

THE OBSERVER

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Students benefit from free Certified Leader Program

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Editor-In-Chief

Student Life is hosting free seminars to help you on your journey of becoming a better leader in your class, community, or workplace. By participating, you will increase your current leadership skills as well as receive a certificate from the State of Florida for Soft Skills and be given a Graduation Stole.

The seminars will be offered at the three campuses at Student Life and are about an hour long. In order to receive the certifications students must complete three simple steps: attend 3 of the seminars, complete 8 reflective journal entries and take a Soft Skills exam.

Lauren Adamo, Interim Senior Director for Student Engagement, motivates students to join. "The program is open to and recommended for all students. It is a journey of personal explo-

ration, allows students to build their network, define their own leadership style and develop professionally."

The seminars will take place on
Tuesday, March 21 (2 p.m.);
Wednesday, March 29 (12 p.m.);
Thursday, April 6 (2 p.m.); and
Monday, April 10 (2 p.m.).

Adamo explains that this program allows you to explore your leadership style and learn essential skills that employers seek, such as ethics and teamwork. Being able to learn this can help you in your career.

Student Life collaborated with the Testing Center and Career Services for this program. Under the Leadership Goal, the Certified Leader Program launched in 2022. But there have been variations of it in the past. It originally began during the

pandemic as a Leadership in 60 series which consisted of 60 second videos giving tips about leadership as well as informational slides. Last academic year, the sessions were 60-minutes long and virtual.

Now, the program has a Florida Soft Skills Certification, reflective journaling, and in-person leadership sessions.

"You never stop learning how to be a better leader, and those who spend more time learning and honing their skills from this early stage in their careers will surely have a better head start," shares Adamo. "Every job wants to know how you work in a team, how you solve problems, what leadership skills you possess. This program will help students practice those skills to have actual experiences to learn on in interviews."

The statistics show that the Certified Leader Pro-



Image Courtesy of Student Life

gram is positively impacting students:

- 100 percent of students reported enjoying the program
- 96 percent of students felt they had increased leadership skills after just one seminar
- 98 percent Increased their ability to work within a team
- 94 percent felt better prepared to enter their career field

If you wish to improve

your leadership skills, be sure to check out this program.

Visit Student life for more information or reach out to them at studentlife@broward.edu.

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Student Life features event: Black Girls in Cosplay

Keynaya Thompson
Staff Writer

"You don't see yourself represented in TV shows, in cartoons, or in anime very often." Justine, aka Astro Dyne, spoke when asked about her uniqueness as a black cosplayer. She sat alongside her sister Jenny who goes by Luna and fellow cosplayer Dom, aka Momo Jinxie.

The group of artists were featured at the Student Life event 'Black Girls In Cosplay,' which highlighted the underappreciated art of black women who cosplay and their experiences in the cosplay community. The event took place on Feb. 23, wrapping up a long list of Black History Month events and blending seamlessly into the Women's History Month events that would start taking place the following week.

"There's a lot of black cosplayers out there who like to put their own special twists on characters. There's one cosplayer from Trinidad who does carnival inspired costumes. You wouldn't get that from a cosplayer of any other race, it's specifically a black thing. I think it's cool to insert your own cul-

ture into your costumes," said Justine, who defies the notion that if you're black you have to be into certain hobbies and activities, continued to emphasize the unique qualities of being a black cosplayer.

The term 'cosplay' was coined in 1984 by Japanese film producer Nobuyuki Takahashi after he attended Worldcon. The word cosplay is a portmanteau of the words costume and play. Cosplay consists of portraying [or 'embodying' as Momo Jinxie explained] a character from a book, show or movie in pop culture. Representation for people of color in pop culture has evolved rapidly in recent years but before this turnaround black cosplayers faced and continue to deal with scarcity, stereotypes, backlash and online abuse when portraying characters that didn't look like them.

"A big compliment in cosplay is being called the 'canon' version of whatever character you're cosplaying as. A black cosplayer is often called the black version or a series of slurs like ghetto or the Netflix adaptation [derogatory]. It's hard to get out there because there's not a lot of support," said Justine.

Justine explained the adversities she and other black cosplayers face on social media. Black cosplayers, as any other content creator, have a harder time being supported online than their white counterparts.

As far as competition goes, another layer of fear you as a competitor have are these panels of judges going to take screen accuracy into accountability when they're judging. Are they going to look at my skin tone and say, 'well you don't look identical to the character' and would that deduct points versus someone whose costume might not be at the same level, but they look so much more like the character just due to their complexion," she said.

Dom, who's been competing in cosplay conventions for over ten years shared her personal struggles with competitions that are shared amongst black cosplayers who attend conventions but are reluctant to compete. The group then spoke about incidents where they'd meet other black cosplayers at a con and ask one another why they didn't enter the competition. They realized there's an unspoken 'you know why' transcript amongst



Image Courtesy of Student Life

these cosplayers who all share the same fears of being judged. "I can't change my skin tone."

