

A discussion with Omega Psi Phi: The importance of the Black vote

NOA CADET
STAFF WRITER

2020 has proven to be quite a year thus far! Not only has COVID-19 completely altered the way the country operates, but it is also the election year for the President of the United States, an election that is quickly shaping up to be one of the most influential ones in American history.

In honor of such an important event, as well as to build active participation for the voting season in the Hampton Roads area, the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., held their “Get Owt and Vote” Summit on September 25, via Instagram Live. Hosted by Hampton University Alumnus Georquel Goodwin the Gamma Epsilon Chapter worked tirelessly throughout the event to spread awareness on the importance of voting in the upcoming election, with emphasis on the Black vote.

Dozens of Hampton students gathered on the Instagram Live to join the discussion of voter registration, led by Omega Psi Phi. Among that number was the event’s special guest speaker, Nupol Kiazolu, a Hampton University political science major, Black Rights Activist and founder of the National Vote2000 campaign. In her discussion with her fellow Hamptonians, she spoke about the importance of not only the presidential election, but also local and state elections.

“Local and state elections are some of the most important elections, in the fact that it directly influences the area in which you live, and [the elected officials] are the ones who write the policies that impact you every single day,” Kiazolu said.

Kiazolu also elaborated on Omega Psi Phi’s message of spurring people to vote. She stressed the importance of Black representation in the voting process, stating that with the power of the vote, the Black community can work



Unsplash User Robin Jonathan Deutsch

to take control of their neighborhoods, and have the government work for them, instead of the other way around.

“Politics are a part of your life,” said Georquel Goodwin, commenting on the importance of staying connected and up-to-date with your local representatives.

The night wasn’t purely centered around encouraging young, Black people to vote. As the event drifted into its final minutes, the conversation shifted

to the state of Black civil rights, as well as the ongoing issue of police brutality in America. In response, Omega Psi Phi and Kiazolu both pushed home the message to be one’s own advocate and join the struggle to push for change. Kiazolu in particular spoke up to encourage the audience, and anyone else, to be the changemakers that push for a new America.

As the event drew to a close, the Hampton audience showed their love

for the speech made with positive comments and excited encouragement to foster change in their own communities. The Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. not only succeeded in encouraging the public to vote for their local officials but they, along with Nupol Kiazolu, helped fuel a sense of immense Black pride that made this event a roaring success.

The death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg: What it means for the nation

SYDNEY MCCALL
STAFF WRITER

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away from complications due to pancreatic cancer on Sept. 18, at the age of 87.

Ginsburg was appointed in 1983 by President Bill Clinton and was the second woman to serve on the Supreme Court. RBG, as she was affectionately called by her supporters, routinely made progressive votes on topics such as same-sex marriage, abortion rights, voting rights, and affirmative action.

Her death leaves a vacant seat in the court only two months before the

“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.” - Ginsburg

presidential election. A majority of republican senators have already said they want to fill the vacancy while President Trump is still in office. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell confirmed moments after the death of Ginsburg that “President Trump’s nominee will receive a vote on the floor of the Senate.”

However, Ginsburg made her desire clear.

“My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed,” she said to her granddaughter, according to NPR.

It is unclear whether or not her wish will be granted. Trump is set to

nominate a new seat in the incoming week, and he has enough republican senate votes to confirm his decision.

Trump announced that his nominee will be a woman and has mentioned Amy Coney Barrett of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago and Barbara Lagoa of the Florida Supreme Court, according to the New York Times. Both are conservative right-wing women.

With Ginsburg’s death comes speculation about the possible overturning of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that guarantees a woman’s

right to an abortion. This is terrifying to many women, especially younger women across the country.

“RBG’s death is a tragedy because she symbolized so much for women. I am sad how I cannot mourn her without being terrified for my future,” said Kennedy Sanders, a first-year business administration major at HU.

Regardless of one’s political beliefs, her life and work have been honored in the past week.



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OPINION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

Correct them if they’re wrong

JAMAIIA RHOADES
STAFF WRITER

I have a habit of holding my breath when the teacher gets to my name when calling the roll. Shortening my name to make it easier for others when they are addressing me. Letting people slide when they mispronounce my name but are somewhat close to being right, so I just say “close enough” and keep it pushing.

These are all habits I adopted at a young age when I realized that I have a very unique name or, as I have often been told, “a name too hard to pronounce.”

I have been called EVERYTHING under the freaking sun: Jamaica, Jumanji, Jamelia, Jamysia and even Jamaheeha. Jamaica, okay, I could kinda see how you got that because it has all the same letters, just one different, but Jumanji and Jamaheehaa? Those two just felt like my teachers and peers saw my name and said to themselves, “Ehh

let me just think of something that starts with a J and sounds pretty crazy.”

Seeing the difficulty people had pronouncing my name, or being laughed at when the teacher mispronounced my name and hearing comments like “My people, my people” after I muscled up the courage to correct folks when they got it wrong, made me hate my name with a passion.

I went by Jasmine for a while, but that quickly ended when my mom realized I was allowing people to call me names other than the one she gave me. When Jasmine did not work, I started going by nicknames with friends and just prayed that these oh-so-educated teachers would be able to read what always seemed like a simple word to me.

