

THE OBSERVER

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Broward College gives back to the community on MLK Day

Sara Varela
Editor-in-chief

Giving back to the community is a mission for Broward College. For the fourth year, BC has joined in the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy by awarding funds to community organizations doing volunteer work.

"Martin Luther King Day activities in our community are simply a very normal offshoot of what Broward College espouses to everyday," said Mary Bagley, member of the Corporate Partnership Alliance for Broward College.

This year, the college awarded \$181,000 to 42 community organizations doing a variety of service projects that honored MLK, almost doubling last year's \$96,000. Over 70 organizations applied for the grant of up to \$5,000 each.

The criteria for the grant included significant service to address a community need,



Broward College awarded \$181,000 to 42 community organizations with volunteer projects honoring MLK.
Sara Varela/The Observer

volunteers' engagement, and support of the legacy of Dr. King. Money for the grant is provided by funding from the Florida Legislature.

The National Martin Luther King Day of Service was established in 1994 by former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania Harry Wolford and Atlanta Congressman John Lewis to honor MLK's legacy with a Day On to serve people and the community, as he would have done.

"He was totally about service... Service to everyone, particularly the underprivileged," said Bagley.

Over the years, the project has grown exponentially all around the U.S. with more volunteers participating every year.

At BC, MLK Day of Service represents an opportunity to give back to the community and bring together people of all walks of life to help those who need it the most.

"The real part of it is bringing together members of our Broward County community, that love to volunteer, serve back and help others, along with our many students, staff and faculty," said BC President J. David Armstrong, Jr.

But it isn't only the Broward County and BC communities that participate. Corporate sponsors also contribute to the annual day of service.

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Bret Baier talks Trump, politics in Washington, journalism today

Sara Varela
Editor-in-chief

Inaugurating the 2018 Broward College Speaker Series, Fox News' chief political anchor and host of *Special report*, Bret Baier gave his insight into politics in Washington.

Opening his speech with the questions people ask him the most, Baier took the opportunity for some humorous remarks.

He talked about the behind the scenes at Fox, about his colleagues, and about that time when, during the Republican debate before the primaries, his question about civility on the campaign trail got an answer from then-candidate Trump about the size of hands.

"It was the most surreal moment of the 2016 campaign," said Baier.

Moving on, Baier focused on his journalism career and how he ended up at Fox News 21 years ago.

He began as a reporter for the small market tv in South Carolina, where he worked for a PBS affiliate.

"I was a photographer, editor, anchor reporter, all in one, a one man band," he said.

He would then move on to North Carolina, where he worked at a CBS radio affiliate. This would be his last stop before joining, then startup cable news



Fox News' chief political anchor and host of Special Report with Bret Baier opened the 2018 Speaker Series.
Sara Varela/The Observer

channel, Fox News. Upon joining Fox, he went on to cover stories all over the country, as well as South and Central America. Even though he was based in Atlanta, and is basically the founder of Fox's Atlanta Bureau, he covered the Florida election recap, and when 9/11 happened he and his crew were asked to drive up to New York to offer their support. And it was after 9/11 that his journalism career took off. He would go off to cover the Afghan War, where he reported from 13 times. He also reported 12 times from Iraq and covered the Pentagon for six and a half years. It was then time for him to take over *Special Report*, where he has been the anchor for the past nine years. Over his time covering politics, he admits that he's never seen anything like Trump's presidency. "Covering this White House is like nothing we have ever seen before. Donald Trump is a news machine," said Baier. "Covering Washington is like drinking from a fire hose." But Baier has a unique anecdote. He played golf with Trump once, an opportunity during which he understood, although not immediately, that all Trump cares about is winning. "That's what he cares about, the W, not how he gets there, how sloppy he is... We have not seen a politician like this ever, and this election changed the whole dynamic of how elections are

won," said Baier.

Baier admits that when Trump won it was a shock for a huge part of the media industry.

