

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Entertainment on
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PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Newspapers have struggled to adapt in recent years, but the opportunities to thrive are there.

Newspapers are changing, but stories aren't

THE WICHITAN STAFF

Stories, for as variable of a concept as they are, don't really change. Sure, there are millions if not billions of new stories created, recounted and even made up every day. Some of them are true and some are fabrications, and some are important or shocking enough to make the news and be seen by more people. But while these masses of new stories cover new, exciting

topics that elicit a wide range of emotions, so will the next batch of stories; and so did the last set of stories, and so on for the past several centuries. Stories, while individually dynamic, are static as a concept.

Newspapers, on the other hand, are in a state of flux to say the least. It's not a secret that the rise of TV, online and social media news have put newspapers in a new, potentially precarious position. Some pa-

pers that are unwilling or unable to adapt have struggled to keep afloat in the new age. But it's not out of the question for newspapers to still adapt. Because people will always want stories, if old-fashioned newspapers can find forward-thinking ways to produce and present those stories they can still survive. It may not be in the same format, or it may expand to include things newspapers haven't traditionally included.

Just look at phones - a brand new company selling rotary dial phones wouldn't make it in today's market. The concept of a phone has evolved into something that's able to play games, manage schedules, answer questions and still make calls. Likewise, newspapers may still have a path forward if they can integrate new methods and ideas, while staying true to what originally brought about their rise - stories.

Los periódicos están cambiando, pero las historias no

EN ESPAÑOL

Las historias, por tan variables de un concepto como son, realmente no cambian. Claro, hay millones, si no miles de millones, de nuevas historias creadas, contadas e incluso inventadas todos los días. Algunos de ellos son ciertos y algunos son fabricaciones, y algunos son importantes o lo suficiente espeluznante como para hacer las noticias y ser vistos por más personas. Pero mientras estas masas de nuevas historias cubren temas nuevos y emocionantes que provocan una

amplia gama de emociones, también lo hará el siguiente lote de historias; y también lo hizo el último conjunto de historias, y así sucesivamente durante los últimos siglos. Las historias, aunque individualmente dinámicas, son estáticas como concepto.

Los periódicos, por otro lado, están en un estado de cambio por lo menos. No es un secreto que el auge de las noticias de la televisión, de línea y de las redes sociales ha puesto a los periódicos en una nueva y potencialmente posición precaria.

Algunos periódicos que no están dispuestos o no pueden adaptarse han tenido problemas para mantenerse a flote en la nueva era. Pero no está fuera de discusión que los periódicos todavía se adapten. Porque la gente siempre querrá historias, si los periódicos anticuados pueden encontrar formas progresistas de producir y presentar esas historias, todavía pueden sobrevivir. Puede que no esté en el mismo formato, o puede expandirse para incluir cosas que los periódicos no han incluido tradicionalmente. Justo una mirada a los

teléfonos - una nueva empresa que vende teléfonos wde marcación rotativa no tendría éxito en el mercado de hoy. El concepto de un teléfono se ha convertido en algo que es capaz de jugar juegos, dirigir horarios, responder preguntas y todavía hacer llamadas. Del mismo modo, tal vez los periódicos aún pueden tener un camino a seguir hacia adelante si pueden integrar nuevos métodos e ideas mientras se mantienen fieles a lo que originariamente provocó su surgimiento: Las historias.

BRIEFS

Feb. 15 and 16 Rigoberto Hernandez presentations

Rigoberto Hernandez, chemistry professor at John Hopkins University, will present two speeches, both in Bolin Science Hall Room 100. On the 15th, he will present on "Microscale Models, Macroscale Impacts." On the 16th, his presentation is titled "Managing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in STEM Departments."

Friday, Feb. 10 Take Back the Night

Located in the Bridwell Activities Center, Take Back the Night 2023 aims to educate and empower students to end sexual assault and violence. The event takes place at campuses around the world and provides a platform for education and help with the issue.

Saturday, Feb. 11 Men's and Women's basketball vs. Angelo State

Men's basketball won its last game against UT Permian Basin, and hopes to continue that momentum against the #25 Angelos State Rams. Tipoff is at 3 p.m. Meanwhile, women's basketball is slated to tangle with the Rambelles. The women's team hopes to end a five-game losing streak.

the **WICHITAN**

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THEATER PRESENTS: RON HUTCHINSON'S "MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS"



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN Theater performance junior Brennan Wright plays the passionate David O. Selznick in "Moonlight and Magnolias," Feb. 9.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN Mass communication junior Jay Phillips plays Victor Flemming in "Moonlight and Magnolias," Feb. 9.

ABIGAIL JONES
REPORTER

The theater department is performing Ron Hutchinson's *Moonlight and Magnolias* on main-stage Feb. 23-26. The production is student-directed and introduces serious themes around race and discrimination through a satirical lens. Stage manager and theater education senior Sammi Mitchell said this results in slight growth for the characters.