When it came to correcting people when they butchered my name, I always seemed to have this inner battle with myself. Of course, I wanted to correct them, but I also always had this fear of feeling like the bad guy if I corrected them. As I got older, I realized

that this is a struggle all people blessed with unique names have and that many of us believe the constant hiccups people have with our names just shows they really do not care what our names are.

“My name isn’t even hard. It’s just Ry-land, that’s it, no special way to say it or anything. When someone mispronounces my name, and I try to correct them, it just makes me feel like they don’t really care,” said Hampton University journalism major Ryland Staples.

I always found myself longing for a name that was easy for everybody to say, and that did not make me feel like I was somehow being too difficult. Too difficult for wanting to be called by my actual name. . . Pretty insane now that I think about it.

After over more than a decade of being called names not even close to my own, I finally sat myself down and said, “Sis, this is YOUR NAME, YOUR FREAKING IDENTITY, correct these idiots!” Sounds harsh, I

know, but after years of being called Jumanji (a movie about a board game that comes to life), anybody would become a little hostile.

To all my homies with unique names, I want you to remember you have every right to correct somebody when they mess up your name; it is YOUR name, the one word that is yours and yours alone. If you have to be the bad guy to ensure that people address you correctly, then so be it. Ruffle some feathers if you have to. I bet you they will not forget it the next time around.

Now, for those wondering, “How the heck do you pronounce her name?” It is Juh-MAY-zhuh. Handle my name and the rest of the unique names out here with care. Sounding out your words will take you a long way.

Cuties: In the name of free spirits

MILES RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

After receiving a hefty amount of blowback from American audiences due to the salacious poster used to market the film *Cuties*, Netflix was accused of endorsing pedophilia. Some felt this was unfair to the film. According to Hampton University film studies professor James Balls, “Netflix’s poster to market the film undermined the film’s themes.” Now, as a black Muslim man, I found this film to be incredibly troubling. However, I do not agree that the purpose of this film was to encourage pedophilia.

Cuties is a propaganda film made with an agenda that is based around the demonization of authority.

Despite the controversy around *Cuties*, many people championed this film, declaring it as “feminist.” So, allow us to examine that claim. According to Britannica, “Third wave feminism redefined women and girls as assertive, powerful and in control of their own sexuality.” Well, this statement certainly serves as the driving ideology of the movie, but let’s examine how this was applied to the film’s main character.

In the opening sequence of the film, we are introduced to Amy, an 11-year-old girl with an unhappy mother who forces her to attend regular worship services. We see Amy among a gathering of covered women, looking around sadly as her worship leader declares, “Where does evil dwell? In the bodies of uncovered women. Therefore we must strive to preserve our decency and we must obey our husbands.” This dialogue has been crafted to communicate to us the idea that Amy’s religion is oppressive. In the very next scene, we are introduced to the girl who will later “free” Amy from these oppressive conditions: Angelica. When Amy discovers that Angelica is in a member of a “free-spirited twerking dance crew,” she decides she wants in.

Surprisingly Doucouré does not frame these girls as heroes. For they are verbally abusive to her throughout the film and only praise her when she begins gaining them attention on social media with her sexually suggestive moves. In reality, Doucure cleverly made sure to display the negatives of both authority and sexual freedom, while airing on the side of sexual freedom.

As Amy’s new dance career takes off, the *Cuties* face adversity from school officials as well as Amy’s mother. In an early scene, the *Cuties*, dressed in tight mini-skirts and dresses, stage a demonstration in the school courtyard, the principal drags Angelica, the group’s leader, away, berating her about her choice of dress. During this scene, the *Cuties* verbally object, shouting, “What about freedom of expression?” This scenario is depicted on screen as if to say, “How dare these officials enforce such strict rules upon these children? They should be applauding them for boldly expressing their sexualities.” Seeing these themes causes me to think, should there be no law and order in matters of sexual expression? Should we allow our children to dress and behave however they see fit? Is twerking a form of female empowerment? Maybe public nudity should be made legal. After all, isn’t it oppressive for the government to force women to cover their bodies? I realize that defying societal norms has been a common theme in recent years, however, maybe that’s not such a good thing in this instance.

This is something Amy ultimately comes to understand, when during a climactic scene, Amy breaks down crying while at a dance competition and runs off stage, realizing this is no longer who she wants to be.

So, was Amy liberated by this exploration? According to junior journalism major Kayla Tinsley, “Those young girls were overly sexualized.” In the opening of this film we are asked to believe Amy’s religion is oppressive. I think it’s safe to say the model of “freedom” she was influenced to chase is far more oppressive.

In the end, we see Amy dressed in long sleeves and a pair of jeans like any other Western girl, jumping rope in the street, smiling. No longer bound by the confines of religion, nor by society’s overly sexual nature. She is finally free. By ending this film on a positive note, Doucouré is making a clear statement: when authority is lost, self-discovery is found.



Unsplash User Lea B

TikTok is off the clock

RYLAND STAPLES
STAFF WRITER

TikTok has been the polarizing social media app that has had everyone’s attention. Especially the United States government, which had given TikTok (a China-based company) a deadline to either find a buyer for their United States-based operations, or become banned in the U.S. Fortunately for TikTok, Oracle (a United States based tech company) and Walmart have partnered together to make, “TikTok Global” and in response President Trump has, “Given the deal my blessing.” Trump claims that because TikTok is a Chinese based company, they’re using the app to spy on and steal information from American citizens. When ironically, American social media companies and websites in general, already do that.