"Which is why you have to enter and [it's important] when a con invites a black cosplayer to be a guest and not just a guest for media purposes...[but instead] help give that look of inclusivity and also have a voice on the inside to make sure you are judging cosplayers based on the content they've created and not just the color of their skin," Dom explained furthering the message of representation in the cosplay community.

On display at the event were various costumes and props created by the speakers; one being an award-winning lilac dress

with armor by Jenny who's been cosplaying and designing costumes for more than ten years. "Black cosplayers tend to flock to each other, and it creates this sense of community because that's our people! We have to be with our people, we have to support our people. The amount of people we've helped to start cosplaying is insane. If anyone is looking to cosplay, we're very much open as sources that you can come to." She urged everyone thinking of becoming a cosplayer or attending a convention to simply go out and try it.

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What's happening around campus







Effective: January 10, 2023

Seahawk Marketplace will be temporarily moved to the Planetarium, Bldg 16



Building 16 is the one in between the Library (Bldg.17) and Student Services (Bldg.19)

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What does Ramadan mean to Muslims?

Sarah Sattaur
Staff Writer

As Ramadan approaches, Muslims around the world are getting prepared to observe one of the most important and holiest months of their religious calendar.

Ramadan is a month-long observance marked by prayer, fasting, charity, and spiritual reflection. It is a time when Muslims seek to deepen their connection with Allah and grow closer to their faith (Islam). During this month, you can find in Muslim countries that they close their cafes, restaurants and workplace canteens during the day because no one is eating or

drinking. Hundreds of millions of Muslims look forward to Ramadan each year. It begins when the new moon of the month is sighted.

Why is Ramadan important? Ramadan is not just about abstaining from food and drink during daylight hours. It is a multifaceted observance that combines physical, spiritual, and moral discipline. It calls upon Muslims to practice virtues like self-control, compassion, and generosity while also providing opportunities to engage with their Muslim community and perform acts of charity.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the most important aspects of this observance.

Muslims abstain from food, drink, and sexual pleasures from just before the sun rises to sunset each day during the month. However, some people, like the sick or elderly, are exempt from fasting due to their situation. This physical sacrifice provides an opportunity for Muslims to empathize with and show solidarity with those who go hungry every day.

Another merit on Ramadan is that it is known as the month of the Qur'an because it was during this month that the Qur'an (Muslim Holy book) was first revealed. Ramadan provides an ideal opportunity for Muslims to change their lives for the better and seek forgiveness from Allah. Devout Muslims exert themselves harder in prayer, recitation, and glorification of Allah in the last ten nights of Ramadan because in these nights there is the "Night of Power and Decree."

Muslims try to complete the Qur'an daily, fast, and attend the night prayer behind the Imam. Many Muslims want to change their lives for the better, so they stop bad habits and seek Allah's Mercy and Forgiveness during Ramadan. They sit with knowledgeable teachers and avoid misguided

ideologies. Ramadan makes Muslims reflect upon the bounties of Allah, helps them understand the plight of the poor, and teaches them self-control and reminds them that serving Allah must take priority over their own desires.

Non-Muslims should know that Muslims worship only one God (Allah), the Lord of all creation – He is the God of all Prophets including Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon them all).

How does a Muslim night look like after they break their fast?

At dusk (sunset), the Muslim begins by breaking the fast with some dates and water, prays the Maghrib (evening) prayer, returns to his family or eats at the mosque to share a well-prepared meal, and then prays the obligatory night prayer ('Isha) followed by quite a lengthy optional night prayer that is ONLY prayed in Ramadan. Our nights are filled with prayer to strengthen our connection with Allah.

At the end of Ramadan, Muslims celebrate Eid Fitr, a joyous feast that marks the end of the month-long observance.

Here are some of the responses we received when asked Muslims what they most

enjoyed about Ramadan...

"My favorite part of Ramadan is the feeling it gives. Everything feels different during Ramadan and the energy is different. It's like I can feel myself doing something special and not just for myself, but for Allah"-Yousuf El-Talla

"Ramadan is the time of the year Muslims look most forward to. My favorite aspect of Ramadan is the feeling of community that one can sense in the air itself. Many people joke about the "Ramadan Muslims" who suddenly get religious for the month, but I appreciate and admire the fact that during this month, everyone, regardless of how religious they may be, is working their hardest towards pleasing Allah."-Abdullah Imran

"My favorite part of Ramadan is the peace I feel in it, it is the most peaceful month of all the years"-Ismael Sattaur



Photo by Rumman Amin/unsplash.com

Special Olympics Club hosting basketball event

Ryan Marin
Central Campus Editor

Broward College's Special Olympics Club is hosting a basketball event next month for members of the community with a disability. The event is focused on working with students with disabilities and developing their basketball skills.

