

THE OBSERVER

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Students help rehabilitate butterfly garden on North Campus

Scarlett Valencia Pulido
Online Editor

North Campus will see more butterflies around soon. The Sustainability Club on North Campus, directed by Dr. Shakira Khan is working with Waterway Advocates to fully develop the Butterfly Native Flower Garden.

The butterfly garden is located between building 57 and 56, leading towards the parking lot by the OMNI Auditorium.

The Sustainability Club began working on the rehabilitation of the garden last spring semester. "The project was motivated by the club members' desire to promote sustainable food resources in our lives," shares Dr. Khan. "We are keen on the pollinator role that butterflies play in our world, the importance for plants to thrive, and the mutual benefits they have to each other."

The club has been working hard to manage and develop the garden. They began the rehabilitation by performing initial cleaning and planting a few native species. Now, they have been working with Waterway to expand the project.

Waterway Advocates Inc. is a charitable organization helping out the ecosystems and communities here in South Florida. They branch out to Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties and have been featured on media outlets such as CBS Miami, NBC 6 the Miami New Times and now The Observer.

"When the Sustainability Club reached out about working together on a project, we couldn't pass up the opportunity," said Co-Executive Director, Caleb Merendino, who explains that this project aims to enrich the existing butterfly garden that is located on campus.

It is projected that around 200 native plants, from Broward County, will be the newest members of the garden. On Nov. 5, the first phase of the project began and 110 plants were added to the garden. The rest of the plants, as well as other features, will be planted later in the year.

"Native plants from Broward County were carefully selected to ensure the sustainability of the green space, provide nectar and other food for wildlife and pollination larva, and enhance the campus with colorful blossoms throughout the year," expressed Merendino.

In addition to having a greener campus, the plants selected will have school spirit. This is because the plants chosen showcase Broward College's colors, white and blue.

Waterway Advocates' collaboration with the Sustainability Club is a part of



Students plant pollinators for the butterfly garden on North. Image Courtesy of Waterway Advocates

Waterway's Nature Hubs program. Merendino points out that this initiative's goal is to teach communities that they can help reduce pollution, revitalize ecosystems and conserve water with simple techniques.

The company has been holding events to beautify ecosystems throughout South Florida. "If your campus is interested in a beautification project like this, please reach out," said Merendino.

They also work in off-site locations like neighborhoods, community areas and parks that need improvement. You can visit [NatureHubs.org](https://www.naturehubs.org) to learn more.

Dr. Khan and the Sustainability Club are excited about their rehabilitation project. "We hope to continue to manage and develop this very important resource for our campus and community at large."

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A cornerstone of Broward College's history: Professor Trish Joyce

Gabriella Small
Editor-in-Chief

For Trish Joyce, a professor at Broward College for five decades, being a Seahawk is, in her words, "what I know!" Having the chance to "grow up at BC" has given her an abundant amount of professional development opportunities, a love of learning communities, and experiences of the joys of being a professor, a job which she calls "the noble profession." Through conversation, she was able to fill me in on what it feels like to be a cornerstone of Broward College's history and the encounters that led her down this honorable path.

As a student, she worked hard to finish her undergraduate and graduate activities, working at retail in community college and then becoming a teaching assistant once she started attending

FSU. Working as a teaching assistant and interning at Boone High School in Orlando eventually guided her into a full-time teaching job at "Broward Community College," which is now known today as Broward College. Hired to teach in a model grant-funded program for minority recruitment and retention, she taught students college writing and reading and still teaches writing classes such as Composition and Intro to Literature and Creative Writing to this day.

She looks back at her early days as a Broward College professor fondly, recalling a time when BC received state funding for assisting "displaced homemakers," or women who needed training for careers outside the home. She used this opportunity to create a welcoming center at North Campus where women could "find support, aca-

demic referrals, and scholarship information" all in one place.