TikTok is owned by a Chinese company based in Beijing called, ByteDance. Before there was TikTok, before there was Musical.ly, a lip-syncing app that was acquired in 2017. However, in 2018 all Musical.ly accounts were transferred over to TikTok. So at first, TikTok was used mostly for people who wanted to sing or lip-sync, but as it’s popularity grew and grew, more people started creating more unique content. Broader categories like make-up, cooking, advice, technology and overall internet memes were fair game for TikTok

users. As well as taking advantage of the internal video editor on the TikTok app, giving users the ability to use different kinds of transitions and ways to make their videos stand out.

What makes TikTok different from other social media platforms is how one of a kind and simple their UI (user interface) is. When you open the app, there are two tabs at the top that say, “For You” and, “Following.” As you swipe through the For You tab, you’ll see different videos from different users on the app. As you like and follow different pages that peak your interest, those users that you follow all go under your following tab, allowing you to quickly go to them and see what they’ve posted. As you follow and like more people on the For you page, TikTok uses that information to show you more users like the ones that you already follow. It’s something that seems simple, but really helps when you’re trying to find something that you’re interested in.

Sounds great, right? Then why does it freak everyone out so much when they hear the name, TikTok? Well, if you recall that app last summer that would scan your face and turn you into an old person using Russian-made artificial intelligence? So the United States isn’t taking any chances with an app that is already so popular with younger Americans.

The funny thing is that American companies already have trouble with how they manage users’ information.



Anjum Naveed | Associated Press

Users are lured in and make an account because you don’t have to pay in order to use it.

According to Amnesty International, “The tech giants offer these services to billions without charging users a fee. Instead, individuals pay for the services with their intimate personal data, being constantly tracked across the web and in the physical world as well, for example, through connected devices... This extraction and analysis of people’s personal data on such an unprecedented scale is incompatible with every element of the right to privacy, including the freedom from intrusion into our private lives, the right to control information about ourselves, and the right to a space in which we can freely express our

identities.”

So is it fair to subject TikTok to this kind of questioning when companies like Facebook and Google do the same thing, just because they’re a foreign company? If anything, I feel like TikTok has given a reason to look into how tech companies use the users’ information to their benefit.

However, senior Journalism major Jamaia Rhoads knows that it’s unavoidable..

“I would be a fool if I thought they didn’t [use our information], I just feel like it’s a downside of having all this smart technology, but I’m not about to get rid of it,” she said. It is what it is, unfortunately.”

LIFESTYLE

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Motivation in isolation

KENNEDY P. BUCK
STAFF WRITER

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to live inside and some have had to relocate. Some people have lost family members and friends while others lost hope. African Americans have witnessed a lot of black men and women being killed by the police. The result of the sadness and anger being felt swept the country leading to protest and riots. This is a lot to take in as a people, but especially as a nation. To make matters worse, we all must deal with this in isolation.

Even though being in isolation can be incredibly boring, this is the perfect time to try new things. Interested in picking up a new hobby? Wanted to create that business? This is the time for all those things. Take this time of doubt and turn it into motivation and make all your dreams into reality. There are a large variety of platforms that give how-to guides to create or start new projects. Platforms such as YouTube have thousands of videos ranging from how to sew and knit to how to create a four-course meal.

To achieve these goals and help to continually boost your motivation, making a plan or step by step checklist is necessary. One of the best ways to do this is to create a SMART list. SMART stands for Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely. It's also important to remember to start off small. For example, don't set a goal such as getting a 4.0 if you don't have smaller goals such as doing your



Unsplash User Tim Mossholder

homework and studying each week.

Another way to boost your motivation is to switch your routine. During the early days of the COVID outbreak, many sat at home or in their rooms and did nothing. By switching your routine and getting a change of scenery, it can influence you to tackle your goals of the day.

Last ly, and by far the most important, focus on self-care. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) in a survey taken by 1,000 Americans, 51% admit to feeling burnt out. With everyday stressors and the current pandemic the world is

in, self-care is a priority in boosting your motivation in isolation. Self-care should be something that's relaxing to you and gives you the ability to let your body completely relax. By giving your body a chance to reset, it will be easier for you to motivate yourself in the upcoming days.

As author Zig Ziglar once said, "There is no elevator to success, only stairs." Motivation does not come over night but in steps. By continuing to work on it and practicing self care, not only will your motivation increase but you'll also be practicing safe and healthy methods to do so. The state

of isolation we are all currently in can harm anyone's motivation but by practicing these tips and trying something new, you'll be sure to increase your motivation in isolation.

Talk therapy: Let's talk about it

DEJA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to effectively curb the effects of mental health, more holistic approaches should be considered. Medicine is not the only resort and this is why it is important to analyze the benefits of talk therapists, especially within the African American community.