"We realized that we missed things collectively in the news business in the election, that we could have listened more and perhaps gotten a better sense of where people were," he said.

Baier understands that both Trump's presidency and social media, have caused an incredibly fast evolution of journalism and it's created hard obstacles to get to the truth.

"It's been a challenge because he uses [social media] as his own printing press," Baier said.

It's because of it that he encourages people to be critical of the news they consume.

"Don't believe everything you read on social media," he said.

And he makes a special emphasis on political news.

"When you're covering Washington you have to take a 30,000 foot view of what's happening."

Despite working for a network often criticized for its bias, Baier asks people to watch his show and see that, when it comes to the news, the network strives to deliver them as balanced and fair as possible.



2018 SPRING SCHEDULE



MEN’S BASEBALL

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 27	Florida Memorial University (DH)	Home	1 PM
Jan. 28	at Polk State College	Winter Haven	1 PM
Jan. 30	Polk State College	Home	4 PM
Feb. 2	ASA College	Home	5 PM
Feb. 3	ASA College	Home	1 PM
Feb. 5	Florida SouthWestern State College	Home	5 PM
Feb. 6	State College of Florida	Home	5 PM
Feb. 7	at Florida SouthWestern State College	Fort Myers	5 PM
Feb. 9	vs. Florence-Darlington Technical College#	Palatka	1 PM
Feb. 10	vs. Chattahoochie Valley Community College#	Palatka	2 PM
Feb. 10	at St. Johns River State College#	Palatka	4:30 PM
Feb. 12	at State College of Florida	Bradenton	5 PM
Feb. 14	Keiser University (Junior Varsity)	Home	4 PM
Feb. 16	Hillsborough Community College	Home	6 PM
Feb. 17	Hillsborough Community College	Home	1 PM
Feb. 21	at Indian River State College*	Fort Pierce	2 PM
Feb. 23	Indian River State College*	Home	4 PM
Feb. 24	at Indian River State College*	Fort Pierce	1 PM
Feb. 26	Keiser University (Junior Varsity)	Home	4 PM
Feb. 28	at Palm Beach State College*	Lake Worth	3 PM
Mar. 2	Palm Beach State College*	Home	4 PM
Mar. 3	at Palm Beach State College*	Lake Worth	1 PM
Mar. 7	Miami Dade College*	Home	4 PM
Mar. 9	at Miami Dade College*	Kendall	3 PM
Mar. 10	Miami Dade College*	Home	1 PM
Mar. 14	ASA College	Home	1 PM
Mar. 16	Chipola College	Home	5 PM
Mar. 17	Chipola College (DH)	Home	11 AM
Mar. 19	at Keiser University (Junior Varsity)	West Palm	4 PM
Mar. 21	Eastern Florida State College*	Home	5 PM
Mar. 23	at Eastern Florida State College*	Melbourne	6 PM
Mar. 24	at Eastern Florida State College*	Melbourne	1 PM
Mar. 28	Indian River State College*	Home	4 PM
Mar. 30	at Indian River State College*	Fort Pierce	3 PM
Mar. 31	Indian River State College* (DH)	Home	1 PM
Apr. 4	Palm Beach State College*	Home	4 PM
Apr. 6	Palm Beach State College*	Home	4 PM
Apr. 7	at Palm Beach State College* (DH)	Lake Worth	1 PM
Apr. 11	at Miami Dade College*	Kendall	3 PM
Apr. 13	Miami Dade College*	Home	4 PM
Apr. 14	at Miami Dade College* (DH)	Kendall	11 AM
Apr. 18	ASA College	Home	4 PM
Apr. 20	Florida Memorial University	Home	4 PM
Apr. 21	Florida Memorial University	Home	1 PM
Apr. 25	at Eastern Florida State College*	Melbourne	5 PM
Apr. 27	Eastern Florida State College*	Home	5 PM
Apr. 28	Eastern Florida State College* (DH)	Home	12 PM