The event is spread out over two weeks, from the last Monday in March to the first Monday in April. Participants will have a practice in March where they will work with volunteers and members of the club. Participants will then play an exhibition game in April against the club and volunteers.

Special Olympics



specialolympics.org

"This event is a great way for students to get involved with their community," said Eileen Santiago, Professor at Broward College and advisor of the Special Olympics Club. "This event is a chance for students to have fun and put on a great event for their community."

Many of the students in this club are part of Broward College's Teacher Education Program and studying to become ESE (exceptional

student education) teachers, so this event is a great opportunity for students to practice putting on events and working with Special Olympics groups.

"I am excited about taking part in this event," said John Nelson, a student in the Teacher Education Program at Broward College and member of the Special Olympics Club. "I am excited to work with these students and play basketball. The event is also a great opportunity to network with local community members and organizations that can help me put on events like this at my school in the future."

The Special Olympics Club plans to put on more events like this in the future and hopes to continue to develop community relations and get local members of the community involved. The club also recently organized a day



Special Olympics Club

where they went to go watch the recently released movie "Champions" at the theater. The movie is about a basketball coach who coaches adults with disabilities to compete in a Special Olympics basketball tournament. This helped students better understand what to expect when taking part in the event.

Participants must be over 18 and have a disability.

The event is open to both Broward College students and members of the community. The event will be held at a local community center and will start at 6 p.m. If you want more information or want to take part in the event, please reach out to Professor Eileen Santiago at esantiago@broward.edu.

marir34@mail.broward.edu



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Women's History Month

There are many women in leadership positions at Broward College that are leading by example and looking for ways to help our community with the work that they do in and outside of campus. We had the opportunity to speak to some of these incredible and hardworking women who show us what being a leader is all about.



Luz Negrón-Alvarez 4.5 years

*Dean, Student Services, Online.
Pathway STEM and Education /North Campus*

We oversee admissions, advising, Seahawk Outreach Services for all campuses. I'm also one of the Pathway liaisons, but also provide support to all pathways at North Campus and participate in campus leadership meetings. I'm in charge of discipline. We do Student Town Halls to hear from students. We work on accreditation and are also assigned to committees, currently I'm co-leading the Excellence and Academic advising with VP Stubbs.

Do you have any advice for women who want to get into a leadership role in higher education, or another field?

Believe in yourself and understand you can do it. Learn when to say yes and no. Choose opportunities that will give you the most bang for your buck and do well in them. Know your boundaries and push yourself hard. Know when to speak up. And when you get to the top don't forget to pull somebody up with you. A motto I live by is, "You always stand taller with someone else on your shoulders."

What can we do to empower young women?

Teaching them to say no and to choose their battles, you don't have to fight every battle. We need to understand we have the same power anybody else has and be wise when we're using it. Also, making sure that those of us who are in a position to influence that we are providing opportunities. It's important to share with others. When you share information, your skills and tools, you are helping others come up, and that elevates everybody.

Who are some inspiring women you look up to and why?

I find inspiration in older people, leaders, community workers, a struggling parent that makes it happen, and our young women coming up. My mom was very inspirational, she was a very strong woman at a time and a place where it was a little frowned upon, she always taught me to not hold back. My daughter also inspires me, she is very good at the no, I still work on that, and she is very good at setting boundaries. Here at the college there is great leadership everywhere, like the campus VPs who are amazing.



Amoy Reid 20 years

Dean of Academic Affairs/Dean of Academic Affairs- Communication Pathways/ South Campus

While it differs from one college to another, the dean's position generally involves managing students and faculty on the one side and liaising with senior management on the other. My role is dual as I serve as the Interim Dean of Communication, the C in Arts, Humanities, Communication, and Design pathway, and the academic dean on South Campus.

Do you have any advice for women who want to get into a leadership role in higher education, or another field?

Believe in yourself, seek out mentors, build your network, pursue professional development, don't be afraid to take risks, advocate for yourself and be a team player.

What can we do to empower young women?

As a college community, we are already doing a lot to empower young women. We provide them equal opportunities to learn, grow and excel in their chosen fields. We offer mentorship programs, professional development workshops, and leadership roles to encourage young women to pursue their goals confidently.

Who are some inspiring women you look up to and why?

Who are some inspiring women you look up to and why? There are many women that I look up to both at Broward College and outside. The person that readily comes to mind when I think of my mentor is Dr. Audrey Henry, my professor in the graduate teacher education program at Nova Southeastern University. She influenced and motivated me to succeed in my academic and personal life.



Esmeralda Sweeney 24 years

*Associate Vice President of Student Success
All Campuses*

I come up with student achievement initiatives that help students achieve their goals. We either start the initiative or run an existent one, assessing if it's helping the student. We ask students what they need, and based on that advocate and try to find funding to establish programs that would help them the most and then I see if the programs are working.

Do you have any advice for women who want to get into a leadership role in higher education, or another field?