Benefits of going to talk therapy include being able to resolve your personal problems with guidance and support, reducing psychological problems, return to a healthy status, and more according to Potomac Psychiatry. Think of this analogy, we eat oranges and other citrus fruits to help build our immune systems to fight infections and diseases. We drink teas and eat vegetables to help supply nutrients and vitamins to our bodies to make it stronger. We workout and intake calcium to support bones before they break. According to sources if we took the time to talk out and exercise our minds we would not need medicines to help with our mental issues because talk therapy should be enough.

Many celebrities are speaking in support of talk therapy. Detroit rapper, Big Sean has recently spoken about the wonders of therapy and how it

improved his standard of living. In an interview with Detroit news he said, "I got a good therapist, I was blessed enough to talk to some super spiritual people, and they made me realize what I was missing in my life and one thing I was missing was clarity."

Another famous celebrity who has spoken about mental health is popular rapper Kid Cudi. He has constantly spoken about his struggles with

substance abuse and how he eventually sought help. As many recall, in 2016 he posted a message that went viral stating "My anxiety and depression have ruled my life for as long as I can remember and I never leave the house because of it ... It's time to fix me. I'm nervous but I'mma get through this." He has since spoken about his depression and how he tried to use drugs to fix it. He also explained how therapy has helped

to get in a better state of mind where he feels free.

Removing the stigma around mental health also means removing the stigma around the ways in which people choose to heal. Medicine is one route, but it may not be the most effective on it's own. Talk therapy could be an alternative that, through awareness and education, can be utilized in a more fruitful fashion.



Jonathan Silverberg | Associated Press

Tips on mental health during a pandemic

MIA CONCEPCION
STAFF WRITER

The world is in a state of emergency. Basketball legend Kobe Bryant died in a fatal helicopter crash. The inspiring Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman, died after secretly fighting a 4-year long battle with colon cancer. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg succumbed to metastatic cancer just weeks away from the election. Outbreaks of political protests are happening nationwide on behalf of numerous African-Americans who were unjustly killed. "SayTheir Names" is now one of the most commonly used phrases to remember all who were taken from us prematurely and unfairly. These occurrences have impacted mental health nationwide.

Statistics have shown the dramatic rise in mental health concerns during this pandemic. According to surveys conducted by the CDC, United States adults, youths, and racial minorities have experienced higher levels of anxiety, suicidal ideation, substance abuse, and anxiety/depressive disorders since the outbreak of COVID-19. Target populations at risk for developing

these disorders are essential workers, minorities, and adult caregivers. Survey results published in June reveal that Hispanic and Black respondents reported elevated levels in contemplating suicide (18.6% and 15.1%) compared to their white counterparts (7.9%). Seventy-five percent of youths in the age bracket of 18-24 have been accounted for at least one mental health or behavioral health symptom. Given this data, mental health intervention is more than necessary to prevent the downward spiral (or plummeting) of our current cognitive state.

The conditions of this world have caused mental health maintenance to take a backseat for many. However, the mind is an entity that cannot be neglected. Some suggestions to practice mental health preservation include finding stillness, moving your body, avoiding social isolation, and journaling.

Being still is one of the best practices to protect your mental health. Being still means taking part in quiet reflection and examining the root of your thoughts and feelings through journaling, deep breathing, and meditation. Rather than pretending they don't

exist, it's important to ask yourself, "Why do I feel this way?" Doing so will bring an awareness to what triggers those emotions and bolsters mindful actions to refrain from indulging in those negative thoughts.

Engaging in physical exercise is a beneficial stress reliever during trying times. It does not have to be limited to simply lifting weights or going to the gym. It can be any activity that brings enjoyment and doesn't feel like exercise, such as dancing, hiking, yoga, bike riding, or roller skating. Physical exercise has also been proven to moderate weight gain, regulate blood pressure and help in developing positive coping skills. Rather than feeling tempted to engage in emotional eating, try counteracting those feelings by moving your body.

Eva, a senior molecular biology major at Hampton University, says that exercising has served as a healthy distraction for her. "It's like my alone time and a chance for me to distract myself from everything else going on."

Social interaction is recommended during this global crisis. Although social distancing guidelines are being enforced, it is still possible to remain

connected to friends and family with technology.

"I've been trying to combat social isolation during the pandemic by going outside as much as I can and engaging in activities I haven't done in awhile," says Arlee Taylor, a senior psychology major from Silver Spring, Maryland.

Technology has given us the privilege to be engaged with one another through social media platforms such as Instagram, Zoom, and Facebook. Rather than wallowing in negative emotions, release it by telling someone. Burdens are not meant to be carried alone, which is why establishing a supportive community is crucial.

LOCAL & WORLD/SPORTS

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Department of Justice labels major cities “anarchist jurisdictions”

WILLIAM PAUL ELLIS
STAFF WRITER

Attorney General William Barr announced that the Department of Justice would be designating three cities as “anarchist jurisdictions” in connection to the wave of protests that have taken place.

The three cities, New York City, Portland, and Seattle have been the site of public demonstrations in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. The identification of the anarchist jurisdictions is a response to President’s Trump memorandum published in early September entitled “Memorandum on Reviewing Funding to State and Local Government Recipients that are Permitting Anarchy, Violence, and Destruction in American Cities,” according to the DOJ.

Both the White House and the Department of Justice contributed to developing the criteria that defines an anarchist jurisdiction.

