

# THE OBSERVER

Broward College Student Newspaper

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## Diverse stories & shared dreams from your student government members

**Bolton Bazile**  
Staff Writer

In a world where adversity often shapes futures, the stories of Juan Galindo, Booseong Seo, Think Tran, Isabella Valdes, Marina Carmo, and Ligia Rishmawy stand as testaments to resilience, determination, and unwavering ambition. Each student, hailing from different backgrounds and facing unique challenges, has forged their path towards a brighter future, fueled by their dreams and propelled by their experiences.

**Juan Galindo:** Inspired by the resilience of his fellow Colombians and fueled by a passion for social justice and global affairs, he embodies a spirit of activism and advocacy. His aspirations to pursue a career in international relations, focusing on diplomacy and counterterrorism, reflect his commitment to effecting positive change in the world. Galindo's involvement in student government as president and his dedication to uplifting marginalized communities underscore his belief in the power of collective action and solidarity in the pursuit of a more just and equitable society.

**Booseong Seo:** As a first-generation immigrant from South Korea, Seo's journey from self-discovery to leadership exemplifies the pursuit of



Student Government.

Photo courtesy of Bolton Bazile

excellence and service. His involvement in student government and his passion for healthcare and cancer awareness highlight his dedication to making a difference in the world. Seo's aspirations to become a surgical oncologist and his commitment to public health initiatives underscore his desire to heal, inspire, and uplift communities, both locally and globally.

**Think Tran:** Born into struggle, Tran's journey from the cramped quarters of poverty in Vietnam to the bustling halls of academia in the United States embodies the epitome of perseverance. Despite facing numerous hurdles, including

homelessness and financial instability, Tran's indomitable spirit propelled him forward. Through hard work, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to his education, he not only secured a brighter future for himself but also became a beacon of hope for others. He hopes to become a doctor and researcher, focusing on cancer research. He desires to give back to his community and alleviate the suffering of those in need.

**Isabella Valdes:** With a passion for literature and a thirst for knowledge, Valdes' journey from a traditional high school to College Academy epitomizes the pursuit of academic excellence. Her dedication to her

studies, coupled with her involvement in extracurricular activities such as Student Government Association (SGA), highlights her multifaceted approach to personal and intellectual growth. Her dream of working in the publishing field underscores her commitment to sharing her love of literature with the world, inspiring others to explore the boundless realms of imagination and creativity.

**Marina Carmo:** From the vibrant streets of Brazil, Carmo's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education and resilience. Despite facing the challenges of immigration and cultural assimilation, her unwavering determination led her to pursue her passion for international affairs and public policy. Her aspirations to work as a Foreign Service Officer for the State Department or the United Nations reflect her commitment to fostering global peace and cooperation, bridging divides, and advocating for justice and equality on the world stage.

**Ligia Rishmawy:** From Honduras to the United States, Rishmawy has used her unique background as a first-generation immigrant to transform her life and the life of those around her. She has done so through her passion for social media, constantly bringing awareness to social injustices prevalent in the

world. Along with her innate passion for activism and social media, she is deeply dedicated to leadership and community engagement, often volunteering in community initiatives and spearheading opportunities for the betterment of Broward College students. She hopes to one day work in the media industry and use her involvement as a way to bring awareness to important issues. Rishmawy believes that her role in student government has given her the necessary tools and resources to do just that.

Their stories serve as powerful reminders of what we can accomplish if we make the decision to pursue our passions with conviction. Through their diverse experiences and goals, these students embody the transformative power of education, leadership, and service in shaping a better future for themselves and their communities. As they continue to pursue their passions and aspirations, they inspire us all to reach for the stars and never lose sight of the boundless possibilities that await us on the journey ahead.

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## The 60th anniversary of Panku magazine

**Sara Fuentes**  
North Bureau Chief

The student literary arts magazine, Panku, at Broward College is now celebrating its 60th year of displaying the creative talents of our student community. The launch party of the magazine is April 18, and Panku will be distributed to all campuses in the week following the launch party.

For the past 60 years, Panku has symbolized the ever-evolving artistic community at Broward College. Its primary goal is to display the finest work Broward College students create.

Panku Magazine has displayed some incredible artworks created by students from Broward College. Some of these pieces have earned recognition

for talented students, while the magazine itself has gained fame for the stunning cover designs featured in its earlier issues. According to Professor Marjetta Geerling, the advisor of Panku Magazine, for the 2023 issues of Panku, the magazine received many awards from the Florida College System Publications Association, including Best Individual Artwork, Best Magazine Photography, and Best Cover.

Another key factor for the incredible work Panku publishes is the team of editors behind the magazine, and all the support the team offers the students. A notable example of this is Alanna Fitzgerald Robert, a BC student who started involving herself by submitting her writing piece.

"I became involved in the



Some members of the Panku team. Photo courtesy of Paola Alberto Molina

magazine because I wanted a place where I could use my skills as a writer and meet other creatives, and the magazine seemed like a good place to start. Being part of it, I have been able to meet a community of people who are all equally resolute and enthusiastic about their work," she said.

