

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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**NEWS**  
HOW THE ASC CAN HELP  
YOU DURING FINALS

PAGE 3

**NEWS**  
LEARN ABOUT BC'S  
NEW FILM CLUB

PAGE 4

**FEATURES**  
THE BENEFITS OF  
VOLUNTEERING

PAGES 6-7

**FEATURES**  
A FEW NOTABLE BROWARD  
COUNTY WOMEN

PAGES 8

**ENTERTAINMENT**  
MOVIES TO WATCH  
IN APRIL

PAGE 9

**SPORTS**  
NFL UPDATES

PAGE 10

**OPINION**  
WHAT THE "DON'T SAY GAY"  
BILL MEANS FOR STUDENTS

PAGE 11

## Students Address Concerns at Recent Board of Trustees Meeting

**Naomi Volcy**

Central Bureau Chief

The Board of Trustees meeting was held March 29 on Broward College's South Campus. The Board of Trustees, as described on the Broward College's Board of Trustee webpage, are community leaders with diverse backgrounds that provide leadership to the college and its activities. In this meeting, various issues and updates on all three Broward College campuses were discussed. Student Government representatives such as South Campus President Gali Polichuk, Vice President Xiomara Campos, and North Campus President Devonte Caine were in attendance. These representatives highlighted issues the student body faced on their respective campuses and college-wide. These issues were gathered from approximately 2000 responses collected from the student body through surveys, emails, social media posts, campus events and walk-ins at Student Life.

A specific issue presented by Polichuk was student access to the fitness center. Polichuk noted that Leo DeAraujo, South Campus's Student Life Director, was in communication with Associate Dean Forrester of Science and Wellness Education, who informed Polichuk and DeAraujo that the only hindrance was a vacancy of an employee to supervise the center. Polichuk asked for an update on the department's hiring process, the fitness center's potential opening and operational hours.

Further, Polichuk questioned the level of accessibility students will have for the gymnasium, as a youth soccer program will utilize the space. Polichuk stressed that without adequate (potentially only one to two hours a day) access to the gymnasium, it will be difficult to build a recreation sports program. Polichuk made sure to point out the Board's role in this issue as she tells, "Finally, it is worth sharing that when the college ended the athletics program, it was with the promise to the board that students would have access to play and com-

pete in recreational sports. We do not see how this can be achieved if given such limited access to bldg. 65."

A North Campus specific issue was the implementation of gender-neutral bathrooms. Caine provided an update on the progression of the implementation of two new gender-neutral bathrooms. Caine explained, "The issue of gender-neutral restrooms was first brought to our attention at the fall Townhall meeting, and then we saw it again in the survey results. At the time, there was only one gender-neutral restroom at North Campus and the location was at the Academic Support Center (building 62)." Caine worked closely with Dean Negrón, Dean Murphy, and his team to find sites for two new restrooms. The two new gender-neutral restrooms are located in the Student Services building (building 42).

The Student Government representatives then discussed college-wide issues, such as: more online classes availability, improved financial support, more in-person evening classes and more on-campus food options. Polichuk returned to the podium to discuss the issue of more online class availability. She focused on the students' positive attitude towards remote learning and their desire for this to be offered indefinitely. Polichuk asked the Board, "What can we do as an institution to assure that we are meeting this concern and need for students who wish to continue online/remote learning?"

Caine addressed the issue of improved financial support. He focused on students' access to reliable transportation and the need for an expansion of the LYFT program. He explained that the LYFT codes offered at the beginning of the semester run out and have left students on a wait list for new codes. Caine asked the Board, "Will the college consider scaling this program to alleviate this burden?"

Campos took to the podium to address students' desire for more in-person evening classes. Despite the push for remote/online courses, Campos



Broward College staff and students during the Board of Trustees meeting on March 29.  
Naomi Volcy/The Observer

provided a contrary need as there are students who enjoy social interaction and, "want to know that they can create a hybrid schedule that works best for them and are asking for more in-person evening classes."

Caine discussed more on-campus food options as all three Broward College campuses have vacant spaces in their cafés. Students want a variety of affordable food options, rather than solely Subway and food trucks on campus. Caine asked the Board, "Can we be provided with an update to the college's plan for permanently filling the vacant spaces in all the cafeterias?"

Lastly, a virtual student forum was conducted for students on North and South Campus to propose questions (pre-recorded) to the Board. Imani Imhotep-Gwynn, a nursing student, asked the Board if the school can provide more funding to update nursing labs and health science equipment at the North Campus. Dr. Jamonica Rolle, Interim Vice Provost (Academic Affairs, North Campus), explained that the equipment available should be adequate. The equipment available is there to provide a basic understanding of the concepts the students are learning in their courses. The on-site clinicals are where students use and gain knowledge on up-to-date equipment in a medical environment. This way, the school can keep student fees low.

Luidji Julien-Etienne, an international student, asked the Board if the implementation

of "In-state tuition for international students" is possible. Caleb J. Cornelius, Vice President of Finance, acknowledged that, "In Florida, anyone who is not a resident of Florida is required to pay the full tuition of learning, which is backed by Statute."

Christel Noel, a South Campus student, asked the Board for "more quiet studying space for students outside of the three available rooms at the ASC that are always booked." Dr. Rolle clarified that there are 18 study rooms that are available for students, but few students seem to be aware. The conference room and classrooms will be made available for students to study in, if needed. The Board agreed that they will strive to better advertise all the available study rooms.

