

THE OBSERVER

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99 years of pursuing learning

Breannah Warner
Staff Writer

While 99-year-old North Campus student, David Lipsit, could spend his retirement years engaging in other activities, he uses his precious time to learn new things and pursue higher education at Broward College. Despite his age, this is Lipsit's first formal post-secondary education.

He first started taking classes at Broward College in 2023, when he was 98. He has completed two semesters there, during which he studied National Government last semester while this semester he is enrolled in Introduction to International Relations class taught by Dr. Mirsad Kriještorac.

When asked why he decided to enroll in college, he explained, "As you grow older you realize you are missing some answers, and if you're missing something like that,

where can you fill that void? Of course, at an educational institution and that is why I am now here at Broward College."

Lipsit is a retired veteran who has lived through significant historical events that have shaped the world and our country. He has lived through WWII during which he served in the US military, he lived during the Cold War, the Great Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, the fall of the Soviet Union, the globalization of the economy and many other important events throughout much of the 20th-century. He worked as an art dealer in up-state New York in his younger years, before eventually moving down to South Florida.

Even after 99 years of living, Lipsit still has an unquenched thirst for knowledge and learning about the world in which we live. Learning is a lifelong process that ought

to be embraced and actively pursued, and while ninety-nine reasons for pursuing knowledge can be listed, here are some that Lipsit discussed that stand apart:

"Active pursuit of knowledge shapes the way you interact with others and the world around you; it encourages open mindedness, promotes personal growth and development, and contributes to academic achievements. Additionally, it sharpens your adaptability skills, fosters critical thinking skills, cultivates creativity and innovation, allows you to contribute to society and most importantly, it leads to self-fulfillment," Lipsit said.

Even after a certain age, the brain does not stop learning. Rather, it continues to develop and function, regardless of age. Hence, it is critical to remain intellectually stimulated. There is a plethora of knowledge in the world, waiting to



David Lipsit in class.

Breannah Warner/The Observer

be discovered by you. So, if you think you are too old to be at Broward College, just remember Lipsit and re-think your position.

Lipsit is an amazing individual with a very pleasant attitude, wide perspective, and a lot of enthusiasm. He finds joy in making others happy, which is why he often brings

fruits and snacks for his class. While he may be in school to learn, he certainly teaches us all that we are never too old or too late to educate ourselves.

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Join the esports revolution: unleash your gaming potential on campus

Swami Hinojosa
Editor-In-Chief

Did you know there is a dedicated room for esports on the Central Campus where passionate gamers regularly gather to compete against each other? Esports, also known as electronic sports, are video game competitions organized professionally where players compete individually or in teams. These events are broadcast live over the internet and can attract a massive audience from all parts of the world.

Some of the most popular games in esports include League of Legends, Counterstrike: Global Offensive, Dota 2, Overwatch, and many more. Whether you are a casual gamer or a professional esports player, the esports room is the perfect place to showcase your skills and meet like-minded individuals who share your passion for gaming.

In recent years, esports has gained popularity as a competitive form of gaming, and universities have started to recognize its potential benefits for students. There are several aspects to consider regarding

the benefits of esports in college life.

Participating in esports can provide numerous benefits beyond the enjoyment of playing video games. For instance, it can help individuals develop essential skills such as quick decision-making, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving, and teamwork. These skills are valuable not only for the gaming world but also for the academic and professional worlds, making eSports an excellent way to enhance one's overall skill set. As shared by Bryant Reyes, a student from the Central Campus, participating in esports has motivated him to come to school and helped him make new friends.

Moreover, esports teams can create a sense of community among students at college. By joining together to compete in local or online tournaments, students can form social bonds and find a group of people with similar interests. This sense of community can also help students feel more connected to their university, leading to a more positive university experience.

Another benefit of participat-



A student participating in esports.

Swami Hinojosa/The Observer:

ing in esports is the opportunity for students to take on leadership roles and develop team management skills. Esports teams often have a hierarchical structure with a captain or leader, providing an excellent opportunity for students to develop leadership skills.

Esports teams have an excellent opportunity to represent their university in regional or national events, which can increase their visibility both on and off campus. This increased visibility can enhance the recognition of the university, attracting more students, faculty

members, and funding. If you are interested, you can participate in intramural esports competitions now available on campus.

You can visit Building 19 and ask for guidance if you need assistance. These competitions generally occur in the evenings. Additionally, you can choose to play from home or on campus.

Lastly, esports is a great way to promote diversity on campus. It attracts people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and genders, allowing individuals to express themselves

and showcase their skills. Participating in these events can foster inclusion and diversity on campus, leading to a more welcoming and accepting university community.

Join our esports community to discover a new passion and connect with other players. In the words of Bryant Reyes, "The downtime I had on campus changed my life. Now, I spend it playing with my friends and enjoying university life. Our team strives for victory, learning from every triumph and challenge. However, beyond the results, the most important thing is the time we spend together, strengthening bonds of friendship and sharing unforgettable moments. Join us in Valorant and be part of a community where friendship and fun are as important as competition. We invite you to be part of this exciting experience and meet people who share your passion for video games. See you on the battlefield."