She describes this time at BC as one of her favorites because the women that returned to the classroom were more than eager to earn their degrees. Another key moment she retells is during the time when Hurricane Andrew displaced and destroyed the homes of many families across Florida. Professor Joyce and her students worked together to collect and distribute cartons of children's books and read them to kids who were alone while their parents were focused on repairing their homes. "So memorable," she said, "groups of children simply appeared to listen, chat, and make BC friends!"

These days, Joyce's student hall of fame includes any career you could think of, from journalists, doctors, attorneys, to those who



Professor Trish Joyce with her students. Image Courtesy of Trish Joyce

work inside the college itself. With such a collective group of talented individuals, there are, of course, some express standouts. A former student of hers, Mike Nyitray, became her lifelong friend after taking her Technical Writing class and mentoring other classmates. He was even named a distinguished Broward College alumni in 2012, once being a Phi Beta Kappa president and a part of the Honors College to now being an industrious inventor, professional bowling coach, and an inspiring

guest cameo during Joyce's SLS classes.

Being at the college for such a long time, Joyce has her adult kids recall their own memories of their time on BC campuses and has seen many of her cherished colleagues retire over time. Although she has seen many people come and go and has witnessed all the changes throughout her decades at BC, she still holds everything she has learned, everyone she has met, and everything she has experienced dear to her heart.

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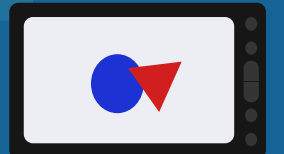
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Broward College's Leadership Seminars and Soft Skills Workshops

Maya Mohan

North Bureau Chief

This semester, Broward College's North, Central and South Campus is offering leadership seminars and soft skills workshops. The goal of the leadership seminars is to teach students how to gain respect and admiration from others in their career field and outside lives.

Leadership is a trait that can help students come out of their comfort zones and take full advantage of future opportunities that may benefit them in the long run. The leadership seminars took place on five different dates this semester: Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Oct. 24, Nov. 14, and Nov. 21.

Students needed to choose three of these dates to attend in order to meet the requirements and acquire their certification. Broward College also offers the Soft Skills Certification. The workshops were offered on

Sep. 29, Oct. 3, and Nov. 3. Soft Skills are personal attributes that allow someone to interact with others in harmony. The workshops aid in developing those skills so that students can enter into the workforce with teamwork and cooperation skills.

According to the Department of Labor, the seven soft skills that are commonly requested by employers are: teamwork, problem solving, communication, adaptability, critical thinking, time management and interpersonal skills. The soft skills examination and certification is offered by "Florida Ready to Work," a state organization that aims to tackle the lack of employability skills in the Florida workforce.

The Florida Ready to Work organization has a goal that "80 percent of working adults will have employability skills by 2030," hinting that it may become a requirement to have the soft skills certification in the foresee-

able future. For more information about this, visit, <https://www.floridareadytowork.com>.

The leadership seminars and soft skills workshops also have many benefits for students at Broward College. After completing three seminars, eight leadership journal entries, and the soft skills

exam by Dec. 9, students will be able to receive a graduation stole.

The leadership journal entries happen to be some students' favorite part of the leadership seminar. "The most beneficial part was getting the leadership journal and getting a chance to reflect pri-

vately—especially since self-help/personal growth lectures never resonate with me...getting to do it on my own was helpful," said Melaina Lawrence.

Other students, like Elvis Rodriguez, enjoy the mentoring aspect. "My favorite part of the leadership workshop was the speaker they showed us. She was very motivational and pushed us to make a name for ourselves in the industry."

Rodriguez also had a chance to improve his own work skills. "The soft skills seminar I think really helped improve my conversational skills. It helps teach the do's and don'ts of business speak." He also highly recommends that every student attends both the leadership workshop and the soft skills seminar. "Especially the soft skills seminar, since on completion you get a certificate that can help you when you apply for a job."

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Students can submit stories to 'Americans Like me' College Read writing contest

Swami Hinojosa Blas

Staff Writer

Living in a country as an immigrant is challenging. Entering an already-established society with its customs and traditions is difficult. Many feel segregated, discriminated against, and even strangers to this reality. In the book 'Americans Like Me' written by the actress, producer, and writer America Ferrera, she collects anecdotes about immigrants or immigrant parents. There are 31 stories that each touch on a different theme.