Joselyn Lopez-Lara, a North Campus student, asked if the Board would, "re-open the North Campus Child Development Center/Daycare, so that student parents can have their children in the program right on campus, and so that Education pathway students can volunteer, and conduct required hours as well." John Dunnuck, Senior Vice President (Finance and Operations), explained that the childcare center was closed because of low participation and liability issues. Since it is now an occupied space, it will be closed indefinitely for childcare purposes. Although, the college is offering a grant program, CCAMPIS, which provides local childcare centers at a discounted rate for

students who qualify.

Alisha Loiseau, a student, asked, "Are student professor evaluations being taken into consideration? If so, what actions are being taken to address issues?" Dr. Rolle confirmed that student evaluations are taken seriously, and associate deans are addressing these evaluations closely. Also, they work with the teachers' union if needed.

Kahkashan Anasary, a student, asked "can international students have admission barriers removed if they are transferring or have received degrees from a local university?" Dr. Donald Astrab, Interim Vice Provost (Academic Operations, Analytics and Communication, South Campus), took to the podium to confirm that this issue had been corrected and was due to technological issues with the admissions system.

For more information on Broward College's Board of Trustees, you can visit, <https://www.broward.edu/about/leadership/bot/>. For more information on Broward College's members of senior management who answered student forum questions, you can visit, <https://www.broward.edu/about/leadership/senior-management/>. For more information on the CCAMPIS grant program, you can visit, <https://www.broward.edu/academics/education/ccampis.html>. To know when Townhalls or future Board of Trustees meetings occur, be sure to follow your campus's Student Life Instagram page.

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# Student Publications Wins Multiple Awards at State Conference

During the 62nd Annual Florida College Systems Press Association (FCSPA) Conference held in Tampa from March 31 to April 2, student publications won several awards.

The Observer student newspaper won the following awards: Third place, Editorial, Jessica Kladerman and Arianna Allen; first place, feature story, Camellia Baki; and first place, sports column, Ryan Marin. Panku won the following awards: first place, non-fiction, Christa Hopkins (Spring 2021); first place artwork, Ainhoa Lasso (Spring 2021); first place contents page, Kristin Alcorn (Spring 2021); second place, general excellence; second place, poem, Nemeche Blake (Fall 2020); sec-



Observer Central Bureau Chief, Naomi Volcy.



Panku Editor-in-Chief Kristin Alcorn (left) and Managing Editor Rokheyatou Faye (right).

ond place, artworks, Mikael Semexant, Antonio Smith, Maria Jose Berru (Spring 2021); second place, contents page, Kristin Alcorn (Fall 2020);

third place, poem, Shirleen Groves (Spring 2021); third place, artwork, Ellana Sunshine (Fall 2020); third place, two-page spread design

(Spring 2021).

During the conference, students had the chance to participate in a variety of workshops such as storytelling and in-

vestigative journalism as well as networking opportunities.

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

## WANTS:

✓ WRITERS 

✓ GRAPHIC DESIGNERS 

✓ PHOTOGRAPHERS 

✓ VIDEOGRAPHERS 

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   @thebcobserver

# Academic Success Center: A Valuable Tool Before Finals

**Jamonique Waite**  
Staff Writer

With exams setting in and the workload increasing with every class, it can be hard to be prepared for finals and that's where the Academic Success Center (ASC) comes in to save the day. The ASC was designed with the students in mind as academic support is provided with no extra cost to students and exists to supplement the course material outside of the classroom.

They also belong to the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA), the National College Learning Center Association (NCLCA), and the Florida College Learning Center Association (FCLCA).

ASC strives to satisfy our students' requirements by employing highly qualified professional staff who collaborate to actively contribute to student achievement.

Located at all three Broward College campuses, it provides a quiet study space

and academic labs for the beginner and advanced student in Math and Science, Writing, English as a Second Language, Reading, Accounting, Economics, Introductory Computer Science and Modern Foreign Language. Students can schedule an appointment online where they can meet one-on-one with a student tutor at the time most convenient to them.

This is done through close collaboration with Pathways and individual faculty members. Just to mention a few of the support offerings, they provide professional tutoring, organized group study sessions, exam reviews and collaboration space utilization.

Students will discover a Student Technology Center or open computer center on the first level where students can do research, finish homework projects or get help accessing online course materials with the help of peer mentors.

A physics student, who

has requested to remain anonymous, said, "I use it often. The main benefit is the face-to-face interaction, and nothing beats having a physical human there to communicate with." While a math student said, "I've been here about 2-3 times already and the peer mentors here are always enthusiastic and helpful. They even give you high fives when you've figured out a question that's a bit tricky, which makes you feel like you are making progress and I like that, but I just wished that they had more mentors to help."

The testimonials of students who have benefitted from this free opportunity are endless, but nothing can compare to actually experiencing it for yourself. Exams are here and we all need help to pull through so give the ASC a chance.

Appointments can be made by visiting [broward.edu/asc](http://broward.edu/asc) or walking into the Academic Success Center on your campus.

[waitj7@mail.broward.edu](mailto:waitj7@mail.broward.edu)

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Central Campus: [myWCO.com/asccentral](http://myWCO.com/asccentral)  
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Writers



Graphic Designers



Photographers



Videographers

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# Film Production Club Allows Students to Share Love of Film

**Marquis Grant**  
Staff Writer

Attention all creative students, Broward College is now hosting a film production club started by students from the film program to fulfill your creative aspirations. The BC film club is especially valuable because it allows students not already in the film program the opportunity to create, network and prepare for a future navigating creative professional endeavors, including the movie industry.