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What's happening around campus



-SOUTH CAMPUS EVENTS- FEBURARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: BLACKHISTORYMONTH.GOV/

Mon, Feb 5th 11 AM
**Clash of the Seahawks:
 8-Ball Pool Tournament**
 Compete against peers!
BLDG 68, RM 191

Wed, Feb 7th 11 AM
Pizza to Polls - Voter Drive
 A helpful reminder to vote!
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Thur, Feb 8th 12 PM
Super Bowl Tailgate
 Party with lawn games and food!
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Tues, Feb 13th 11 AM
Seahawk Mardi Gras
 Enjoy the atmosphere of Mardi Gras.
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Tues, Feb 13th 1 PM
Meet the Dean
 Meet and greet with Deans!
BLDG 68, RM 191

Wed, Feb 14th 12 PM
Valentine's Day Bash
 Build a Bear & Jewelry Making!
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Thur, Feb 15th 1:30 PM
Certified Leader Seminar
 Identify personal & team strengths.
BLDG 68, RM 191

Mon, Feb 19th 6:30 PM
BHM Book Tasting
 A taste of Black History literature.
BLDG 68, RM 191

Wed, Feb 21st 11 AM
Donut Forget to Vote
 Voter Drive held by LWV.
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Wed, Feb 21st 12 PM
Certified Leader Seminar
 Leadership 101 - Best Practices.
BLDG 68, RM 191

Thur, Feb 22nd 12:30 PM
Self-Care Seminar
 Set vision, reach goals, and succeed.
BLDG 68, RM 191

Mon, Feb 26th 12 PM
TRIO Caribbean Experience
 Learn about music, art, & more!
BLDG 68, RM 191

Tues, Feb 27th 12 PM
BSU: Painting with a Twist
 Arts & craft fun!
BLDG 68, Breezeway

Wed, Feb 28th 12:30 PM
Credit Score Workshop
 Tips for a better credit score.
BLDG 68, RM 191

Thur, Feb 29th 12 PM
Thinkfast Game Show
 BHM & WHM Trivia for cash prize!
BLDG 68, RM 191

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Students excel at International Model United Nations Competition

Bringing home five top-level international awards and immersing themselves in New York City's culture

Think Tran
Staff Writer

Earlier this February, six Broward College students, five Broward Central students, and one Broward South student showcased their skills at the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) International Model United Nations (WIMUN) competition in New York. Despite the daunting challenges of competing on a global scale, our students rose to the occasion with dedication and perseverance, bringing home an impressive five top-level international awards. Artem Burtsev, Juan Galindo, Steve Montes, and Think Tran distinguished themselves by winning the Best Diplomacy and Position Paper awards. Furthermore, with our other students, Liany Diaz and Christina Cacoulidis, Broward College's team also achieved the Best Delegation award.

Throughout the competition, held at the

Intercontinental Hotel near New York Times Square, our students grappled with pressing real-world issues, namely in The First Committee of the General Assembly on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) and The International Labour Organization on Decent Work in the Platform Economy. In commenting on the WIMUN trip, Steve Montes said, "The atmosphere at the conference was diplomatic and productive, with almost everyone in attendance actively contributing to finding a solution." Montes believes that the positive and collaborative approach taken by all attendees helped to create a conducive environment for meaningful discussions and effective decision-making.

Outside of their competitions, students immersed themselves in the diverse cultures of New York City. From Juniors Cheesecake to the infamous 99-cent pizza, our delegation tried a variety of Chinese, Italian,

and even Ukrainian foods, embracing the true essence of the WIMUN experience. They also visited iconic landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, and the United Nation's Headquarters.

Model United Nations would like to thank advisor Professor Kari Hebert for her valuable guidance and support in preparing for and overseeing this trip. Throughout her time at Broward College, she has aided the team in research and practice for various competitions throughout the United States. Furthermore, they'd like to commend the students for their exceptional achievements, bringing immense pride to Broward College.

Model United Nations is a learning platform at the college level where students take on the roles of diplomats representing various nations or organizations. Through intensive research, debate, and negotiation, students dive into complex global issues, mirroring the procedures and dynamics of the United Nations.



Model UN. Photo courtesy of Think Tran

Also, getting into the depth of negotiating complex matters with diplomacy, they showcase remarkable confidence under pressure, ultimately earning recognition. Model United Nations fostering critical thinking, diplomatic skills, and an understanding of international relations, preparing students for careers in diplomacy, politics, law, and other fields requiring global competence.

Suppose you'd like to join the MUN team and embark

on exciting journeys filled with thrilling competitions and unique opportunities. From local tournaments to national and international events, the MUN team offers an unparalleled experience in summering into the world of diplomacy. Imagine representing BC at incredible conferences and trips. The opportunity is here; contact Professor Kari Hebert at khebert@broward.edu and join us on this epic journey to victory.

trant81@mail.broward.edu

Unlocking excellence: navigating pathways with Dean Balzora

Daniela Iregui Silva
Online Editor

Broward College's Student Peer Mentoring program organized an impactful event during the spring semester at Central Campus—the "Chat with the Dean" session. Dr. Lulrick Balzora, the Dean of the Social Behavioral Sciences and Human Services pathway at Broward College, served as the guest speaker. This engaging session provided students with a unique opportunity to participate in insightful discussions and meaningful conversations. Every student had the chance to pose questions and seek guidance tailored to the nuances of the social behavioral science pathway.

The primary goal of the meeting was to acclimate students to the intricacies of this academic pathway. By tapping into the wealth of experience shared by professionals, the event created a dynamic platform for students to inquire and learn. The panel not only enriched students' understanding of the field but also allowed them to

connect with the Dean, explore a multitude of resources, and discover the myriad clubs and programs supporting the department.

Dr. Balzora, in addition to providing invaluable academic guidance, shared anecdotes and pearls of wisdom, instilling motivation in students to strive for excellence. A central theme reverberated throughout the session: "Minimize your excuses and maximize your opportunities." Dr. Balzora passionately encouraged students to transcend expectations, carve a distinctive niche in their roles, and diligently work towards maximizing every opportunity that comes their way.