The book was recommended by the EAP department for students to write about.

The first immigration story that I would like to highlight is that of Liza Koshy, a comedian, actress, and influencer. She is a descendant of Indian parents but describes herself for the world. "A



Image Courtesy of Google Images

bunch of different ingredients all tossed haphazardly in a way that came together as something delicious." She tells us that immigration does not see it as a melting pot, which is what many say. It sees it more like a salad where each of us is different but part of it. And yes, we can get together and share. We continue to be who we are

and where we come from.

The second story is that of Kumail Nanjiani, Oscar-nominated actor and writer, a Pakistani student who went to Iowa to study. He tells us about his first experience of seeing snow for the first time. He expresses amazement and fear. "The first time you see snow, it is beautiful and terrifying." The fact

that for him it is essential to mention shows us his inexperience. He also tells us how the United States is a place of opportunities and choices where one is the one who chooses how one wants to live.

The third story is that of Michelle Kwan, the most decorated figure skater in US history. She tells us how her parents immi-

grated early and built a world for her and her sister. She tells us about how she got into skating and how her parents always supported her. One part she comments on is when she wants a Christmas tree, her father tells her, "skating is your Christmas present," since her parents prefer to give her something that would be good for her in the future.

If anyone is interested in participating in sharing your story too, please complete the Student Interest Form in Building 9, Central Campus. The deadline is Nov. 28.

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WINTER BREAK EVENTS NEAR YOU



The break we have all been waiting for is coming to town, and with it, many activities you can participate in with your friends and family

Let It Snow at Dania Pointe

The Lawn at Dania Pointe Fridays and Saturdays will be snowy this season. You will be able to see Dania Pointe's winter wonderland snow spectacle. There will be 10-minute snow shows that everyone can enjoy since the event is free for everyone. From now until Dec. 3 you will be able

to see how it snows in South Florida. The shows commence at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Yuletide on Atlantic

Atlantic Boulevard - Riverside Drive to Southeast 24th Avenue.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, The City of Pompano Beach Parks and Recreation Department will hold its Yuletide

Parade. This Christmas parade will have live entertainment, activities for kids, marching bands, parade floats, and Santa. It will begin on Riverside Drive at 6:30 p.m. and head west on Atlantic Boulevard, ending at SE 24th Ave. The best "seats" will be at Harbor Drive and Atlantic Boulevard. Here the judges will stand where entries

perform, and the floats will be announced. If it rains, it will be rescheduled for Dec. 8 at the same time. You can learn more at parks.pompanobeachfl.gov.

BOOGIE Wonderland: A Silent Disco Experience

Las Olas Oceanside Park On Friday, Dec. 8, there will be a silent disco at Las Olas Oceanside Park. Here,

you receive headphones that are connected to three DJs who will be playing: classic disco, old-school hip-hop, top 40, and more. With your headset, you can pick the channel you want to listen to and change it up through the night as you dance and sing with your friends. Check-in is at 7:30 and the event ends at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$20 at the door. There

will be food vendors from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., as well as photos with Santa from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. You can check out more information at eventbrite.com.

Chocolate Christmas Nutcracker

Pompano Beach Cultural Center Tchaikovsky's classic ballet will have a spin on Dec.

17. Pompano Beach Cultural Center will showcase the loved story of a girl who obtains a doll that comes to life as a gift during the holidays. Together they go on an adventure, but not in Sugar Plum Fairies. The audience will be transported to Africa. The twist also brings a score with a mix of jazz and classical music. There will be two free

performances but there are only tickets available for the one from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visit pompanobeacharts.org to learn more.