"It takes place over a span of five days, and they don't get to leave the room for five days... a lot of chaos ensues, and, in that process, they are dealing with their own personal opinions and objectives on things," Mitchell said.

While *Moonlight and Magnolias* characters find themselves in an intimate space, the cast members have grown to be an equally intimate group. Theater performance junior Brennan Wright, who plays David O. Selznick echoes this sentiment.

"It's a really small cast. We have three principal characters, a supporting character and we have a swing who kind of deals with everybody in case one of us gets sick or absent," Wright said. "Because of that nature it doesn't really feel like we're rehearsing a play. It feels like we're a couple of kids in the neighborhood, after school, just playing pretend."

Each cast member emphasized their positive feelings around the team dynamic for this production. Mitchell described it as being "the dream team." The beginning of building that team was Chelsea Chappell, theater education senior and director of *Moonlight and Magnolias*.

"I just got a call from our professor Elizabeth, and she asked, 'hey would you be interested in directing a student-directed show this next semester?' and I [very much] tried to keep my cool and was like, 'yeah, that'd be super awesome!' We discussed the logistics of that and everything and then I hung up. [When] I got into the living room, my knees just buckled," Chappell said.

Wright said the first group read-through of the script took place near the end of the Fall 2022 semester, and rehearsals began quickly at the beginning of this semester. Over this period, Wright said he has found elements of his character to be relatable.

"He's a producer who's done *King Kong*, *Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind*, which is what the play is mainly about. He's a very uptight, controlling character but he's also very passionate about his business and you can see that passion when he talks about, you know, the way of movies," Wright said. "What helps me relate to Selznick is that I am also a



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Victor Flemming, played by mass communication junior Jay Phillips, is a confident film director, Feb. 9.

big fan of movies. I love the process of making them... it's nice to kind of show that side of myself in [Selznick's] character as well."

Tyler Lincoln, theater senior who plays Ben Hecht. He said he has found that he relates to Hecht's determination to defend his beliefs.

"He is probably the sanest of the two characters that you'll see in this play. He is the most knowledgeable of what's going on," Lincoln said. "He stands for what is right for the world, so that'll be something interesting I think the audience will very much love."

The final lead role, Victor Flemming, is played by theater and mass communication junior Jay Phillips. Phillips said his character embodies a relaxed confidence.

"Flemming is a film director. He's based on a real character and in the context of this story he is kind of the one that doesn't want to be there when they're trying to make this movie and he's kind of the foil of the other two characters and he's the contrast," Phillips said. "He's funny, witty, playful, energetic. He's the big guy on set, the hot shot. But he's also a misogynist, racist, you know, reflecting the time period."

Flemming is described by Chappell as an opportunity to begin a discussion about the racist things Flemming says. For that rea-

son, the casting choice for Flemming is not as straightforward of a choice as one might assume.

"One of the choices that I made as a director that...can't help but be noticed is our most bigoted and racist character and the only non-Jewish character in the main cast is a person of color, which raised a lot of questions at first. But I had talked with this actor beforehand and discussed that I think this role could, if we turn it on its head, be more productive being cast as a person of color than being cast as, say, a white person," Chappell said. "When you hear a black person impersonating a minstrel show character it will make the audience uncomfortable [and] make them question things more."

Moonlight and Magnolias' playwright introduces these questions under an air of humor according to Phillips. Each cast member made the point that this is a refreshing way to take on more difficult topics.

"We know what the subject matter is, but we can be relaxed in knowing that it's through satire that we're approaching topics and discussing it... sometimes you need to break down the barriers of a heavy topic with laughter and be comfortable," Phillips said.

CALLARMAN SHARES HIS GOALS AS NEW CAMPUS POLICE CHIEF



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Chief Callarman hopes to improve the campus police's accessibility to students, Feb. 6.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

The MSU Police Department keeps its lobby open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 6.

CECIL WITHERSPOON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MSU's safety is in new hands. Former interim campus Chief of Police Steven Callarman has accepted the chief of police position on a permanent basis. Set on a backdrop of a number of other changes in leadership at the university, Callarman's promotion signals a new direction for the campus Police Department.

Callarman has been with the MSU Police Department for over three years. For most of that time, he has worked on compiling data regarding crime statistics to ensure the university is compliant with the Clery Act. Under the Clery Act, universities that receive federal funds are required to report information regarding the number of crimes and arrests on campus and make that info available to the public. But when former chief Patrick Coggins retired at the end of August, Callarman was asked to step into the role on an interim basis. He accepted on Sept. 1, and now has a chance to define both the role and the direction of the department.

Callarman said he hopes to build on the work of his predecessor since Coggins' work drew positive attention from interim president Keith Lamb.

"As interim I spent my first several months, you know, not making any real big changes. Chief Coggins did a great job of bringing this Police Department up to a very professional level, and Dr. Lamb was very happy with that. So I think they wanted a

little bit of consistency, and I think I brought that. Not wanting to make any huge changes or anything like that, and after doing this job since September, he offered me the full-time gig in January and I was happy to take it," Callarman said.