Fitzgerald Robert eventually decided to become a team member of the magazine. "I first got involved in Spring 2023 when the magazine accepted my literary submission. The following semester, I joined the team as its literary editor, and now I am the Editor-in-Chief, also known as the Panku," she said.

The Panku magazine is currently working on its only issue for this semester, which is also the most special one as it is to



Photo courtesy of Paola Alberto Molina

celebrate its 60th anniversary. Current students may be interested in submitting their artwork to be published by the magazine. The deadline for the Fall Semester submissions was Nov. 1, however, we are not accepting any more submissions for this current issue as we are only publishing one issue this year. Any submissions received will be considered for the Fall '24 issue, said Professor Geerling.

Fitzgerald Robert has a small message for the student commu-

nity at Broward College. "I want the Broward College community to know that we are a space for all creative students. We want Panku to be a space for writers, painters, graphic designers, film students, etc., etc. at Broward College," she said.

For more information about Panku, visit <https://www.broward.edu/students/publications/panku/>

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# What's happening around campus

## MARCH IS

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

TO DISCOVER MORE VISIT: [WOMENSHISTORYMONTH.GOV](http://WOMENSHISTORYMONTH.GOV) & [BROWARD.EDU/WHM](http://BROWARD.EDU/WHM)

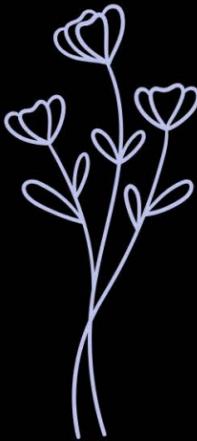
# Student Life - North Campus

**Tue, March 12th** 12 PM  
WHM Movie Showing  
Captain Marvel  
BLDG 46 Coffee House



**Tue, March 19th** 12 PM  
Everything Fondue  
Crush your cravings!  
BLDG 46 SL Patio

**Wed, March 13th** 12 PM  
WHM Sip & Paint  
Celebrate Women's History  
BLDG 46 SL Patio



**Thur, March 21st** 11 AM  
Mental Health Fair  
In Collab with SOS!  
BLDG 46 Breezeway

**Wed, March 13th** 11 AM  
Do's & Donuts of Early Voting  
Engage Miami  
BLDG 46 Breezeway

**Mon, March 25th** 12 PM  
Women's Empowerment Tea Party  
With Guest Speaker: Dean Luz Negrón!  
BLDG 46 RM 152

**Thur, March 14th** 12 PM  
Renaissance Festival  
Medieval fun  
BLDG 46 SL Courtyard

**Mon, March 25th** 12 PM  
Certified Leader Workshop #5  
Lead like you were born to!  
BLDG 46 Coffee House

**Thur, March 14th** 1:30 PM  
Certified Leader Workshop #4  
Learn to be a better leader!  
BLDG 46 Coffee House



**Wed, March 27th** 12 PM  
Film Contest  
Submit your film NOW!!!  
BLDG 46 Coffee House

**Mon, March 18th** 12 PM  
SG Letter Writing  
Write to your politicians!  
BLDG 46 SL Patio

**Thurs, March 28th** 12 PM  
WHM Book Tasting  
With Student Government  
BLDG 46 Coffee House

## Tea party: a fundamental element for college women

**Swami Hinojosa Blas**  
Editor-in-Chief

Womens Tea Party holds a special place on the Student Life calendar. It is more than just a casual get-together; it creates a space where female students can come together in a friendly, encouraging environment to connect, inspire, and support each other. This event fosters a warm, stimulating atmosphere where participants feel empowered and uplifted, and will take place on March 27 on Central Campus in Bldg. 19, room 104 at 11 a.m.

This event provides an excellent opportunity for women to unite in solidarity, share their experiences, and encourage each other to strive for tremendous success and leadership. It is more than just a cup of tea and snacks; it is a place where womens accomplishments are celebrated, and ambitious plans are made.

The Womens Tea Party is a remarkable initiative that

profoundly impacts college student life. It serves as an event that emphasizes the significance of womens participation in all aspects of campus life, including academics, sports, and extracurricular activities. The Womens Tea Party provides a haven for female students to freely express their concerns, share their experiences, and seek assistance in times of need. The tea party is an intimate and welcoming space fostering community and belonging among female students. Its a fantastic way to connect with other like-minded women and celebrate each others accomplishments.

However, the Womens Tea Party is not just about fostering a sense of camaraderie among its attendees. It also serves as a platform for promoting change and acting. Participants can engage in meaningful discussions on various important issues impacting women on campus and in

society, including gender equity, sexual violence, female leadership, and representation in the academic curriculum.

As college students, we can participate in various events that can enrich our lives in countless ways. One such event is the Womens Tea Party, which invites all students, regardless of gender, to contribute to creating a more inclusive, equitable, and safe campus environment. However, college life offers much more than just participation in events. It is a time of personal growth, intellectual discovery, and skill development that prepares us for the challenges and opportunities beyond the colleges walls.