Y100s Jingle Ball

FLA Live Arena

An unconventional but great thing to experience this winter break is Y100s Jingle Ball. There will be iHeartRadio Jingle Balls all

over the country, with different lineups. We will be able to enjoy performances from Anitta, Charlie Puth, Big Time Rush, Black Eyed Peas, Tate McRae, Ava Max, Lauren Spencer-Smith and Jax. Where else could we dance to BTR's "Boyfriend" and Anitta's "Envolver" while celebrating the start of our winter break? This year's

Jingle Ball will take place at FLA Live Arena on Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. Tickets start at \$36 and are available on Ticketmaster.com.

After effects of a controversial altercation in the NBA

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

This dangerous altercation between these two players on Nov. 8, 2021, had many people buzzing on social media. Last season, the NBA had been allowing much more physical play than in previous years. This altercation that took place was towing the line between dangerous and dirty.

Nikola Jokic and Markieff Morris engaged in a dangerous altercation. Morris committed a hard foul to Jokic's right side with his elbow. When Morris walked away, a heated Jokic used his right forearm with full force to Morris's back, which sent Morris falling hard to the floor. What made it worse was that Morris was treated for whiplash.

Jokic and Morris were both ejected with 2:39 left in the 4th quarter, for each committing flagrant two fouls, which is an automatic ejection. Many emotions from the altercation continued onto social media, mostly between both of their respective brothers. Marcus Morris tweeted, "Waited till bro turned his back smh, NOTED." Jokic brothers made a joint Twitter account called "@JokicBrothers," and then tweeted, "You should leave this the way it is instead



Nets Morris grabbing a rebound (si.com)

of publicly threatening our brother; your brother made a dirty play first, and if u want to make a ystep further, we will be waiting for you"!!

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said, "That was a very dangerous and dirty play; Keef took a foul and it was one of those fast break take fouls, which he did with his shoulder. He also said,

"You might deem that maybe a little bit more than just slapping somebody, but after watching it on film it was a take foul; that's exactly how I saw it, and the play after that is just absolutely uncalled for." He also added, "The video and

picture is worth a thousand words."

Most if not all the Heat players were livid when the altercation happened and after the game. All the coaches and referees were trying to keep things calm when the dangerous altercation took place. Jokic was seen just sitting on the bench, while everything was getting sorted out on the court. Jimmy Butler's emotions were definitely running high after the altercation happened. He was shouting towards the Nuggets bench, while being held back by teammates.

Jokic said, "It's a stupid play,

I feel bad. I'm not supposed to react that way, but I thought it was going to be a take foul. He also said, "I think it was a dirty play, and I just wanted to protect myself; I felt bad, I'm not supposed to react that way, but I needed to protect myself." On Nov. 9, Jokic was suspended without pay for one game for his flagrant two foul. Morris was fined \$50,000 for his flagrant two foul, and Butler was fined \$30,000 for trying to escalate the situation further. PJ Tucker said, Markieff is my brother, and he's been a brother for a long time." He also said, "We're men, we've got kids, you have to think about our livelihoods, and it's not just basketball."

There were definitely many aftereffects that took place after this controversial altercation. The main one was that Morris missed most of the 2021-22 NBA season, recovering from a whiplash and neck injuries. When he was able to return, he had undoubtedly lost his rotational minutes. I wholeheartedly believe that if he didn't suffer that altercation injury, that he would've been a key cog for the Heat to advance to the NBA Finals. In the offseason, the Heat didn't resign Morris, he signed with the Nets, and they lost Tucker to the 76ers

because they engaged in tampering, which made the Heat thin at the PF position, to start the season. The Heat could definitely use Morris right now, especially because Omer Yurtseven and Victor Oladipo are still recovering from injuries; that's why we they're trying to trade for Jae Crowder.

In my heart of hearts, I honestly do think it was a dirty play, because Morris was blindsided by Jokic and it wasn't an even "playing field." I also agree the suspension and fines were all fair. Both the Heat and Nuggets are great teams, so they'll both move on quickly from this situation because they both have battle tested veterans to lean on.