Currently, the criterion includes a jurisdiction that has defunded the police, a jurisdiction that has prevented law enforcement from intervening in protests, and other requirements, with most involving punishing a jurisdiction for a perceived lack of support towards law enforcement.

“We cannot allow federal tax dollars to be wasted when the safety of the citizenry hangs in the balance. It is my hope that the cities identified by the Department of Justice today will reverse course and become serious about performing the basic function of government and start protecting their own citizens,” said Attorney General William Barr in a statement from his office.



Evan Vucci | Associated Press

The consequences of being identified as an anarchist jurisdiction include the possible loss of crucial federal funding during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While, the Attorney General maintains that the DOJ’s actions are to prevent crime, many took the announcement as a partisan attempt to influence public perception of the Black Lives Matter protests and President Trump’s leadership.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo criticized the current administration’s actions in a press conference with reporters, promising to legally challenge a cut of federal funding if necessary.

“I understand the politics, but when you try to manipulate and distort

government agencies to play politics, which is what the Trump administration has done from day one ... this is more of the same,” he said.

The mayors of the three cities, Bill De Blasio of New York City, Ted Wheeler of Portland, and Jenny Durkan of Seattle released a joint statement condemning what they believe to be an attack against cities led by Democrats.

“This is thoroughly political and unconstitutional. The President is playing cheap political games with Congressionally directed funds,” the mayors said.

As the Trump Administration continues to make sweeping actions against demonstrations across the country, many voters in the November election are still ardent supporters of the Black

Lives Matter Movement.

Brianna Cry, a Senior at Hampton University, believes that the President’s and Attorney General’s actions can be interpreted as an attack against peaceful, and often Black, protestors.

“People have a right to protest when they deem it necessary, so it appears to me that they are only doing harm by attempting to punish cities and their residents for standing up for what they believe is right,” Cry said.

While New York City, Portland, and Seattle are currently the only three anarchist jurisdictions, the DOJ explained that more cities could be given this designation in the near future.

The 2020 NFL protests: Fighting for change

ALIYU SAADU
STAFF WRITER

National Football League players have been protesting during the national anthem since the beginning of the 2020 season to use their platform to fight for equality in the U.S.

“We’re going to stand behind our players, we respect our players and they have done a great job of bringing attention to these issues,” said NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in an interview on Squawk Alley. “Our focus now is, ‘How do we support them making the changes?’”

The start of the NFL season has been historic due football playing during a pandemic, having no fans in the stadiums, and players protesting during the National Anthem. Through the league players have been protesting and outspoken for change to ensure that their voices are heard.

During Week 1 of NFL games, teams played the Black national anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” and the U.S National Anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner,” before the start of their games. In the season game opener between the Houston Texans vs. Kansas Chiefs, the Texans chose to remain in the locker room during the playing

of the anthems. Teams across the league locked arms in unity, knelt or remained in the locker room during the anthem just as the Texans did.

“It is not about the flag,” Goodell said. “The message here [is] that what our players are doing is being mischaracterized. These are not people who are unpatriotic. They’re not disloyal. They’re not against our military,” said Goodell in Emmanuel Acho’s “Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man” YouTube series. “What they were trying to do is exercise their right to bring attention to something that needs to get fixed.”

These NFL players have made it known that they are not here just to entertain, but having their voices heard. The deaths of George Floyd in Wisconsin and Breonna Taylor in Kentucky earlier this year fueled players to be active in the fight for social justice through their season.

This has led the NFL to launch the NFL Votes Initiative in August to promote fans to vote and get more people in at voting polls. The NFL has partnered with the Rock the Vote, RISE to Vote and I am a Voter to promote educational seminars and help with registrations for all NFL personnel. There have been 14 teams that will use their stadiums as a voting poll in November.



Associated Press

The NFL is reaching out to their employees and fans to help out on election day to replace the older workers that are at high risk for COVID-19. Lastly, the NFL has committed \$250 million to combat systemic racism in the next 10 years.

“The days of ‘Sports and social issues aren’t going to mix,’ that’s the old world, these issues are top of mind, and the players are going to use their platforms,” said social justice activist and the Executive Chairman of Fanatics Michael Rubin in an interview with The New York Times. “I don’t see any

chance of this reversing course.”

It has been over four years since NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick became the first player to kneel to protest racism and police brutality. This may have led to the end of his career as a player, but it has been the spark that has led to the protests and social justice fight in the NFL. As the season goes on, NFL Players look to continue to use their national platform this year to keep the momentum and fight for equality in the United States.

NBA bubble considered a success

COLANGELO PARKER
STAFF WRITER

The 2020 NBA postseason is in its final chapter with the beginning of the NBA Finals series between the L.A. Lakers and Miami Heat on September 29 in the Orlando bubble.

It has been nearly three months since NBA players began to arrive to Orlando, Florida, on July 7 to finish the remainder of its abnormal season. For the past three months, the NBA has quarantined itself in a bubble. The NBA bubble was created to prevent the spread of the coronavirus to its players while they complete the 2020 season amid pandemic.

“My ultimate conclusion is that we can’t outrun the virus, and that this is what we’re got to be living with for the foreseeable future which is why we designed the campus the way we did,” said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in an interview with ESPN. “And so it’s a closed network; and while it’s not impermeable, we are in essence protected from cases around us. At least, that’s the model.”