Makayla Deane is the club's founder and a sophomore student majoring in art at Broward College. Deane and a group of other film students were in an Intro to Film class with Professor Nathan Mikita, who is now the film club's sponsor professor.

These students connected with each other on common interests and their shared passion for filmmaking. When they noticed that there was no film club at BC, they decided to start one in the hopes of creating a space for creative students to connect with others, work on projects, hone their skills and prepare for futures as creative professionals. This club will be an excellent opportunity to have direct experience pitching ideas or stories, using equipment, creating projects and collaborating with other creative students.



Students in the BC Film Club.

Marquis Grant/The Observer

Another officer of the club, Valery Guillaume, started at BC in 2019 and originally majored in philosophy before switching to film. He is in the club to move towards his future film goals by gaining credibility as a club officer, meeting new people and improving his craft. Guillaume wants the film club to grow and become a studio for students. He wants new members to know that the film production club is a great environment with passionate, creative people who will help with story ideas they may have or want to develop.

The officers made a point to express that while they do want to help develop stories,

the club is not geared towards teaching students but rather collaborating, providing opportunities and facilitating creative work and preparation for future work. Students may be excited to hear that the club officers are open and interested in filming off-location around South Florida.

During the first meeting of the club, students gathered together and went over some expectations for the club experience while sharing their individual skills and interests. Future meetings will prepare to pick and develop a collaborative film with the members of the club.

One member at the club

meeting shared that they practice photography while another member, interested in acting, acted out an idea and was encouraged by the group. Towards the end of the meeting, one member played movie soundtracks while other members connected and talked about their interests and abilities further.

Ed Schwartzman is a film production club member and is also an editor, voice actor and lives in Boca Raton. He heard about the club from the club's officer, Guillaume, while Guillaume was talking about the first meeting coming up. Schwartzman decided to join so he could gain experience

making films and also find discussions, especially about soon to be released movies.

If you are a creative individual interested in developing your passion, connecting with other creative students, and preparing for a future as a creative professional, then BC's film production club is an excellent choice for you.

For anyone interested in joining, the club is located at Broward College's Central Campus in Building 6, room 209 on Wednesdays from 12-12:45 p.m. Anyone who wants to join can simply show up to meetings. The Instagram account for the club is @bc.filmclub, and their discord server can also be joined to further connect with the group, by following the link or QR code on their Instagram page.

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## This Month is Ramadan, and Why You Should Learn About it.

**Maya Mohan**  
North Bureau Chief

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic Lunar Calendar, and it is one of the Five Pillars of Islam. It can range from 29 to 30 days. The dates shift every year since Ramadan follows the Hijri (Lunar) Calendar.

It is a time of worship where Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset, or more specifically, from first prayer "Fajr" to fourth prayer "Maghreb." Muslims fast from all food, drinks and even water.

According to Malak Sakallah, President of the Muslim Student Association Council of Broward Schools (@msabrowardcouncil), "During this month, a lot of us like to read the Qur'an which is the Holy Book. Many of us finish it during this month. A lot of us set goals for ourselves to improve spiritually and as a person in general."

Ramadan is also about establishing a deeper connection with Islam and oneself, Muslims take the time to further understand and appreciate the religion. During Ramadan, Muslims have a special meal before and after each day of fasting with family or friends. Prefast eaten before sunrise are known as "Suhur."

"Iftar" is the meal eaten after sunset to break the day's fast. According to Sama Mansour,



A Muslim family gathers at the table for the iftar meal after sunset during Ramadan on May 13, 2020, in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Images Image courtesy of Getty Images

the Event Coordinator of The Muslim Student Association on North Campus, "the reasons for fasting are many, but the most prominent of them is the feeling of the poor and those who do not have food, and the appreciation of the blessing of food."

Another aspect of why Muslims fast during Ramadan is to teach patience and self-control, as Malak Sakallah stated, "you're training a person to be patient because you're abstaining from something your life depends on for a certain period of time." It teaches control because in addition to fasting, you are also abstaining from negative behaviors such as trash talking,

lying, or even cursing.

According to Sama Mansour, "we celebrate the coming of Ramadan, some people put up decorations because we are happy to start a month full of worship."

The celebration takes place after the month of Ramadan in the Muslim Holiday "Eid." After the end of Ramadan, Muslims give part of their money to the poor. The amount is calculated based on the number of family members in their household and their material income. This is called "Zakat" and it is also one of the Pillars of Islam and obligatory if the Muslim family can afford to give.

According to Sama Mansour,

"the Zakat has specific rules for the amount of money we give, how we give it, to whom we give, and for who should give it because not all Muslims are of the same income status. The money is given to help others in need because in humanity, we are all brothers and sisters."

When asked "How do you think we can educate more people about Islam and its core values?" Sama Mansour responded with, "most people take the wrong idea about Islam from the media. To better educate people about it, they should take information from the right sources." Explaining the different aspects of Islam will give people a better

understanding of the religion and why Muslims partake in certain actions, worship and prayer.

Malak Sakallah responded with, "to better educate people, we need to tell them not to believe everything they see in the media. Also, do your research with sources that are unbiased. We need to encourage people to get firsthand responses from those who practice the religion."