Home games played at A. Hugh Adams Central Campus in Davie
*Southern Conference Game
St. Johns River State College Tournament
(DH) Doubleheader

WOMEN’S SOFTBALL

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Jan. 27	at South Florida State College (DH)	Avon Park	1 PM
Feb. 3	St. Thomas University (DH)	Home	12 PM
Feb. 4	Hillsborough Community College (DH)	Home	12 PM
Feb. 16	at State College of Florida (DH)	Bradenton	4 PM
Feb. 17	St. Johns River State College (DH)	Home	2 PM
Feb. 18	Lake Sumter State College (DH)	Home	11 AM
Feb. 20	South Florida State College (DH)	Home	5 PM
Feb. 23	at Lake Sumter State College (DH)	Leesburg	4:30 PM
Feb. 24	at Seminole State College of Florida (DH)	Sanford	12 PM
Mar. 1	at Indian River State College* (DH)	Fort Pierce	2 PM
Mar. 3-4	at National Training Center Tournament	Clermont	TBA
Mar. 10-11	at Southern Conference Tournament	Lake Worth	TBA
Mar. 15	at Pasco-Hernando State College (DH)	New Port Richey	2 PM
Mar. 17	Palm Beach State College* (DH)	Home	1 PM
Mar. 21	at Eastern Florida State College* (DH)	Melbourne	TBA
Mar. 24	Miami Dade College* (DH)	Home	1 PM
Mar. 30	Indian River State College* (DH)	Home	5 PM
Apr. 4	at Palm Beach State College* (DH)	Lake Worth	5 PM
Apr. 7	Eastern Florida State College* (DH)	Home	2 PM

Home games played at Judson A. Samuels South Campus in Pembroke Pines
*Southern Conference Game
(DH) Doubleheader

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Feb. 2	at Eastern Florida State College	Melbourne	10 AM
Feb. 3	at Webber International University	Babson Park	10:30 AM
Feb. 24	vs. St. Petersburg College (Delray Beach Open)	Delray Beach	9 AM
Mar. 1	Eastern Florida State College	Home	1:30 PM
Mar. 3	at State College of Florida	Bradenton	1 PM
Mar. 7	Hillsdale (Mich.) College	Home	7:30 AM
Mar. 9	at ASA College	Hialeah	10 AM
Mar. 22	at St. Petersburg College	St. Petersburg	2:30 PM
Mar. 23	at University of Tampa	Tampa	3 PM
Mar. 24	at Hillsborough Community College	Tampa	10 AM
Mar. 30	ASA College	Home	10 AM
Apr. 6	State College of Florida	Home	1 PM
Apr. 7	Hillsborough Community College	Home	10 AM
Apr. 13-15	at NJCAA Region 8/FCSAA Tournament	Altamonte Springs	All Day

Home games played at A. Hugh Adams Central Campus in Davie

Broward College continues support of Martin Luther King Jr. Day activities



Over 150 volunteers, including a sorority, painted quilts for sick children at the hospital at Greater Hollywood's YMCA during MLK Day of Service. Sara Varela/The Observer

CONTINUED from front page

"I've been volunteering since I was 5-years-old and for me it's always personal," said Tim Hogans, Broward's area manager of external affairs for Florida Power & Light. "We have to give back to the communities we live, work and play in."

than 150 people volunteered throughout the day, according to Matt Libby, executive director of the YMCA. "You come to events like these and engage in organizations like these and you see the goodness in people," said Armstrong. "I think those of us who give back our time always feel good about our community and it helps

and doing something where you see the result of helping people, helping the community in a wide variety of ways is what it really is all about," said Armstrong. "There's so many great, non-profit organizations that need volunteers and would not be able to do what they do without people to help support their efforts and help those who are underserved,"

he added. Armstrong also thanked everyone, from the BC family and community, who supported the initiative this year and came out to help. Even though the MLK Day of Service is nationally recognized as the day to give back, people are encouraged to give back and help those who need it the most

throughout the year. "Continue to think about ways that you can serve and make a difference in somebody's life even with a small act of kindness," said Bagley.