June 4, the NBA’s Board of Governors voted and approved a plan for the return of play for the 2019-20 NBA season. Instead of teams returning to play in their home arenas, the NBA decided that all games would be held at ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex

at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Since the arrival of players to the bubble, the NBA has had zero positive tests of 341 players tested for COVID-19. The Disney campus was set up to house players and staff for the remaining games of the season.

The NBA prioritized player and staff safety above all for the restart after players such as Rudy Gobert, Donovan Mitchell, Russell Westbrook and others contracted the COVID-19 during the season’s hiatus. The NBA set up rigorous rules, regulations and safety protocols throughout the bubble to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 on the campus.

“Since we designed our initial protocol, we are continuing to work with Disney on the testing of at least

a subset of their employees that could potentially be in the same room as our players, and anyone else who’s tested daily on our campus,” Silver told ESPN.

The stage was set for the return of basketball. The NBA officials agreed upon a format approved for the return of 22 of 30 NBA teams, featuring nine Eastern Conference teams and 13 Western Conference teams. All 22 teams invited were still mathematically eligible to make the postseason with the target date for resumed play being July 30 and the NBA Finals running no later than October 13.

The NBA bubble not only has kept players in good health, but it also has allowed players to shine a light on the injustice happening in the United States. Teams have knelt during the

national anthem and protested games to make statements to viewers about their devotion to seeing systemic change and racial equality in America. In the bubble, players have been allowed to display different messages on the back of jerseys, such as “Black Lives Matter,” “Equality,” “Say Their Names” and more. The NBA added “Black Lives Matter” as a logo onto the court the games take place on.

“The African American community in this country has been engaged in a conversation internally about what to do, with all of us, not simply the National Basketball Association players, but all of us,” said NBA Executive Director Michele Roberts in an interview with ESPN. “And the conversation ... that has happened between our players is exactly that: What do we do? How do we do it? How should we do it?”

The NBA bubble has been considered to be a success with keeping players safe from coronavirus and providing players with the platform to voice equality to viewers while in the bubble. Fans have been treated to miraculous comebacks, heartbreaking losses and spectacular performances through the postseason. Now, the beginning of the NBA Finals is here and is expected to be a stellar series to close the chapter of the NBA Orlando bubble.



Associated Press

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Zendaya makes history with her performance in HBO's *Euphoria*

ANYAE JOHNS
STAFF WRITER

Zendaya, 24-year-old star of HBO's *Euphoria*, won an Emmy at the 72nd Emmy Awards show ceremony on Sept. 20th for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. Zendaya is the youngest to ever win this category, making history with her first nomination for an Emmy award.

Written by Sam Levinson, *Euphoria* focuses on high school students as they navigate love, sex, drugs and more. Zendaya plays the role of Rue ~ a troubled teen fresh out of rehab struggling with her drug addiction, among other things. The show premiered on HBO in June of last year.

She is also the second Black woman to ever receive an Emmy in this category, after Viola Davis was awarded one in 2015 for her lead performance in "How To Get Away With Murder."

It took more than 60 years for a Black woman to win this category. It took five years for a second Black woman to win. Who's next?

"The talent is there. It always has been. I'm glad the world is waking up and giving credit where it's due. I hope they continue to give awards based on performance and not ethnic group," expressed Madison Williams, a Hampton University communication major from Dallas, Texas.

Some critics did not think she could have won. A New York Post article titled: "Biggest upset: Zendaya wins Emmys 2020 over Jennifer Anis-



Invision | Associated Press

ton, Laura Linney" stirred up a lot of opinions from *Euphoria* enthusiasts.

Cameron Jones, sophomore Theater Major from Detroit, Michigan, explained that age has no say in awarding theatrical performance.

"When it comes to acting it does not matter who has more 'experience,' it's about who delivered their performance the best," he said.

Zendaya was over a decade younger than most of the actresses nominated in her category but her work speaks for itself. Her irrefutable perfor-

mance as Rue definitely showcased her unique acting skills.

Many millennials have watched Zendaya blossom as a young Black actor. From her dancing days on Disney's "Shake it Up," to the moment she was seated around family and friends as Jimmy Fallon announced her victory. It was a very emotional moment for the star and she tried to find the words in her acceptance speech.

"This is a really weird time to be celebrating but I just want to say that there is hope in the young people out

there," she said.

"I know our TV show doesn't always feel like a great example of that but there is hope in young people. To my peers out there doing work in the streets, I see you, I admire you, I thank you," she further explained.

Euphoria was renewed for the highly anticipated second season on HBO but due to the pandemic, production has been delayed. Thankfully, HBO President Casey Bloys stated in an interview with Deadline that "Euphoria" will likely begin filming season two in "early 2021." Many fans can expect a premiere date around the end of next year.

In the meantime, you can expect to hear a release date for Zendaya's latest project, "Malcolm and Marie." Levinson, has shot and completed the entire film during quarantine. Not much is known about the plot but the film will star John David Washington and Zendaya as they navigate a rocky relationship. The film will premiere on Netflix.

A look at women's creation and expression

NOAH HOGAN
STAFF WRITER

The passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg in mid-September has left a hole in many hearts.