The event delved into Dr. Balzora's experiences of presenting opportunities to students, only to find some later expressing ignorance about the available opportunities. This disconnection highlighted the importance of active student engagement in seizing the abundant opportunities presented within the academic



Dean Balzora | Daniela Iregui Silva/The Observer

environment.

Dr. Balzora's impactful work at Broward College extends beyond the event. His creation of the Professional Enhancement Program (PEP) has left an indelible mark on BC students. PEP serves as a conduit for fostering individual mentoring connections between students, faculty members, and accomplished alumni.

This innovative program empowers students not only to navigate the academic landscape but also to develop essential leadership skills. Furthermore, it provides a platform for students to forge meaningful personal and professional networks that will prove invaluable in their future endeavors.

In conclusion, Dr. Balzora encapsulated the essence of the event with these powerful

words: "There are a lot of opportunities out there. A lot of people who care and are willing to provide a lot of opportunities, but there's a lot of excuses. Good excuses, I'm sick, I have this, I have that, but they are still excuses. Make the most of your opportunities, and minimize your excuses."

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The positive impact of sports on physical, mental health: a look into South Campus intramurals

Swami Hinojosa
Editor-in-Chief

Throughout the last two newspaper issues, we have delved into the different campuses that comprise our educational institution: Central and North. Recently, we had the opportunity to visit South Campus and attend a few of their sports activities. While we have previously emphasized the benefits of participating in sports, such as building teamwork and discipline, this edition will examine how sports can positively impact your overall health and well-being. We'll explore how engaging in physical activity can benefit your physical and mental health, such as reducing the risk of chronic diseases, improving mood and cognitive function, and enhancing overall quality of life.

The intramural sports program at the South Campus has played an essential role in creating a sense of community among students by providing a platform for sports participation. The program has diversified its offerings to include popular sports such as basketball, futsal, and football, which have garnered widespread interest and student participation. With regular matches and tournaments, the intramural sports program has become a hub for enthusiasts to showcase their skills and passion for sports. The program has created an inclusive environment that encourages students of all skill levels to participate and hone their abilities while fostering a sense of camaraderie and sportsmanship.

Through the years, sports have proven to be more than just a physical activity. It extends beyond the courts and fields, reaching into the deepest corners of college life and transforming lives. The South Campus has excellent sports facilities that offer various activities and competitions.

Sports are a powerful social magnet, attracting individuals from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The courts become meeting places where differences fade, and a shared passion for the game prevails. Socialization from participating in sports promotes inclusion, tolerance, and mutual respect.

Leo DeAraujo, the campus director at the South Campus, recently shared his insightful perspective on the importance of these events. According to DeAraujo, the primary objective of intramurals is to promote organization and involvement among all students, regardless of their athletic abilities. He believes that participation in sports can serve as an excellent way to lead a more active and healthier lifestyle, which could positively impact ones overall physical and mental well-being.

DeAraujo also emphasized that participating in intramurals can help students develop leadership, teamwork, and communication skills, which could benefit their academic and professional lives. Furthermore, he stated that sports activities can also help students develop their creative side and foster new connections when interacting with like-minded individuals. Through sports, students can make meaningful connections and build long-lasting friendships with their peers, crucial for their overall growth and development.

During intramurals, teams are formed over time, but one club that deserves a special mention is BC Athletics, which actively participates in various activities offered on the South Campus. We recently spoke with Daryl, the club's president, who shared his excitement about their participation in the south intramurals. Along with them, several other clubs have started participating in intramurals, coming together for a common goal - to achieve victory. This

sense of friendship strengthens social bonds and fosters lasting relationships based on trust and mutual support. Even outside the field, sporting events bring people from different backgrounds together to celebrate and share unforgettable experiences.

Currently, around 35 people regularly participate in intramurals, which often leads to the formation of entire teams to compete in various sports. The games are held almost every afternoon, providing students with a regular opportunity to participate in friendly competitions and enjoy the experience. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges to continuing these events.


"We are progressively reintegrating after the challenges we faced due to COVID-19. It is important to maintain a balance between sports participation and the safety of everyone involved," DeAraujo explained.

Open play sessions have been introduced to encourage greater participation. It allows students to participate in sporting activities more informally without the pressure of organized competition.


"With the open play sessions, we want to give students an additional opportunity to get involved and enjoy the sport in a more relaxed and flexible way," DeAraujo added.

Student response to these initiatives has been positive, with increasing participation in South Campus sporting events. Intramurals provide an outlet for physical activity and promote student friendship and teamwork.

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INTRAMURAL SPORTS



PROPER ATTIRE REQUIRED - MUST BE CURRENT BC STUDENT

More Info - bcsouthsl@broward.edu
FOLLOW US @BCSOUTHSL
 Student Life Bldg.68 Rm.184

 Indoor Soccer Mondays 3:45-5:45pm Bldg. 65/Gym	 Basketball Tuesdays 3:45-5:45pm Bldg. 65/Gym	 Outdoor Soccer Tuesday-Thursday 2:00-6:00pm Bldg. 99/Grass Field
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Valentine's Day Bash on South brings students together

Janyne Langlois
Staff Writer

Broward College's South Campus held a Valentine's Day Bash on Feb. 14 organized by Student Life.

Students were able to stuff their own plushies and even make or buy handmade jewelry.

Kaila Harris of Student Life explained that the idea for the Valentines Day Bash came about as a team effort; the idea wouldn't have come to fruition if it weren't for the whole group working together.