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"...Getting out and doing something where you see the result of helping people, helping the community in a wide variety of ways is what it really is all about"

-J. David Armstrong, Jr.

Part of this year's service projects included a painting of a mural outside Lighthouse of Broward in Fort Lauderdale, donation of packages for the homeless at BC's South Campus, and the painting of quilts for children at the hospital at Greater Hollywood YMCA. Just at the YMCA, more

us focus on the positive things people are doing." Because of the work that volunteers have provided over the past four years, BC has been able to make an impact on the community by funding over 130 service projects. "It's one thing to talk about things but actually getting out

Student Counseling

As you pursue your education, you will encounter challenges that will affect your ability to be successful. Concerns about relationships, family, stress, body image, and drug and alcohol abuse can cause distress and problems with day-to-day living.

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BROWARD COLLEGE
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Prestigious scholarship covers full tuition cost for students transferring

David Perez
Central Bureau Chief

All of the students who pass through Broward College have different paths in mind. But one of the most common ones is to study two years at BC to get an Associates in Arts (AA) degree and then transfer to a Florida public university to get a bachelor's degree from that university.

The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship (JKC) exists to aid these cases. The scholarship, provided by the Landsdowne, Virginia-based JKC Foundation, provides financial aid to students based on academic merits and financial situation. They also take into consideration qualities such as their skills in leadership, recognition awarded and their perseverance.

According to the JKC website, students who apply have up to three years to get their bachelor's degrees, after which they can apply for up to \$50,000 a year for four years. The scholarship goes beyond just paying the tuition as it also covers academic advising and stipends for studying abroad or getting internships.

The scholarship is also a source of pride for BC, as many of its students have been awarded the JKC Scholarship throughout the years, placing BC as second in the nation with the number of



Quratulain Amin (left) and Yanelle Cruz Bonilla (right) were awarded the JKC scholarship in 2017.
Photo courtesy: browardcollegeblog.com

awarded students.

Two BC students were among the 75 students who were awarded with the scholarship last year. Their names are Quratulain Amin and Yanelle Cruz Bonilla.

Amin was born in Karachi, Pakistan and moved to the United States in 2014. She is a member of the Robert "Bob" Elmore Honors College and Phi Theta Kappa Honor, where she serves as Vice President. She plans to transfer to the University of Miami to graduate in Biomedical Engineering with a goal of becoming a cardiac surgeon.

Amin remembers the joy she felt when she earned the scholarship.

"I was very happy, but I am not going to lie that in the beginning

I did not believe that I won it," Amin said. "I remember when I heard the news; I asked a couple of times if I am the one who received it. Getting the JKC was a dream which came true so I was happy. I felt like I got a chance to achieve my future goals."

Overall, Amin feels very grateful towards BC for having the chance to fulfill her dreams and being able to fit in.

"Coming from another country, I was scared if I would be able to mingle here or understand the culture here because it was completely different for me," Amin said. "But, Broward College accepted me with open arms and gave me all the opportunity that I deserved."

Cruz was born in Tegucigalpa,

Honduras. Despite many financial issues and hardships, she was able to graduate with a 4.0 GPA in May 2016. She plans to continue her studies with the goal of becoming a social policy analyst and researcher, hoping to inspire change for minorities.

Cruz says that to get the scholarship, doing work and commitment beyond BC helps.

"I advise you not to get discouraged if you don't have a perfect GPA or an extremely long resume," Cruz said. "I think showing a commitment to your community is important so seek out volunteer opportunities about causes you are passionate about, and expand your world beyond BC. There are many amazing organizations I got to volunteer

and work with in the Fort Lauderdale area that helped me build experiences and memories that I could talk about in my application."