Her name is synonymous with women's rights, equality and LGBTQ+ initiatives. She was one of the most recognizable faces of today's time. Playfully being dubbed "The Notorious RBG," Ginsburg carried a powerful moniker named after hip-hop's own, the late Christopher Wallace "The Notorious BIG."

She left behind a legacy of determination, hard work and fortitude. That same legacy opened the door for women in a plethora of social areas to fully express themselves in ways that were never imaginable before.

The genre of hip-hop has been a creative space that has been historically dominated by men. These artists often portray women with sexist lyrics and videos that objectify women's bodies. In contrast, several women have defied the odds and rose to the pinnacle of success within the genre, such as Queen Latifah, Salt and Pepa, M.C. Lyte and Nicki Minaj.

These women promoted cultural expression, racial pride, safe sex and life from their various perspectives.

The words they spoke, the clothing they wore and the messages in their lyrics defined who they were.

These legends have opened the doors for new talent such as Cardi B, Saweetie and Megan Thee Stallion. The ladies of the new school seem to have one thing in common – their vivid expression of sexuality. The artistic expression and freedom of women in the hip-hop industry of today has been stifled and manipulated. No longer do we hear records like Queen Latifah's "U.N.I.T.Y.," Salt and Pepa's "Express Yourself" and M.C. Lyte's "Keep on Keeping On." We are now subjected to songs like Cardi and Meg's "W.A.P." and Sweetie's "Tap In".

The songs that have strong sexual content by female artists seem to be the only music that receives attention from mainline media sources. With "WAP" and "Tap In" amassing over 75 million streams and 25 million views on YouTube, respectively. It's clear that a shift in the industry has taken place, validating that women are now able to express themselves in ways that were considered controversial in the past.

"I don't believe that currently the way females express themselves throughout the music industry in today's society is being marginalized just due to the fact that we see more women rappers out there like Megan Thee



Carolyn Kaster | Associated Press

Stallion put out very prominent music to where so many people are willing to now listen to female rappers.", said Carrigan Smith, a Hampton University journalism major from Dallas, Texas.

The argument that is now in question is, "If a man can do it, why not a woman, too?"

Is this the same sexual equality that was fought for decades ago?

Meanwhile, as the creative space for women expands ever so rapidly, we're left to question when a new female act emerges in the genre, will they be regulated to the age-old industry standard or will they be afforded a legit chance to succeed in the unforgiving culture that is hip-hop?

Gone are the days where industry executives that would rather an artist develop a style in which they tailor their image to cater to the sexual fantasy of support base over prioritizing a quality listening experience.

The Notorious RBG fought for gender equality, which has transcended into every area of society today. Although taboo for some, it goes without saying that women should have the right to express their music and most importantly themselves without restraint or strife within spaces that are comfortable for them.

Hampton alumna Javicia Leslie is the new Batwoman

JAMEL ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

Javicia Leslie was born in Germany on May 30, 1987. Her family then moved to Maryland where she was raised in Upper Marlboro. Since then, she has become a proud alumna of Hampton University, acting in several productions such as "Seven Guitars," "For Colored Girls" and more. Her first ever movie role she played Samantha Morgan in "Killer Coach", which became a hit thriller during its time.

This year, Leslie landed the role of "Batwoman" on CW's channel. The leading actress Ruby Rose playing Kate, will be replaced by Javicia Leslie as Ryan. The show is set to return this coming January with new expectations and excitement for Leslie's character.

The show begins after Batman's disappearance from the city of Gotham. Batman's cousin, Kate, continues to soar in the streets of Gotham, reliving the legacy of a dark knight vigilante as Batwoman. This year Javicia Leslie will be playing Ryan Wilder on the show. This role may bring on a lot of controversy which also is great publicity for her to gain more roles in the near future. The controversy could range from comic similarities in characters

to adjusting to a new superhero in the show.

This is inspiring to minorities especially aspiring actors and actresses wanting to expand their horizons. With Leslie being a Hampton grad, it also helps the reputation of our great Home by the Sea.

Last year, Leslie welcomed Hampton's incoming class, giving Onyx 12 some great advice.

"Hampton has an amazing drama program and some amazing connects that have graduated already that can put you in the right places and the right doors, so make sure you network," she explained.

The elevation in this television role has been phenomenal to women all over the world. It is taking up a lot of the media directed toward past experiences starting with "Black Panther". "Black Panther" and "Batwoman" can be considered the first Black lead superhero films/shows. It also shows a change in media development as they would cast more minorities into prestigious roles. She's also helping out the LGBT community due to her lead acting achievements.

"I am extremely proud to be the first Black actress to play the iconic

role of Batwoman on television, and as a bisexual woman, I am honored to join this groundbreaking show which has been such a trailblazer for the LGBTQ+ community," Leslie said in a statement.

According to E News, Javicia Leslie is getting along well with some of her castmates as they began shooting. Leslie recently informed everyone about her upcoming role through social media, getting the attention of DC Comics enthusiasts all over the world.

"You all have been a huge support on this journey!!! So, this isn't my Batwoman, this is OUR Batwoman," she said in the announcement post on Instagram.

She is a great representation for minorities wanting to take the next big steps in the movie industry.