Participating in college Student Life activities can be incredibly beneficial in many ways. It allows us to develop leadership skills, work collaboratively as a team, manage our time effectively, and build a network of contacts that



will be useful throughout our professional careers. It also allows us to explore our interests and passions through extracurricular activities such as student clubs, organizations, cultural events, and sports.

The Womens Tea Party celebrates and showcases the strength and perseverance of women not just on campus but worldwide.

University student life is not just a fleeting phase but an opportunity to learn, develop, and transform us in ways we may not have thought possible. By joining this exciting event, you can promote inclusivity and equity for all people and create a more just society.

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## Celebrating the art and creativity of women on International Womens Day

**Swami Hinojosa Blas**  
Editor-in-Chief

In the art world, a special place exudes a unique charm - the open mic. This intimate setting is often overlooked, but it is a stage where emerging talents can find their voice, strength, and destiny.

What makes open mic so captivating? Essentially, it is a celebration of creative freedom. It is a space where voices can be heard without hesitation, poetry can be whispered or screamed, and melodies can soar like colorful butterflies. In this vibrant atmosphere, barriers dissolve, and authenticity shines through.

Open mic is also significant for International Womens Day as it allows womens voices to be heard loud and clear. Here, women proudly present their stories of bravery, love, and liberation through poetry, music, and the spoken word. By shattering stereotypes and expanding the boundaries of art and culture, Open mic is a stronghold of empowerment and solidarity in a world where gender equality remains an ongoing struggle.

At open mic events, women can share their stories and freely express themselves without restrictions or censorship. They can perform feminist poetry or music that celebrates their strength and beauty. Open mic events

symbolize sisterhood, where women unite to support and celebrate each other. It is where women can be seen, heard, and valued for who they are, regardless of their background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. Open mic encourages women to be confident and courageous in expressing their creativity and sharing their experiences. It is a reminder that every womans voice is essential, and their stories deserve to be heard. On International Womens Day, let us celebrate the power and beauty of women in all forms and join together to support one another.

There are many options if you search for unique and creative ways to celebrate women and their experiences. One great idea is to attend an open mic event on the Central Campus, which is worth checking out. The event creates a safe and inclusive space for people to come together and recognizes and appreciates the contributions of women. For example, a female singer-songwriter can perform an original song that addresses themes related to the female experience, such as love, freedom, self-acceptance, or the fight for equality. The music can range from emotional ballads to powerful, energetic beats. Alternatively, women can demonstrate their vocal prowess by singing a womens anthem or reciting a poem by a woman.

In addition to poetry and

music, you can explore other creative outlets like theater, dance, writing, and art. For example, they can perform a theatrical monologue that tells the story of an inspiring woman, and a dancer can perform a contemporary dance that explores themes related to femininity, the body, and gender identity. A group of women writers can hold a recital where they share fragments of their literary works, and a visual artist can display her work in an exhibition that celebrates femininity and the power of women. These creative expressions can be a powerful way to honor women and their experiences.

International Womens Day honors and celebrates womens strength and beauty in all forms. Let us come together and use our voices to make a bold statement of our existence and determination. Together, we are an unstoppable force, and our stories can change and transform the world around us.



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# Pre-Med Club supports students interested in healthcare field

**Think Tran**  
*Staff Writer*

Are you passionate about pursuing a career in healthcare? Do you dream of making a difference in the lives of others through medicine, research, or administration? If so, we invite you to join the Pre-Med Club at Broward College.

The Pre-Med Club is dedicated to supporting students who are interested in various healthcare careers. Whether you aspire to become a physician, nurse, researcher, healthcare administrator, or any other healthcare professional, the Pre-Med Club is here to provide you with the resources, opportunities, and support you need to achieve your goals.

As a member of the Pre-Med Club, you'll have access to a wide range of benefits and activities designed to enhance your pre-medical journey.

From service-learning events and campus tours to guest speakers and networking opportunities, there's something for everyone in the club. One of the highlights of the club is the commitment to service and community engagement. The Pre-Med Club believes in giving back to the community and making a positive impact on the world around us. For example, for Women's History Month the club is collecting menstrual products to support women in need in our community. Period poverty is a pressing issue that affects many women and girls, and we believe that access to menstrual hygiene products is a basic human right. Events like these are one of the many service events the club hosts each year.

Joining the Pre-Med Club is also a fantastic way to find a medical program you're most interested in.

Recently, they had a tour of Nova Southeastern University's College of Dental Medicine, with their guide giving them an in-depth view of the college's program. Events like these can be a great help when faced with the ever-daunting task of choosing a field in medicine to focus on.

No matter where you are on your pre-medical journey, the Pre-Med Club at Broward College welcomes you with open arms. Together, we can support each other, inspire one another, and make a positive impact on the world through healthcare.

Ready to take the next step in your pre-medical journey? Join the Pre-Med Club today and become part of a community that is dedicated to helping you succeed. We look forward to welcoming you to our club and embarking on this exciting journey together.

For more information and to join the Pre-Med



Some members of the Pre-Med Club. Photo courtesy of Think Tran

Club, please contact and follow them on Instagram @browardpremedclubinc for updates and announcements about upcoming events and activities.

Together, let's make a difference in healthcare and change the world for the better.