With Callarman's new position comes the responsibility not only of maintaining the duties of the department, but also maintaining public perception in a time when police have received a great deal of scrutiny.

Callarman said he's aware of the changing sentiment among portions of the public, and hopes to ensure students feel safe.

"Police work is definitely not - when I joined in 1990, it's definitely a different ballgame now. And a lot of that has been through the fault of police departments not training their officers," Callarman said.

He added that while he believes the majority of cops are good and want to help, staffing shortages and lax hiring practices have led to some officers who aren't up to the standard.

"I think every occupation are going to have certain workers that probably don't fit the mold you would like them to have," Callarman said.

Callarman said staffing has been a concern at the MSU police department, and is a part of his job he takes seriously and intends to prioritize.

"The biggest challenge I have as a chief is making sure the guys we have here are top notch. And because we are a smaller agency, it may be tougher to fill those spots. Well,

like I said before, we'll wait to get a quality candidate that I know is going to serve the community, serve the students in the way that I expect them to, as opposed to just hiring somebody because we need them to fill the spot," Callarman said.

Another area where Callarman hopes to improve perception is by increasing the Police Department's accessibility to students. One way he hopes to do that is by increasing the department's involvement with student affairs in a positive way.

"I'm hoping to work with some of my other directors in student affairs and kind of do some joint ventures where, you know, we can get involved. And I like to get out, I've been to several things since I've been interim chief and now chief. Just getting out and see all the events and see what's going on," Callarman said.

Callarman said he has an open-door policy and wants to be available to students for questions or to talk. He added that both accessibility and staffing play into how he deals with public perception.

"Here it's great. We can actually get involved with the students. And our job is just to make sure students feel safe here and get a good education," Callarman said, adding that, "I would like to let everyone know in this university that we are picking the cream of the crop here, and that the officers here are here to help. And getting involved and letting them see the person behind the badge, yeah it's important to me."



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Chief of Police Steven Callarman takes on his role permanently after taking it interim last September, Feb. 6.

REAY DETAILS PLANS TO BRING WELLNESS TO STUDENTS

CECIL WITHERSPOON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A wide array of MSU's student services are now unified under the leadership of one woman: Angie Reay. Reay, after more than a decade at MSU, has accepted the position of executive director of student wellness. With her new role, Reay heads up the Wellness Center, recreation sports, the Counseling Center, Vinson Health Center and disability support services. Her appointment comes among a variety of other leadership changes at the university, and will be among the determining factors in MSU's future direction.

In choosing a vision for her new role, Reay said she wants to ensure all aspects of student wellness are both accessible and working together.

"I have the opportunity to create a holistic wellness approach for students. And so to me, that includes not only their physical wellness which I've been, that's what I've really doing these last few years as the director of rec sports and wellness, but also mental health, working with medical health, anything from financial to working with resiliency, coping. Any kind of wellness that can help our students be successful inside and outside the classroom is what my new position, I feel like,

means to me," Reay said.

Reay said that academic tutoring and other resources aid students inside the classroom, so one of the concerns of her position is how to maximize resources for student wellness beyond the classroom.

"What can we do in our departments and our division within student affairs to make sure that you are okay outside of the classroom? You know, that you have access to our facility to take care of your physical health, that you have access to counseling services," Reay said.

As the title "executive director of student wellness" implies, Reay's goals are student-focused. Reay said that's something she wants to emphasize by including student's wishes in the overall direction of campus wellness.

"What do you want to see as students? Are we missing the mark somewhere too? We want to make sure that we're providing everything that you need to be successful at the university," Reay said, adding that having students lead some activities is one way she hopes to accomplish that.

"I would like to see more students teaching classes over here. That's something I'm always, like, reaching for. Because I think we need more student involvement here at the Wellness Cen-

ter. Not just working at the front desk or something like that, I want to see students more involved with Exercise [Physiology] or with Dr. Wyatt, to have, like, students be personal trainers. And so I would like to see more of that kind of evolve, and just students having more of an input. I feel like they'll have, like, more ownership if they're more involved over here, and I think that goes for any of the departments that I oversee," Reay said.

Reay said one goal she wants to tackle is making sure students are aware of what the campus offers them.

"Just making sure that students know about the resources that we have to offer. You're already paying for them through your tuition and fees. And so you might as well use them," Reay said.

Reay isn't new to dealing with the problems MSU students face. She attended MSU as a student, and has served in a variety of roles at the university since. She said she's willing to step up to whatever the university needs.

"Having done my undergraduate and master's here, and knowing what the university has done for me and my family, whatever I need to be or whatever role they need me to be here at the university, I'm more than happy to do anything like that," Reay said.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

One of the facilities Angie Reay oversees is the Bruce and Graciela Redwine Student Wellness Center, Feb. 9.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

After filling the role on an interim basis, Angie Reay steps up as executive director of student wellness, Feb. 8.