To get a better understanding of Islamic literature and verses, make sure to read everything with context to avoid any misconceptions. Don't be scared to ask Muslims about Islam if you want to learn more about it, as Malak Sakallah stated, "I personally love when people ask me about my religion, it makes me feel fulfilled and happy because I get to clear a lot of misconceptions they may have."

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There are many reasons why we encourage the Seahawk family and members of our communities to give back by providing their time in exchange for providing goods and services for others. With everything that has happened in the past, it is safe to say that we are all in need of a reset. The best way to do this is by allowing ourselves to connect again with our community. One way we suggest doing that this upcoming summer is by getting aligned with your community by signing up to become a volunteer. Volunteering is crucial in one's means for social wellness because you can naturally gain development skills such as leadership, problem-solving, time-management, etc. Luckily in South Florida, there are many community-based programs that you can get affiliated with quickly.

Here are four community service organizations or opportunities you can look into:

### HandsOn Broward



HandsOn Broward is a volunteering organization you can associate with due to its tidy approach to volunteering. Once you become a member, which is free and safe, you now have exposure to their open calendars (viewable from the sight), their association with other organizations and the flexibility they offer, which is part of their mission. HandsOn Broward works with over 200 organizations, allowing them to be flexible and diverse. HandsOn Broward provides a remote volunteering option through the ConnectingWithU program as a phone pal. ConnectingWithU offers weekly calls for seniors to ensure their emotional and physical wellbeing. ConnectingWithU also provides service hours for local college students at a rate of 2.5 hours per week upon completion of three months of service. The calls offer peace of mind for seniors who lack human interaction and socialization. This remote opportunity is a chance for the students who may not have accessible transportation or may still prefer to be remote while things get back to normal. <https://www.handsonbroward.org>.

### KID



Making a difference in a child's life is a heartfelt experience that many can enjoy. KID is a fantastic organization for those who want to impact the younger generation. This opportunity can be a phenomenal experience for those anticipating working with younger children in a career setting. There are several volunteer options you get to choose from with this organization. You can become a KID aftercare volunteer and offer homework and reading assistance to the children. Volunteer support is also needed in the classrooms as a KID preschool plus volunteer where you will be assisting with arts & crafts, outdoor play, games, reading help and more. Do you love to organize? Because KID can also use support in managing the warehouse with donations. Finally, you can also help with KID special events where volunteers are always needed the most. KID's primary needs during these events are the process of setting up and breaking down at the beginning and end of these events. <https://www.kidinc.org>.

### JA Biztown



Do you remember that one trip as a child to JA Biztown and the difference it made in your life and its impact on picking your career from that day forth. Most south Floridian natives have been on the iconic field trip to Junior Achievement. Many of us have this one memory in common and can connect through this similar experience. What if I told you that you could be a part of their volunteering team? Believe it or not, volunteers are the heart of JA, and Junior Achievement of South Florida is looking for volunteers in the community to get involved. The organization states, "Volunteers are what bring our programs to life. When students can connect with an adult and hear about their life experiences, the children are exposed to opportunities and pathways they often have never envisioned before." Currently, JA Biztown and JA finance park volunteers are in immediate need. JA Biztown is located on the BC North Campus. <https://www.jasouthflorida.org/volunteer/>.

### FLWC



Here is a volunteering opportunity if you are a woman or identify as one. If you are looking to join a civic organization with a warm history and clubhouse atmosphere and build positive connections and at the same time, give back to the community, look no further because Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, also known as FLWC, is your one-stop shop. According to the Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, its mission is to engage women as volunteers who want to make a recognizable difference in the community. During member meetings, concerns presented include but are not limited to addressing civic, educational, cultural and humanitarian needs in our community and beyond. FLWC members consist of women of various ages, backgrounds, talents and interests. FLWC values "unity in diversity" and welcomes anyone to join. This organization has programs relating to the arts, education, conservation, public affairs, home life, international affairs and much more.

# Breaking Boundaries: Influential Women in Broward County

**Naomi Volcy and Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
*Central Bureau Chief  
 Staff Writer*

Images courtesy of google.com

**Jasmen Rogers**

Jasmine Rodgers is a community organizer for Black Lives Matter Alliance Broward and a co-founder of inConfirmistas Collective. She fights for racial justice and a safe space against patriarchy through healing. Rodgers also serves the Miami Workers Center to advance gender justice. She empowers black women to stand up and act in every social justice work.

**Heather Havericak**

Heather Havericak is the CEO of Broward Health Medical Center and Salah Foundation Children's Hospital. She was first a registered nurse in Pediatrics at Miami Children's Hospital in 2002. She has proven her dedication to the field, winning South Florida Business Journal's power leaders in healthcare for 2019 and 2020. She was also honored as one of the six women named Broward Trailblazers. Now, she stands as a remarkable leader, providing quality healthcare to the Broward County community.

**Cindy Kushner**

Recognizing shortfalls of companies to promote gender diversity in executive positions, she founded Women Executive Leadership to bridge the gap between women and



Jasmen Rogers



Heather Havericak



Cindy Kushner



Edee Greene



Lisa Milenkovic, Ph.D.



Nikki Cabus



Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, Ph.D.



Burnadette Norris-Weeks

leadership positions. She provides companies with a way to identify competent female candidates and put them in board-ready and executive positions, which is done by involving companies, search firms, and executives.

**Edee Greene**

Journalist Edee Greene founded Women in Distress of Broward County, Inc., the only nationally accredited domestic violence center serving Broward County. It first provided refuge for homeless women. Then, it saw the need to provide shelter for women and

children experiencing violence in their homes. She has helped 246,000 homeless and abused women and children before passing away on December 11, 2000.