Higher education is a very rewarding career because you are always helping students succeed and giving them opportunities and tools to be successful in the world. I think we often shy away from asking what we want and what we need or feel we don't deserve it as much. My advice is to always ask for what you want and need, you may not get it, but you always ask.

Who are some inspiring women you look up to and why?

Many women colleagues have become friends and family now. It's hard to be a full time mother, many of them are completing or have already finished their doctorate, so I do admire many of those women. I have a best friend that immigrated from Venezuela, when she first came in she didn't have a home, and now she is an oncology nurse and doing travel nurse stuff and that's really admirable because she really started from the bottom.

What can we do to empower young women?

The best advice I can give anybody is to form a network of supportive women. I would also say get yourself a mentor, someone that doesn't tell you what you want to hear but what you need to hear. Other women out there can give you a different perspective in other areas of your life whether it is how to dress professionally, do budgeting, or learn about self-care.

Impactful Playoff/Play-in Team Trades

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The NBA trade deadline ended on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. Most Playoff/Play-in teams facilitated trades to bolster their respective rosters to solidify their playoff spots. Also, to rise to or from the play-in tournament. The main differences between the Play-in Tournament and the Playoffs are extra needed rest, more games played, 1 game elimination games (depending on your seeding), etc. There are three weeks and 10-12 games left for all teams vying for a playoff berth, which has ratcheted up the importance and intensity of all games. No team wants to participate in the Play-in Tournament, but this Play-in Tournament idea has facilitated underwhelming teams, because of unforeseen factors, to have a fighting chance of entering the playoffs.

The Nets traded Kyrie Irving and Markieff Morris to the Mavericks for Spencer Dinwiddie, Dorian Finney-Smith, 2029 1st round pick, and two future 2nd round picks. Dinwiddie has been extremely impactful for the Nets by averaging eight assists, accumulating multiple double-doubles, and hitting clutch shots. His impact was evident since his 1st game, by propelling them to a win vs the



Impactful trades

Photo courtesy of theringer.com

Bulls with 25 pts, five rbs, six asts, and four stls. Irving has been everything and more for the Mavericks, especially what they envisioned his pairing with Luka Doncic would evolve into. Irving's first game back from injury, also with Doncic injured, carried the Mavs to an important seeding win vs the Lakers. He accumulated 38 pts, six rbs and asts, with five 3-pointers. Also, he had a game-winning assist, to Maxi Kleber for a shocking game-winning 3-pointer.

The Suns acquired KD and T.J. Warren from the Nets for Mikal Bridges, Cam Johnson, Jae Crowder, 2023, 2025, 2027, 2029 unprotected 1st round picks, and a 2028 pick swap. Bridges has been their

first scoring option and has been extremely impactful in that role by averaging basically 26 points and accumulating multiple 30-point games. Both Dinwiddie and Bridges' impact, has resulted in them staying out of the Play-in, and solidifying their playoff berth. KD's impact has been monumental, even though he is currently recovering from an ankle sprain and is expected to be healthy around 1-2 more weeks. The last game he participated in, he hit a game-winning mid-range jumper to propel the Suns over the Mavs.

Early in trade deadline, the Lakers acquired Rui Hachimura for Kendrick Nunn, and three second round picks. The Lakers, Timberwolves,

and Jazz executed a three-team trade, that finally sent Russ, Juan Toscanini-Anderson, Damon Jones, and a lightly protected 2027 first round pick to the Jazz for D'Angelo Russell, Malik Beasley, and Jared Vanderbilt. Also, the Timberwolves received Mike Conley, Nickiel Alexander-Walker, and a 2024-2026 2nd round pick. They also traded Thomas Bryant to the Nuggets for Davin Reed and three 2nd round picks. Also, they traded Patrick Beverly, to the Magic for Mo Bamba. All these players they acquired have impacted the Lakers in multiple ways with depth, shooting, defensive versatility, and energy. They have also finally climbed into the Play-in and have a chance to even avoid the Play-in, especially when LeBron James returns from his lingering foot injury, around the last week of the regular season.

The Raptors decided to retool by acquiring Jakob Poeltl for Khem Birch, a 2024 protected 1st round pick, and two future 2nd round picks. Poeltl has impacted the Raptors by solidifying their center position and getting multiple double-doubles. The Knicks acquired Josh Hart from the Blazers for Cam Reddish, Ryan Arcidiacono, Svi Mykhailiuk, and a 2023 lottery-protected 1st round pick. Hart's impact on the Knicks has been exceptional because he has

reinforced the Knicks culture. Also, he has solidified their playoff berth and especially expectations.

The Clippers, Rockets, and Grizzlies executed a three-team trade, that sent Eric Gordon to the Clippers, John Wall and Danny Green to the Rockets, Luke Kennard and three 2nd round picks to the Grizzlies. The Clippers also acquired Mason Plumlee for Reggie Jackson. These trades have provided the Clippers with more depth and shooting. Also, it has reinforced the Clippers as championship contenders. Plumlee has impacted them by having multiple double-doubles, and Gordon has had multiple 20-point games.

