

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## How You Can Help Stop Human and Sex Trafficking In Florida

### Megan Vineberg

Editor-In-Chief

On January 11, 2022, Broward College stood with victims of human trafficking victims through the End Modern Slavery event.

Lulrick Balzora, Dean of the Social, Behavioral Science and Human Services (SBSHS) Pathway served as host in collaboration with the campus Student Life department to spread awareness surrounding this pressing issue. In partnership with Project Stay Gold Club and Elite Foundation, the aim behind this event is to end servitude sexually and otherwise, as it is still a present day concern in society today.

The flyer reads, "Let's do our part to end modern day slavery, the second most profitable form of transnational crime. If you suspect someone is being exploited for forced labor or sexual activities, contact the NHTRC at (888) 373-7888. For important resources, contact iCare at (954) 783-4893."

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, human trafficking is defined as "a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud

or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. Force, fraud, or coercion need not be present if the individual engaging in commercial sex is under 18 years of age." Similar to the Stand Up Speak Out Event held in 2014 by the Broward County Public Library Systems, this event is held weekly, and shared with students with the intention to educate, empower, and evolve. Through repeated exposure to crises such as this, we as a community can begin to formulate strategy and solutions in response.

As of January 2018, the Florida Department of Health estimated that more than 20 million men, women and children around the world are victims of human trafficking; Florida is ranked as the third highest trafficking destination in the country.

"This conference educates and engages Broward College students and faculty, and members of the community by discussing issues and increasing awareness of a problem that is rampant in Florida and across the globe," says Gregory Haile, President of Broward College.

Haile added, "We [intend to] put an end to human trafficking, and we encourage everyone to attend so they can not only learn of the problem, but learn how to identify it and solve it."

It is stressed that if you see something, say something. Examples of a possible trafficking situation include but are not limited to: living with employer, poor living conditions, multiple people in a cramped space, inability to speak to individual alone, rehearsed/scripted speech, employer in possession of identity documents, physical abuse, submission or fear, low wages, and those under 18 who are employed as sex workers.

The U.S. Department of State advised, "If you believe you have identified someone still in one of these trafficking scenarios, alert law enforcement immediately by calling 911 or dialing the National Human Trafficking Hotline at (888) 373-7888 as it may be unsafe to attempt to rescue a trafficking victim. You have no way of knowing how the trafficker may react and retaliate against the victim and you. If, however, you identify a victim who has escaped the trafficking situation, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline."



Photo Courtesy of DHS, Center for Countering Human Trafficking

International lobbyist group Free the Slaves was formed in 2000 as a way to help start the modern-day anti-slavery movement by alerting the world to what was happening and initiating actions to stop it. The Free the Slaves Blog lists their mission as to "provide a platform for dialogue about how slavery affects communities around the world—and what can be done to eliminate it." The group has already rescued and freed over 14,000 to date.

Human trafficking has become a nation-wide issue with as many as 73,946 human

trafficking cases having been reported. Statistics show that as of December 2007, there were an astonishing 328,355 contacts made in these cases. Contacts refers to all including but not limited to calls, texts, emails, and anonymous tips reported. Up to 51,667 contacts were made this year alone, which does not include those cases not reported.

Civil rights leader Fanny Lou Hamer once said, "nobody's free until everybody's free."

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## The Observer Hosts 17th Annual Journalism Boot Camp

### Megan Vineberg

Editor-In-Chief

In an attempt to help Broward College students learn about career pathways in journalism from industry experts, Broward College coordinator of student publications and adjunct professor Jennifer Shapiro hosts the 17th Annual Journalism Bootcamp for Observer Staff as well as students from all majors.

The workshop served as a way to network with like-minded individuals who could set young journalists on their way.

Among those who joined in as a speaker were Jossie Carbonare, who is a T.V. News Reporter for WPBF25, Adam Thompson, an editor at the Wall Street Journal, and Lauren Fyke from J.M. Family Enterprises, Inc.

In her day-to-day, Fyke serves company clientele through public relations. In the workshop, she spoke at length about the differences between public relations and marketing. While similar enough, the two differ in terms of responsibilities and intention.

Public Relations handles the perception of an artist or brand,

while marketing deals directly with the sale of a product. Marketing is more concerned with numbers, while Public Relations focuses on the relationships between business contacts.

Carbonare touched on various ways to break into the industry, whether that's through photo journalism, news reporting, or working on a world-renowned publication.

Fyke explains, "Students fresh out of college don't often know that there are so many different roles within this field that you could potentially go into."

As defined by Indeed, marketing is the process of promoting and selling products or services. It involves advertising your brand and what you have to offer consumers to convert leads into customers and opportunities into sales. For example, if your company has launched a new product, you might employ a marketing campaign where you send email newsletters to existing customers and post about discounts on your company's social media channels to attract new customers.