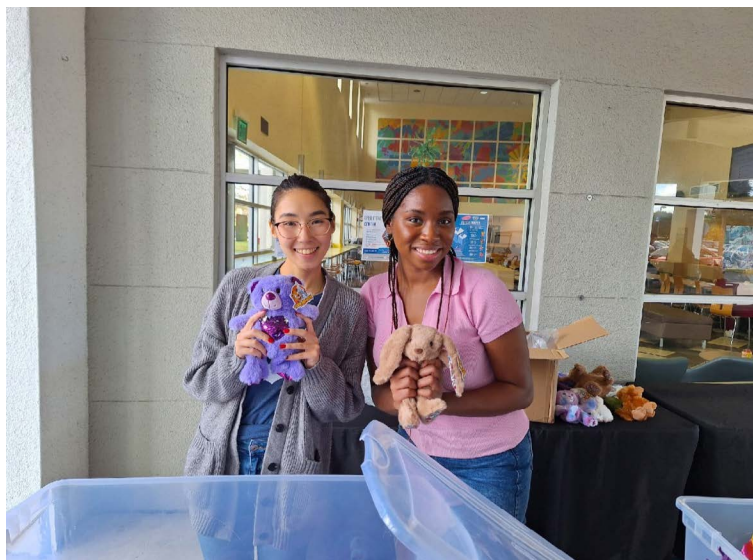
Jordan Pericles of Student Government attended the bash "because I like St. Valentines Day," she said. "And I enjoy seeing people gather and make friends in the breezeway."

Also in the breezeway, was a vendor by the name of Elouinia. All her products are handmade and made with love, she said.

"My name is Elou, and I hand make wearable art in jewelry. I started 10 years ago, and since then I've been published in various magazines such as Essence Magazine and I Magazine," she said.

"My pieces are made with copper, impressive metals, and precious metals. All of my pieces are made with love."

Elouinia has also made pieces for well-known celebrities like Erykah Badu, Kerri Wilson, and Paris Hilton.



Zhanিয়া Dyussebayeva and Jordan Pericles of Student Government, Janyne Langlois/The Observer



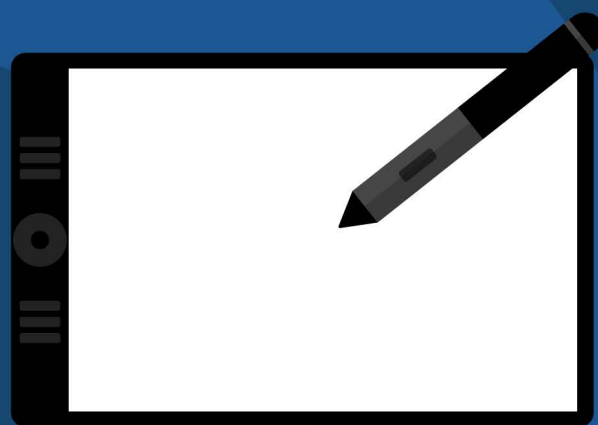
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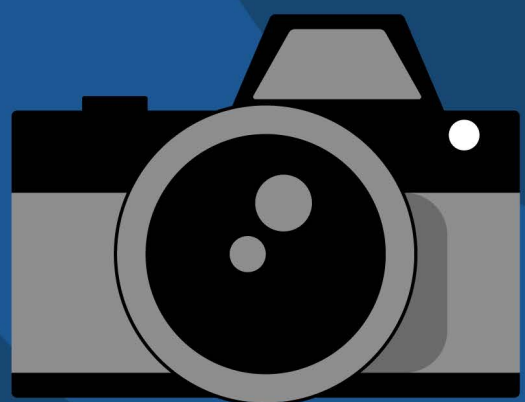
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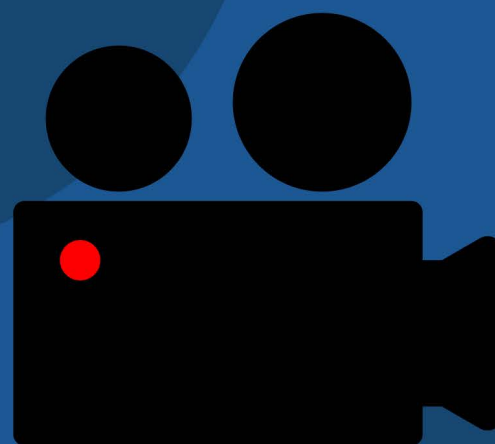
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A Few Historic

Black Leaders in Broward

Sara Fuentes
North Bureau Chief

1) Dr. James F. Sistrunk moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1922 as the only black doctor in Broward County for almost 16 years. He was one of the founders of Provident Hospital where he delivered over 5,000 babies although Provident Hospital has not been in service. Now, the street where it once stood bears his name.

2) Eula Gany Johnson was an influential civil rights activist who played a vital role in ending Jim Crow segregation in Fort Lauderdale. She was often referred to as the “Rosa Parks of Fort Lauderdale.” Johnson was the first woman to hold the position of president in the Fort Lauderdale NAACP in 1959. She campaigned for equality in public schools and fought to end segregation in public spaces like drive-in theaters. Johnson, along with Dr. Von D. Mizell and other NAACP members, organized several protests called “wade-ins” at whites-only beaches, starting on July 4, 1960. These protests gained national attention, and the county sued Johnson as a public nuisance. However, she emerged victorious in court, and in 1962, Broward County beaches were desegregated. In 2011, the Fort Lauderdale/Broward County branch of the NAACP was established in her former residence in Fort Lauderdale, which also serves as a museum and welcome center for the historic Sistrunk Corridor. In 2016, the John U. Lloyd Beach State Park was renamed Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park in her honor, making it the first state park named after an African American.