Although it's not mandatory to be part of the Honors College to get the scholarship, it's recommended to be as it indicates to the Foundation that the applying student has a good academic standing, according to Satchell Mede, coordinator of the Honors College.

"Part of the scholarship application is to show the rigor of your academic courses," Mede said. "Being an Honors student helps with this portion because it indicated to the JKC foundation that you are not only taking a full load of courses, but that they are honors courses. Most of the applicants, finalists and recipients that apply from Broward College come from our Honors college because of our same GPA requirement (3.5 or above) and the honors courses that we offer which serve as a proof of academic rigor that JKC is looking for."

For students interested in learning more about the scholarship, how to apply and further reading, they can visit the official website of the JKC Foundation at <http://www.jkcf.org>.

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Basketball coach inspires athletes to work hard despite challenges

Kevin Maher

Contributing Writer

There are countless things to worry about before a group of players can become a team. The person in charge of making sure the team works out is the coach.

At Broward College, the men's basketball team currently has an 11-5 record, so what were the preparations to making a winning basketball team?

Robert "Bob" Starkman has been a coach for BC for the last 21 years, and has developed a unique coaching philosophy, which has kept BC relevant for many years.

Starting on day one he makes his players write their goals in their careers for both academics and basketball. Next, he makes his players look up the definitions of two words, "Perception and Reality."

This step although seeming small, is one of the biggest steps towards players buying into Starkman's philosophy.

When asked how looking up those two words impacted his play of basketball, Denzel Jenoure said, "It made me work harder, play harder."

Starkman is all about the wins. Once finding the differences between reality and perception, hopefully the players now realize becoming a stat stuffing, ESPN star, is simply not a feasible reality at the moment.

But what they can do to receive national attention is win, and that's something Starkman, with six championships, knows about.

Continuing the journey to making a successful team, Starkman knows these players need to form some type of chemistry if they expect success. Setting up motivational events is one of the ways he



Robert Starkman (right) has been coaching at Broward College for 21 years, turning around the men's basketball team into a top contender.

Sara Varela/The Observer

intends to do this.

"I bring in my son-in-law, he's done four combat tours for the 101st airborne, and he talks about teamwork."

One quote that he takes from his son-in-law is "We sweat in training so we don't bleed in battle." Of course, the consequences of mistakes in war are bigger than that of a basketball game, but Starkman hopes that this message does resonate with his players, further convincing them to begin thinking

of themselves as a team.

When asked how Starkman helped build chemistry within the team, second year player Oswald Parker said, "He would just be straight forward, he tells you how it is and if he thinks you're doing something right he lets you know."

As the creation of chemistry continues, Starkman also wants to instill a "bulldog mentality."

"We're undersized most of the time, so

we have to make sure that we make up for it by working harder than our opponents."

Hard work and having confidence in themselves is key to success Starkman said.

"If I can make each player completely believe that were going to get this (win), we'll get a lot more wins than losses."

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HELP! WANTED!

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Welcome Back, Seahawks!



Several vendors with display tables talked to students about clubs, organizations and student services offered at Central Campus.



Students had the opportunity to ask questions to different clubs and organizations during the Welcome Back BBQ organized by Student Life.



Students lined up and enjoyed an afternoon of free food and desserts during the Welcome Back BBQ.



Sammy the Seahawk made an appearance at the BBQ where he posed for pictures with students, danced, and walked around the tables.

The Assassination of Gianni Versace is a television masterpiece

Sara Varela

Editor-in-chief

We've got ourselves the first masterpiece of television for 2018.

Ryan Murphy has caught us all on his web once again. This time with *American Crime Story - The Assassination of Gianni Versace* (ACS).

For those who don't know, Murphy is the creative genius behind many successful series over the past decade including *Glee*, *American Horror Story* and the first season of *ACS - The People v. O.J. Simpson*.

Murphy has become a household name for his successful adaptation of true-crime into masterpieces of TV.