BLACK RESISTANCE: The

being

JOEY ARTHUR
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

In February 1926, American author and journalist Carter G. Woodson created the first iteration of Black History Month called Negro History Week. He created it as a way to pay tribute to the African American experience and to celebrate the success of black resistance but also the beauty of black excellence. Chosen after the birthdays of two prominent figures in black liberation (Fredrick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln), February has become a nationally recognized month set aside to celebrate African American culture, experience and history. Here at MSU, MOSAIC, in collaboration with many black-led student organizations, is keeping the history of celebrating black history via specially curated events.

"We observe black history month here at MSU as a way to bring light not just to the Midwestern community but Wichita Falls as a whole. There are a lot of things that happen and have happened at Midwestern State that directly affect black people, one of those things being the desegregation of Midwestern State and this was a momentous thing not just in Wichita Falls but in the state of Texas. So, to celebrate black history is more than just recognizing those we don't necessarily know but also recognizing those who allowed black students to be able to be here today at Midwestern State University," Jamilah Kangudja, coordinator of MOSAIC programs, said.

Desegregation was a major issue, not just on a state level but on a national scale too. Following

the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case in 1952, Midwestern University became one of the first public universities to desegregate in the state of Texas, admitting its first black students in 1954. This was possible in no small part due to the work of African American individuals and black-led organizations like the NAACP.

"When Midwestern University became a campus for all students, regardless of race, that was a huge win for black people everywhere. The national NAACP and many other organizations fought so hard for that and now we celebrate that during Black History Month. We recognize the efforts that made it possible for black students to be on this campus," Kangudja said.

The theme for this year's Black History Month is Black Resistance. Black Resistance is defined as the African American experience of battling historic, systematic and incessant forms of oppression. During this month, MOSAIC aims to highlight different sections of the African American experience, educate students on what it means to be a black person in America and to give credit to people that defined black resistance.

"Our biggest hope for students to get out of these events is a sense of community and to educate them on the experiences that their fellow black students go through on a daily basis. I believe that whether it be through music, or the performances given by the black performers at the open mic night, we hope that students can get a better understanding of the black experience

at Midwestern State University," coordinator for Men of Color Alliance and political science junior Kaleb Pierre said.

Similar to previous years, MOSAIC has partnered with black-led student organizations to bring their idea of black resistance to campus. Examples of some of these organizations are Women in Support of Empowerment, MOCA, The Wesley and more.

"It was really fun working with MOSAIC and other organizations in planning the events for Black History Month. For the open mic night, we at MOCA partnered with WISE and The Wesley and given our shared history with WISE in the past, it was very fun and enjoyable," Pierre said. "Some of us worked on food and some on music and it made the process easier and fun especially having a big event so early in the month, it was fun."

To celebrate the month and keep up with old traditions, MOSAIC selectively curated three events to commemorate Black History Month this year. They started the month with the open mic night hosted by MOCA, WISE and The Wesley, and due to icy roads earlier this month, the 90s Skate Party sponsored by MOSAIC was rescheduled for February 16th at the Family Fun Zone. The final event by MOSAIC for the month is the 8th Annual Black Excellence Gala.

Vocal performance junior Will Jones sings a self-composed song, Feb. 3.

"Picking an event for any MOSAIC-related celebration requires listening to what the student body wants, especially the certain demographics

on certain months like black student History Month or Hispanic students of Heritage Month or LGBTQ+ student Month and so on. We listen to their country to create events that cater to that our overall goal for whatever we are. For observances, we know that we must be open, a closer and one or more than events in between, and those events must be after the students wants while for educational purpose. For example, for Black History Month we started with the Open Arts through Music is very big in the community, or 90s Skate Night, the 90s was a prominent time period for the black community and finally the Black Excellence Gala annual thing at MSU." Kangudja said.

The Black Excellence Gala is a celebration of Black History at MSU. Since its debut, The Black Excellence Gala has become a recognition and celebration of the achievements and works of Black individuals at Midwestern State. MOSAIC awards student leadership and staff that further the definition of excellence.

"The very first Black Excellence Gala was in 2015. At the time the Black Student Union, the NAACP, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sigma Theta and so on, all of these organizations that have historically black leaders, something that would uplift the community also provide a nice commemoration of

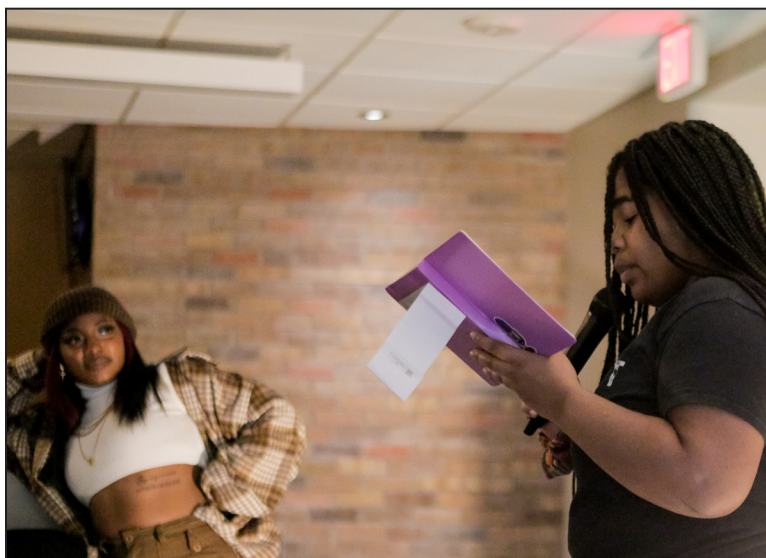


PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Social work and music sophomore Janae Law reads the poem "Black People Magic," Feb. 3.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Students dance along to music at the Open Mic Night, Feb. 3.