**Lisa Milenkovic, Ph.D.**

With a mission to improve science literacy in K-12, Dr. Lisa Milenkovic is the STEM and Computer Science Supervisor at Broward County Schools. She works and coordinates initiatives that advocate for STEM education, partnering with local and national organizations to bring hands-on experience to classrooms. She

also develops science curriculum frameworks to improve the pedagogy of STEM in K-12 schools.

**Nikki Cabus**

Nikki Cabus is the CEO of South Florida Tech Club. It is a non-profit organization that provides the necessary resources for tech development in South Florida. She helps connect communities with resources to build up tech businesses, start-ups, and ventures. She also recognizes breaking down the cultural and gender barriers associated with pursuing STEM.

**Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson, Ph.D.**

With a track record of more than two decades, Dr. Jennifer O'Flannery Anderson has served Broward County in multiple leadership positions, particularly as the President/CEO of Community Foundation of Broward. She is an experienced executive that tackles Broward County's most pressing issues through building community leadership. The foundation provides and manages charitable funds for people and their community initiatives.

**Burnadette Norris-Weeks**

Burnadette Norris-Weeks is a partner of a Fort Lauderdale-based law firm Austin Pamies Norris Weeks Powell, PLLC. She is also the founder of the Women of Color Empowerment Institute, aiming to expand leadership opportunities for women of color. She has served the community through her profession and expertise, providing law service to cities and multiple governmental entities.

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# Bridgerton Season 2: A Monumental Step For South Indians

**Christy Joshy**  
*Social Media Editor*

It's 2022, yet people still can't get over the nostalgia and whimsy of the 18th century. And Netflix, with its Emmy-nominated period drama, *Bridgerton*, has satisfied that longing. With its season two release, *Bridgerton* fantastically recaptures the essence of regency-era London. Based on Julia Quinn's bestselling series, the show centralizes on each of the eight *Bridgerton* siblings and their encounters with love.

Season 2, in particular, focuses on Anthony, the oldest of the *Bridgerton* clan, who holds the title of Viscount. Headstrong and adamant about finding the perfect wife, Anthony embarks on his journey to find a woman who checks all the boxes: intelligent, capable of taking care of children, easy on the eyes, and multilingual. Nonetheless, his extensive list does not include love, and thus, his dilemma begins.

The Sharma family, half-sisters Kate and Edwina and their mother Mary, have arrived from India to find a husband for Edwina during London's mating season. When Edwina is named the "diamond of the season," Anthony must have her, not because of his love for her, but because she fits his demands. When the two become acquainted, he instead finds

himself falling in love with Kate, who, like him, is stubborn and strong-willed. The season takes viewers through their romance and struggles to suppress their growing feelings for the sake of Edwina.

However, one key difference in *Bridgerton* that sets it apart from other period dramas is its color blindness. Race has barely any significance in the show. Once a genre for strictly white actors, *Bridgerton* has paved the way to include people of color, not just as subjects and side characters, but as the leads.

Kate and Edwina, played by Simone Ashley Pillai and Charithra Chandran, are of South Indian descent. Their casting has taken the South Asian community by storm because it marks one of the first times dark-skinned South Indians have been offered such a coveted role in Western media.

This feat is even more groundbreaking because Bollywood, India's film industry, has been notoriously known to strictly cast lighter-skinned Indians who fit the Eurocentric standard of beauty. Now that Western society has embraced South Asian beauty, it demonstrates a looming need for Bollywood to step up in its inclusivity of the whole country.

However, there were some elements in *Bridgerton's* season 2 that were confusing to South Asian viewers because



Image courtesy of Liam Daniel/Netflix

of their inconsistency. For instance, though the actors who played Kate and Edwina are of South Indian descent, the show cast them as North Indians. This would have been an opportunity for the show to display South Indian culture since Western media rarely portrays it.

Also, Edwina refers to Kate as "didi," a Hindi term used to address an older sister. However, Edwina and Kate mention their father as "appa," a word used in South Indian languages that means father. Despite

some errors and irregularities, the season has been widely revered for including faces in media that haven't been seen before in this setting.

For South Asian audiences everywhere, Kate and Edwina are more than actresses on the screen. They represent the greater diversity of India, not just through skin color but the fact that not every Indian is just a nerdy caricature who stays on the side as comedic relief. *Bridgerton* has paved the way for Hollywood and Bollywood to take a more significant look

at the importance of inclusivity.

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# New Movies to Watch in April

Lachin Kerbabaeva  
Online Editor

Images courtesy of IMDB



The prequel *Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore* hits theaters on April 15. It is a British-American spin-off of the Harry Potter film series directed by David Yates and written by JK Rowling and Steve Klovis.

The film takes place in the 1930s—the magic world on the edge of World War II. Gellert Grindelwald assembles a team of dark wizards to take over the wizarding world and repress the Muggles.

On his side is the hero of Ezra Miller, The Obscurus orphan Credence Barebone, and the sorceress Queenie Goldstein (Alison Sudol). Muggle baker Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), who is in love with Queenie, remains on Newt Scamander’s team.

At the request of Albus Dumbledore, the zoologist magician, is trying to interfere with the plans of Grindelwald, who, with the help of an unusual animal, can see the future.

Dumbledore cannot participate in the fight since, many years ago, he and Grindelwald made a promise that they could not harm each other.