In contrast, Indeed defines public relations as a strategic

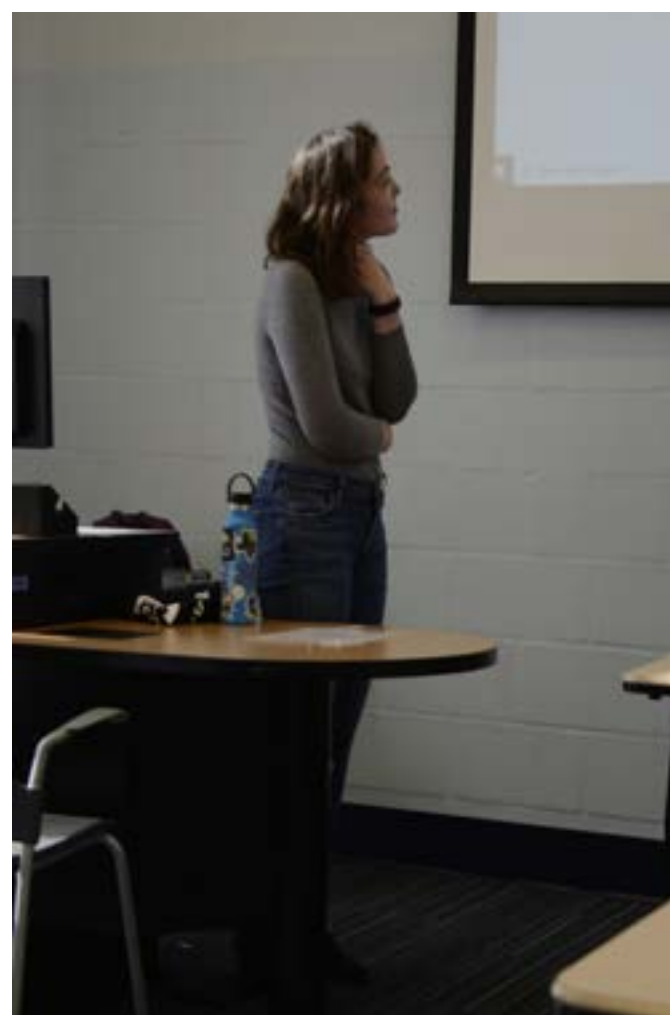
communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between organizations and their audiences. Essentially, it is the creation and delivery of messaging that informs and persuades the public. The messaging is meant to generate publicity, promote an organization or persuade people to change their opinion or take action.

"The annual Journalism Boot Camp was another successful event," said Shapiro. "The Boot Camp is a great opportunity for students to see what it's actually like working in the field of journalism and media, and they are hearing about it directly from these professionals."

The Boot Camp also gives students a chance to network and make connections with professionals working in the industry, said Shapiro, who notes that former students of hers have gotten various internships through speakers they connected with during boot camps over the years.

The Observer also holds weekly workshops with speakers in the industry.

For more information, contact Shapiro at [jshapiro@broward.edu](mailto:jshapiro@broward.edu).



Madeline Fox from WLRN speaks during the 2020 Boot Camp. Photo courtesy of The Observer

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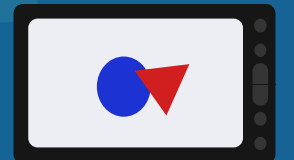
## WANTS:



WRITERS



GRAPHIC DESIGNERS



PHOTOGRAPHERS



VIDEOGRAPHERS



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## The Family Bike Rodeo on Central Campus was a Success

**Naomi Volcy**  
Central Bureau Chief

Broward College's Department of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness hosted its first Family Bike Rodeo Saturday, Feb. 5. It was held on Central Campus under the Building 19 Patio.

The event was free and open to all Broward College faculty, staff, students and their families.

All guests had to sign a waiver to "enter" the event. Once a waiver was signed, guests were given a flyer with a designated bike path, and a ticket to enter in the raffle for a free bicycle, and/or bicycle supplies.

Participants were able to ride their bicycles along a designated path, which wrapped around the Central Campus.

Security was stationed at many areas of the designated bicycle path to ensure that the participants were safe.

A bike tour along the campus was conducted with members of the department and participants of all ages.

There were refreshments such as water, snow cones and popcorn, available for



Images by Naomi Volcy/The Observer



all guests to indulge in.

Korella Holmes, Crime Prevention Sergeant for the Department of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness explains, "The purpose of the event is to promote bike safety in the community, and to let the community know we are here for you. It does not have to be an emergency to engage... For this specific event, the community is our faculty, staff, students and their families."

The raffle occurred towards the end of the event, all bikes, helmets and other

supplies were given away to the lucky winners.

The prizes were donated from a Walmart in the local community.

The department deemed this event to be a success and plans to have more Family Bike Rodeos in the future. The department is striving to do so, once a semester or calendar year.

The Department of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness hosts an array of events that cover more serious subject matter and can be helpful for students.

In the coming weeks, there

will be a tabling event along all campuses for Dating Violence and Prevention. In the future, there will be a hands-on Self-Defense and Personal Safety training, due to COVID, the date of this event is still uncertain.

For more information, or any questions on future events hosted by the Department of Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness, you can contact Korella Holmes at [kholmes@broward.edu](mailto:kholmes@broward.edu), or 954-201-4397.

Also, you can follow Broward College's Student Life @bccentralsl on Instagram

for updates on events.

[Volcn@mail.broward.edu](mailto:Volcn@mail.broward.edu)

## SGA's Sustainability Event Series Held on South Campus

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief



Recently, around building 68 at the Breezeway on South Campus, the Student Government Association hosted a sustainability event for the first time this year. The theme that they were focusing on was the use of plastic bags. They wanted students to make their own reusable tote bags, so it could lessen the plastic waste in our area. Sustainability is something that is able to continue over a period of time, and it also deals with environmental, economic and social issues.

The Student Government Association is collaborating with the Science Club to create a series of events, and to promote ways of being more sustainable in their everyday lives. They

don't want to force sustainability on students, but they want students to make their own choices to be more sustainable.

SGA president on South Campus, Gali Polichuk Lulka discussed bringing awareness to how plastic bags are being used, and also how we can limit the use of plastic bags. Lulka was so enthusiastic and adamant about bringing awareness to these issues, and she wanted students to be enthusiastic as well about it.

She also said that she wanted many Broward College students to participate in this event, so that they could be more aware of the use of plastic bags.