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*Broward College Student Newspaper*

The BC Student Newspaper is looking for

NEWS

Graphic Designers  
**Writers**  
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Videographers



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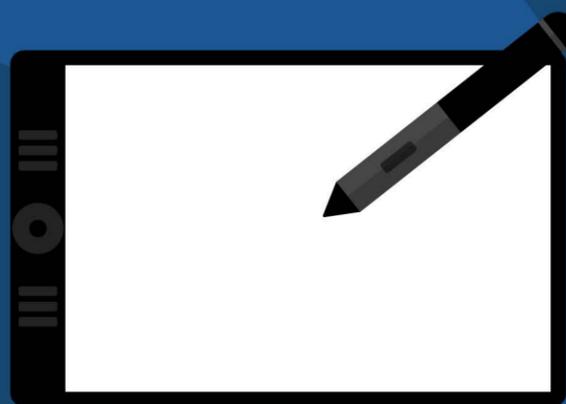
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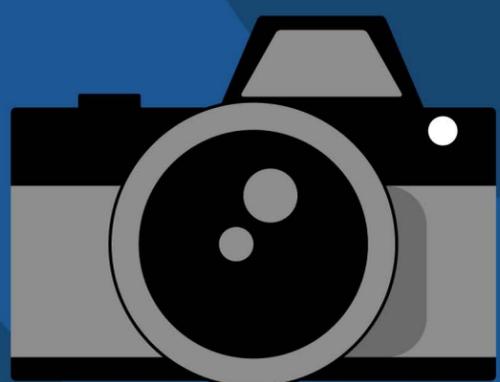
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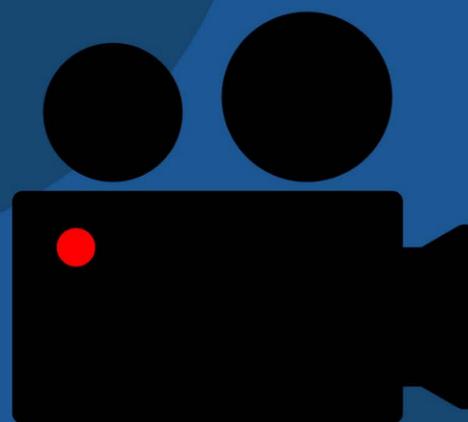
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# Women's History Month

As Broward College commemorates Women's History Month, The Observer highlights ten women across all ages, identities and races who have made history in the collegiate field of the United States.

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) Became the first woman to attend medical school in 1847. Blackwell would then become the first woman to earn a Medical Degree in the US from Geneva Medical College in New York. Her thesis on typhoid fever published in the Buffalo Medical Journal and Monthly Review (1849) became the first medical article published by a woman scholar in the United States.

Dr. Helen Magil White (1853-1944) in 1877 became the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in the United States, earning her Ph.D. in Greek at Boston University.

Susan La Flesche Picotte (1854-1915) earned her medical degree from the Woman's Medical College

of Pennsylvania in 1889. A member of the Omaha tribe, Susan became the first Native-American woman to earn a medical degree as well as the first Native-American female doctor and only to do so during the 19th century.

Chantrell Frazier (1993-) is a Florida native who earned her Ph.D. in biochemistry at FIU in 2022. Dr. Frazier, who spoke at Broward College in 2023, is the first African American woman to earn a doctorate in biochemistry in FIU's history.

Condoleezza Rice (1954-) is the first African American woman to hold the title of provost at Stanford University. After earning her Ph.D. from the University of Denver's Graduate School of International Studies in 1981, she joined Stanford teaching political science. In 1993, Rice would become the first woman and the first African American to serve as provost of the university, which she served for six years.

Jeannie Suk (1973-) is the first Asian American woman granted tenure at Harvard School of Law. The South Korean native, earned her bachelors from Yale, DPhil at Oxford and JID at Harvard. After becoming an assistant professor at the Ivy League university in 2006, she was granted tenure in 2010.

Ada Kepley (1847-1925) is the first woman in the United States to graduate from law school. Graduating with honors from Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law in 1870, she was prohibited from practicing law due to state court denying her admission into the bar. She would place her focus on women's suffrage and temperance.

Margaret Montoya is the first Latin-American woman to receive acceptance in Harvard Law School. After earning her degree in 1978, she was awarded the Harvard University's

Sheldon Traveling Fellowship. She traveled through Europe and Asia and studied affirmative action in both Malaysia and India.

Charlotte E. Ray (1850 - 1911) is the first African American woman to attend and graduate from a law school. Ray graduated from Howard University's School of Law in 1872, making her the first black and female lawyer in the U.S., the first woman who received admission into the D.C. Bar, and first woman to practice under the Supreme Court of D.C.

Anya Marino (1984) a Florida native, is the first transwoman of color to teach at Harvard Law School. In August 2021, she joined the Law School's LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic as an instructor. Marino would go on to serve as the Director of LGBTQ+ Equality at the National Women's Law Center.