In the film, the leading role, Newt Scamander, as in the previous two parts of the series, was played by British actor, Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne.

This film received a significant replacement for one of the lead roles. In November 2020, Johnny Depp, who played Grindelwald, was replaced by Mads Mikkelsen. The music composer of the film is talented James Newton Howard.

*Sonic the Hedgehog 2* came out on April 8. Directed by Jeff Fowler and written by Patrick

Casey, Josh Miller, and John Whittington, it is an action-adventure comedy film based on the Sega video game series.

The film is the sequel to *Sonic the Hedgehog* (2020) and the second film in the Sonic Cinematic Universe.

The plot is about Sonic (voiced by Ben Schwartz) and Tails (voiced by Colleen O’Shaughnessey) as they try to stop Doctor Eggman (Jim Carrey) and Knuckles (voiced by Idris Elba) from getting Master Emerald.

Settling in Green Hills, Sonic seeks to prove that he can be a real hero. In the center of the plot, the villainous Doctor Ivo “Eggman” Robotnik and the mysterious partner Knuckles the Echidna look for a priceless emerald, which contains forces capable of destroying entire civilizations.

Sonic teams up with Miles ‘Tails’ Prower to travel worldwide and find the emerald before it falls into the wrong hands.

The film will also feature such actors as James Marsden, Tika Sumpter, and Natasha Rothwell. The director of the first part, Jeff Fowler, also directed the second one.

On April 22, *The Northman*, a big-budget film about the Vikings by Robert Eggers (*The Lighthouse*, 2019), starring Alexander Skarsgård, Anya Taylor-Joy, Ethan Hawke, Nicole Kidman, and Björk, is released

worldwide.

The *Northman* is described as a historical epic based on medieval Scandinavian legends about Prince Amleth, who became the prototype of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*.

Most of the events take place in 914, during the early settlement of Iceland. In the center of the plot is Prince Amleth, who takes revenge on the murderers of his father and wants to return the kingdom that belongs to him by right.

Film critics note that the film can become a hit in 2022 and that this is an example of a great blockbuster created during a pandemic and an abundance of comic films.

The film is worth watching for the great action, the cast, and the dark atmosphere in the director’s usual style.

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# Why you should watch Shadow and Bone

Scarlett Valencia Pulido  
Staff Writer

Image courtesy of IMDB



Book to series adaptations are often looked down upon by hundreds of fans. Readers have high expectations that are just not met by directors. But when

you have the author actively involved in the production of the show, you know you are in for something worth watching. And that is exactly what hap-

pened in one of Netflix’s most recent young-adult fantasy adventures.

*Shadow and Bone* is a Netflix series based on Leigh Bardugo’s *GrishaVerse*. A fantastical world in which a small part of the population, known as Grisha, possesses a variety of abilities ranging from controlling metals to stopping someone’s heart. But this “power” follows the laws of science as the Grisha can only manipulate objects and not create them out of nothing.

Bardugo is one of the show’s executive producers of the show. She played a vital role choosing the best cast for this extension of her work that merges her two-book series: *Shadow and Bone* and *Six of Crows*.

*Shadow and Bone* follows Alina Starkov, played by Jessie Mei Lei, an orphan map maker who discovers that she is not a regular human. In fact, she can summon light, and with training, she could become strong enough to destroy the wall of darkness that divides Ravka, her homeland. A country inspired by the era of Czarist Russia. But as Alina is learning to use her ability, she questions who she can trust.

The characters of *Six of Crows* come into play when a sharpshooter, a spy, and a thief agree to do an impossible well paid job to capture the sun summoner.

All of these characters’ paths cross seamlessly as they follow their individual goals. The good thing is that there are smooth transitions between the two situations going on that makes it easy to follow up with the events unfolding.

The overlap of the characters and storylines of these two books, creates a different yet familiar story for the readers, such as the cast members, who were asked to read them before filming to use them as a reference point for their characters.

And speaking about characters, Bardugo sat with Eric Heisser, the creator of this amazing adaptation, to talk about making the characters reflect our society. She shared in an interview with NPR that as she wrote the first book in the *Shadow and Bone* trilogy, she unconsciously depicted the fantasy she grew up with, what she called, “the straight white characters.” For that same reason, she encouraged the idea of adding a diverse background to Alina.

In the novels, Alina is just described as a girl from a bordering town. But in this new version of Alina, she is half-Shu (half-Asian) which causes her to be treated with prejudice by people in

Ravka and create a conflicting idea when her ability is the one that can help her country, the one that has treated her badly all these years.

And speaking about characters, all of the actors delivered stellar performances that make you fall in love with the show even more.

If you are into mystery, action, darkness, and a little trouble, you will surely enjoy *Shadow and Bone* and be ready to binge watch season two, which is currently being filmed.

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# NFL Free Agency and Trade News

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

NFL Free Agency began officially March 16 at 4 p.m. Also, trades were made official that same day. There was no shortage of important league altering news, starting with two MVP caliber QBs and all pro wide receivers.

Since the Packers lost to the 49ers in the Divisional Playoff game, there was contagious uncertainty on what Aaron Rogers would do next season. He had three options: either retire, ask for a trade, or sign a deserving extension, after becoming a back-to-back MVP. He waited until March 8 to inform the Packers of his decision, which was coincidentally the same day the deadline to franchise tag All-Pro Packers receiver, Davante Adams.