3) Reverend Samuel Delevoe was a veteran of the army and one of the first black police officers in Fort Lauderdale. After serving on the police force, he became a political activist and community leader, working tirelessly to improve relations between black residents and the police. He founded the Minority Builders Coalition of Broward and the Black Coalition of Broward County, advocating for better housing, job opportunities, and education for all people. Sadly, he passed away in 1977 due to a gunshot wound. To honor his legacy, the Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park was named after him in 1979.

4) Blanche Eaturpe General Ely was born in Reddick, Florida, the daughter of Deacon John General and Sarah Enock General. She graduated from Fessenden Academy in Ocala and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Florida A & M University, and a Master’s Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision, at Teachers College, Columbia University. She also held a Bachelor of Science in “Life Instructions” from a program jointly sponsored by Florida A&M University and Benedict College. In 1923, after brief spells teaching at Ojus Elementary School in Hialeah and Deerfield Beach Elementary, she was named principal of the Pompano Negro Grammar School. When its two-room wooden building was destroyed in the 1926 Miami hurricane, she spearheaded efforts to raise money, get matching support from the Rosenwald Fund,

and a much larger, 6-classroom Pompano Colored School opened in 1928. The school was later renamed for her. She was behind four new schools and recommended principals and names for them: Pompano Migrant School (aka Golden Acres), Coleman Elementary School, Markham Elementary School, and Sanders Park Elementary School. She retired in 1970, “when a federal desegregation order closed the [Blanche Ely] high school.” She and other community leaders filed suit, and the school was reopened as an integrated school in 1974.

5) Dr. Joseph Ely was born in Jacksonville, Florida, the son of Reverend Lawrence Ely, one of the founders of Florida Normal Baptist Institute in Live Oak, Florida (today Florida Memorial University), from which Joseph graduated. Joseph was also a graduate of Morehouse College and Columbia University. He was the principal of Colored School Number 11 in Dania, Florida (since 1998, Dania Beach). When it was replaced in 1924 by Broward’s first school building built for black students (today the old Dillard Museum), he was its first principal. The 10-room two-story building had an inscription over the front door that read “Colored School.” In 1930, Ely had the school renamed in honor of James H. Dillard, a white philanthropist, educator, and promoter of education for black children. Originally it ended at grade 6, but by the time Ely left the school in 1937, it had an enrollment of 600 and a high school. He became principal at what is today Crispus Attucks Middle School, in Hollywood, FL; it was an elementary school when he arrived, but he expanded it into one of Broward County’s three high schools for black students (the others were Dillard High in Ft. Lauderdale, and Blanche Ely High in Pompano Beach). He remained there until his retirement in 1963.



Dr. James F. Sistrunk



Eula Gany Johnson



Reverend Samuel Delevoe



Blanche Eaturpe General Ely



Dr. Joseph Ely

A spectacular Super Bowl LVIII finish

Jordan Stephenson
South Bureau Chief

The Super Bowl took place on Sunday, February 11 with one of the most epic Super Bowl rematches, the Chiefs vs 49ers, in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the Allegiant Stadium. Super Bowl 58, encapsulated the most watched tv program of all time, with 123.7 million plus viewing on CBS, which was essentially a 7 percent increase from last year's Super Bowl. This was an average scoring Super Bowl (25-22), even with the game going to OT for just the second time in NFL history; the last time was when Brady and the Patriots made an epic 28-3 comeback vs the Falcons.

The most important matchup in the Super Bowl was Patrick Mahomes vs Brock Purdy and their performances were good even with both teams playing great defense. Christian McCaffrey started the festivities in the 1st quarter, with a costly fumble in field goal range, when he rarely fumbled all season. The Chiefs punted multiple times that quarter, and the 1st quarter ended with a tied score of 0-0, with both teams still competing and making adjustments.

The 2nd quarter started with the 1st score of the game, with a 55-yard field goal by Jake Moody and the 49ers. The 49ers defense stifled the Chiefs into a 1st career fumble by Isiah Pacheco, recovered by Javon Hargrave and then had a



Photo courtesy of www.sbnation.com

perfect opportunity to increase their lead. The 49ers used one of their trick plays, which was a 21-yard touchdown pass from receiver Jauan Jennings to McCaffrey, which gave the 49ers a 10-0 lead, which was also Kyle Shanahan's 3rd 10 point plus lead in a Super Bowl. The Chiefs were finally able to pivot by sustaining a 13-play drive, by Harrison Butker making a 28 yard field goal, which was their 1st points of the game. If Shanahan had executed with his clock management skills and called the timeouts when needed before halftime then the 49ers could've had another great opportunity to score again. The 49ers sadly only took a 10-3 lead, going into halftime when the majority of NFL analysts knew they left points on the board.

Usher's spectacular halftime

show, that was sponsored by Apple Music, absolutely had people buzzing on social media continuously for multiple reasons. One was that when he performed his different classic hits and singles, from his archive, people were definitely clamoring for different special guests he brought out; the other was that he used eye popping outfits with different choreography routines, in a 13-minute performance that proved to be a spectacular spectacle. The songs from his archive included: Love in this Club, My Boo, OMG, U got it Bad, Yeah, etc. The special guest artist that Usher brought out included: JSU Sonic Boom of the South marching band with members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc, Alicia Keys, Will.i.am, H.E.R., Lil Jon, Ludacris. Also, fans were wondering why Justin Bieber

wasn't brought on stage to perform as well.