The second season of ACS, supposedly deals with the 1997 assassination of famous Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace, played by Edgar Ramírez, who was gunned down in front of his Miami Beach mansion by serial killer Andrew Cunanan, played by Darren Criss.

But the series runs way deeper than that.

Versace's assassination actually occurs within the first 10 minutes of the premiere, which by the way, are the most intense, beautifully dramatic series of shots television has seen in a long time. The cinematography, the music, the editing. The opening sequence of "The Man Who Would be Vogue" is a fantastic piece of art all by



The new season of ACS portrays the 1997 assassination of the fashion designer.

Photo credit: blackfilm.com

itself.

As we get into the episode, we start exploring the immediate aftermath of Versace's murder as police begin the manhunt for Cunanan. We meet Gianni's sister, Donatella, played by Penélope Cruz, and his partner of 15 years, Antonio D'amico, played by Ricky Martin.

But as they audience immerses into the story, Murphy's peculiarity shines through as the audience realizes that Versace's murder is not the highlight of the story but rather the knot that ties the murder of five gay men together.

If we think about it, we all

know very little about one of the most sensationalized murders in America. All we really know is that Versace was gunned down in front of his mansion and that Cunanan committed suicide on a boat eight days later as his manhunt came to an end.

And what most of us seemed to forget: Versace wasn't the only victim of Cunanan's selfish, egotistic, jealous rage. There were four other men whose names are all but forgotten.

With the insight of two gay men serving as writer and executive producer respectively, ACS offers a deep look at the big role

homophobia in the nineties played as part of the American culture that allowed four murders to go unnoticed until Versace's murder. Even though he was also gay, he had something the other four victims lacked: money, fame, and power.

The casting of ACS is powerful and inviting. Despite not being the central figure of the story, Criss' portrayal of Cunanan will probably earn him an award or two due to his fabulous job conveying Cunanan's psychopathy in ways that show him as he truly was: an obsessed, jealous, pathetic man who couldn't deal with failure or

rejection.

Meanwhile, Ramírez's physical transformation to resemble Versace is, to say the least, impressive. His portrayal of Versace not only as the titan of fashion he was, but as a generous, caring and openly gay man in the nineties promises to provide us with a unique insight of the designer that has not previously been shown.

One aspect many of us didn't expect was Martin's fantastic acting. Yes, he's been a phenomenal performer for decades but acting I wasn't so sure about. I wasn't expecting much from him but his acting skills came through as soon as we see Versace dead on the mansion steps. We can feel D'amico's grief in our bones.

When it comes to the technical aspects of ACS, Murphy's artistry and his capacity to bring together the very best people of the industry together to make a phenomenal team is to be celebrated.

Every single aspect: the cinematography, lighting, music, editing, and casting are all out of this world. The quality of the production is impeccable and a gift for the eyes.

The Assassination of Gianni Versace is a gift to all the television lovers who appreciate fantastic storytelling integrated to a high-quality, movie-like production.

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Comedy sheds light on the struggles of low-income AIDS patients



Pushing Dead is a comedy about a struggling writer, HIV positive, who falls out of his insurance coverage.

Photo credit: indiewire.com

Sara Varela

Editor-in-chief

A comedy about AIDS.

Sounds counterintuitive but for Tom E. Brown, writer and director of *Pushing Dead*, it made perfect sense.

Tired of the typical movies about AIDS, with hospitals as the main location and a whole lot of

reflection of his life, he admits the use of personal elements.

Pushing Dead follows the story of struggling writer Dan Schauble, who has been HIV positive for the majority of his life, who falls out of the coverage of his insurance and is left with the decision of going without his meds or come up with over \$3,000 to pay for them.

Portraying Schauble's struggle

refill their prescriptions.

"The healthcare system in the US has improved in recent years, but huge numbers of low-income people across the country are still forced to pay thousands of dollars for their meds or go without them," said Brown.

"With current threats to repeal the Affordable Care Act, the film

is more topical than ever."