SGA Vice President Xiomara

Campos said she wanted to see more changes at the South Campus in terms of being much more sustainable with plastic. They also agreed to become a more sustainable campus, students and faculty have to chip in and work together, and also everyone has to become more knowledgeable about sustainability.

In this sustainability event, students used special material beige bags, called dye reusable bags, instead of plastic bags, and decorated them by painting them however they wanted. First, students would go to the booth where the SGA officers are, then they would do a quick survey on their tablet, then they would give students a purple ticket for lunch. Lastly, they would give students the special material beige bags to decorate.

South Campus also held a sustainability event on Feb. 7 and Feb. 21. The theme for the Feb.7 sustainability event was facts about sustainability. They wanted to teach the students how to be more sustainable in their everyday lives. The theme for the Feb 21 event was a vegan feast. They wanted students to become more informed about vegan food, and the benefits of a vegan diet.



Images by Jordan Stephenson/The Observer

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# How Language Can Connect Communities with Law Enforcement

**Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
Staff Writer



Image courtesy of Broward College

Last month, BC South Campus professors Rhonda Bobb and Jennifer Killiam hosted Social Justice Week, a series of events driving conversations around social justice in Broward County. The event was brought by the increased attention of people to racial disparities, given the alarming injustices around the nation, especially with the aftermath of George Floyd's murder.

On the last event Language and Law Enforcement, Dr. Gregory Salters shared the significance of using appropriate and contextual language to promote a healthy dialogue between communities and law enforcement. He introduced the "Art of Connecting," in which peo-

ple try to understand each other's language and prevent miscommunication by identifying critical nuances and connotations.

"If you ever looked at it, whose job is it really to connect with the other one and make them understand and communicate your language? ... It is up to us to make sure our message is being received," he said.

Before everything else, Dr. Salters shared his history of wanting to make a difference through law enforcement. He started as a bike patrol and worked his way up serving in the Fort Lauderdale Police department for nearly three decades, concluding his career as an Assistant Police Chief and Chief's Execu-

tive Officer. When he was studying for his Doctorate in Adult Education and Human Resource Development, he wrote a dissertation about the impact of racial profiling on Black males seeking jobs in law enforcement.

The first part of the discussion was about the three steps of the "Art of Connecting:" Reflect, Connect, and Project. "I want you all to reflect on your experiences, reflect on things that have happened to you," Dr. Salters said. "I want us to think about 'how do we actually connect with each other? ... And how do we project that out? What does [it] actually look like?'"

All of the steps tie up to "Procedural Justice," which allows people to wonder about the necessary measures to take when dealing with law enforcement procedures and processes. Dr. Salters says that language comes into play when people assess their interests and how they feel regarding "how things go" with law enforcement.

As an example, Dr. Salters detailed the difference between burglary and robbery from law enforcement terms. "How many times have y'all heard someone say my house was robbed? But now,

in law enforcement terms, your house can't be robbed, it can be burglarized ... there is something that is not happening right here. There is a disconnect with the communication," he said.

According to him, communities and law enforcement can resolve their disunity with better understanding and connection from both sides. "Procedural Justice" becomes a significant factor because it requires a language that sustains the voice, fairness, impartiality, and transparency between communities and law enforcement agencies.

"Procedural justice is a concept that, when embraced, promotes positive organization change and bolsters good relations, he said.

Aside from that, the event also discussed "Community Policing." It is a connected concept explaining that communities have to build bridges and partnerships with different community sectors, as it facilitates learning the language of law enforcement. Dr. Salters says that law enforcement should strive to hear the community's voices regarding laws, ordinances, and other policies that are in place.

"All the public wants [law

enforcement] to do is to be morally just, honest, and worthy of their trust and confidence. But if we aren't speaking their language, we aren't doing what we need to do, we aren't connecting as law enforcement," Dr. Salters said.

Ultimately, he emphasized that law enforcement's primary key in connecting and building legitimacy with communities is using a collectively understood language. In that way, the public and police officers can hone a culture of cooperation and support to fight crime.

The hosts held Social Justice Week in partnership with BC Arts, Humanities, Communications, Design department and the Festival of Music, Film, Literature, Art.

If there are any questions about the final event, contact Dr. Salters at [drgregorysalters@gmail.com](mailto:drgregorysalters@gmail.com).

For information about Social Justice Week, reach out to Bobb at [rbobb@broward.edu](mailto:rbobb@broward.edu) or Killiam at [jkilliam@broward.edu](mailto:jkilliam@broward.edu).

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## A BC Student's Journey: His Music and Faith

**Naomi Volcy**  
Central Bureau Chief

Daniel Lewis, a film production major at Broward College, revealed his musical talents at Central Campus's Open Mic Wednesday, Feb. 2, under the building 19 Patio. Lewis performed three original songs titled: "Party," "Fixed up," and "New Life." His enthusiastic attitude and Hip Hop/Rhythm and Blues style had the audience engaged and bopping their heads to the beat.

Lewis notes that this was the first time he performed at Broward College and enjoyed his experience as he loves to bring a smile to someone's face, even if it is just one person. This was exemplified in his performance as he expressed words of encouragement to the crowd between songs, engaged with the audience by walking into the crowd, and finished his performance off with a prayer for the audience. Although he mentioned that the joy of others inspires him, there is something else that drives his desire to perform and his aura as an artist, God.

"I was religious all the

way up until 2019...I was raised in a Christian household, but every time I went to church I did it because I had to. During this time, I was a religious person. I would claim to be Christian...but I never really knew who God was. Now, I can say I am truly free, redeemed, and loved, which is why I walk the way I walk and talk the way I talk... [I make music because it is] Something I love to do, and God expects me to multiply the talents that he gives me... [I aspire for my music to] reach the lost, spread the Gospel, and bring God's Kingdom here on Earth," Lewis explains.