The second half definitely proved to be more entertaining, with the Chiefs trying to strike first, but sadly Mahomes threw an interception on the first drive by Ji'Ayir Brown, but the 49ers couldn't capitalize off of the Mahomes interception. The Chiefs finally scored again by Butker making another field goal, which was a 57-yard Super Bowl record field goal. Then an unfortunate special teams' blunder by the 49ers took place, when the punted ball hit the back foot of a 49ers player, which he didn't even know, so the punt returner tried to run to recover the ball, but accidentally ran past it, which led to the Chiefs easily recovering the muffed punt. This momentum altering play led to the Chiefs scoring their first touchdown

and securing their first lead of the game, with Mahomes throwing a 16-yard touchdown pass to Marquez Valdes-Scantling (MVS). Then the 49ers responded with a clutch touchdown, which was Purdy throwing a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jennings.

Unfortunately another special teams blunder took place for the 49ers, when Moody's extra point was blocked, which proved to be extremely detrimental. Then the Chiefs tied the game 16-16, with another field goal by Butker (24 yards). Moody and Butker both traded clutch field goals respectively, 53 and a 29 yarder, with Butker hitting the game-tying field goal to go to OT, with the score tied 19-19. The 49ers won the coin toss, decided to receive the ball first, but had to settle for a 27-yard field goal by Moody, because they weren't able to score a touchdown. Mahomes then orchestrated a clutch final drive that ended with him throwing a three-yard touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman, which secured the Chiefs second consecutive Super Bowl. This definitely allowed the Chiefs, to win their third championship in five years, and basically solidified the Chiefs as an official dynasty. Mahomes won his third Super Bowl MVP, which has most definitely catapulted him into rarefied air in NFL history, also closer to the GOAT in Tom Brady.

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The BC Student Newspaper is looking for

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Nuclear energy: one step closer to limitless energy

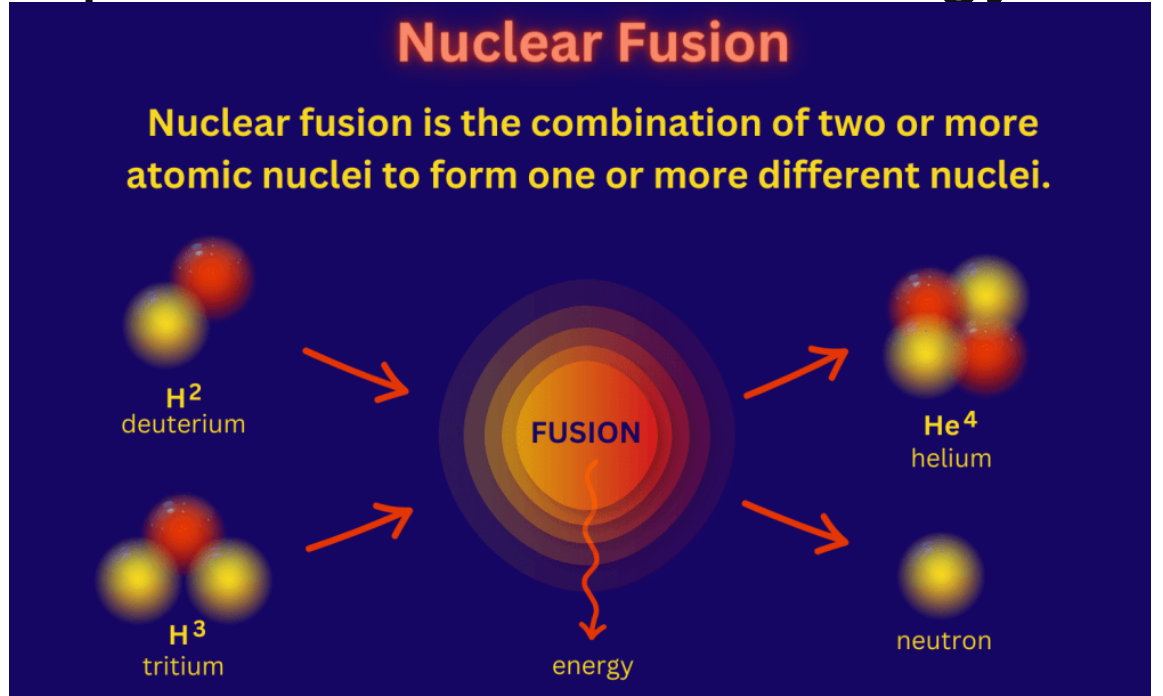
Think Tran
Staff Writer

In a groundbreaking achievement, the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California (LLNL) recently successfully generated and reproduced a nuclear fusion reaction that released more energy than was used—a significant leap towards utilizing a cleaner and more efficient energy source.

Energy has become one of the most important resources in our daily lives. But as important as it is, current conventional methods of energy production, such as fossil fuels, release harmful chemicals that pollute the atmosphere and reduce air quality, not to mention its status as a nonrenewable power source. Other methods, like solar panels, wind turbines, and hydropower dams, are cleaner and more renewable but are challenging to implement due to a lack of space and

resources. The process currently being studied at the LLNL would eliminate all these issues, requiring less space and resources and generating much cleaner power than any current methods.

Not to be confused with nuclear fission, which involves splitting atoms to release energy, nuclear fusion is merging two atoms into one through intense pressure and temperature. This reaction yields energy potentially millions of times more potent than traditional fossil fuels. Current nuclear fusion techniques involve either utilizing high-power lasers to compress and heat a pea-sized fuel pellet or employing electromagnets to suspend and heat a fuel cell to several hundred million degrees centigrade. Both methods generate an immense amount of heat that is then harnessed and converted to electricity. Laser ignition is the most promising method to achieve successful nuclear fusion; it is also the current method employed at the



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Photo courtesy of sciencenotes.org

LLNL.

Global interest in nuclear fusion and nuclear science is rising more and more as breakthroughs become more frequent, with countries worldwide now beginning to fund and push advancements in this field. Seeing its potential to transform energy production and mitigate environmental impacts, the US Department of Energy recently invested \$42 million in a program to bring cooperation

among large research institutions and advance fusion technologies.