The Buyout market proved to be plentiful for the Clippers and Heat. The Clippers decided to sign Russell Westbrook, for a true point guard attributes. Westbrook's impact has been paramount because he has had multiple double-doubles and was one point shy of a triple-double, vs the Blazers. The Heat had traded Dewayne Dedmon for a 2028 2nd round pick, cash considerations, which created multiple roster spots for them to eventually sign more impactful players. The Heat immediately signed Kevin Love and Cody Zeller for shooting and front court stabilization.

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Aaron Rogers and Davante Adams connection sputters?

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

Davante Adams and Aaron Rogers connection is without a doubt, the best quarterback to wide receiver connection in the league at that period. They both trusted each other to make any pass or catch because of the practice they have put in which was consistent every day. Rogers was the back-to-back MVP the last two seasons they were together. Also, Adams

was the best wide receiver those last two years, in terms of performance and numbers. Both players complemented each other, that connection was in full every time that they were available to play.

When Adams caught pass after pass vs the Bengals, there is a question that needs to be asked: how does he continually keep doing this? Every play, every game, and every season, Adams keeps doing something spectacular on the field. Everyone in the stadium knew

who Aaron Rogers wanted to pass the ball to, but the Bengals still could not stop him. In this game, Adams caught 11 catches, 206 yards (career-high), and a touchdown. Their innate connection carried the Packers to a decisive win vs a young up and coming Bengals team.

The Packers won vs the Bengals (25-22) in overtime, but 5 missed field goals combined by both teams were missed in clutch time. This was the most yards in a game by a Packers receiver in seven years since a fan favorite Jordy Nelson. Adams said, "I told at least 3 people outside the building — talking to family, one of my cousins, talking to my wife, I told her — "I feel like this could be my career high this game. "So, either I am clairvoyant, or I know what I am talking about. "Having clairvoyance might not be Adams' only psychic ability. During some of his catches Adams claimed that he gets the feeling that he has done the same thing.

Adams' 20 yard catch in clutch time reminded him of his 17 yard catch in clutch time vs the 49ers. Adams said, "I have this thing in games where I have déjà vu during the play, and it's like a really weird thing." It got so weird that when he told one of his teammates, they thought something was wrong with him. Adams said, "It is like some weird "That's So Raven" s—". After Adams' déjà vu play vs the Bengals, he still had the presence of mind to leave his

trance, to give Rogers enough time to spike the ball, which stopped the clock. Rogers said Adams rarely does anything that surprises him anymore.

They both connected on a deep ball in the fourth quarter, which was a season long 59-yard catch. Through last week, Adams lead the NFL in receptions (42), targets (61), and yards (579). Rogers said, "Even when you know that I am going to him, he still finds a way to get open and makes a big catch and breaks a tackle. Adams before the season said he deserves to be the highest paid receiver.

I agree, because he's the best all-round receiver in the NFL. Also, his numbers and performances back it up, as I have been reiterating throughout the article. In retrospect, I feel like the mental part of NFL football has caught up with the physical side of football, between Rogers' and Adams' spectacular connection. Their connection that they have built can only be obtained from consistent practice together and communication, on what they want to accomplish on any given play. After his past two elite seasons, he without a doubt deserves to be highest paid receiver. Then last season he was able to get his wish, but sadly to the detriment of the Packers, being 2nd fiddle.

Rogers waited until March 8, 2021, to inform the Packers of his decision, which was coincidentally the same day the deadline to franchise tag All-

Pro Packers receiver, Davante Adams. The Packers then surprisingly traded Adams to the Raiders, for a 2022 1st and 2nd round picks. Then the Raiders signed him to a five-year, \$141.25 million contract. Both the Packers and Raiders eventually made the playoffs, so it could be perceived that the trade did not necessarily work out.

During the offseason, Rogers had uncertainty about his playing future, if he wanted to retire or continue his football career. Around that time, there was speculation that the Jets would pursue a trade for Rogers, to solidify their QB position and consummate a Super Bowl run. The Packers eventually shifted their focus to Jordan Love, then gave Rogers' permission to communicate with the Jets, which in turn he decided to resume his career with the Jets.

The Jets and Packers are currently still communicating different compensation scenarios. After releasing longtime Raider, Derek Carr, the Raiders needed another starting QB, so I thought they would acquire Rogers because of the innate connection and chemistry, between Rogers and Adams. Sadly, they signed Jimmy Garoppolo, which eliminated the possibility of a Rogers trade, and sputtered Rogers and Adams great connection.

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Rogers and Adams.

Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

Milan Fashion Week 2023 doesn't disappoint

Swami Hinojosa Blas
Staff Writer

Milan is one of the cities where fashion and vanity are breathed. It starts with being one of the few places home to some of the world's top fashion brands, such as Prada, Versace and Armani. These brands have helped establish Milan's reputation as a fashion hub, creating high-quality and innovative designs that are admired worldwide. In addition, Milan Fashion Week is held twice yearly, attracting designers, models, fashion critics and celebrities worldwide. These events put Milan in the spotlight of world fashion and contributed to its reputation as a fashion city.

Versace has been a household name in the fashion industry for over four decades. They are known for their striking designs, bold prints, and use of luxurious fabrics. Thanks to Versace's innovative vision, Milan Fashion Week has left us speechless. Despite starting with ten all-black looks, the luxury brand delivered an energetic show with purple taking center stage. This year's collection



Image courtesy of Vogue

is a testament that Versace continues to be a leading brand, constantly pushing its limits. The elegant gothic style they presented was hard to master, but they did it effortlessly.

Avava is a rising star in the fashion industry. The brand is known for its avant-garde designs that push the boundaries of conventional fashion. The designer, Ava Jules, is a 27-year-old self-taught artist making waves in the industry. She draws inspiration from various sources, including art, music, and architecture. The Avava runway show celebrated diversity

and inclusivity, with models of all shapes, sizes, and ethnicities walking the runway. The memorable moment in this fashion week, Avava, blew everyone away initially, looking like there had been an error on the runway. However, it soon became apparent that everything was skillfully planned and executed to draw media attention, thus generating more runway circulation. The outfits featured cut-outs, see-throughs, and appearance changes that left a lasting impression.

The Diesel show brought an exciting interpretation of the streetwear trend in high

fashion. The Italian brand is known for its casual and comfortable clothing, and its latest collection stays true to its brand identity. The exhibition showcased a range of denim styles, including distressed jeans, denim jackets, and jumpsuits. Voluminous jackets and flared trousers took center stage on the runway, while form-fitting dresses and bodysuits accentuated the models' graceful, slender figures. The brand also experimented with different fabrics, incorporating leather, wool, and shearling into some designs. The Diesel runway show celebrated

individuality, with models showcasing their unique personalities and styles. However, it indicates their knack for mixing styles, showcasing baggy pants with oversized jackets and vests, creating the perfect combination of fashion and comfort.

Milan fashion week is a showcase for designers worldwide and is a magnet for big-name celebrities. This year was no exception, with a list of fashion and music stars, including Dua Lipa, Gigi Hadid, Kendall Jenner, Bella Thorne, Dakota Johnson, and Manu Rios. It is well known that many of these celebrities attend fashion week to get first-hand inspiration and to be the first to see the latest fashion trends. In addition, it is typical for the looks presented on the catwalks to be used later on red carpets and at high-class events. As always, Milan Fashion Week was an opportunity for fashion and entertainment to merge into one spectacular event.

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Netflix's confusing password-sharing crackdown

Gabriella Small
Online Editor

For almost two decades, Netflix has been known as the go-to streaming service for people across the globe. With 230.7 million subscribers, about 3% of the world's population, paying monthly to watch their favorite movies and TV shows, many users pay for entertainment not only for themselves but also family members and friends they choose to share their passwords with. This is a widespread practice among streaming service users and was a staple part of the Netflix user culture, with Netflix themselves endorsing the practice in 2017 with their post

"Love is sharing a password." on their official Netflix twitter account. However, February 2023 gave us the possible death of Netflix password-sharing with the company outlining new rules that would limit the use of a Netflix account to one location and charge the account owner for every additional non-household user. After immense backlash, these rules were wiped from



Image courtesy of Netflix Twitter

the U.S. Netflix Help Center, but is still visible in places like Canada and Latin America, with Latin America having their own extra member fees ranging from \$3-4 per member. This was a predictable choice for Netflix being that they lose \$6.25 billion each year to password-sharing alone, but the process the company is taking to put these rules into action is abysmal.

The introduction of these rules came as a shock to customers, even more so since what seems like such a crucial rule change was sneakily added to the Netflix website instead of being brought to users' attention through an official

announcement or login notification. Without many news outlets reporting on this occurrence, the average customer could have gone oblivious to the extra charges on their Netflix account induced by this plan. In addition, Netflix plans on gathering the data of the primary account user, such as their location, IP address, and device IDs, to verify that a new login is from the primary account user themselves. If this login is not from the same IP address, location, and device ID that was already verified, the person logging in will have to insert a verification code sent to the account's phone number

or email address or their Netflix app will be locked.

This poses some serious security risks and problematic scenarios that will affect all customers, even those who do not share passwords. If a customer traveled and attempted to log in to their Netflix account at their hotel, could they be permanently locked from logging into their Netflix account on their device if they did not type the verification code in time? Will users be susceptible to hackers leaking their locations and IP addresses now that Netflix stores them on their servers now? The biggest question of them all, though, is why of any of this

necessary?