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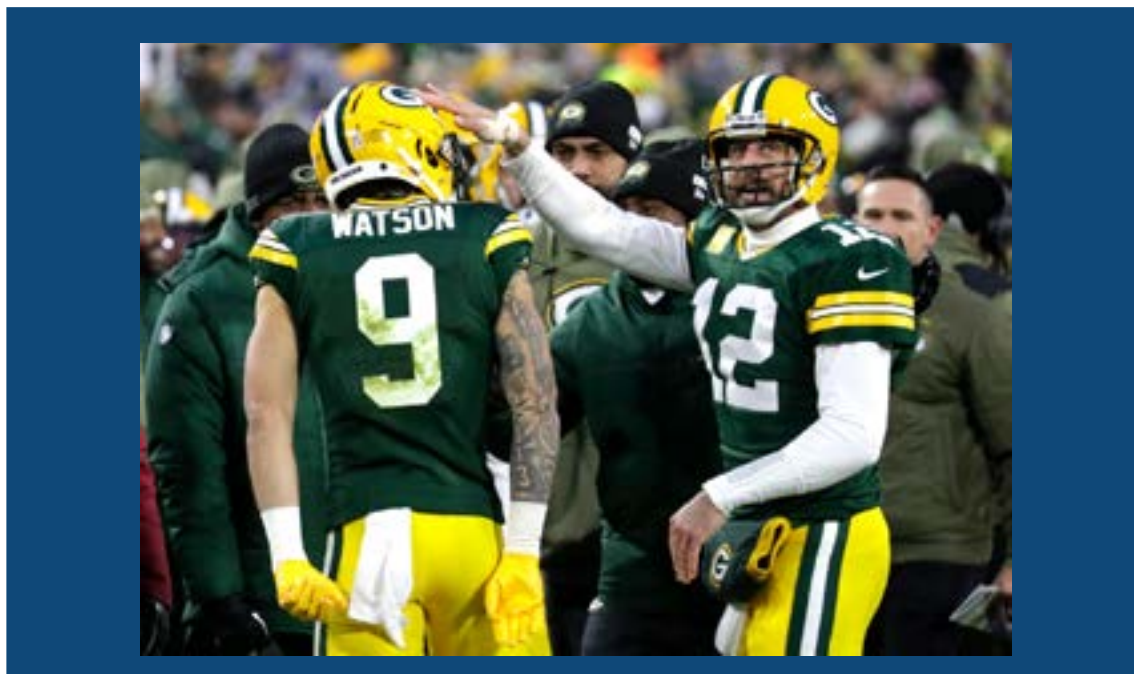
Party in the NFL: the surprising, disappointing teams

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

In this NFL season, there have been many surprising teams and disappointing teams, but especially the disappointing teams, who haven't met expectations. The reason is because the surprising teams are using their confidence to sustain leads in the 4th quarter, also to make 4th quarter comebacks, from manageable deficits. This season has been so exciting and eventful because every week there has been many clutch games and plays, that sometimes have gone into OT. Many of these surprising teams have young stars and superstars, who are performing exceptional and have their unique skillsets enhanced because their teams are building around them.

Even though they lost to their division rivals, the Commanders, which broke their 8-0 record, the Eagles are still probably the best team. Their identity of complementary football was not in full effect in their MNF loss at home. Their young stars and superstars are still performing well. Jalen Hurts is still top five in total TD's, with 21. Miles Sanders is 10th in rushing yards, with 710. A.J. Brown is now 9th in receiving yards, with 725. The only person to have significant impact last night was C.J. Gardner-Johnson; he is now 1st in interceptions, with six.

Still probably the most surprising team so far right now is the Vikings. They currently have an 8-1 record, by defeating



Aaron Rogers and Watson embracing after another TD (ca.news.yahoo.com)

the teams they are supposed to beat, by winning their divisional games, and by winning most of their clutch games. In most of their wins, they won close one score games, holding on to a slim lead, or making a 4th quarter comeback. Their recent clutch win in OT was against the Bills on the road, and they were down by as much as 17; the main reasons they won was because of their defense and Jefferson. Their superstar wide receiver, Justin Jefferson, has been playing exceptionally great and he's currently 2nd in receiving yards, with 1,060. After the best catch of the year, in the best game of the year, Jefferson has definitely solidified himself as a top two

receiver in the NFL.