Although there is still much work to be done, it cannot be stated enough the current rate at which nuclear fusion is advancing. Ongoing refinements in current processes have allowed even higher yields and greater efficiency in energy generation. If the current scientific pace continues, experts believe large-scale energy production

from nuclear fusion plants can be achieved by approximately 2050.

The strides in nuclear fusion signify a cleaner and more sustainable energy future; continuing collaborative global efforts will allow the world to usher in a new era of limitless, environmentally friendly power.

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2024 NBA Trade Deadline was less tumultuous than last year

Levi Hylton
Staff Writer

The 2024 NBA trade deadline was less tumultuous than last year's with the absence of big names being moved. As in last year's trade deadline, the most notable trades coming up to and right before the deadline, were when Brooklyn sent Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving to the Phoenix Suns and the Dallas Mavericks respectively. But that doesn't mean this trade deadline was meaningless as contenders used this time to fill out the weaknesses on their rosters.

Starting December 30, the New York Knicks traded the former third pick in the 2019 draft RJ Barrett, Immanuel Quickley, who finished second in Sixth Man of the Year voting, and a 2024 second-round pick via the Detroit Pistons to the Toronto Raptors. For OG Anunoby who is a tremendous defensive player and shoots 38% from the three-point line

for his entire career. In the deal, the New York Knicks also acquired Precious Achiuwa and Malachi Flynn for salary-matching purposes.

On January 17, the Indiana Pacers traded Bruce Brown who was a key player for the Denver Nuggets during their championship run the previous season, Jordan Nwora, Kira Lewis Jr., and three first-round picks for 2019 NBA champion and two-time All-Star Pascal Siakam, pairing him with all-star point guard Tyrese Haliburton.

Five days later on January 23, the Miami Heat traded Kyle Lowry and a 2027 lottery-protected first-round pick to the Charlotte Hornets for point guard Terry Rozier. In this trade, the Miami Heat replaced a declining 38-year-old who had been struggling to score for an electric combo guard who is having a career year that could provide the spark to get the Miami Heat back on track as they have been struggling with their offensive consistency.

The day before the trade deadline was a busy one as many teams sought to complete deals as the clock was ticking. First, the Minnesota Timberwolves secured more guard depth as they finally found their backup point guard as the Timberwolves traded Shake Milton, Troy Brown Jr., and a 2030 second-round pick for Monte Morris. Morris has a reputation for being a steady point guard who doesn't turnover the ball much, which is seen as a welcome addition to a Minnesota Timberwolves team, who is currently the first seed in the Western Conference and trying to compete for a championship.

The day of the trade deadline, February 8, 2024, teams were in a frenzy, trying to either get rid of contracts for players they would not retain next season or trying to acquire players. They could help them either create the foundation of or further support a championship team.



Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

The Philadelphia 76ers acquired sharpshooter Buddy Hield, who is on an expiring contract due to contract disputes with his former team, the Indiana Pacers, who dealt him for Marcus Morris Sr, Furkan Korkmaz, and three first-round picks. 76ers superstar Joel Embiid will be sidelined indefinitely due to a tear in his meniscus. So, this trade should provide them with the offense of firepower to keep them afloat until their superstar returns.

The Mavericks acquired their backup center Daniel Gafford for Richaun Holmes and draft picks. The Mavericks also acquired PJ Washington

from the Charlotte Hornets for Grant Williams, Seth Curry, and a 2027 first-round pick. The Mavericks have lacked front-court depth which they have solved by acquiring a power forward and a backup center that fit the play style of the team.

The Knicks also acquired sharpshooters Bojan Bogdanovic and Alec Burks for Evan Fournier, Malachi Flynn, Quentin Grimes, Ryan Arcidicono, and two second-round picks, increasing the amount of three-point threats on their team.

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A Glimpse into the Future with Apple Vision Pro

Andrea Iriarte
Staff Writer

Last June, Apple promised its users a glimpse into the future with its announcement of the Apple Vision Pro, the company's new mixed reality headset. However, early demonstrations of the device left many perplexed with its mysterious simplicity and stunned with the attached \$3,500 price tag.

With the official release of the Apple Vision Pro on February 2, 2024, while much of the secrecy enshrouding the Apple Vision Pro has dissipated, the device's impact on computing, the virtual reality market, and society as a whole, remain to be seen.

Unlike many other virtual reality headsets, which aim to replace physical reality with an immersive digital experience, the Apple Vision Pro integrates the physical with the digital in order to create a "spatial computing" environment.

Users can use the built-in eye-tracking and hand-tracking features to size, place, and interact with applications anywhere in their mixed-reality space. This liberates users from

the physical constraints associated with traditional forms of computing, such as static screen size and immobility.

While many have praised the Apple Vision Pro for its sleek aluminum design, effortless eye-tracking, beautiful micro-OLED display, and revolutionary approach to computing, the device has not gone without criticism.

Many users have complained about the headset's weight, which is poorly distributed by the default single-loop strap. Others report frustratingly buggy hand and eye-tracking experiences and windows blurred by movement. Some users are disappointed by the lack of meaningful experiences and use cases available at launch.

Loneliness has also been a concern for new users of the Apple Vision Pro. Although loneliness has been a common problem for most VR headsets, Apple has attempted to keep users connected to the outside world by focusing on synthesizing the digital with the physical both by including software features such as Passthrough and Personas, and hardware features such as Eyesight.

Despite these attempts,



Apple Vision Pro

Photo courtesy of Apple.com

many users still feel alienated from their real-world environments due to the exclusive and singular nature of the headset. Though the Eyesight and Persona features help the user communicate with others more personally both offline and online, the features have been criticized for creating uncanny and awkward digital representations of the user.

