

Article by Cristina Orozco

February is Black History Month, sometimes referred to as African American History Month. This is an annual observance that originated in the United States back in 1926. Historian Carter G. Woodson, the pioneer of African American studies in the early 20th century, proposed marking an official time to not only celebrate and honor African Americans, but to raise awareness on Black History. The month of February was chosen to coincide with the birthday month of two important figures in black history - President Abraham Lincoln's, who was responsible for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, and Frederick Douglass, African American abolitionist, author, and orator. Woodson, along with the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), originally launched a Negro History Week in 1926. It wasn't until 1976, under President Gerald Ford, that Black History Month was officially recognized in the country.

This is not necessarily a time to only highlight the immeasurable suffering and hardships of the black community, past and present. February is also a time to honor and celebrate the contributions of activists, politicians, and civil rights pioneers. Some of the more well-known of these include Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcom X.

THEMES: Black History Month has a yearly theme that marks the celebration. According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the year 2022's theme is Black Health and Wellness. "This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora." Last year's theme was The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.

ALLYSHIP: If you're wondering how to be an ally, the first and most crucial step is to educate yourself – thoroughly, and open-mindedly. Learn about the Black experience through books, movies, podcasts, workshops, Ted and TedxTalks, and the easiest of all – having an open and honest discussion with a willing participant. LISTEN more than you speak! Allow Black voices to tell their own story and decide what they need.

Some other great ways to better your allyship are to support Black-owned businesses, donate to charities that support Anti-Racism, purchase and read books written by Black Authors, attend any of the MANY virtual Black History Month celebrations.

Please remember, Black History is American History! It is not limited to the month of February, and while we celebrate, honor, and observe Black History in the Month of February, it is ALWAYS a good time to be an ally and show love and support.

If you are interested in learning more about Black History, visit https://blackhistorymonth.gov OR > Scan Here! >





If you would like to attend a virtual Black History celebration, visit https://asalh.org OR > Scan Here! >

Article by Kyler Burke

Over the course of a few months, both the men's and the women's basketball teams are making great strides. When asked what the expectations of the season were, Coach Hammett replied with, "To win the conference, the national championship, and to be the number one team in the country." With a record of 19-3 overall and 14-2 in the conference, the men's team is dominating. Previously winning the national conference title in 2019, coach LeShawn Hammett is working towards the top once again. Currently the men are #1 in the country, with Mont Alto in third. Their biggest game, which was on February 8th, was fought hard to secure the win. The beginning of the game was a challenge for the men as they battled York, and by halftime they were down by seven. Overall, they pushed through to have a 66-63 win, adding to their six-game winning streak to make it seven. The players are a close-knit team that work hard for their accomplishments, and one such player is Kevin Major, who is a senior at Penn State Wilkes-Barre. During the game against Schuylkill on February 1st, the starting guard scored his 1,000th point, earning his spot in the 1,000-point club. As the season starts to near its end, the coach noticed a lot of advances between the team's players. Better chemistry and focus have certainly made this team unstoppable.

The women's team, although not having won a game, is making great progress on its own. Their current record is 0-18. At the beginning of the season, with only six girls, one being a soccer player, they pushed through with such a limited number. Coach Hammett stated that at the start of the season he wanted, "To be able to grow as a program, compete in every game, and be in a position to win every game." Although the girls lost two players at the end of the first semester, they gained three in the second. While learning strategies as a new team, they travelled to various Penn State campuses, as well as other colleges. As far as close games go, these women have had their fair share. Against Penn State Brandywine on November 30th, the girls lost 48-44. On January 29th our Lady Lions lost 63-52 in a tough battle against Penn State Shenango. Coach LeShawn stated that there has been much improvement during games. The girls "Are playing better early in games, having better first halves, and competing better at a higher level than we were at the beginning of the year." With three more games to go, these ladies are hoping for the chance to gain a

win, and with hard work and determination, they just might do it.



For many, Valentine's Day may mean watching a romantic movie to get into the mood. However, if you're a bit morbid like me, it might just be another day to watch a horror movie. From slashers to gothic horror, there's plenty of horror movies that feature romance... to, uh, differing results, of course. Here's some good ones to watch this time of year.

1. My Bloody Valentine, dir. George Mihalka

I feel like the name tells you all you need to know about this, but yeah, it's perfect for Valentine's Day. A group of teens decide to hold a Valentine's Day party in a mine where a tragedy occurred decades beforehand. Obviously not the wisest choice, but it's a campy 8os slasher, so what do you expect?

