing field for academic opportunities. Studies have shown that the average standardized test scores increase parallel to a student's family income. Considering the already large ra-

cial wealth gap, students from affluent white neighborhoods have more chances to succeed academically than students from Black neighborhoods.

While congress committees are still debating the bills, censorship of historical context and systemic racism is already translating to reality today in classrooms and workplaces when viewed under the distorted definition of CRT.

Introduced commonly in law schools, CRT is an academic framework that calls attention to the embedded racist policies of America's social institutions and how it still systemically impacts modern U.S. society; it is, at least, how it should be defined. CRT now implies a blanket term to invalidate all race-related education.

Parallel to how "Cultural Marxism," "wokeness," and "political correctness" were weaponized, the definition of CRT is relentlessly being shifted from a socio-political discipline to a controversial buzzword as a way to target and strike down several progressive movements like Black Lives Matter. Pedagogical-related racial studies suffer from this shift, as misguided semantics cast them to the public as "divisive."

Through "Linguistic Hijacking," dominant groups can shift the meaning of terminologies and drive their definition into complete obscurity. Boston University professor



Illustration by Yestin Arvin Gochuico/The Observer

Derek Anderson defined it as "misusing or co-opting politically significant terminology in ways that harm marginalized groups." It is a form of "epistemic and political violence" that renders words ineffective in political discourses so dominant groups can assert their political hegemony and resist the knowledge of oppression, essentially rejecting concepts that challenge the system.

Republicans are falsely narrating CRT as self-defeating, and they believe it's "inherently racist" to explain how systemic racism persisted in America. How can the enlightenment of racial injustices to the youth end up the ones cultivating it? It can't.

DeSantis' legislative proposal and the newly introduced

bills address nothing about racism but rather raise a solution to a boogeyman problem it created. By silencing educators, what it only contributes is the erasure of centuries-worth struggles of African Americans in the face of the racist societal structures of America.

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Kobe and Gigi Remembered in an Awesome Way

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief



Images courtesy of Google Images

On January 26th, 2020, the Lakers legend Kobe Bryant, his daughter Gianna Bryant, and seven other people were killed in a tragic helicopter crash in Calabasas, California. Kobe was 41 at the time, and his daughter Gigi was only 13, when this unforeseen tragedy took place. This is the type of sad tragedy that everyone will remember what they were doing when they heard the news that Kobe had died.

On February 24, 2020, there was a public memorial held for Kobe and Gianna Bryant, which turned into a sold out memorial service. This memorial service took place at the downtown previously called

Staples Center, now it has been changed to the Crypto.com Arena. Vanessa Bryant, who is Kobe's wife, said in her speech at the memorial, "God knew that they couldn't be on this earth without each other; He had to bring them home to have them together. Babe, you take care of Gigi." Kobe's wife Vanessa also said Kobe was "the MVP of girl dads".

This memorial service began with Beyoncé performing her famous songs, XO and Halo. During the eulogy, Vanessa predicted that Gianna could have become "the best player in the WNBA." When she said that I pondered on it for a while, and then I totally

agreed that Gigi could become a great WNBA player; because of her drive, her willingness to get better, Mamba Mentality, and Kobe. Some current players who attended were Stephen Curry, James Harden, Russel Westbrook, and Kyrie Irving.

On the two year anniversary of their tragic death, a statue of Kobe and his daughter Gigi, were placed at the site of the helicopter crash in Calabasas, California. This beautiful statue was created by Dan Medina, who is a California sculptor and artist. In this particular statue that Dan made, Kobe was in his Lakers uniform, while his arm was around his daughter Gigi, who was wearing her uniform, with a basketball by her side. Both Kobe and Gigi have big smiles, while looking at each other

Medina spoke with NBC Los Angeles and told them, that he brought the 160 pound bronze statue on Wednesday, January 26th, 2022 at 4 am, to a Calabasas hilltop. The statue had the names of Kobe and Gigi, and all the other victim of the helicopter crash: John Altobelli, his wife and daughter, Keri and Alyssa, Christina Mauser, Sarah Chester and her daughter Payton, and lastly pilot ATA Zobayan. All of these victims names were inscribed on the statues base.

Many fans took photos of the statues, while also leaving flowers and other things at the

crash site. Medina said to the Los Angeles Times, "You come here and it's kind of emotional; the flowers, the jerseys, the hats blow away, and I think we need something more permanent". He also said, "I kind of want to follow the law, respect the locals, respect the Santa Monica Mountains". Medina said this statue is just a smaller version of the life-size sculpture that he

is currently working on, and he hopes it can find a location in Downtown LA. I honestly feel like what Medina did to memorialize Kobe and Gigi was an awesome this that all Kobe fan can be happy with.

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NFL Divisional and Conference Championship Playoff Weekend

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

On Jan. 22 and Jan. 23, the NFL Divisional games took place. Joe Burrow and the Bengals beat Ryan Tannehill and the Titans in a close game. T

he score was 19-16 in a hard-fought defensive game. Three reasons why the Bengals won was because Ryan threw 3 interceptions, Ja'Marr Chase dominated, and lastly because Evan McPherson kicked a game-winning 52-yard field goal, as time expired.

Jimmy Garoppolo and the 49ers beat Aaron Rogers and the Packers in another close game that Saturday night.

The score was 13-10, in another hard-fought defensive game. Three reasons why the Packers lost was because their special teams allowed a block punt touchdown 5 yards from their end zone, their special teams allowed their field goal to get blocked before the half (which would have extended their lead to 10-0 before the half), and Aaron Rogers was sacked five times.

There will be two loom-

ing stories this offseason, Davante Adams' contract situation, also what Aaron Rogers decides to do; in terms of him retiring, returning to the Packers, or asking for a trade.

Matthew Stafford and the Rams beat Tom Brady and the Buccaneers in a very close game.

The final score was 30-27, in a once non-competitive game in terms of the score, but the Bucs rallied back with 24 straight points in the second half, to tie the game at 27 apiece.

Some reasons why the Rams won was because Cooper Kupp, like he has been doing in his record-breaking season, erupted for nine receptions, 183 yards, and a touchdown; also, because Matt Gay hit a game winning 30-yard field goal.

Tom Brady, the goat, officially retired on Jan. 31, 2022 in the morning, to end a historically great 22-year career.

Now the Buccaneers have to try to retool and replace Brady with another veteran quarterback.

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs beat Josh Allen and the Bills, in an overtime doozie.

The final score was 36-42 in a high scoring fest, that needed overtime to decide the winner, even though both teams played great.

Three reasons why the Bills lost was because they allowed Harrison Butker to kick a game tying 49-yard field goal, didn't allow Gabriel Davis to continue his great eighth reception, 201 yards, and 4 touchdown night; and lastly because they allowed Travis Kelce to catch a game winning, back of the end zone, 8-yard touchdown.



Joe Burrow is ecstatic after an unforeseen comeback win. Images courtesy of Google Images



Odell Beckham Jr. speaking to Deebo Samuel after a great win. Images courtesy of Google Images

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