## Post NBA All-Star Break

**Levi Hylton**  
Staff Writer

In-season trades can affect teams in different ways. Teams must rework their offense and defense to incorporate new players into their system. With the extended break that off-season trades provide, the coaching staff and the players can avoid being thrown into the fire. They must quickly figure out how to make this new team work by building chemistry between the players. These trades have led to various results: some teams have seen success with the new additions, some haven't, and some teams have dealt with injuries, not allowing us to see the full potential of their team.

The team that started the hottest with their late December addition of OG Anunoby, the New York Knicks, have been affected by a myriad of injuries to their second and third-best players Julius Randle, and their new addition OG Anunoby. Ever since

starting with the record of 11-2 in January surging to the third seed. Post All-Star break they have gone 4-5 and are currently the fourth seed. But they are in danger of slipping potentially to the eighth seed if they lose two games and the teams behind them gain traction as the standings in the east have tightened up due to teams being more competitive to fight for a playoff spot.

The Indiana Pacers is another team that made a blockbuster trade for Pascal Siakam from the Toronto Raptors to provide rising star guard Tyrese Haliburton with a second option who can help with the team's poor defense. The Pacers have had the best offense in the NBA. However, this has not translated to wins as they were the seventh seed when they acquired the All-Star forward but have since failed to consistently win games as they have since fallen to the eighth seed. As they have only gone 12-12. In addition, their promising young



Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

guard Benedict Mathurin will have a season-ending surgery to repair his torn right labrum. For a team that hangs its hat on offense, losing a scoring spark off the bench will affect that possibly ending their playoff push, as they are already struggling to stay out of the Play-In tournament.

The Dallas Mavericks headlined the trade deadline by acquiring PJ Washington, and Daniel Gafford. They added some much-needed front-court

depth that complimented superstar guard Luka Dončić's play. These additions looked fantastic right before the All-Star break as the Mavericks went 3-0 during that stretch although it was a very small sample size everything seemed to be clicking for this contending team.

However, since the All-Star break, they have had a record of 4-5 due to their terrible defense. This team went on a three-game losing streak against

some competitive Eastern Conference teams due to their terrible, defensive effort, leaving a lot on the table during these games.

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## NFL free agency 2024-2025 Season

**Jordan Stephenson**  
South Bureau Chief

NFL Free Agency officially started March 13 th at 4 p.m., also trades were made official that same day. There definitely was no shortage of important league altering news that shocked many fans and NFL analysts. Some playoff teams have made many free agency moves, while other playoff teams have barely done anything at all to address their team needs. This has already been one of the busiest free agency periods in NFL history, and in recent memory. Most if not all these teams, hope these free agency moves leads to playoff berths.

The top QBs in this free agency period were Russell Wilson, Baker Mayfield, and Kirk Cousins. Last week the Broncos unfortunately released Wilson, which for good reasons gave them an \$85 million cap hold, over the next two seasons. So, he had early visits with a few potential teams, and fortunately agreed to a league minimum deal with the Steelers. The Steelers also agreed with star LB Patrick Queen, on a three-year \$41 million deal. Cousins is currently rehabbing a torn Achilles but has a couple of options to choose from in free agency. So, the Vikings couldn't meet is asking



A wild free agency continues.

Photo courtesy of ESPN.com

price, and another team was extremely desperate for an upgrade at QB; Cousins eventually signed a four-year \$180 million deal with the desperate Falcons. This deal includes \$100 million in guaranteed money, which adds to guaranteed money over the past few seasons. The Falcons then signed Darnell Mooney to a three-year \$39 million deal. The Baker Mayfield and Mike Evans connection will be prevalent again because they both re-signed with the Buccaneers. Mayfield signed a three-year \$100 million deal after betting on himself, then Evans signed a two-year \$52 million deal.

Many NFL analysts thought the running back market would be extremely scarce, because of what happened last season, and when no running backs were franchise tagged, fortunately there was an extremely

movement of running backs in the free agency market. The most surprising were Derrick Henry leaving the Titans while then agreeing to a two-year \$16 million contract with the Ravens, and Saquon Barkley leaving the Giants while signing a three-year \$37.75 deal with the division rival Eagles. Then Tony Pollard left a gaping hole with the Cowboys, to replace Henry and sign a three-year \$24 million deal with the Titans. Austin Ekeler left the Chargers and signed a two-year \$11.43 million deal with the Commanders. D'Andre Swift left the Eagles and agreed to a three-year \$24 million deal with the Bears. Josh Jacobs left the Raiders and signed a four-year \$48 million deal with the Packers. The Packers released Aaron Jones was sadly released by the Packers, so he immediately signed a

one year \$7 million deal with the division rival Vikings. The Bengals were sadly going to release Joe Mixon, so the Texans came in at the 11 th hour and traded for him. Zack Moss then signed a two-year \$8 million contract with the Bengals. Gus Edwards left the Ravens to sign a two-year \$6.5 million deal with the Chargers.