Lewis's three original songs also have a religious connection and are testimonials of his life and experiences in his faith.

"Fixed up" was one of the first songs that I ever did. It's basically expressing, confessing my old life. You know, things that I went through, my mindset, and how God renewed it... How I am not looking back to my old life because of what God has given me... the life I have now is way better. "Party" is a hype song; it is a reminder... to

those that are walking with the lord that this walk may not be the easiest... we have a prize, we have a hope in Jesus to be in heaven and live with him for all of eternity. "New Life" ...was done on the fly... this song is talking about new life... you know, mentioning things of the old: the blunts, pills, all these...things that did not fulfill. We [Lewis and Jason, a friend who contributed to this song] got switched up, fixed up, and roll with the Christ Crew [a term that refers to believers] now... that is what "New Life" means."

If you would like to contact Daniel Lewis, or have any questions for him, you are welcome to contact him on Instagram at [@D2virall](https://www.instagram.com/D2virall), or call 954-393-4471.

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Daniel Lewis performs on Central Campus. Image courtesy Broward College





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# TIMELINE - REVISITING 100 YEARS OF BLACK HISTORY IN BROWARD COUNTY



Image Courtesy of Tim Fillmon

## FIRST BLACK CHURCH IN DANIA BEACH 1908

Before Broward County's countyhood in 1915, late Brother Charlie Chambers and other Black Christians organized the first Black church in Dania Beach, formerly named Modello. Named after Chambers' daughter Ruth, the St. Ruth Missionary Baptist Church is the first place of Christian worship and housed the first "colored" school in Dania that enrolled nine students. The church's bell served as a call to service and signified every passing of a Black member in the community. Now, the church is listed in the state's historical registry, serving as a symbolic monument of Black faith with 114 years of service to the Dania Beach community.

## 1922 HOSPITAL FOR BLACK PEOPLE

Dr. James Sistrunk was a Florida native who graduated from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1919. After serving in the First World War, he relocated to Fort Lauderdale in 1922 to practice medicine. Despite his qualifications as a surgeon, he was not allowed to perform operations in white hospitals. In 1938, Dr. Sistrunk, with the assistance of Dr. Von D. Mizell, established Provident Hospital. It was the first medical facility for black patients in the Fort Lauderdale area until the integration of Broward General in 1964.



Image Courtesy of Broward County Government



Image Courtesy of Sun Sentinel

## THE KILLING OF REUBEN 1935

Reuben Stacy (also known as Rubin Stacy), Field Hand and Black resident of Fort Lauderdale, was lynched after a white woman reported that he attacked her with a knife. A violent mob hung him on a tree near what is now called Davie Boulevard and SW 31st Avenue. He was hung with the accuser's clothesline and found to have had 17 bullet wounds. Later, locals testified that Stacy had not attacked the woman but asked for a glass of water, which caused the woman to panic.

## 1940 BLACK BUSINESSES

The 1940s was a period of black entrepreneurship. Northwest Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale was once an area filled with black-owned businesses. The African-American Research Library and Cultural Center (AARLCC) at 2650 Sistrunk Boulevard has created a model of the area. It included the following black-owned businesses: the Victory Theater, Club Windsor, Royal Palm Grocery, Harvey's Shoe Shop, and the dental office of Dr. J.L. Bass.



Image Courtesy of BC Libraries

## THE START OF WADE-INS IN BEACHES

### 1954

Broward County acquired a barrier island site supposed to be designated as a beach for black residents due to many beaches not being accessible to everyone. But the county never built a road, which became one of the reasons that led to a series of "wade-ins" in the following historic event. The Beach was named John U. Lloyd Beach State Park (now Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park).



EULA JOHNSON  
NAACP President

DR. VON D. MIZELL  
Civil Rights Activist

Images Courtesy of Sun Sentinel

START HERE ▲

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

END HERE ▼

In response to racial segregation and unequal access to public beaches, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) President Eula Johnson and civil rights activist Dr. Von D. Mizell started the first series of "wade-ins" at Fort Lauderdale Beach. "Wade-ins" is a nonviolent protest where African Americans set foot into "white-only" public waters to drive a political message. It subsequently grew to become a nationally participated protest of about 200 African Americans from July to August 1961 to desegregate public beaches in South Flor-

ida, eventually becoming a catalyst to end segregation not just in beaches but in all public facilities in Broward County.

## 1961 ENDING SEGREGATION IN BEACHES



Image Courtesy of Florida Conservation Voters

Fort Lauderdale NAACP attorney, George Allen, was one of the first to confront the segregation in Broward County schools by filing a school desegregation suit in an appeals court for the sake of his two young sons. By 1970, Allen won the case, as the court ruled that Broward County was violating the rights of Black students. It established the first plan to desegregate Broward County schools by adopting a unitary-integrated system. By 1971, the federal appeals court ordered mandatory busing to achieve integration. Busing is the practice of transporting students within or outside their local school system to diversify the student make-up.



Image Courtesy of Sun Sentinel

## INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1970



Image Courtesy of Sun Sentinel

## POLICE KILLING LED TO UNREST 1980

Willie "June Bug" McDonald, a 20-year-old Deerfield Beach High school basketball star and dropout, was only playing shooting dice with his friends when a police car suddenly pulled up and dispersed the group. Police officer Douglas Williams caught and shot him with a .357 Magnum that went through his neck and lungs, instantly killing him. Public unrest ensued while locals held a protest in hopes of serving justice for McDonald, but the trial's jury shortly acquitted the officer of his crimes.