Christina Buie, Hampton sociology major from Maryland, said, "I think it's great, especially for Hampton women! There are a few notable Hampton alumnae in the 21st century and I think she is a great catalyst for Hampton students and seeing more people on TV who look like me."

Leslie is also one of many to show accomplishments for Black women. Historically, most superheroes have been predominantly white and minori-

ties were usually sidekicks or extras. Her success in the role would motivate young black women to strive for greatness. The effect she has on society will lie within her legacy as an actress.

Make sure to be on the lookout for updates on the show's production, set to premiere in January 2021.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

Creative block:
The impact COVID-19 has on artists

NYLE PAUL
STAFF WRITER

With the Coronavirus outbreak abruptly shifting everyone’s daily lives, artists are learning how to operate in this “new normal” with a deficit in the accessibility to equipment and artistic motivation.

Hampton University has a large population of artists, all of whom specialize in different art focuses. The limitations that quarantine imposed has had an effect on the artists’ craft. Isaiah Taylor is a senior journalism major with an area of emphasis in liberal arts at Hampton University. He specializes in digital art.

Because of the financial burden that the pandemic has brought, the artistic capabilities of many artists were challenged. With money being tight and the mass closure of stores across the nation, getting the equipment and software to help carry out their work has been a hassle. Taylor detailed the difficulties he ran into and how they served as an inconvenience to him.

“Most of my art pieces are produced digitally. So getting software isn’t really a problem if I have an internet connection,” said Isaiah.

“However, I had problems getting art supplies during the beginning months of the pandemic. At most art stores they were only letting in five customers at a time to contain the spread of germs and bacteria. Personally, I enjoy sketching preliminary drawings in my sketchpad with mechanical pencils as practice for my digital drawings but it was a real tussle going out to

purchase new pencils.”

The restricting nature of the pandemic has either encouraged people to expand their minds and tap into their unlocked creativity, or left them lacking motivation to continue their craft. For some artists, like Isaiah, quarantine influenced a mixture of both feelings.

“This time of quarantine is a blessing and a curse in my eyes,” said Isaiah. The impact is more of a double-sided sword. Yeah, I had more time to draw and write story ideas for my microfictions but I found it harder and harder to draw in the original space I was in. I found myself moving my workspace around my home and even going outside to parks to draw and it really helped towards motivating me to keep going.”

Creative block is a commonality among almost all artists. Referencing his familiarity with creative block and the strain it can put on one’s creative process, Isaiah discussed how the pandemic personally affected his ability to access his internal creativity.

“It’s been a teeter-totter story when it comes to accessing internal creativity,” said Isaiah. “For a string of days I’ll be on a roll with writing and drawing. However being at home most of the time does hinder my creative flow. I just want to experience new sights to get the juices flowing but due to the pandemic I couldn’t really go out like I wanted. So I had to find other methods like watching more shows / movies and envision myself there.”

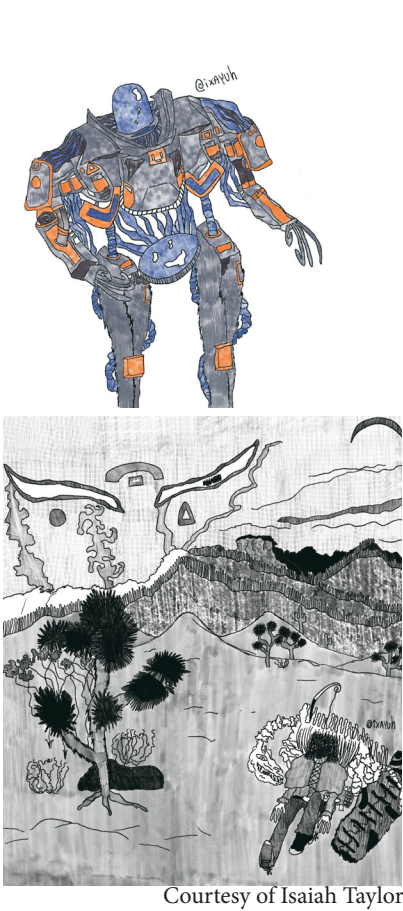
With the mental, financial and physical challenges that the pandemic has brought along, many may question how some artists have been able to

keep focus on their art during this difficult time. Isaiah credited his determination for his perseverance and touched on advice he would give to those who have not been able to tap back into their artistry.

“Creative block has always been a hindrance for me while drawing and writing but honestly throughout the pandemic I’ve been able to cultivate a few ways to combat it,” said Isaiah.

“Days will come where you kinda don’t want to do anything related to your craft. You just want to do nothing. However, you can’t let that feeling persuade you into laziness. Don’t just do nothing. Even if that’s drawing a doodle or just writing a singular paragraph. At least you made progress towards your craft. I’d rather be in slow motion than no motion at all. As cliché as this sounds, believe in yourself. Don’t allow opinions from other people or even your own negative thoughts define your body of work. You do art for yourself and nobody but yourself. Hold yourself accountable and take the steps you need towards greatness. Greatness lives inside of all of us. It takes time and it varies.”

Taylor can be found on Instagram at @ixayuh, where some of his work is featured. He can also be contacted via direct message regarding commission inquiries.



Courtesy of Isaiah Taylor

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