



## FALL, FILM, FOOTBALL AND FUN



Hampton Professor Rel Dowdell and actor Tony Todd talk to students about the movie *Candyman*.

Christian Thomas | Script Photojournalist



Members of the Gamma Iota Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. lead the way to their flag football game.

Nigel Ray | Script Photo Contest Winner



The Hampton University football team took on the North Carolina A&T Aggies, and pulled an upset, winning 30-9.

Nelson Cheeseman | Hampton University Athletics File Photo

## Students Are Struggling to Adjust to Campus Life After Quarantine

RAVEN HARPER  
CAMPUS EDITOR

For many students at Hampton University, returning to in-person learning was a huge relief after being remote for over a year. However, after a couple of months of being back, some are still struggling to adjust to campus life.

Nina Pinto, a senior Psychology Pre-Med major from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, says it has been a weird adjustment so far, which has made it very stressful for herself and many of her peers.

"I feel the student in a lot of people died in March of 2020, so getting back into the habit of going to classes and the workload is hard," Pinto said. "I really have to put that effort in now that wasn't enforced for like an entire year."

Hampton University quickly shifted to remote learning in March 2020, after sending students home because of the spreading coronavirus pandemic. For almost 14 months, students attended classes online.

With the rollout and availability of the COVID-19 vaccine across the country, Hampton reopened the campus in August for the 2021 fall semester for in-person learning to students who were fully vaccinated and had tested negative for COVID-19.

In the first weeks of October, students already

have experienced Homecoming week, with midterms immediately following. Pinto feels as though the school year is quickly progressing. "At least from my point of view, I feel like Hampton is almost trying to recreate what was the normal academic experience, when in actuality, it has changed a lot," Pinto said.

To help students adjust to this new normal, Pinto believes wellness days should have been implemented into this semester to help with the burnout she and many of her peers are currently dealing with.

"Post homecoming and midterms week, we were burnt out. I'm still burnt out," Pinto said. "Wellness days back at home were great because it was a time to decompress from looking at a screen the entire day. However, I think they are needed now more than ever because we are trying to adjust to a new normal. So for us to not even be able to have the opportunity to take a break, it's overwhelming."

Last year during remote learning, the Student Government Association (SGA) implemented wellness days to address the students' mental health concerns. SGA, in tandem with Hampton administration, scheduled a few days throughout the semester for no classes, advising students to take the time to focus on their well-being.

Pinto suggested that aside from wellness days, a possible fall break should have been considered.

"It's really sad, but a lot of students are like, 'I really need a break,'" Pinto said. "People, myself included, are very overwhelmed. I feel like maybe even just a four-day weekend for a fall break would have really helped alleviate stress and helped students get caught up a little."

Madison Davenport, a freshman Marketing major from Atlanta, Georgia, says that being new to Hampton as a first-year, along with the pandemic, has been a huge adjustment for her.

"This is my first time in college," Davenport said. "I spent pretty much my entire last year of high school online. So not only am I adjusting to getting back to being in person, but I'm adjusting to college life as well, so I would say it's a lot harder and has been a challenge for me."

Davenport says the most challenging part of adjusting to campus life has been the fast-paced environment at Hampton this semester.

"Being online, the workload wasn't as heavy," she said. "However, now being in-person, I have such a heavy workload. It's like once I'm done with something, there's always something else that's due right after."

The lack of socialization during quarantine also played a role in Davenport's stress this semester, which she said made it difficult at first to be social and meet new people.

"Learning remotely, I got so used to being in my room all day that I've lost that social aspect," Davenport said. "So actually being here in person, it was harder getting out and meeting people than it normally would be."

Davenport thinks the administration should allow the student body to have more campus activities to help everyone get used to getting back to normal as much as possible.

"I understand that the school is being cautious of campus events and activities because they don't want to have to close the campus down again, but a lot of our freshman class lost most of our senior year, and we feel like we're losing some of our freshman year, too," she said.

Davenport said that many campus events and activities students had proposed or planned at the beginning of the semester were turned down.

Now that administration and student activities are allowing more and more to occur, she feels like it's already late into the semester but is still hopeful for more campus activities soon.

"It just takes time to get used to," Davenport said.

President Harvey announced that students will receive a wellness day on November 5.