## THE COLORED SCHOOL IN FORT LAUDERDALE 1995

The Old Dillard Museum opened in 1995, operating as a historic African American educational and cultural center in Fort Lauderdale. Formerly named "The Colored School," it provided access to educational opportunities for people of color back in 1907. The acting principal eventually renamed the school in honor of the Virginian philanthropist and educator Dr. James Hardy Dillard. Today, it serves as a meaningful heritage representing a tight connection to the county's Black history of collective determination and perseverance.



Image Courtesy of Jrozwado (Wikipedia Commons)

## FIRST BLACK PERSON TO FLY AROUND THE WORLD 2007



Image Courtesy of National Geographic

With his passion set on aviation, 23-year-old Captain Barrington Irving became the first Black person and the first Jamaican to circumnavigate the world solo. He is also formerly the youngest person to do such a feat. Born in Jamaica then raised in Miami, Irving started as an aerospace student at Broward College with the dreams of learning to fly and becoming a pilot. Intending to promote his nonprofit educational organization Experience Aviation, he went on the momentous journey of more than 28 thousand miles that lasted for three months. In 2014, he launched his interactive curriculum program "Flying Classroom" to educate students across the nation in the STEM field.



## Success Scaffolding: The Good Life Project

**Marquis Grant**  
Staff Writer

The good life project is a podcast that asks what it means to live a good life. It is hosted by media producer Johnathan Fields as he hosts leading voices in art, science, industry, and culture. In one episode titled “How to Accomplish Big Things,” Fields explores “Success Scaffolding,” which is a research based and personally developed tool he uses to support achieving large goals. As the year 2022 emerges, there is still time to prepare for and achieve desired goals using the scaffold outlined below in 8 stages.

**Stage 1 (Picture):** This stage is where you clarify and imagine what it is you want. You’re creating the most specific and sensory picture of what you’re trying to achieve.

**Stage 2 (Purpose):** This stage is about staying motivated and overcoming adversity with a deep understanding of why you are doing what you are doing. Here you are writing down why what you are doing matters so much. It is suggested to start with a writing/journal prompt with a few sentences done twice with increasing detail explaining why this goal matters to you so much.

**Stage 3 (Plan):** The underlying elements of any plan include four categories.

First is chunking of stakes and steps to become increasingly smaller and more specific to get to the original picture that was described. This is done to make the plan seem realistically and simply fulfillable.

The next category is benchmarking and includes having methods and tools to track progress to remind yourself of what you have done. This can look like a journal or any tool that tracks and reminds you of your progress.

The third element is workarounds, this element is about being prepared and proactive about potential challenges and how to overcome them. List the potential challenges that are addressing various degrees of likelihood from very likely down to very unlikely but still possible and then plan to overcome these obstacles. One tool for this element is called WOOPing, an acronym which stands for Wish, Outcome, Obstacle, and plan.

The last element of a plan is integration. For integration you will assess your lifestyle, resources, and ability to implement your plan into your life and make it yours.

**Stage 4 (Possibility):** First believe at least just 3% that you can achieve your goal. This can increase over time but it is important to have at least this much belief.

**Stage 5 (Proof):** Gain proof and confidence with these four

tactics.

First look at others who are similar to you and have made accomplishments like the one you desire to reach...if they can do it then maybe you can too.

Then look at facts, data, and demos...seeing research or someone showing you that your plan can work is also motivating proof.

Next people you trust giving you honest affirmation can be motivating and serve as proof of plausibility.

Lastly micro tastes of progress through actual early experiences and progress tracking will be motivating and real proof of your ability.

**Stage 6 (People):** This stage addresses the people needed to accomplish big goals, there are six main roles, not all will be needed but more roles filled make a team more powerful to ensure a big goal happens.

**Co-strivers:** Simultaneous effort on goals, celebrating and commiserating

**Champions -** Cheer you on and encourage

**Accountability -** People you share with who check in on a regular basis to see if you have been doing things needed for your plan.

**Mentor -** They have been on a similar path or helped others along their way. They understand the nature and quality of your plans and teach/ help you learn, grow, and succeed.



**Community-** People who say yes to your presence no matter what, you will be embraced no matter your state.

**Challengers-** People who challenge your work to refine it, these people want you to succeed and challenge your plan, work, and motive to better optimize it for quality and success.

Some roles may be played by the same person but some roles are fit to be played by different people.

**Stage 7 (Practices):** This stage is where you cultivate habits and rituals that sustain action, and help you keep clear vision, and make decisions along the way even as things become hard. This is

done daily/regularly and can include habits related to physical movement, meditation, and art.

**Stage 8 (Pledge):** This last stage is you writing on paper a pledge or contract with yourself. You will write what you will strive for, why, the actions, the stakes, and then share this pledge with others as a motivating and accountability tool.

For more information on success scaffolding and “The Good Life Podcast” you can go to your major music and podcast platforms and search the title in the bar.

[Granm74@mail.broward.edu](mailto:Granm74@mail.broward.edu)

## It’s Not Just Hair: BC Professor Discusses Hair Acceptance

**Christy Joshy**  
Online Editor

February is Black History Month in the United States—28 days dedicated to commemorating the struggles and successes of African Americans. However, is 28 days enough when there is still a long way to go? Discrimination goes past skin color; even hair texture can be convicting for black people simply existing.

Professor Rhonda Bobb, a professor at Broward College who is vocal about the importance of hair acceptance, shares how difficult it can be to recognize and accept herself in a society that makes it difficult to do so.

Her own natural hair journey didn’t begin until she was inspired by her son, who started to confidently grow his hair in “free-forming dreads” while in high school.

After years of hair damage and manipulation, Bobb knew that undertaking this journey would be a way for her to truly “see and discover [her] true self.”