Another surprising team right now is the Dolphins. They currently possess a 7-3 record, only because Tua Tagovailoa had his concussion injury. With Tua healthy, they are 7-0. Since they beat the Browns and the Bills lost to the Vikings, they currently lead the best division, and are 2nd behind the Chiefs in the AFC conference. Tua is currently top five in completion %, TD's, and fewest interceptions. He's leading the NFL in QBR with 82.6, and in passer rating with 118.4. The fastest and most productive WR duo is Tyreek Hill and Jaylen Waddle. They both are still top five in receiving yards, with Hill #1 with a whopping 1,148

already, and Waddle with 828. Also, they just traded for rising superstar Bradley Chubb to enhance their defensive pressure. He's already paying dividends because he had a combined sack with Jaelan Phillips, also because their starting DE, Emmanuel Ogbah, suffered a season ending triceps injury.

Obviously, the most disappointing team right now is still the Raiders. They are currently 2-7, and their most recent loss was to the Colts at home, who literally just hired an ESPN analyst, Jeff Saturday, as their coach. This was another embarrassing loss to a subpar team, which they had to try to make another failing comeback

win. Their team demeanor has been extremely somber, especially when Derek Carr was doing an emotional, postgame interview at the podium.

After being on a five-game losing streak, one of the most disappointing teams, the Packers, could suddenly be on the come up. They had their most improbable win of the season against the Cowboys in OT. Many NFL analysts thought their season was over, and because they were playing a stout Cowboys team. They had a great complementary football win by Aaron Jones having 138 rushing yards and a TD by rookie WR, Christian Watson, having 107 receiving yards and three TD's, and by Rudy Ford intercepting Dak Prescott twice. This win could definitely propel them to making the playoffs.

Some honorable mentions for disappointing teams below .500 are: the Colts, Broncos, Browns, Cardinals, Saints and Rams. These playoff-caliber teams need to play complementary football much more consistently. Some honorable mentions of surprising teams are: Titans, Seahawks with Geno Smith, Giants, and the steady 7-2 Chiefs.

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Holiday movies to watch and rewatch this holiday season

Ashley Velazquez
Melaina Lawrence
Staff Writers

In my opinion, the Emma Watson version of *Beauty and the Beast* from 2017 is the best movie ever made.

After being cruel to a woman in need of help, the beast is cursed by the woman—who was in fact an enchantress. Both he and his servants were forced into a lonely lifestyle, until Belle’s father came along and picked a rose from his garden. Upset, he keeps the father prisoner, until Belle—the selfless daughter—comes along taking his place.

The two have an icy relationship at first. How could Belle feel anything but contempt for the man that is keeping her hostage? Nonetheless, the servants were hopeful she’d be the one to break the curse.

Now, I know when you think of Christmas movies, perhaps *Beauty and the Beast* is not the first tale that comes to mind. Maybe you expected cheesy Hallmark specials and exciting Disney specials, and while those are amazing, I implore you to watch the classic *Beauty and the Beast* this December with a cup of steaming hot chocolate

with marshmallows on top while snuggled into a blanket.

Aside from the romantic plot, its setting also makes it the perfect cozy watch. In her poor provincial town in France, the snowfall is reminiscent of a cold winter day—much like the kind in Hallmark.

The final thing that makes this the perfect Christmas movie is the ending. It was very magical indeed, with beauty saving the beast and all the servants returned to human beings, we feel the same joy we would as classic Hallmark movies come to a close.

While this movie is amazing, we know you still want your classic Christmas movie so...

Sometimes forgetting who you once were, means discovering who you truly are.

Christmas has officially come early this year. And, just like Lindsay Lohan, Netflix comes bearing gifts.

On Nov. 10, 2022, Netflix released Lindsay Lohan’s comeback holiday movie, *Falling for Christmas*. Since this is the actress’ first starring role since *The Canyons* (2013), to say fans are thrilled for this new release would be a great understatement.

Imagine, just for a moment, a grand, snowy wonderland (or mountainscape - that works too).