So, on March 8, Rogers announced on Twitter that he'll be returning to the Packers. Also, that both sides are working on a new contract that would lower his salary cap figure, while also giving him contractual clarity throughout his 40s. A week later, Rogers signed a 3-year \$150.8 million extension, which is basically \$50 million a year, which also made him the highest paid QB at that time.

To bolster their team and especially their defense, the



Image courtesy of espn.com

Chargers acquired All-Pro defender Khalil Mack from the Bears, for a 2nd and a 6th round pick. A trade that took place this weekend, was the Cowboys trading Amari Cooper to the Browns, for a 5th and a 6th round pick. One of the biggest and most shocking trades this offseason was the Chiefs trading all-pro wide receiver Tyreek Hill to the Dolphins, in exchange for a 2022 1st, 2nd, and 4th round pick, and as well as a 2023 4th and 6th round pick.

They also signed Hill to a 4-year \$120 million extension. All together that's five picks, and the Chiefs will assuredly

be using most of these picks of wide receivers to try and make up for Hill's production. The Dolphins facilitated this trade to give Tua Tagovailoa the best offensive pieces possible and giving him no more excuses to perform at a pro bowl level. If Tua is playing well or gets injured, the Dolphins signed veteran QB Teddy Bridgewater to fill in for him, if any of those things happen. They also signed pro bowler left tackle Terron Armstead to a 5-year \$70 million deal.

This signing was to protect Tua's blindside, and sure up and inconsistent offense line. The Dolphins traded wide

receiver Devante Parker and a 2022 5th round pick to their division rival Patriots for a 2023 3rd round pick. The Patriots facilitated this deal because they need a No.1 wide receiver and the Dolphins had just traded for Hill. That same week the Dolphins signed their all-pro cornerback to a 5-year extension deal, with \$50.6 million in new money, which also made him have the most guaranteed money by a corner back in NFL history, for about two weeks. Then the Browns signed pro bowl corner back Denzel Ward to a 5-year \$100.5 million extension, to become the highest paid corner back in

NFL history.

Additional, a grand jury didn't indict Deshaun Watson, which means he won't face criminal charges, after 22 women filed lawsuits against him; also a 2nd grand jury didn't indict him. Watson then was traded to the Browns from the Texans, in exchange for 1st round picks in 2022, 2023, and 2024; also 2023 3rd round pick and a 2024 4th round pick. They also gave

Watson a new 5-year \$230 million fully guaranteed contract. This became the highest guaranteed contract in NFL history.

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# NBA Play-in and Playoff Tournaments

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South Bureau Chief

The NBA play-in tournament began April 12 and finished April 15. The No.7 through No.10 seeds in both conferences, will face off against their conference opponents, to eventually get the last two 7th and 8th seed playoff spots. The 1st game was the Nets vs the Cavs. Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving carried the Nets with double-doubles, to a 115-108 win to secure the 7th seed.

The 2nd game was the Timberwolves vs Clippers. Even though Paul George had 34 points, Anthony Edwards and D'Angelo Russel carried the Timberwolves to a 109-104 win, to secure the 7th seed. The Hawks defeated the Cavs and Hornets, to secure an 8th seed berth. Lastly, the Pelicans defeated the Spurs and Clippers, to secure an 8th seed berth. The playoffs officially began April 15.

Many analysts have said that these playoffs are the most anticipated playoffs in the past decade. I totally agree with them because there are a lot of storylines and matchups that will be answered in depth. The top storylines from the Eastern Conference team are "can the Heat get back to the NBA final with their key acquisitions in free agency," "will the Bucks



Image courtesy of thestreamable.com

repeat as champions," "can the Celtics top rated defense propel that past the ECF," "will James Harden be clutch in close out games," and "can Kevin Durant and Kyrie carry the Nets until Ben Simmons makes his imminent return."

The top story lines for the Eastern Conference teams are "will Chris Paul and the Suns redeem themselves by finally winning a championship," "can Ja Morant lead the young Grizzlies team further in the playoffs," "can the Warriors veteran nucleus lead them back to their usual playoff glory," "will Luka finally get a playoff series win," and "can Donavan

Mitchell and the Jazz finally reach their playoff potential rather than folding. All these storylines and matchup comes with extensive pressure to win. If these great players like Harden or teams like the Jazz fold under the expectation and pressure, there will definitely be consequences. In the 76ers and Harden's situation, they could possibly not offer Harden his \$223 million extension in the offseason, and they could fire Doc Rivers and sign Mike D'Antoni. If the Jazz fold or lose in the playoffs, they could dismantle their team, and possibly trade Rudy Gobert.

Four games took place on

ESPN and ABC. The 1st game was the Mavs, without Luka Doncic because of a calf injury, vs the Jazz. The Jazz barely beat the Mavs 99-93, Donovan shot 10-29 from the field while scoring 30 of his 32 points in the 2nd half, and Rudy shot 0-1. The next game was Grizzlies vs Timberwolves. The Timberwolves surprisingly beat the Grizzlies 130-117 on the road, behind Edwards 36 points.

The next game was 76ers vs Raptors. The 76ers handily beat the Raptors 131-111, behind Tyrese Maxey's 38 points. The last game on Saturday was Warriors vs Nuggets. The

Warriors defeated the Nuggets 123-107, behind Jordan Poole's 30 points in his playoff debut, starting over Stephen Curry. There were also four games, one on ABC and the rest on TNT.