Psychology junior performs at the Open Mic Night, Feb. 3.

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tory month and all the things that it encompasses as well as the trailblazers on campus, in the community and people who were here long before us," Kangudja said.

MOSAIC created events that they hoped would educate the student body on the black experience at MSU. Music ducation junior Gage Oliver said the month has been impactful.

"I think it's important and that it helps to bring a sense of community and togetherness. Black History Month gives identity and recognition to those who deserve it, and it also helps to highlight the everyday life of African Americans in today's culture," Oliver said.

Black History Month celebrates black history, but not much is said about the future of black experiences. Nursing junior Stephanie Arthur shared her hope for the future of Black History Month at MSU.

"I hope in the future, MOSAIC does more than just three events because I was unable to go to the Open Mic which I'm pretty sure was an experience that wasn't exclusive to just me. I also hope that what ever event they put on in the future educates the Caucasian demographic at MSU about what it truly means to be black because although it is important to celebrate the history of black people in America it is also equally important to educate people on what it means to be black now." Arthur said.



PHOTO BY COLIN STEVENSON | THE WICHITAN

Bailee Larkin reads the poem "How Deep?" at the Feb. 3.



La serie de Netflix “Ginny and Georgia”



Lizbeth
Jaimes

La segunda temporada de la serie original en Netflix “Ginny and Georgia” acaba de salir el 5 de enero. Después de más de un mes, la serie quedo como número tres en la lista de lo más visto en Netflix. La historia continúa después del final dramático de la primera temporada.

La primera parte de la temporada empieza con el capítulo “Welcome Back...” con una mirada a la niñez de Ginny. Una Ginny chica baila con su madre al mismo tiempo que narra unas palabras de precaución mientras la escena hace la transición a una pesadilla de Ginny. Aquí se revela donde huyó la joven con su hermano. Esto es lo que se esperaba ver después del fin de la primera temporada.

En los primeros capítulos, se puede ver que uno de los temas principales está relacionado con la salud mental.

El estilo de la producción se acerca al tema de salud mental y el tema de autolesionarse

fue intencional con la audiencia. El personaje de Ginny, interpretado por Antonia Gentry, y el de Marcus, interpretado por Felix Mallard, pasan por unos tiempos difíciles. Hay muchos momentos crudos e intensos que construyen perfectamente la profundidad de los personajes.

Una gran parte de la trama trata de los niveles anteriormente escondidos casi por completo del personaje Georgia, interpretado por Brianne Howey. La audiencia tiene la oportunidad de ver más que solamente las acciones de la madre, sino también sus razones para cometer sus decisiones.

La última parte empieza con el quinto capítulo “Latkes Are Lit”. El hijo de Georgia recibe un visitante en la escuela después de años de no verlo. Por primera vez, la audiencia sabe algo de que Georgia no se da cuenta. Esta mamá sabe todo sobre sus hijos y hará lo necesario para protegerlos.

Una precaución justa, el argumento que sigue a la salud mental enseña la vulnerabilidad de algunos de los personajes. Incluye



FOTO CORTESÍA DE NETFLIX.

La actriz principal Antonia Gentry interpreta a la joven Ginny Miller, hija de Georgia Miller, interpretada por Brianne Howey, 2021.

lágrimas y silencio antes del camino conmovedor a sanar las heridas de la vida.

Los actores representan su papel con tanta habilidad, que en los momentos emocionantes la audiencia se olvida de la pantalla. Por el momento, está ahí para compartir las lágrimas de Ginny y las acciones de Georgia. Antonia Gentry y Brianne Howey son unas actrices talentosas, perfectas para presentar la relación entre

la madre e hija de esta serie. Fuera de la pantalla, este par de mujeres son amigas cercanas.

Esta temporada está llena de amor, amistad y suspenso. Se introduce un carácter nuevo que ayuda a revelar más del pasado de Georgia. También hay un vuelco que te deja preguntando si alguien es una buena persona de verdad o un peligro.



FOTO CORTESÍA DE NETFLIX.

El actor Mason Temple interpreta a Hunter Chen, un interés amoroso temprano para Ginny Miller, 2021.