There were definitely a few impactful trades made in this free agency period. The Jets just acquired OT Moses Morgan from the Ravens for 2024 6 th round pick and a 2024 4 th round swaps. The Jets also signed Tyrod Taylor as the backup QB for Aaron Rogers, and they look to trade their previous backup QB Zach Wilson. Tee Higgins received the non-exclusive franchise tag, but has not had any contract discussions with the Bengals since last season, so he sadly requested to be traded. The Browns acquired Jerry Judy from the Broncos for two 2024 5 th and 6 th round picks. The Steelers just traded Diontae Johnson to the Panthers for Donte Jackson and 2024 7 th round pick swaps. The Jaguars acquired Mac "10" Jones from the Patriots for a 2024 6 th round pick. The Giants acquired Brian Burns from the Panthers for a 2024 2 nd and 5 th round pick. The Colts acquired Carton Davis from the Buccaneers with a 2024 and 2025 6 th round picks for

a 2024 3 rd round pick. Then Burns immediately agreed to a five-year \$150 million deal with the Giants.

Speaking of great defensive players getting the bag like Burns did they were definitely a few more of them that also received huge contracts. Chris Jones finally re-signed with the Chiefs for a five-year \$158.75 million contract, with \$101 million guaranteed. Danielle Hunter agreed to a two-year \$49 million deal with the Texans, with \$48 million guaranteed. Christian Wilkins sadly left the Dolphins, but I'm definitely happy he was able to get his money and signed a four-year \$110 million contract with the Raiders.

My teams in the Dolphins and Packers have been relatively busy, because we had to make tough decisions in cutting certain good to great players. The Dolphins signed Jonnu Smith to a two-year \$10 million deal and former Bills Jordan Poyer and Siran Neal to one year deals. The Packers signed Xavier McKinney to a four-year \$68 million deal. There will definitely be more acquisitions to come because free agency is just getting started, and the draft is soon approaching.

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# Oscars: celebration underscored by political unease

Andrea Iriarte  
Staff Writer

As stars and celebrities arrived on the red carpet, members of the Free Democratic Palestine Movement and Black Lives Matter LA marched along the streets of Hollywood in hopes of disrupting the Academy Awards and calling for a cease-fire in Gaza.

Wrapping up the 2023 season, the 96th Academy Awards Ceremony was the culmination of an era of fierce rivalries, billion-dollar blockbusters, and industry turmoil that would ultimately challenge preconceptions of critical and commercial success, and reel sleepy audiences back into theaters. Hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, interest in the awards ceremony was propelled by the leftover momentum from last year's Barbenheimer trend.

The clear winner of the night was *Oppenheimer*, winning 7 out of the impressive 13 awards for which the movie was nominated, including Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, Best Directing, and Best Picture, granting esteemed director Christopher Nolan his first Academy win. *Poor Things*, the second-most nominated film of the night, won four awards, including Best Actress for Emma Stone as Bella Baxter.

The 96th Academy Awards also marked a few firsts. Notably, despite its comparatively minuscule \$15 million budget, *Godzilla Minus One* beat out pricier productions for Best Visual Effects, landing the franchise its first Academy Award. The Japanese VFX team could be seen carrying tiny *Godzilla* statues onto the stage as they accepted their Oscars.

The experimental film *The Zone of Interest* also won Best Sound for its unsettling and innovative soundscape that highlighted the many atrocities that went unseen but not unheard at the Auschwitz-Dachau concen-



94th Oscars image courtesy and ©Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

tration camp. *The Zone of Interest* was also one of three foreign films nominated for Best Picture (the other two being *Past Lives* and *Anatomy of a Fall*), the most out of any other year at the Oscars.

The standout of the night, however, was Ryan Gosling's performance of "I'm Just Ken" for the Best Original Song category. Dressed in a bedazzled pink suit in a tribute to Marilyn Monroe's "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" video, Ryan Gosling danced and sang along to the anthem before being absorbed by a Barbie cutout dream sequence and re-emerging to a soulful guitar solo performed by none other than Slash, the legendary Guns and Roses guitarist.

Still, beyond the typical acceptance speeches and comedic skits were signs of a troubled political landscape.

As nearby protesters inched closer to the Dolby Theater, many nominees, such as Billie Elish and *Anatomy of a Fall*'s Swann Arlaud, could be seen wearing "Free Palestine" pins.

Jonathan Blazer, in his acceptance speech for Best International Feature awarded to *The Zone of Interest*, condemned the atrocities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict stating that "the Holocaust, being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people, whether the victims of October 7th in Israel, or the ongoing attack on Gaza, are all

the victims of this dehumanization. How do we resist?"

In the commercial break prior to Jonathan Blazer's speech, an ad depicted members of a synagogue being welcomed by a neighboring Christian church after an anti-Semitic bomb threat prematurely ended their congregation. The ad was published by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (FCAS), under the hashtag #StandUpToJewishHate.

Some attention was also given to the ongoing Russian occupation of Ukraine. In his acceptance speech for Best Documentary awarded to *20 Days in Mariupol*, director Mstyslav Chernov noted that, even though this is the first-ever Oscar awarded to a Ukrainian production, he would rather Russia had never invaded Ukraine, exclaiming, "I wish to give all of the recognition to the Russian killing of tens of thousands of my fellow Ukrainians...but I cannot change the history, I cannot change the past."