As you gaze upon this land,



<https://www.celebrityvox.com>

dreamlike music begins to sound and it almost feels as though you are descending into some magical off-brand replica of the North Pole, one where American actress Lindsay Lohan is working just as the “mean girl” gods and goddesses intended, and the world is exactly how it should be.

No, this is not heaven. This is Netflix’s *Falling for Christmas*.


Falling for Christmas follows a young heiress named Sierra Belmont (Lindsay Lohan) who, after a major skiing accident, is diagnosed with amnesia. After the diagnosis, Sierra finds herself in the care of the man who saved her, a cabin owner named Jake (Chord Overstreet), and his daughter, where she begins to realize that there is much more to life than

glamor and riches. A tale of heartwarming romance and discovery, this endlessly comforting film is sure to leave one covered in that holiday joy we all adore to no end.


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Fort Lauderdale Day of the Dead Festival

Isabella Mendez-Bedoya
Staff Writers

As the year slowly comes to an end, there are a few other events happening before Christmas and Thanksgiving; one of them being the Day of the Dead in the beginning of November.

To celebrate this holiday, Fort Lauderdale has held a festival every year since 2010. This year for their 13th annual celebration, it was held on Nov. 5. The celebration takes place in various parts of Las Olas, Fort Lauderdale and starts from 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. with different events throughout the night for people of all ages.

One of the locations that started right at 4 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. was the Mexhika Stage that is located on Huizenga Plaza. Here there was a bit of music and a few dances, then during the middle of the evening around 5 p.m., different people were invited on stage. There was the Fort Lauderdale mayor, Dean Trantalis, the CEO



Image courtesy of Premier Guide Miami

of the Mexican American Council, Deputy Consul General of Mexico, as well as the Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute. Afterwards, the Skeleton Processional was held, which is like a huge skeleton that is dressed for the Day of the Dead on Riverwalk from 5:35 until 6:35 p.m.

During the next location that also started at 4 p.m.

but lasted until 11 p.m. was at an intersection between two streets. Here it was named the Folklorico Stage, which is where the majority of the dances took place from Peruvian dances to Ballet Folklore Azteca.

The performers were great, and it was a nice experience to have watched especially for those who may have never seen these

types of dances performed before. While another location that lasts the whole night is across the “designated” parking lot, it was here where many children-friendly activities were located; there were make-up booths, arty vans, puppet shows and photo ops, as well as food trucks.

Although there were mainly three locations, at

the backyard (which is the name of the location) there was live music playing starting at 6:30 p.m. and lasting until 2 a.m. after the festival had technically already had finished.

Although the locations were also not as big, it was a very nice atmosphere to be at even if one would choose not to stay for such a long time. Since the Riverwalk was also on the path of the festival, many things can be done there just as if you are visiting Las Olas on a regular day.

Once they had gathered up for everything to end, they thanked those for coming as well as the performers. If you have missed the event or want to go to the festival next year, there will be one in the year 2023. If you want to be even more involved, you can even volunteer to help at the crafts table, or even carry a part of the processional skeleton.

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Just Stop Oil: Does Outrage Provoke Change?

Christy Joshy
Social Media Editor

Peaceful protest is characterized by a movement that conveys strong feelings of disapproval or a need for change. Though peaceful protest is protected by many governments, how long before inconveniences produced by these demonstrations lead to violence?

A current example of this prospect is Just Stop Oil, an environmental activist “coalition of groups” seeking to prevent the UK from obtaining new licenses for producing and locating fossil fuel sources. Their methods involve symbolism by making loud statements.

Recently, the group has come under fire for their museum protests, where they, in one instance, threw tomato soup at one of Vincent Van Gogh’s paintings, “Sunflowers,” and glued themselves to the wall beneath the piece to trigger a conversation on “What is worth more, art or life?” Though the painting was intact due to the glass covering it, the demonstration caught



Image courtesy of The New York Times

global attention. People worldwide were either outraged by the defacing of such a treasured painting or praised the group for their courage in taking drastic measures to bring attention to an important cause.