El proyecto “Global Ambassadors” lanzará esta primavera 2023

JULIANA ABRIL
REPORTER

Por primera vez, el departamento de educación global (Global Education) lanza su nuevo proyecto piloto “Global Ambassadors”. Dicho proyecto se llevará a cabo en el semestre de primavera 2023, donde estudiantes internacionales liderarán este trabajo mientras reciben nuevos miembros y ayudan a la comunidad estudiantil a resolver dudas frecuentes sobre lo que estudiar en Midwestern State University.

Como bien afirma Kamilah Tobin, cabeza del programa “cada embajador no sólo representa una cultura distinta, sino también a la oficina y la universidad”. Ya que el proyecto se encuentra en su fase de prueba, por ahora cuenta con sólo siete miembros, cada uno proveniente de distintos países tales como India, Bahamas y Colombia. Tener un grupo de estudiantes internacionales de alta calidad que representan diferentes especializaciones, orígenes étnicos, culturas y clasificaciones potencia los futuros lazos con aspi-

rantes a MSU y desarrolla fuertes relaciones con aquellas personas conocidas, de esta manera los embajadores son capaces de crear fuertes e importantes relaciones con miembros actuales y futuros de la comunidad Universitaria.

Según Seth Skelton “escogimos a cada embajador considerando las diversas necesidades de los estudiantes, por lo que tener diversos idiomas y carreras facilita que cada parte de las áreas internacionales pueda ser cubierta fácilmente”. Este programa no sólo desea llegar a más estudiantes sino también trabajar con y representar a todo lo relacionado con lo internacional, que consiste en el Instituto Intensivo de Idiomas, Servicios para Estudiantes Internacionales y Estudios en el Extranjero. Además trabajarán de la mano con personal, ex alumnos y estudiantes del momento para mejorar sus propias habilidades de liderazgo, servicios y comunicación mientras brindan orientación y perspectiva a todos. Este grupo de estudiantes desarrollará múltiples tareas, donde los eventos principales serán la semana de Homecoming, la semana de educación internacional (international education week), el banquete de premios de educación global (global education awards banquet) y la semana de deportes internacionales (worldwide week of sports). Estos eventos contarán con la participación de los siete embajadores para no sólo hacer promoción al programa, eventos y funcionar como staff, sino también disfrutar como estudiantes y desarrollar en mayor medida el sentido de pertenencia hacia la universidad.

Finalmente, el 8 de febrero del presente año el grupo de embajadores se reunió por primera vez. En dicha reunión los miembros se presentaron, luego hicieron un juego de integración y por último tomaron las fotos que serán implementadas en distintos portales. Como grupo esperan llegar a toda la comunidad internacional de MSU para poder aportar experiencias y puntos de vista a todos esos estudiantes que estén pasando por un momento difícil o se sientan solos en este proceso de descubrir todos los beneficios que tiene estudiar en el extranjero. De esta manera, Kamilah Tobin concluyó la reunión con un “nos reuniremos de nuevo pronto embajadores, vamos a trabajar para hacer de esta organización algo permanente para los siguientes años”.



FOTO POR JULIANA ABRIL

Padmalekshmi Latha, graduada en análisis de negocios, junto a una bandera India, el 9 de febrero.



FOTO POR JULIANA ABRIL

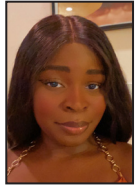
Nurun Nuri, graduado en análisis de negocios, junto a una bandera de Bangladesh, el 9 de febrero.



FOTO POR JULIANA ABRIL

La estudiante de primer año de radiología Paige Cartwright, junto con una bandera de las Bahamas, el 9 de febrero.

OPINION: Campus scooters are good, but safety is still a concern



Anne Akpabio

On Oct. 4, “The E-scooter Micro Mobility Act” was passed 27 to 1 by the MSU Student Senate. The bill was designed as an eco-friendly solution to the transportation issues faced by the MSU student popula-

tion. The tenets of the bill respond to the numerous issues around the commute options of MSU students within and outside the campus.

The scooter act is a feasible and economically plausible solution to MSU’s transportation and parking issues. The bill passed by the senate also enumerates various ways that e-scooter services can be enforced on campus. Some of the key things highlighted by the bill are the positive results on other campuses around Texas and the ease of launching the service. The bill closes out with an appeal to the school administration to implement an E-scooter service on campus.

While I support the act and wait for the university’s administrators to act on the inherent needs of the student body, I believe that a major issue left unattended by the bill is the enforcement of helmets while using e-scooters and other similar forms of transportation. The danger that the lack of use of helmets presents to the student body is a safety concern and a potential health concern.

Helmets are enforced for a reason and I think that students sometimes trivialize the safety provided by them. They are supposed to serve as a shield if there is ever any impact on the head and its frame while riding. Even though our campus has a speed limit of 20 miles per hour, which reduces the possibility of high-impact collisions, I think it is imperative that if e-scooters are ever implemented on campus, strict regulations should be placed on the use of helmets to ensure the general safety of the student population.