One would think Netflix is at a concerning net loss due to these rules being seen as a necessity by the company, but it remains a highly profitable service, profiting \$4.5 billion in 2022 and still being the most widely used paid streaming service. Password sharing is also great for business as a word of mouth, since it allows potential customers to get a full look at the service before committing to the purchase. Setting forth a strict anti-password-sharing stance will only push customers out of Netflix and onto other streaming services, especially with the varying quality of Netflix originals and cancellation of popular shows. Netflix has created a great sense of distrust among their users in the past few years, but this could be the final straw.

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Hogwarts Legacy enchants audiences

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Editor-In-Chief

Topping the charts and enchanting audiences has been the open-world action role-playing game Hogwarts Legacy's effect since its release on Feb. 10.

This single-player game was published by Warner Bros. Games and developed by Avalanche Software, known for the videogame series Disney Infinity.

However, unlike other Harry Potter games, this one takes place in the 19th century. So, you are not interacting with characters from the saga and the events that take place are nothing similar to what you probably have read about in the books or seen in the movies.

This gives players a new narrative, with new characters, in a familiar and magical world.

When you start the game, it genuinely feels like you are immersed into another movie from the Wizarding World. You begin by receiving your letter from Hogwarts and are informed that you are the exception

to one of the most famous rules. You will join the school in your fifth year not your first.

An accident on your way to school, as you are accompanied by Professor Fig and someone you meet on the way, makes you crash and introduces a weird object with colorful traces only you can see. A key made of Ancient Magic, a rare magic, you will learn to wield.

As you play, you will be interacting with the ancestors of characters you've already met in the books and movies. "We really wanted to tie [the game] to a familiar world – so you'll hear there's a Weasley, a Rockwood... Professor Black is a known character as a portrait in the books, so fleshing him out, we really loved it," explains Moira Squire, who worked on the story development.

Putting on the Sorting Hat to join a house is probably one of the most awaited moments for players and occurs quite early in the game. As tradition goes, you put on the hat, but in order to be sorted into

Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Gryffindor, or Slytherin, you have to answer a couple of questions that will match you with your house.

You can opt to vinctuate your Wizardly World account for it to match the house you have already been assigned or you manually change the house you were selected for to something else if the Sorting Hat placed you in a house you do not resonate with.

It is important to point out that each house has different quests, but the main storyline is pretty much the same.

On another note, there are many options for you to design your avatar, you can choose their name, color of hair, eyebrows, and even voice. However, adding a beard or make up is only possible with mods.

In school, you will learn spells you can use in future duels and to solve puzzles in the game. There are also mini games and ways for you to make potions to help you in combat or as you explore around.

Interestingly, the three Unforgivable Curses can



Hogwarts Legacy PS5 Version/store.playstation.com

be used in the game and the Ministry of Magic will not come for you because of it. Motivating many players to want to become the Darkest Wizard, without the worries of ending up in Azkaban.

The game can currently be

played on PC, PlayStation 5, and Xbox Series X|S. But it will become available for PlayStation 4 and Xbox One on April 4, and Nintendo Switch on July 25.

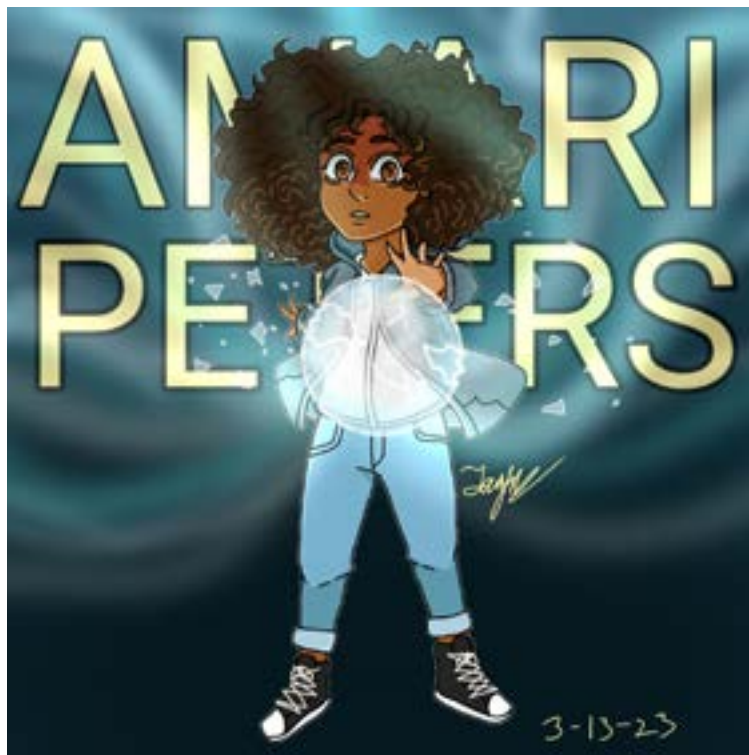
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Book Review: Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston

Janyne Langlois
Staff Writer

Amari and the Night Brothers was published on January 19th, 2021, as B.B. Alston's debut book. Throughout the story, we follow the main character Amari Peters, a young black girl from the Atlanta projects. When her older brother, Quinton, goes missing, the thirteen-year-old can't understand why no one is making as much of a big deal about it and why she's the only one that still believes he's alive. She soon discovers a ticking briefcase in the closet, left by her missing brother, with a nomination for a summer tryout at the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs.