2. It Follows, dir. David Robert Mitchell

After Jay sleeps with her new boyfriend for the first time, she discovers that she has contracted a curse in which an entity, invisible to everyone but the curse bearer, will relentlessly hunt her until she sleeps with someone else to pass the curse on. You could genuinely argue it's a romance between Jay and her friend, so there. It's genuinely a really tense film as well.

3. The Love Witch, dir. Anna Biller

If you look up camp in the dictionary, The Love Witch will probably be there. A lonely, young witch is desperate for love, and is constantly concocting potions and casting spells to find a man. However, this usually leads to more problems for her, and this only escalates when she meets the man she really loves.

4. The Fly, dir. David Cronenberg

An iconic body horror film, this is still pretty nasty to this day. A scientist develops a teleportation device, and tests it on himself. However, a fly gets into the device, causing him to slowly transform into a fly-human hybrid. Also, he's in love with a science journalist who is interested in his research. Happy Valentine's Day!

5. Crimson Peak, dir. Guillermo del Toro

Your enjoyment of Crimson Peak may depend on whether you're a big del Toro fan or not, but I've always been here to defend it. After marrying a strange but charming man, aspiring author Edith moves into his mansion, but finds that it is haunted.

6. Let the Right One In, dir. Tomas Alfredson

This one is genuinely a romance, guys. A lonely, bullied 12-year-old boy befriends his next-door neighbor, a mysterious child who only comes out at night. If you're into vampires and a gothic atmosphere, this is the one for you.

7. Candyman, dir. Bernard Rose

Okay, maybe I'm sort of pushing it putting this on here, but listen. It's a romance. Sometimes a couple is a murderous myth incarnate and an entitled grad student who oversteps her bounds, I guess. After a viewing, you may or may not have the urge to look in a mirror and say Candyman, Candyman... Candyman... Candyman... Ca-

8. Mandy, dir. Panos Cosmatos

Set in the 80s, Red and the titular Mandy live a happy life together, but when their peace is destroyed by a violent cult, Red sets out for revenge. This is genuinely one of the most unhinged Nic Cage movies, by the way, which says a lot. But also, the ending makes me really sad. It's a love story!

9. Audition, dir. Takashi Miike

If you've seen this movie, the phrase "kiri kiri kiri" is probably ingrained in your brain. It's an iconic J-horror film, and listen. Is it a love story? Not really. However, it's about a lonely middle-aged widower who wants another relationship, and like the creep he is, sets up a fake audition for a film to meet younger women. Then, uh... he gets what he deserves! So, romance is a part of it. Sort of.

10. Elvira: Mistress of the Dark, dir. James Signorelli

Everyone who loves 80s horror known Elvira, the Mistress of the Dark herself. If you're an Elvira fan, you'll definitely enjoy this campy ride about Elvira claiming her inheritance in a snobby, conservative, upper-middle class neighborhood. There is romance in this, because like, she's literally Elvira.



WE ARE... PENN STATE

Penn State Elects Neeli Bendapudi as President

On December 9th, by unanimous decision, the Board of Trustees named Neeli Bendapudi the 19th president of Penn State University. She will succeed Eric Barron, who held the position for eight years, until announcing his retirement in February 2021. Bendapudi will make history on two separate accounts - as the first woman president and as the first person of color to serve as the University's president in the 166-year history.



Bendapudi was born in India and earned both her undergraduate and master's degrees at a business school, Andhra University. She later moved to the United States, where she attended the University of Kansas and earned her Ph.D. in marketing. Neeli Bendapudi started her academic career as a professor of marketing, teaching at Texas A&M University and Ohio State University, before returning to Kansas, where she served as dean and later, vice chancellor. From 2018, she held the position as president of the University of Louisville, until December 13, 2021, when she was selected as the next president of Penn State University.

Penn State Student Body president (Erin Boas), Faculty Senate President (Bonj Szczygiel), Borough Council president, and many more welcome Bendapudi and look forward to open communication, more valuable degrees, and a more inclusive and diverse community with strong female leadership.

"It's truly the honor of a lifetime. I'm in awe of Penn State's 'we are' spirit and the transformative power of a Penn State education and of the Penn State community, which is like no other anywhere." Bendapudi remarked at the podium after the unanimous decision was made to hire her.

Five Fun Festivities to Celebrate Valentine's Day Article by Emma Sands

Love is in the air! Valentine's Day is a time to show someone how much you care about them. Maybe you have a friend that always has your back or a significant other that knows how to cheer you up when you are feeling down! Here are five activities you can do to celebrate your Valentine:

Romantic Movie Marathon

There are three steps to a successful movie night: heating up some popcorn, turning down the lights, and inviting your guest over! Movies are an inexpensive and simple way to show your Valentine a good time. To get into the holiday spirit, I recommend watching a Rom-Com! Some of my favorites are The Wrong Missy (Netflix), Crazy Rich Asians (Hulu), and Enchanted (Disney+). If your Valentine is not into Rom-Coms, there are plenty of other activities you can do together such as playing video games or having a spa day.