The 1st game was the Heat vs Hawks. The Heat handily defeated the Hawks 115-91, behind Duncan Robinson's 27 points and 8-9 3-point shot off the bench; also, by their stifling defense holding Trae Young to eight points on 1-12 shooting. The next game was Nets vs Celtics. The Celtics beat the Nets 115-114, behind Jayson Tatum's 31 points and game winning layup. The next game was the Bucks vs Bulls. The Bucks beat the Bulls 93-86, behind Giannis Antetokounmpo's 27-point double-double. The last game was the Suns vs Pelicans. The Suns defeated the Pelicans 110-99, behind Paul's 30-point double-double.

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# Florida Lawmakers Foster Homophobia in Primary Level Classrooms

**Yestin Arvin Gochuico**  
Staff Writer

There's a trend of Republicans restricting what students can and cannot learn in Florida, dangerously threading us towards primitivism. From systemic racism to gender discussions, lawmakers are abusing their seats to frantically reject reality, alienating various communities, now the LGBTQ+ community, in the education system.

On March 28, 2022, Florida's Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the controversial Parental Rights in Education bill into law, widely known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill. Disguised as a "fundamental right of parents," the bill prohibits discussing sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade. It also grants parents the right to sue school districts for violations.

With the content seemingly about "parental rights," lawmakers deviated from the subject and inserted a section unrelated to the said

Florida statute.

The contention surrounds one section: "classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

Lawmakers fail to understand that learning sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) shouldn't be restricted to age or developmental appropriateness. In a 2017 study done by Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, kids as young as 3.5 years old already exhibit behaviors that correlate to their identity when they later grow up. A child's age does not dictate how SOGIE should be known, as there's no set "maturity" period.

Now that the bill is signed, schools will reject and erase LGBTQ+ topics in primary grade level. Knowing that kids can already develop non-conforming tendencies

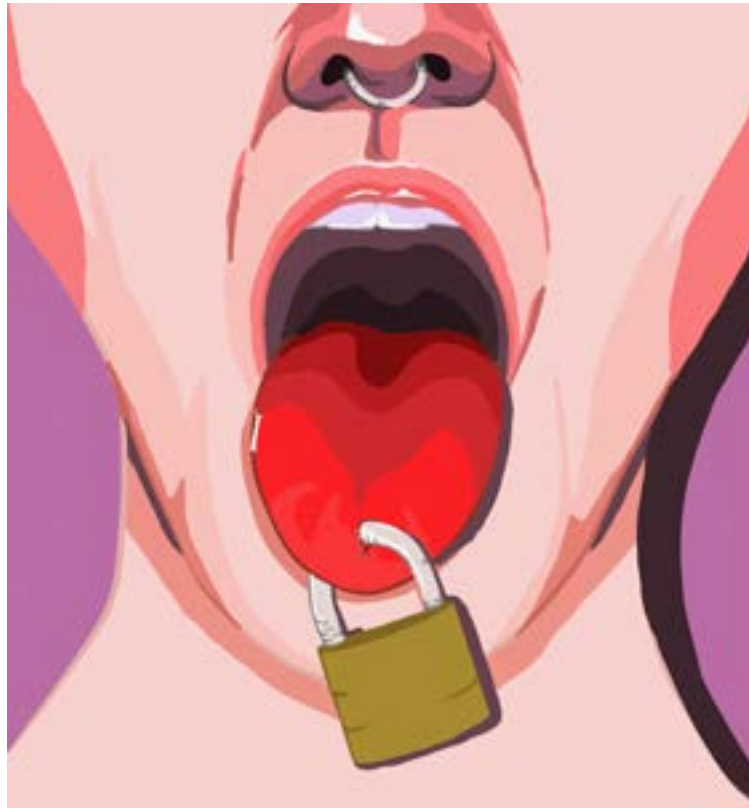


Illustration by Yestin Arvin Gochuico

at a young age, the law will essentially teach the children that it's not okay to feel different. There's not much time until we see kids afraid to be themselves, denied representation and inclusion.

In a Florida Senate floor debate, Sen. Dennis Baxley, one of the bill's sponsors, believe that children know too much about experiment-

ing with sexuality. To quote, "there really is a dynamic of concern of how much of this are genuine type of experiences and how many of them are just kids trying on different kinds of things."

But that's the crucial point, not a concern. Children need safe spaces to experiment and try different things in their journey to discover their identity.

American Psychological Association says school and social climates should support non-conforming youth to battle bias and discrimination. Limiting the environment supposed to teach them said topics will foster ignorance, or worse, homophobia, in schools and force students to suppress their SOGIE.

The flood of restrictive education laws is plaguing the state of our classrooms. For the "Don't Say Gay" bill, now law, Republicans are not protecting children from mature concepts but censoring LGBTQ+ discussions to children at a young age when they need it the most. Republicans are adamant about controlling how the youth gets educated. Why? So they can foster a generation degenerated of self-identity—stripped of themselves.

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## The Observer

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# Collecting Somewhere

An Art Exhibit by Lorna Ruth Galloway



Lorna Ruth Galloway, an artist and educator at Broward College, invites students to her 2022 solo exhibition which showcases landscapes, quilt squares, meaningful postcards, and small drawings. Galloway aims to create an intimate place that mirrors her home and studio and display pieces that have great personal meaning to her. She dedicates a portion of her exhibit to donation sites of gently used clothing and hygiene items that will be donated to the Women in Distress Organization and Broward College's Seahawk Outreach Services at the end of the exhibit, and serve their place as a beautiful piece of art created by all donators.



March 14 - April 28  
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