Recently deceased Russian political activist Alexei Navalny also received a tribute at the start of the "In Memoriam" feature dedicated to all of the actors and filmmakers that passed away last year. Navalny's final message from the documentary *Navalny* was aired where he encourages his supporters to rally together and utilize their collective strength in the case of his death. Navalny

is believed to have been tortured and murdered by his guards at a Siberian prison after having been incarcerated for trumped-up tax evasion charges, in an attempt to silence his political discourse.

Most controversially, many felt that Lily Gladstone was "snubbed" after the award for Best Actress was unexpectedly given to Emma Stone, instead. Having been the favorite for the award, if Gladstone had won for her role of real-life Osage Mollie Burkhart in *The Killers of the Flower Moon*, she would have been the first Native American person to ever win an Oscar.

While some argued that Gladstone played only a minimal and understated part in the movie, many more feel that this turn of events highlights the many atrocities that have ultimately erased Native American peoples from the narrative.

According to a Newsweek article on the matter, the Academy Awards "missed out on the opportunity to rectify an ugly part of Hollywood's history by awarding Lily Gladstone Best Actress." The article also states that "since the Oscars began, Native Americans have frequently suffered from racist depictions with Native Americans presented with few opportunities in Hollywood."

Though *The Killers of the Flower Moon* was nominated for ten awards, it did not win a single one. Shockingly, this is the third movie directed by

Martin Scorsese that lost for each of the ten awards for which it was nominated.

Ultimately, despite the fun and excitement surrounding the Oscars this year, the ceremony was underscored by many of the tensions and outcry surrounding many of the current domestic and international political crises

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# The bending of elements in Netflix's Avatar: The Last Airbender Adaptation

**Monica Herrera**  
Staff Writer

**Disclaimer: This article may contain spoilers for Avatar: The Last Airbender Live Action Adaptation.**

Avatar: The Last Airbender, or ATLA stands as a nostalgic staple of many of our childhoods. The show successfully captured the hearts of kids around the globe with its lighthearted comedy and tear-jerking drama. Fans of the original ATLA have self-deemed the show a cinematic delicacy. Since Netflix announced a remake of the hit show, many fans have been anticipating the adaptation, and awaiting its release. Luckily for us, the wait is over.

For those who have

not seen ATLA, the story follows a society where the four elements control the balance of the world. There are elemental tribes and within those tribes' benders have the power to wield the elements. There is an Avatar, who is the master of all four elements and maintains the balance of the world. Siblings, Katara and Sokka from the Southern Water Tribe aid Aang, the current avatar, in traveling the kingdoms to master the elements and defeat the villainous Fire Lord. Throughout their journey, they meet many friends and foes, learning valuable lessons. The show is famous for its amusing characters and timeless plot lines, making it an inclusive show for all ages.

Being an ATLA fan myself,

I went into the remake with high expectations. Upon watching the remake, I have a magnitude of different critiques and applauses for the construction of the adaptation. Netflix is known to create series with 8-10 episodes an hour long and did the same with ATLA. These 8 episodes aim to retell the entirety of the first season of ATLA (20 episodes). A lot of the key scenes that fans loved were removed in the adaptation. Unfortunately, Netflix also condensed and overlapped storylines into episodes that were never originally connected. As far as the overall plot goes, Netflix did succeed in maintaining key aspects of the characters and world-building giving new ATLA watchers the overall gist of conflicts.

While watching the adaptation, I found it hard to fall in love with the characters the same way I did in watching the original ATLA. The remake of characters I once had such a passion for, such as siblings Sokka, the goofy water tribe warrior, and Katara, the empathetic yet fierce water-bending master, were reduced to a few sides of their elaborate personalities. In the original ATLA, Katara's character gradually learned water-bending and through her newfound skills became a master water-bender. In the remake, Katara learns water bending quite quickly and does not go through the

struggles and frustration that the original ATLA's Katara experienced. The remake also depicts the character Sokka as more serious, and hence puts a strain on the sibling's relationship. Though the banter between Katara and Sokka is necessary, the original strongly stresses the frivolity of the small bickers between the siblings. The remake on the contrary expanded and warped the strains of their disagreements.

Despite the representation of Sokka and Katara, some characters had an amazing portrayal in the adaptation. Jet, the bad boy, rebellious, fire nation killer who charmingly gains Katara's interest, and Suki, the Kyoshi Warrior who wishes she could explore the world she has been so isolated from. The adaptation built on these characters' desires and fears and allowed the audience a chance to see different sides of the characters. Their portrayals were wholly accurate, and, in some ways, better than the animated versions. The casting for these roles could not have been more spot-on, and the actors did a fantastic job playing such complex characters.

As far as the main character of ATLA, Aang, the casting was also right on the mark. The actor holds the same mannerisms that Aang does in the original Nickelodeon show. Aang

in the original ATLA is seen as a childish yet wise boy who will do anything to defeat the fire lord and fulfill his duties as Avatar. I feel that Aang's character in the live action should have expanded humorously, especially in interactions between Katara and Sokka that original ATLA fans adored. Some scenes that depicted Aang's personality were cut from the remake as they weren't crucial to the storyline, but they allowed watchers to better understand Aang and even bond with his character. The overall essence of Aang was well achieved but did not capture all that Aang is as more than just the Avatar.