Date Night

Show your Valentine a night to remember by hitting the town! There are many options for places to go and things to do. You can go with a classic and take your Valentine out to dinner at their favorite restaurant, or you can do something they are interested in. If your Valentine likes art, plan a trip to a local museum. Places can get booked up fast on Valentine's Day, so try to make reservations and plan ahead.

Write a Heartfelt Letter

This Valentine's Day tradition may seem outdated and cringy, but writing a letter or card can help show your Valentine how you feel! If you do not like the idea of writing a letter, then write them a song or create a piece of art. Everyone loves to feel special, so personalization is key. I recommend speaking from the heart and avoiding overdone cliches.

Cook Their Favorite Meal Many philosophers have said that "food is the key to the heart" and I strongly agree. Cooking or baking your Valentine's favorite food can make them feel cared about and heard. If you do not know where to start, you can look up a recipe online or buy a cookbook.

Flowers or Chocolate?

Presents are a great way to show your appreciation for someone. Chocolate, flowers, and jewelry are common gifts on Valentine's Day, but why not switch it up? Has your Valentine expressed their interest in something lately? Show them you listen by buying it for them!

The first semester of college is crazy. Our lives change a lot! I remember good and bad times. I cherish memories like meeting nice people such as the guy who played a video game with me and going to board game nights, but I don't miss spending too much time on homework.

Remember your first semester? Is your memory clear or hazy? Here's a fun idea: recall what you thought college would be like when you were little. How accurate was your prediction? When I was 12, my master plan was to take my PlayStation 3 game console and copy of LittleBigPlanet 2 to college and play it all day. And I would have a dorm at a crazy, big campus and of course I didn't think about bills or food. Totally realistic stuff man.

Everybody's first time in college is different because we're all unique, plus it depends on the world we started college in. I asked two Penn State freshmen who began last fall (Fall 2021) how their first semester was.

First, I interviewed Garrett Porasky who is learning IST.

Question 1: Is last fall the first time you've taken college classes?

A: (Garrett says yes, and he will stay here all four years)

Question 2: What's a challenge you were faced with last semester?

A: "Just adjusting to how college works instead of high school."

Question 3: What's a success from last semester?

A: "I was able to keep on top of all of the work that was given to me and didn't have any problems doing it."

Question 4: What could Penn State do better to help you, and what are they doing well on?

A: "I can't think of anything that Penn State could do to help me more than I already am helped. I think that they are doing well on adjusting new students to college."

Next, I interviewed Avdo Adzemovic who is learning Architectural Engineering and will transfer to University Park in Fall 2022.

Question 1: Is last fall the first time you've taken college classes?

A: (Though I forgot to ask him, I remember that he visited a short summer program at a college before)

Question 2: What's a challenge you were faced with last semester?

A: "One challenge I faced last semester was how am I going to get myself to do work. When I was in high school I was doing all of my work on time until the end of my senior year. In the end of my Senior year I stopped caring because I felt work was being dumped on me and no one was actually teaching me. Everything was online at the time, and when I got into Penn State my biggest concern was how am I going to get back into the same work ethic that got me A's and B's. I over came this challenge by focusing on my goal, I asked myself why am I here for. Finally, over some time, my work ethic kicked in very slowly. At the end of the first semester I made sure that I had someone to hold me into account my actions. I made sure to go to that person and get things done on time and correctly. I made sure to get help, and I ask questions in class no matter how stupid I may sound to my peers or professors."

Question 3: What's a success from last semester?

A: "Passing Chem 110"

Question 4: What could Penn State do better to help you, and what are they doing well on?

A: "Penn State could help me with housing. Next semester I am going to University Park to pursue my major, Architectural engineering. But It is like no one in University Park seems to care or at least guide me in the right direction towards finding a place to sleep at night while going to school. Overall, I believe Penn State does an awesome job at hiring instructors, each and every instructor I have met in the Penn State campuses I've been to have helped me out more than I could imagine. I feel that because of the amazing instructors and faculty students could really thrive in the real world."

Valentine's Day Word Search

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GIRLFRIEND THOUGHTFUL CHOCOLATE **BOYFRIEND BOUQUET** ROMANCE ROSES **HEART ADORE CUPID** FLIRT **LOVE** XOXO **ARROWS** CARD DATE