Many black children are not shown the same mercy as other children growing up. Black hair is widely seen as “unmanageable or ‘too big,’” and subtle microaggressions such as these can have detrimental effects on the young impressionable mind.

In Bobb’s case and so many others like her, the journey of

self-discovery involves digging deep into a part of oneself that always existed but was never allowed to.

The issue isn’t just about hair or being natural. It’s about uncovering our own prejudices and recognizing the insidious ways that white supremacy is upheld through us.

As Bobb explains, “Whether these biases are positive or negative, they can have an impact on our expectations of individuals.”

In 2016, an MBA student named Rosalia probed through Google to distinguish the difference between “unprofessional hair for work” and “professional hair for work” and was astonished by the results. Countless images of black women wearing their natural hair were categorized as “unprofessional.”

In contrast, numerous results of white women sporting effortless hairstyles were portrayed as “professional.”

After sharing her findings on Twitter, Rosalia’s encounter sparked a conversation on how social expectations can differ so significantly for women of different races.

While black women are expected to damage their hair to a crisp to satisfy the world, white women are given the freedom to don simple updos.

However, all hope is not lost. Change is happening, with the incredible achievements that the black community contin-



Professor Rhonda Bobb.

Image courtesy of Professor Bobb

ues to cultivate. The CROWN Act, in particular, has kindled a reversal of attitudes towards hair in professional and casual settings.

The California law, which has now made its way through 14 states, disallows intolerance based on the premise of hair texture or style, including

Bantu knots, braids, locs, etc. Though the CROWN Act has not yet passed throughout Florida, it is in full effect here in Broward County.

Bobb continues her journey of self-exploration and her mission to uplift the younger generations of black children so that they are not subject to

the same prejudices as herself and those before her.

She has extended her aim to Broward College, where she regularly hosts hair forums called “Discovering Your Roots: A hair forum on texture, curls, coils, and journey of Self-Discovery,” which address the history, evolution, and trends in hair, and opens the floor for meaningful discussions about important topics.

You can help be a part of the cause by signing and sharing this petition: <https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/help-make-hair-discrimination-illegal>

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## Startup Label Help The Bear Records Sets Out To Break The Mold

**Megan Vineberg**  
Editor-In-Chief

Startup record label Help The Bear Records released their self-titled debut as a collaboration effort for alternative/hip-hop artists Yung Xander and Davis James. The two have previously worked together on a number of other releases but this marks the official introduction of the label itself. Recently acquired by Another Great Day (AGD) Entertainment, the group has been able to schedule releases to last into the new year.

Record label founder Alex Halloran began the venture into the record label after having worked in a myriad of roles in entertainment including A&R and project management. He is, in large part, the one who handles the business end of their work, although all have an equal share of responsibility. Halloran earned his Bachelor's degree in marketing from Sacred Heart University. Following this, Halloran followed that up

with earning his Master's in Music Business that allowed him to move up the corporate ladder in entertainment.

Alex Collins, better known as Yung Xander, also pursued his Bachelor's degree in Communications and his Master's degree in Business. To say they're driven is putting it mildly.

Davis James' story is one a little more off the beaten path. He was born in Boise, Idaho but spent most of his childhood in Michigan. He recalls, "I'm from everywhere but nowhere at the same time."

Help The Bear created this EP to celebrate its current artist roster, and to let the world know what their intentions were with the next few releases. Halloran explains, "We definitely have some surprises in store for the fans."

Most recently the label conducted a giveaway of a brand new merch design with the label logo on the front.

"I want to discover and develop the best talent there

is out there," he says. The passion for this line of work comes through so evidently with these three that it's hard to envision them doing anything else.

A fan responded in a message, "Your music gets me through so much. So glad you're getting the recognition you deserve. You keep dropping and I'll keep listening." That quickly became the album art for Yung Xander's latest single, Pieces.

Help The Bear includes a mix of previously recorded material and new tracks. RMF (a favorite of TikTok users) opens the album introducing Help The Bear Records. Following is the inspirational 4K, then Habit, which was previously released in 2021. Youkilis is a never-heard-before track that keeps the listeners on their toes. To close the album, there is Like I Do, a track reminiscent of the past.

The concept for the album came to be when the group decided they were getting caught up in things like



Image courtesy of A. Halloran/Help The Bear Records

"spending money we didn't have; things started to feel repetitive." That's when they decided to take a trip from New York City out to California to gain some perspective.

Yung Xander explains, "I hope that it [music] helps people." After meeting with friends in their area who they could record with, a new record was born. The wheels started turning, as

fans wanted to see more of the behind-the-scenes. Help The Bear's self-titled EP is now available to stream on all platforms.

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## South Korea Releases Zombie Smash Hit Drama All of Us Are Dead

**Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
Staff Writer

South Korea's newest trending series seemingly takes you along into a fictional world jam-packed with blood, gore, zombies—and more zombies. But it shows something beyond what people think it is. The reality is that human nature can be much scarier than what we fear or imagine.

Adapted from a Webtoon comic, All of Us Are Dead is the newest hit K-drama Netflix series about a group of Korean high school students in a zombie apocalypse, navigating a thin border between life and death. With a sliver of hope, the students try their best to survive with the people they know getting caught in the bloodbath one by one.

The huge main cast includes Park Ji-hu as Nam On-jo, Yoon Chan-young as Lee Cheong-san, Cho Yi-hyun as Choi Nam-ra, Lomon as Lee Su-hyeok, and more. Most of the cast are considered rookie Korean actors, but fans have acclaimed their performance in the series. It reached No.1 in US Netflix and became the 5th most popular non-English Netflix series

in just under a week.