A huge component of efficient transportation is the assurance of an ideal standard of safety. Accidents can sometimes be fore-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

Enforcement of helmets on scooters could possibly lead to a safer campus, 2023.

seeable and preventable. While I see and understand the numerous advantages the e-scooters will bring to the campus I am also wary of the possibility of accidents and the inability of the campus to enforce safety measures regarding the use of helmets.

A lot of students on campus who ride scooters, skateboards and bikes to class do not wear helmets which may be because they do not understand the severity of the issue. Helmets are not just for kids; everyone, kids and adults alike need to be protected from the chance of causing significant damage to their vital organs.

Within the college scene there is a lot of ambivalence around issues like this, in an attempt to seem cool or to validate the inherent need to be “mature.” But my argument to that will always be that putting your life in danger will never be cool or mature. As young adults, I think it is important to understand that little details you might

consider irrelevant - like wearing your helmet - can save your life.

Precaution is an attribute that is now being paraded as redundant in our society and for most people it will never be deemed important until it has to be. Students who ride bikes, scooters and other related means of transportation without helmets on roads with speed limits of 20 miles per hour are more likely to do it on roads with higher speed limits.

I think the issue to be addressed here is one of habit. Even if you consider riding in a school zone without a helmet not dangerous what is the guarantee that the students in question will wear helmets in situations that are dangerous. Many unfortunate events have occurred with students riding scooters on roads surrounding campuses, there really is no guarantee. What happens if there is a drunk driver or a driver who isn’t following the speed limit? Is there really a guarantee of low impact bike accidents on campuses? These are parting thoughts that we should all consider.



The Recording Academy presents: The 65th Grammy Awards



Joey Arthur

On Feb. 5 the Recording Academy presented its 65th Grammy Awards. Hosted by former “The Daily Show” host and South African-born comedian Trevor Noah, the Grammys is a night of recognition and celebration for individuals and groups dedicated to the growth of music and the music industry. Held at Crypto.com Arena in downtown Los Angeles, the Grammy Awards are a hub for the music industry’s biggest and brightest to celebrate music in all its forms and genres.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

Jazz singer Samara Joy holds her awards for “Best New Artist” and “Best Jazz Vocal Album,” Feb. 5.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

British singer-songwriter Harry Styles won the Grammy award for “Album of the Year” with his album, “Harry’s House,” Feb. 5.

From the announcement of the Grammy nominees to the night of the actual show, The Grammy Awards was a night of history-making nominations, wins and events. Viola Davis earned EGOT (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony) status for her win for the best audio-book, narration and storytelling recording for her memoir, “Finding Me.” Beyoncé broke the record for most Grammy wins with 32 wins, a record previously held by Hungarian conductor, Georg Solti and she tied with her husband Jay-Z for most Grammy nominations with 88 nominations. Kim Petras made history as the first transgender woman to win a Grammy for her category. The Recording Academy honored Dr. Dre for his global outreach projects with an award category dedicated to him called the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award. Country singers Carly Pearce and Ashley McBryde became the first woman duo to ever win best country duo/group performance. American film composer Germaine Franco became the first woman of color to win best score soundtrack for visual media for her work on the award-winning Disney animated movie, “Encanto.” The Recording Academy also celebrated the 50th anniversary of hip hop with a grand hip hop medley featuring artists like LL Cool J, Queen Latifah, Busta Rhymes, Ice-T, Missy Elliott, Nelly, Lil Baby, Lil Uzi Vert and more. The Grammys was a huge night for many marginalized communities as they were celebrated by the artists that represented them.

Although the Grammys featured a lot of amazing performances and felt like a music festival, it was still a night of awards. Here are a few of the award categories, presenters, nominees and winners.

- **Best New Artist:** Presented by 2021 Best New Artist winner Olivia Rodrigo, the category celebrates artists that notably impact music through their debut. The nominees were Anitta, Omar Apollo, DOMi & JD Beck, Muni Long, Samara Joy, Latto, Måneskin, Tobe Nwigwe, Molly Tuttle and Wet Leg. Jazz Singer Samara Joy won the award.
- **Record of the Year:** Presented by British singer-songwriter Chris Martin, the category celebrates the musical composition and its uniqueness. The nominees were “Don’t Shut Me Down” by ABBA, “Easy on Me” by Adele,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RECORDING ACADEMY

Singer Lizzo accepts her award for “Record of the Year,” attributed to her hit song, “About Damn Time,” Feb. 5.

“BREAK MY SOUL” by Beyoncé, “Good Morning Gorgeous” by Mary J. Blige, “You and Me on the Rock” by Brandi Carlile Featuring Lucius, “Woman” by Doja Cat, “Bad Habit” by Steve Lacy, “The Heart Part 5” by Kendrick Lamar, “About Damn Time” by Lizzo and “As It Was” by Harry Styles. Michigan-born singer Lizzo took home the award.