And Brown's honest and relatable film earned an audience award at the Frameline LGBTQ film festival.

Although the movie received mostly negative reviews from critics, the movie is one that many, even those HIV negative, would enjoy.

It's a heartwarming comedy that shows us the importance of a support system, friends, and an internal sense of humor to cope with the most difficult situations, even those that can be life-and-death.

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"I wanted to make a different kind of AIDS movie, a comedy – in which nobody dies,"

-Tom E. Brown

IV bags, and sick-looking people, Brown was longing for something more relatable to the majority of AIDS patients.

"I wanted to make a different kind of AIDS movie, a comedy – in which nobody dies," he says.

Brown has been HIV positive for most of his life, and even though he clarifies that the movie is not a

as a minor inconvenience rather than a full-on emergency, allows Brown to introduce comedy into a situation that for many patients would be a full-blown crisis.

Through the movie, Brown exposes the ridiculous healthcare system in America that forces many low-income patients to struggle every time they must

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The Post exposes story behind the publishing of the Pentagon Papers

David Perez
Central Bureau Chief

The acclaimed director Steven Spielberg delivers in “The Post” a fascinating thriller telling the story behind the publishing of the Pentagon Papers, which revealed that the American government has been lying to the public about the Vietnam War.

The film starts in Vietnam in 1965 with Daniel Ellsberg, a military analyst, surveying the current situation of the war.

There is a brief skirmish in the night, although we never see the Viet Cong attacking, which may suggest that they are not the villains here.

On the plane returning home, he tells his superiors that the status has not changed, thus they conclude that the war is going worse.

Years later, Ellsberg steals highly-classified documents from the Department of Defense about the Vietnam War and leaks them to The New York Times.

These leaked documents expose many government lies about Vietnam going back to the Truman administration and cause a massive shock in the public.

Then the story is divided between the two main characters. On one hand, there is Katharine Graham (Meryl Streep) the owner of The Washington Post who tries to get her newspaper ahead.



Steven Spielberg directs Academy-Award contestant for Best Picture *The Post*, starring Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks.
Photo credit: variety.com

The other one is the Post editor-in-chief Ben Bradlee (Tom Hanks), who gets interested in the leaked Pentagon Papers.

The story of Graham narrates her struggle for balancing her duties as the owner of the Post and her own social life.

It also portrays another struggle, her struggle as a woman in a men’s world.

This can be seen many times when she enters a meeting room and she finds the room full of men eager to discuss with her, to which she tries to remain stoic.

Streep gives wonderful acting in that sense.

Bradlee’s part, on the other hand, depicts a man struggling against power. When the Times publish the Pentagon Papers, he gets angry that they weren’t the ones doing it.

When the Post gets a hold of a copy of the Papers from the same source the Times did, Bradlee is eager to publish it but the newspaper gets discouraged when President Nixon takes the Times to court.

At that point, the two stories

converge with the Post journalists being indecisive about whether they should publish the Papers or not. Graham finds herself in a dilemma, because she is the one who can authorize the story or not.

If she does, her newspaper may find itself in trouble but if she doesn’t, the Post will miss a golden opportunity to rise to relevance.

The Post makes a wonderful use of colors to set up a dark tone, with fluorescent-bulb white being dominant. The weather is almost

always cloudy.

This mood is helped by the music score composed by Spielberg’s longtime collaborator, John Williams, which combines orchestral symphonic music with some electronic influences.

The movie sends a powerful message in support of the free press and the First Amendment, especially in a final scene where the Post journalists enter the Supreme Court being hailed as heroes by protestors.

Something relevant is the role of then-President Richard Nixon, who is undoubtedly, the villain of the movie.

He always appears backwards talking on the phone from the White House gardens and we never see his face at all.

This portrays Nixon not as a public servant, but as a cold politician detached from his people.

The Post is an amazing thriller with excellent acting and pace that keeps the viewer heedful to what is happening next.

Sometimes it may get a little dull and boring for some people.