ATLA stands as a testament to honor and redemption and the importance of friendship and unity. Though it can never truly compare to the original, ATLA Live Action has allowed us to once again love ATLA.

"WE CAN'T CONCERN OURSELVES WITH WHAT WAS; WE MUST ACT ON WHAT IS..." - AIR NOMAD GYATSO unsolved this season, which



Photo courtesy of [www.animationmagazine.net](http://www.animationmagazine.net)

## Secrets of Sulphur Springs review on Disney

**Janyne Langlois**  
Staff Writer

Secrets of Sulphur Springs followed two kids by the name of Griffin Campbell and Harper Dunn. Griffin's family moved into an abandoned hotel in the small town of Sulphur Springs, Louisiana. The town is filled with multiple mysteries, one of them being the case of Savannah Dillon, who went missing in the 1990s.

When Harper comes over to the hotel, the two of them find an old World War Two bunker. Inside the bunker, there's an old radio with a blue crystal in it and a hatch. Out of curiosity, Griffin and Harper climb through the hatch and find themselves back outside but everything looks a little different. There are cabins outside filled with campers and one of them looks



Photo courtesy of [carrieschronicles.com](http://carrieschronicles.com)

exactly like Savannah. After snooping around the area, Harper and Griffin find out they traveled thirty years to the past!

Along the way, they end up meeting their parents in the past as well; Griffin meets his dad, Ben, and Harper meets her mom, Jess.

Without giving away spoilers, Harper and Griffin

solve the mystery case of Savannah Dillon. But the story doesn't end there.

Season 2 focuses more on Harper as she tries to uncover the secrets behind her connections to the Tremont hotel after she finds a photograph of her great-grandmother, Daisy. She travels back to the 1930s to uncover the mystery, only to be trapped. But don't

worry, it's a Disney show. Harper made it back safe and sound.

Then in season 3, a new ghost from 1947 checks into room 205 and starts wrecking violent havoc around The Tremont. After finding out that the evil presence will ruin their lives by 2024, the kids race to solve a mystery in the

past that may hold the key to defeating the ghost in the present and save the Dunns and Campbells from a dark future.

The last episode of each season always ends off in a cliffhanger. In the last episode of season 3, instead of someone from the past coming to visit, it was someone from the future. Unfortunately, the show got canceled by Disney; so, the adventures and mysteries of Sulphur Springs came to an end.

Despite the show coming to an end, it's a great watch for anyone who loves mystery, paranormal, and time travel. Perfect for both kids and adults to enjoy.

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# The art of not having a good professor

**Melissa Eugene**  
Staff Writer

At some point in time, a college student might experience a dreadful professor, and if you haven't by now, trust me you will sooner or later. No matter how many Rate my Professors you check or making sure you sign up for classes early before all the "good" professors are taken, there will always come a time when you have no choice but to take the 2.9-star professor.

Having a poor professor can be shown in two categories, one being a professor you thought was one of the good ones but turned out to be dreadful. And two, a professor that you know isn't well liked and holds an unfavorable reputation but despite all those allegations you take the professor anyway and are met with the same distressing professor you heard all about before. But there is good news to this, there is an art of not having a good professor.

Having a bad professor doesn't mean the professor is a bad person, but rather the professor doesn't have

the best teaching methods in order for a student to succeed in the class. Also, meaning the professor doesn't put any effort for students to have resources within the class to be successful if they feel stuck or lost. Switching professors in college isn't any easy task and sometimes it's too far in the semester to drop the class easily or to be in another class, and willingly failing a class just because a professor isn't ideal is not the best option. While having a 4-to-5-star professor makes any class easier because you have that support, being in a class without it doesn't make passing impossible; it can be a difficult but never impossible.

The art of being in a situation like this leads you to be independent and creative. Such as discovering different studying methods that work for you and using other resources such as tutors and even YouTube to better understand a topic. It gives you the resilience to not fail and boosts your confidence. This can also be taken as a learning experience in other



Photo courtesy of allkindsofminds.org

situations such as having a bad boss, but that doesn't stop you from having a great work ethic and showing up.

Along with the experience you gain from that job, it gives you the chance to upgrade to a better one with a better boss, as well for other classes that you may come by with a harder subject. The studying skills and creativity that lead you to pass the class with the bad professor can be used for another class that has more of a workload and a harder understanding.

When I came to college, I never studied throughout high school until I had to take Anatomy and Physiol-

ogy in college. I received low scores on the first few quizzes for lab and I failed the first exam for lecture because I never studied, and I didn't know how to study until I finally took the time to learn. I didn't want to fail and found that watching videos helped me to retain what I was learning and making Quizlet flashcards.

In return, I started passing my quizzes and my exams. I now apply the same studying technique to my other classes as well. And I am now currently experiencing a not-so-great professor, but I am becoming creative once again and developing a new study strategy. So, the

next time you come across a 2.9-star professor, know that there are resources outside of that professor to help you and the stress will be worth it in the end.

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# Soccer intramurals and early voting on Central Campus



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