- **Song of the Year:** Presented by first lady Jill Biden, the category celebrates the power of lyricism and how influential it can be. The nominees were “abcdefu” by GAYLE, “About Damn Time” by Lizzo, “All Too Well (10 Minute Version)” by Taylor Swift, “As It Was” by Harry Styles, “Bad Habit” by Steve Lacy, “BREAK MY SOUL” by Beyoncé, “Easy On Me” by Adele, “GOD DID” by DJ Khaled Featuring Rick Ross, Lil Wayne, Jay-Z, John Legend & Fridayy, “The Heart Part 5” by Kendrick Lamar and “Just Like That” by Bonnie Raitt. Blues singer and guitar-

ist Bonnie Raitt took home the award.

- **Album of the Year:** Presented by Trevor Noah and the fans of the artists of the category, this award celebrates the best album of 2022. The nominees were “Voyage” by ABBA, “30” by Adele, “Un Verano Sin Ti” by Bad Bunny, “RENAISSANCE” by Beyoncé, “Good Morning Gorgeous (Deluxe)” by Mary J Blige, “In These Silent Days” by Brandi Carlile, “Music of the Spheres” by Coldplay, “Mr Morale and The Big Steppers” by Kendrick Lamar, “Special” by Lizzo and “Harry’s House” by Harry Styles. British singer-songwriter and actor Harry Styles took home the award.

Regardless of the “controversies” circulating the internet in regard to the decisions of the Recording Academy, the Grammys made for a fun and inspiring night. It paid homage not just to music but to the marginalized groups that created the genres that we know and love today.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT AND COLUMBIA RECORDS.

The music video for "Brown Skin Girl" celebrates the beauty of dark skin and represents various cultures through its costumes and hairstyles, 2020.

The Wichitan's Song of the Week: "BROWN SKIN GIRL"

JOEY ARTHUR
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Welcome back to the Wichitan's Song of the Week. In celebration of Black History Month, this week's pick is "Brown Skin Girl" by Texas-born singer-songwriter Beyoncé, Guyanese American rapper

and producer SAINt JHN, American singer Blue Ivy and Nigerian singer-songwriter Wizkid. Released July 19, 2019, as the 15th track on her soundtrack album "The Lion King: The Gift," "Black Skin Girl" is about colorism within the black community. But it is also about being unapologetically and audaciously black. "The Lion King: The Gift" isn't just a soundtrack; it's a recognition of African culture and African American experiences, and "Brown Skin Girl" is a prime example.

Born in Houston, Beyoncé Giselle Knowles-Carter, most commonly known as Beyoncé, is an award-winning singer-songwriter best known for her 2016 album, "Lemonade." Since the release of the debut album of her solo career, Beyoncé has received much praise and admiration, not just from fans but from music critics, which has placed her as a highly successful and influential singer. Beyoncé's high status in the music industry influenced Walt Disney's decision to task her with creating the soundtrack for its live-action adaptation of the popular animated movie, "The Lion King." In an interview with Apple Music, Beyoncé said that her goal was to create a soundtrack that was a love letter to Africa and was a celebration of the African American experience. "The Lion King: The Gift" is an album that featured African and African American artists from different backgrounds like Nigerian singer Burna Boy, Cameroonian music executive Salatiel,

Ghanaian singer Lord Africana, California native Kendrick Lamar and more.

"Brown Skin Girl" is my favorite song from the soundtrack, and one of my favorites from Beyoncé's entire discography. In "Brown Skin Girl," Beyoncé, Blue Ivy, SAINt JHN and Wizkid all sing about the experience of being a black woman in America. They talk about colorism within the black community and how many men overlook black women because of systematic stereotypes. In addition to the topic of colorism, the group also talks about the value of black self-identity in women and the struggles that come with accepting that. The song also touches on the importance of not placing their identity in anyone but themselves. Lastly, they sing about being unapologetically and audaciously black and the importance of self-love.

Lyricism, as I've stated before, is an important aspect of any song and Beyoncé, Blue Ivy, SAINt JHN and Wizkid understood that when composing the song. Both as a member of Destiny's Child and throughout her solo career, Beyoncé has been known to be an outstanding songwriter, as evidenced in her multiple awards in songwriting. In "Brown Skin Girl," the singers use a form of English known as Pidgin English, native to many English-speaking African countries, and they also utilize the literary style of storytelling to perfectly tell the experience of being a black woman in America. My favorite lyric in the entire song is:

"Them men, them gon' fall in love with you and all of your glory. Your skin is not only dark, it shines, and it tells your story. Keep dancin', they can't control you. They watchin', they all adore you. If ever you are in doubt remember what mama told you"

Colorism within the black community is a topic that does not get talked about as often as it should, but "Brown Skin Girl" forces the listeners to have conversations about it. Beyoncé had a dream, a vision for her soundtrack which the song perfectly explained. The song is a great listen and an amazing tribute in celebration of Black History Month.

"In a world that doesn't always value the gift of being a black woman, it is important to celebrate that and that is what

'Brown Skin Girl' does."

JOEY ARTHUR

RATING: 5/5



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT AND COLUMBIA RECORDS.

"Brown Skin Girl" comes from the 2019 soundtrack album "The Lion King: The Gift," 2019.