It’s a political thriller after all, with no action scenes at all. Nevertheless, it’s a wonderful movie with a very necessary message defending the First Amendment and a free press more than ever.

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Sara Varela
Editor-in-chief

Media coverage of Dr. Larry Nassar has been extensive. Networks haven’t shied away from broadcasting the testimony of the victims of Nassar, the doctor for USA Gymnastics, accused of sexual abuse of over 150 women.

Among the many survivors of his crime, USA Olympic gold medallist Aly Raisman, made headlines for her heartfelt, challenging testimony against Nassar, USA Gymnastics, and the US Olympic Committee (USOC) for establishing a system that allowed decades of abuse to go unchallenged.

On Jan. 24, Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years in prison, after a heartbreaking seven-day hearing phase, during which the more of 150 victims spoke out against Nassar.

“Imagine feeling like you have no power and no voice. Well you know what, Larry? I have both power and voice and I am only beginning to just use them,” said Raisman.

Raisman’s testimony resonated both inside and out the Michigan courtroom.

But Nassar’s sentence, although it was a relief for the victims and their families, for some it wasn’t enough.

Personally, I’m a firm believer that the punishment should reflect the extent of the crime. Raisman’s testimony can give us an idea of his crime’s reach.

“The effects of your actions are far reaching. Abuse goes way beyond the moment, often haunting survivors for the rest of their lives, making it difficult to trust and impacting their relationships,” she said.

Taking into consideration that, according to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 33 percent of victims contemplate suicide and 13 percent attempt it.

Nassar’s sentence should not have been life in prison. The death penalty would have been more in synch with the true nature of his crime.

Sexual abuse, although not always physically violent, is a crime that scars victims for life. In Nassar’s case, he violated and destroyed the lives of hundreds of women. His crimes were carefully planned and he was very adamant in exploiting the system that allowed his crimes to go on for decades without facing any consequence.

It’s time to establish that crimes like Nassar’s are punished fairly, taking into account how said crimes affected the lives of the victims. The death penalty should apply to those who, like Nassar, kill their victims both figuratively and literally.

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Trump’s remarks on immigrants are hateful, ignorant

Lauren McIntosh
Managing Editor

Shocked and Enraged. This is what many felt when awakened to the news that our President had referred to Haiti, El Salvador, and African countries as “s***hole” countries.

The POTUS made these outrageous comments in a bipartisan meeting with lawmakers, discussing the protection of immigrants.

This meeting stemmed from the earlier announcement made by the White House that it would end the temporary protection of Salvadorians.

The President was presented with a plan that would include El Salvador, Haiti and African countries in the current visa program.

“Why are we including people from these “s***hole countries?” is how lawmakers in the meeting said Trump responded to the plan, according to the Washington Post report.

Trump has since denied making such comments, but says he did use rather “tough” language in a tweet.

“The language used by me at the DACA meeting was tough, but this was not the language used. What was really tough was the outlandish proposal made.”

“Never said anything



President Trump used hateful, denigrant language against immigrants during DACA meeting. Photo credit: pbs.org

derogatory about Haitians other than Haiti is, obviously, a very poor and troubled country. Never said take them out....” tweeted President Trump.

Despite his denial, one of Trump’s closet confidants, Republican Senator Lindsay Graham has allegedly confirmed the reports.

“The President and all those attending the meeting know what I said and how I feel. I’ve always believed that America is an idea,

not defined by its people but by its ideals,” said Senator Graham.

Haiti’s leading newspaper soon responded to Trump’s remarks calling the President “racist and distasteful.”

With Trump’s track record of controversial remarks, it is not surprising to hear that such comments were made, but disheartening.

Living in South Florida, an area majorly populated by foreigners, this news that the President

had made such vulgar, heinous remarks was truly disappointing. America is a diverse, multi-cultural, land of opportunity for everyone.

We must unite as people to stand against the prejudices of immigrants that come here to work and give to American society.

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