The story follows a recipe of a stereotypical zombie film—a random virus made from a failed science experiment turns people into mindless cold-blooded monsters.

Though, the series serves more than common tropes were familiar with when looked at beyond the carnage. With a side of realism, the story will take on a dramatic route and focus on the characters' coming-of-age, dealing with their complex relationships between each other and the outside world (warning: major spoilers ahead).

In particular, the characters will eventually learn the hard way that the adults, who were supposed to be in charge, are abandoning them. The very people they're waiting for—the neglectful bureaucrats—are steadfast in sacrificing them in hopes of saving the lives of many. The second half of the film presents a classic Utilitarianism vs. Kantianism debate.

For the viewers, who already shared the feelings of loss and despair, the dire situation is not an easy subject to debate. With the characters awaiting doom because of bureaucratic red tape, is it

really right for the government to kill their hope?

In episode 9, the military team supposed to rescue them eventually learns that the virus can also display as an asymptomatic infection. During the heartbreaking scene, the military threatens to shoot the students if they follow them to the helicopter. The government says it was a way to protect the survivor encampment, but with morals crossing a gray area, it's not easy to ascertain whether leaving the students behind was the right choice.

In an iconic rooftop scene, Lee Cheong-san, played by the actor Yoon Chan-young, says, "It's not like anyone will save us if we stay here. We're the only ones who can save ourselves." The said scene is the epitome of their "coming-of-age," as they realize that they can't wait for someone to save them now. They can only rely on each other for a chance of survival.

During the disaster, we see how they find solace, happiness, and humanity even with the hopelessness of the situation. The plot highlights those emotions during the students' grueling encounters with zombies, humans, and themselves.



A zombie apocalypse takes over this South Korean high school. Image courtesy of Decider

Despite losing their loved ones, the students should keep going and move forward.

In a Netflix interview, writer Chun Sung-il expressed, "it's in the best and worst moments that relationships come into play. Who do we want to share our sadness with? That's why I focused on their relationships. I think that's an essential element of the show."

All of Us Are Dead manifests both the best and the worst of humanity. There's something to live for even in the most hopeless situations, and at the same time,

there's something to fear more than a zombie apocalypse. It's up to the people where they take a stand.

Released on Jan. 28, 2022, the series is currently available for streaming on Netflix today.

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# An Epic Super Bowl LVI Sunday

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

Matthew Stafford and the Los Angeles Rams faced Joe Burrow and the Cincinnati Bengals in an extraordinary Super Bowl duel. Both the Rams and Bengals had great chances to win this great game. It was essentially a back-and-forth type of defensive game to say the least. All the stars on both teams played great, to give their respective team a chance to win the championship.

The Rams started out the game with a 13-3 lead. Star wide receiver, Odell Beckham Jr, scored the first points and touchdown of the game, with a 17 yard td reception from Stafford. Then clutch kicker, Evan McPherson, made 29-yard field goal. Then the Rams other all-pro wide receiver, Cooper Kupp, scored the next touchdown, which was an 11-yard td reception from Stafford. To make it a manageable deficit at halftime, a trick play by the Bengals schemed up running back Joe Mixon, who threw a six-yard td pass to Tee Higgins. A devastating knee injury to Beckham Jr,

sadly kept him out for the rest of the game.

The score at halftime was 13-10, with the Rams leading by only three points. The NFL had announced in September a great cast of performers, for their annual Super Bowl halftime show. Those performers were Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J, Blige, Kendrick Lamar; also guest performances from Anderson .Paak and 50 Cent. The collaboration of these performers in the halftime show was an “unforgettable cultural moment,” like Dr. Dre said. When I was watching the halftime show, I couldn’t take my eyes off of the show because it was so thrilling and exciting to witness all these great performing artists collaborating for an epic halftime show.

On the first play of the 3rd quarter, Burrow threw a 75 yard touchdown pass to Tee Higgins, who was guarded by all-pro cornerback, Jalen Ramsey. It was an extremely controversial play because Higgins was seen pulling the face mask of Ramsey before the ensuing td catch, which by NFL rules should’ve been called



Super Bowl LVI ratings for Bengals @ Rams pour in at over 12 million. Image courtesy of CNBC

a passing interference, which would have negated the td. Sadly, for the Rams they didn’t call a PI on that play, and the 75 yard td was counted.

Then the Rams first play of the 2nd half was devastating, because Stafford’s pass was intercepted by Chidobe Awuzie, which gave the Bengals more momentum after their 75-yard td. The Rams defense limit-

ed the Bengals to only a 38-yard field goal by McPherson. Two things that the Rams definitely could rely on was their vaunted defensive line, which included star defensive ends Aaron Donald and Von Miller and also Kupp’s and Stafford’s connection.

Stafford’s and Kupp’s connection came up clutch when it mattered the most because Kupp caught a

1-yard td from Stafford. This defensive line sacked Burrow seven times, even though we already knew coming into this game, that the weakness of the Bengals was their putrid offensive line. Also, Donald came up clutch once again, because he had the game-winning 4th down sack on Burrow, which cemented them as Super Bowl champions.