Upon finding this briefcase, Amari is filled with a multitude of emotions; confusion as to how her nineteen-year-old brother left her a briefcase if he was missing, and happiness because she feels that she's one step closer to finding Quinton. And now, Amari believes this secret organization is keeping secrets about Quinton, and



Amari Peters/Art by Janyne Langlois

where to find him. So, she joins the Bureau in hopes of finding him, and proving to everyone that he was alive. Now, as she steps into a world filled with creatures from all sorts of mythology and folklore, she has to compete against other kids who have known about

magic and the supernatural their whole lives; and even though Amari tries her hardest to prove herself, she can't escape the doubt other people have for her and her abilities to wield magic—which she soon finds out the type of magic she has is considered "illegal" in

the supernatural world. But she won't give up, because giving up means never finding her brother.

Amari is a fun and refreshing book centering around a young black girl and all types of mythology and folklore, from vampires to Yetis and magicians. If you're looking for a book to read that will have you rooting for the main character, this is the one. My favorite parts of the book were the parts where Amari would prove her doubters wrong and show them that just because she's a black girl from the projects, it doesn't mean she can't do the same things everyone else can.

It's been a long time since I've read a book and rooted for the main character the whole way through. The story was so enticing, I had trouble putting it down. This book is great for all ages, and if you ever have the chance, you should read it. You won't regret it.

And the best part is this series is a trilogy! The second book in the series was released on April 5,

2022, and the third- and last-book is set to be released on September 28, 2023.

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The TikTok Ban In The US

Yestin Arvin Gochuico
Staff Writer

In a bid to stop a national security threat, the US Congress issued a ban on the rising social media app TikTok from all government-issued devices on February 28, 2023. Many public university and college networks also followed suit, including Broward College.

TikTok rose rapidly as the fastest-growing social media platform, surpassing Google and Facebook growth record and social engagement. However, attached to TikTok's success are growing scrutiny and concerns for data security because of ByteDance, the Chinese-owned company behind the app. Several lawmakers are pushing to ban the app nationwide. While the push for a total ban is seemingly warranted, US Congress and its relationship with western Big Tech companies speak hypocrisy and suggest that the ban is motivated beyond said bid to protect national security.

The issue stems from ByteDance's alleged link to the Chinese Communist Party. The FBI, the Federal Communications Commission, and



Image Illustrated by Yestin Arvin Gochuico

several American lawmakers suspect the company of sharing American data with the Chinese government. Specifically, China has a far-reaching law that may force companies to share any relevant data about their national security. While there's no evidence TikTok has shared American data with the Chinese government, the sheer possibility of this happening is causing a fierce dispute between TikTok, by extension, ByteDance, and the US.

To quote US Senator and Senate Intelligence Committee vice chair Marco Rubio, "Privacy, and the privacy of our data, in and of

itself, is an issue that should be confronted, but the fact that a foreign government could gain immediate access on-demand to a massive trove of American data rises to a completely different level ... and not just a foreign government but our chief adversary and competitor in the world." While I understand Rubio's sentiments, it's clear that this move is motivated by the US and China rivalry and the fear of American lawmakers and Big Tech companies losing their ground on the global data landscape.

TikTok collects data comparable to western Big Tech

companies like Facebook, Amazon, and Google. Furthermore, there is direct evidence that proves, not alleges, that these American-based companies have collected and shared private data with third parties for profit, with numerous scandals swept under the rug. Despite this, the US Congress has never reacted with the same hostility and concern as what is happening now with TikTok.

With privacy concerns centered around anti-China sentiments, the support for a nationwide ban on TikTok rose rapidly in the US chambers this year. Yet,

measures to pass a national privacy law last year have largely failed.

Despite bipartisan support, the bill for American Data Privacy and Protection Act, a federal privacy law, failed ratification. For now, there's no comprehensive federal level of protection for consumer data and regulation of what data companies can collect. At the same time, the post-Roe US has shown that the health and reproductive data of people across the US are facing jeopardy.

I'm not saying that the US should let TikTok and China steal our data, nor is the threat not real—because it is. Instead, lawmakers should include broader laws that hold every company accountable, not just ByteDance.

The selective restriction for social media apps shows that the lawmakers are not here to protect Americans' data but to help western Big Tech companies monopolize it. After all, the US unethically benefits from these companies, which see data as currency to be capitalized.

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