Politicians like James Cleverly—the British Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs—took to Twitter to point out the nature of the reaction to Just Stop Oil’s protest. He asserted that the activist group would not have gotten a positive response if they weren’t white and even

called them “attention seeking adult-toddlers.”

One of the main objections to this type of display is the attack on revered pieces of history and art. Many oppose this form of protest, claiming it simply leads to resentment towards the cause. In other words, it comes across as performative rather than a well-meaning call for change. However, others disagree and assert that the shock factor of such movements is an effective way to reach a larger audience. If groups like Just Stop Oil had embraced more amicable ways to call

attention to their campaign, would their crusade have gained as much fame, or in this case, notoriety? In their circumstance, any attention is good attention.

Even more recently, Just Stop Oil has taken to the roads with sit-ins on the M25, one of the busiest roads in the UK. With their latest style of protest, the group hasn’t gotten such a mixed reaction.

Essex police reported a crash because of the roadblock between two trucks and an officer on a motorcycle. The officer is injured due to the incident.

Though no deaths have been reported thus far, Just Stop Oil’s practices of generating shock and anger in their audience could potentially cause harm. With their sit-in protests on the M25, there’s no saying when drivers could resort to violence due to the constant inconvenience. Not to mention the activists are endangering their own lives for the sake of their cause.

With groups like Just Stop Oil who seek to be outrageous in their protests, there is no saying if they will actually turn more people to their campaign. Though the threat of fossil fuels in our environment is ever imminent, the situation may not seem as dire to someone who fears not making it to work on time.



Image courtesy of NPR

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My First Hackathon Experience Made Me Determined to Pursue Tech

Yestin Arvin Gochuico
Staff Writer

Picking a major is the hardest crossroad I never have fully decided on for a long time. I was interested in multiple fields; However, I never felt truly passionate enough to pursue a specific career. It's hard, considering I'm devoting a portion of my life to a single decision. After immigrating to the US, I settled on pursuing computer science despite many reservations. After attending my first hackathon and experiencing the field first-hand is only when I realized that it was the right decision.

PlutoHacks 2022 is a 24-hour hackathon and is the first in-person hackathon held in Broward College since the pandemic started. A hackathon is an event set up by an organization where participants engage and collaborate on a project in a short period.

Despite the name, PlutoHacks "bring together people of all different back-



Images courtesy of PlutoHacks website

grounds to learn and grow their skills, collaborate and make something awesome," according to their website. Hackathons usually involve making solutions under an overarching topic. For PlutoHacks, the main category was humanitarian—making a solution to help others.

It was my first time joining a hackathon, and I had little experience in programming. I managed to follow through with the technical concepts involved in a project with the help of multiple workshops during the event. Although only for a short time, the workshop helped me understand mak-

ing a project from scratch. It provided an environment conducive to learning. At the same time, it was also a chance for the participants to apply those skills and make something tangible.

However, what made the experience worthwhile was meeting and collaborating with new people. I got the chance to team up with talented developers, who did their best to get me involved in the process. While we considered various ideas, we settled on making a web application called PlutoWeb that can help students, novice programmers, and anyone interested in coding

to write code with simple commands.

Although I didn't have enough experience creating an application, I utilized my experience in graphic design and illustration to help with the user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) design process. UI/UX design is basically how an application looks and responds to a user. I made a design mockup for the website using Figma, a new application I learned during the event.

Students new to hackathons might be intimidated to join one because they think they don't have

enough skills or it's just busy work. But I assure you, it's worth your time. To quote PlutoHacks' website, "We all start from somewhere." Hackathons provide a space for students to learn new skills, network with people, and materialize big ideas; They can serve as a starting point to jump-start one's career.

For students like me, who have doubts or are undecided about their major, I encourage you to join and engage in different events and activities that interest you. During PlutoHacks, I fell in love with the idea of solving problems with creative solutions, which now made me determined to study computer science. I can attest that you will find your reason to pursue a career if you search hard enough.



Image courtesy of PlutoHacks website

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