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# The Top Most Impactful Playoff Trade Deadline Acquisitions

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

The trade deadline season is one of the most unknown and exciting times in the NBA. It is second behind and in front of free agency and the NBA draft. The trade deadline is basically when teams can make cap space cutting, draft pick consuming, and/or playoff impactful trades. The trade deadline officially ended Feb. 10. at 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

In this trade deadline sea-

son, there were an influx of playoff impactful trades. The biggest trade of this season was involving Ben Simmons and James Harden, who have been linked together since Harden was traded to the Nets last trade deadline season. The Nets traded James Harden and Paul Millsap to the 76ers, for Ben Simmons, Seth Curry, Andre Drummond, 2022 1st round pick (right to defer until 2023), and a 2027 1st round pick (protected 1-8). I feel like this was a great trade for both teams, who both got to fulfill

their roster needs

Another great trade was the Trailblazers trading Robert Covington and Norman Powell to the Clippers, for Eric Bledsoe, Justine Winslow, Keon Johnson, and a future 2nd round pick. This trade will help the Clippers to become legitimate title contenders, when Paul George and Kawhi Leonard return from their respective injuries. Another good trade the Pelicans made was trading CJ McCollum, Larry Nance Jr, and Tony Snell to the Pelicans, for Josh Hart, Tomas

Satoransky, Nickeil Alexander-Walker, Didi Louzada, and 2022 protected 1st round pick with two 2nd round picks.

Since the Cavaliers wanted to solidify themselves as playoff contenders in the Eastern Conference, they traded Ricky Rubio, 2022 1st round pick (lottery protected), 2022 2nd round pick (via Houston), and 2027 2nd round pick (via Utah), for Caris LeVert and a 2022 2nd round pick (via Miami). A head-scratching trade some league executives would say involving the the lowly Kings and underwhelming Pacers; the Pacers traded Domantas Sabonis, Jeremy Lamb, Justin Holiday, and a 2027 2nd round pick to the Kings, for Tyrese Halliburton, Buddy Hield, and Tristan Thompson.

This four-team trade is a rarity in the NBA but it happened this year. The Bucks traded Rodney Hood and Semi Ojeleye to the Clippers, for Serge Ibaka, two future 2nd round picks, and cash; the Kings traded Marvin Bagley to the Pistons, for Trey Lyles and Josh Jackson, and Don-te DiVincenzo was also sent to the Kings. Another good trade, that will immediately

improve the Celtics playmaking and defense, is the Spurs trading Derrick White to the Celtics, for Josh Richardson, Romeo Langford, 2022 1st round pick (protected 1-4), and swap rights on 2028 1st round pick.

The Wizards want to try to convince star player Bradley Beal to stay and sign a long-term contract, so the Mavericks traded Kristaps Porzingis and a future 2nd round pick to Wizards for Spencer Dinwiddie and Davis Bertans. The Heats team executives Pat Riley and Andy Elisburg again clutched up the Heats roster. The Heat traded a 2026 2nd round pick for KX Okpala, which helped them with three things: amended the conditions on the 2025 1st round pick owed to the Thunder, gave them more flexibility in trading future picks, and more importantly opened up a roster spot to sign a buyout player for a championship push.



Image courtesy of The Philadelphia Inquirer

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# Mask Wearing: The Divide it Causes and The Harm of it's Politicization

Gabriella Small

Design Editor

COVID-19 has fundamentally changed every single aspect of our lives. From coughing and sneezing becoming taboo to seeing a person's full face in public becoming a rarity, the virus has forced us to forgo things that we did not think twice about before the pandemic.

Some state governments have taken measures to combat the spread of the virus, with one controversial method being the implementation of mask mandates.

Of course, the new reality COVID-19 has developed for us has upset many, if not all people around the United States, which led many to vent their frustrations in a variety of ways.

At the beginning of the pandemic, this meant people expressing their sadness over the loss of seeing strangers' smiles. Over time, it has evolved into people protesting the usage of masks, claiming that masks are killing kids and violating religious beliefs.

Sadly, the push back against masks has led to the act itself becoming highly politicized, causing brutal discord between hardcore

mask advocates and radical anti-maskers.

Anti-maskers have been having an insane number of mask-related tantrums uploaded across the internet in the United States alone, so much so that the term "Karen," used to denote an angry, entitled, racist woman, has become a staple in modern culture.

Anti-maskers commonly choose to lash out at retail workers who ask them to wear masks before entering their stores and flight attendants who instruct them to keep their masks on throughout the entire duration of a flight. Some anti-maskers even harass workers for the act of wearing a mask, something I have seen a pregnant cashier experience by the hands of an anti-mask customer. While it may sometimes be funny to indulge in obnoxious mask-related freak-out videos on the internet, to me, it only signifies a growing divide in a country that did not seem like it could divide any further.

Online and offline, people are extremely combative on the topic of mask wearing, and whole communities are being slashed apart due to the avid hatred of something that is supposed to keep them safe.



Anti mask protestors blocking a pro mask counter protestor

Image Courtesy of The Washington Post

Sure, wearing masks everyday can be a chore, especially when you are planning on being active, but anti-maskers tend to blow that detail out of proportion, claiming that masks can kill and will kill. Many also claim that mask requirements infringe on their first amendment rights, and even go to the extreme of saying that mask advocates are killers.

Of course, hardcore mask advocates have gone through their own extremes as well, wishing death on anti-maskers and even celebrating the deaths of anti-maskers on social media. The discussion of wearing masks has

become a toxic battleground that only gains more traction day by day.

The true harm that comes along with the existence of this discord in the first place is that it divides the U.S. population when we really need unity the most.

A wildfire pandemic would not just disappear with the blink of an eye, it would take months, if not years of careful actions taken part by all citizens, young and old.

With all the conspiracy theories and mudslinging flying around, whatever progress we have tried to make over these two years has gone completely down the drain. None of this is helped by

childish arguments that lead to no real conclusions.

As a society, we need to start promoting calm, constructive talks between those who believe in the importance of masks and those who do not, and educate others with hard facts and truth, and not an uncle's daily Facebook post.

Although something cannot be done overnight, little steps towards unity will help us come together to overcome this devastating, but possibly defeatable pandemic.

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