The largest criticism facing the Apple Vision Pro, however, is its immoderate \$3,500 price tag. This is especially highlighted by Meta's competitive Quest 3 headset, which retails for only \$500.

In an Instagram video uploaded earlier this week, after trying on the Apple Vision Pro, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg exclaimed that

"before this, I expected that Quest would be the better value for most people...but after using it, I don't just think that Quest is the better value, I think that Quest is the better product, period."

Zuckerberg points to the Quest being a more comfortable headset, as well as providing crisper passthrough visuals, a vast library of virtual reality and augmented reality games and experiences, and support for highly precise controllers and hand-tracking.

While those who have tried both headsets may not fully agree with Zuckerberg's statements, the Meta Quest 3 still benefits from its focus on gaming and other physical and engaging activities, offering a more dynamic experience, overall.

Despite its early criticisms, the Apple Vision Pro still offers an impressive glimpse into the future. Its unique approach to VR will help make the technology more accessible and useful for a larger variety of people. Ultimately, this is just the beginning for the Apple Vision Pro. It will be up to developers to really bring the headset to life.

Like the Apple Vision Pro, the Meta Quest 3 offers impressive passthrough and spatial computing functionalities that allow users to work and consume media in the same flexible and immersive environment. However, in contrast to the Apple Vision Pro, the Meta Quest 3 is fully capable of providing fully immersive gaming experiences.

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Intersectionality and erasure: why black queer history belongs in Black History Month

Keynaya Thompson
Editor-in-Chief

As February 2024 brings forth Black History Month and its commemoration of African Americans and their roles in U.S. history, there are still some who ask what Black History Month is and why we celebrate it. Typically, the answer is for the purpose of unearthing the unique struggles, triumphs and experiences that have made the black community what it is today. This answer, while truthful does not live up to its full potential. In the month's quest to honor the legacy of black history, there is a striking omission—an echoing silence of the voices of black queer trailblazers, visionaries, and leaders whose contributions have been sidelined and overlooked in the grand scheme of things. It is time to open the history books and write the unacknowledged chapters of black queer history and honor the impact they have cemented into the cultural landscape, leaving behind a cycle of erasure, whitewashing and invisibility. Moving forward, we must move toward solidarity, and inclusive celebration, recognizing black queer contributions to African American's collective history.

The inclusion of black queer history can remedy many issues that plague the intersectionality of both African Americans and members of the LGBTQ+ community. One of the most prominent issues is the whitewashing of black queer culture and narrative. The biggest commercialized celebration of the queer community is Pride month. Pride, a celebration of gay liberation and culture came from the Stonewall riots, started through the brave activism of Marsha P. Johnson—a black transgender woman. Pride has now largely been absorbed and whitewashed since the Stonewall riots of the 1960s, many years after Johnson's death (her body was found floating in the Hudson River in 1992, symbolizing the crass amount of unprotested violence against transwomen of color). Johnson is barely acknowledged much less celebrated at the center of mainstream Pride parades.

Mass media and historians often fail to acknowledge the pivotal role that the black queer community has contributed to not only the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, but to mainstream culture, instead shifting the narrative to one that is predominantly white and cisgender. Madonna's 1989

hit "Vogue," largely inspired by the late 80's underground ballroom scene in New York City—a space occupied by black and Latino gay and trans individuals, exemplifies this. The song and its iconic music video see no acknowledgment of the community where voguing originated from. Madonna, a cis-het white woman, would become the poster girl for the dance fad, erasing the ballroom community that was the source of the dance. Furthermore, when given the opportunity on the over five-minute track to acknowledge ballroom legends and icons that created the culture being appropriated such as Willi Ninja, Octavia St. Laurent, Crystal LaBeija, Tracey Africa, and Hector Xtravangza, she gleefully acknowledged her white cis-het predecessors such as Grace Kelly, Fred Astaire and Bette Davis—who have no ties to voguing or ballroom culture outside of the song.

The same case can be made for RuPaul's drag race, which adapts the architecture of ballroom culture and gives a predominately white gay audience access to culture that is then wrongfully credited to the drag queens featured on the show. Even further is the dilution of house music, which was cre-

ated by Frankie Knuckles, a gay black man, into electronic dance music that is now largely occupied by producers who are cis-het and white. With no larger community to speak up, acknowledge or celebrate these various contributions to the pop-culture sphere, black queer cultural significance is essentially erased in mainstream history. The integration of black queer history into general black history can reclaim these narratives and platform these contributions.

From the Harlem Renaissance to contemporary movements in art, fashion, literature, music and activism, black queer leaders and creators have been at the center of cultural advancements and social justice. Important figures such as Josephine Baker, Langston Hughes, Audre Lorde and James Baldwin have contributed greatly to their respective fields of literature, music, art and social activism, yet their identity as queer individuals are often debated, downplayed or overall erased in historical narrative. By acknowledging them as members of both communities while highlighting their contributions, we recognize this intersectionality and consider how their unique identities provided a different

perspective on art and thought that would change the trajectory of contemporary society.

Moreover, and most importantly, the isolation of black queer history within the black community itself is harmful and keeps the cycle of oppression spinning. Black queer people must deal with discrimination not just from society but within their own community. By ignoring the contributions of the black queer community, we further marginalize them and contribute to feelings of invisibly and alienation. Black queer youth, most importantly, must see themselves and those they identify with the most represented and celebrated in history to create a sense of pride and community. real acts of oppression in their community. Not teaching the full scope of inequality is as if we are suppressing our past. And suppression is one step closer to oppression.

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