## CAMPUS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## Students Anticipate New Leadership at Hampton

MORGAN HARRIS  
STAFF WRITER

After nearly 44 years of leadership as the longest-serving president of Hampton University, Dr. William R. Harvey plans to retire next year. As his longtime tenure ends, Hampton students say they are receptive to the leadership change and await transition.

As a graduate of Talladega College, Dr. Harvey insisted on using his skills to set Hampton University on the path of inevitable success.

Assuming office on July 1, 1978, of what was then called Hampton Institute, Dr. Harvey was elected as the 12th president. While serving as president, Dr. Harvey has implemented a leadership program, M.B.A. program, centers for high-tech scientific research such as the Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute and expanded the Continuing Education Program.

With numerous awards and accolades, Dr. Harvey made history by becoming the first African American owner in the soft drink bottling industry when he and his wife, Mrs. Norma B. Harvey, purchased a Pepsi-Cola bottling franchise in 1986.

On December 15, 2020, Dr. Harvey announced his plans to retire by June 2022, after nearly 44 years of leadership.

“[Dr.] Harvey’s leadership feels very secure,” said Promise Robinson, a junior Music Recording Technology major from Neptune, New Jersey. “You can tell that the priority is the student’s safety even if we don’t necessarily agree with every protocol.”

Anticipating new changes and eager to see what new leadership will bring to Hampton University, students are optimistic that the change could potentially be smooth-sailing.

“With a new president coming in, I can definitely



Sasha Thornton| Script Photojournalist

say I’m looking forward to seeing a shift in the culture at Hampton,” Robinson said. “There’s a lot of rules, regulations, departments and buildings that new leadership could possibly look into enhancing. With a new president, I hope to see Hampton shine in a new light that will continue to be enjoyable for the students and staff.”

From the beginning to near the end of his career as president, Dr. Harvey has made it his mission to ensure that students’ voices are accounted for and the No. 1 priority.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Harvey made swift changes to ensure that the students’ and staffs’ safety was at the top of the list, deciding to switch to remote learning.

Students looked forward to the promised new scenery throughout the campus hiatus and were even more excited that a new president would bring a fresher look to the campus.

“I hope they will bring more engaging things to the campus that will benefit us, the campus, [and] our education,” said Chauncey Goodson, a junior Interdisciplinary Studies major from Darlington, South Carolina.

Goodson is hopeful the new president will bring Hampton to even greater heights and maybe add more fun to the mixture.

“I think that once we get a new president, some things on campus may be more fun and exciting

to look forward to,” he said. “Especially if the new president is younger. I honestly think they might make some things better here on campus because they could bring something new.” Students expect a new president who will interact with students more, help balance their priorities, and engage more in their student and campus life.

Students believe that new leadership could bring even more beneficial opportunities to the table.

“Whenever there’s a change in authority, no transition is ever going to be perfectly smooth,” Robinson said, “but I have high hopes that this will be the change Hampton University needs in order to become an even finer institution.”

## Candyman Actor Tony Todd Visits Hampton University

CHRISTIAN THOMAS  
SCRIPT PHOTOJOURNALIST

This past Wednesday, actor Tony Todd, star of the 1992 film Candyman, visited Hampton University for a film screening and discussion with students centered around the newest installment of the Candyman franchise and Todd’s various projects.

Invited by Rel Dowdell, a film studies professor in the English and Foreign Languages department, the screening was held in the Student Center’s theater with a packed student audience. Dowdell said he wanted students to meet a “real actor” who had paid a lot of dues.

“What I wanted was someone who had over 40 years in the industry, who has done everything, not just theatre acting, but film acting, voiceover, commercials, so they can understand all the different facets of someone who’s done everything,” he said.

Todd, who has acted in more than 230 projects

throughout his 40-year career, shared his unique experiences while in the film industry. From turning down Quentin Tarantino four times for a role in Pulp Fiction, traveling to Africa with James Earl Jones, to working on the set of The Crow, before the film’s star, Brandon Lee, tragically died.

During the event, Todd went into detail behind the scenes of his iconic roles in films such as Candyman, Final Destination and the 1990 remake of Night of the Living Dead.

Taking questions from the audience, Todd shared his experience being covered in bees while filming Candyman.

“When I read that script and I saw the bees coming up, I knew that was a scene that had never been done before,” Todd said. “We had an official beekeeper on set. Two days before we started shooting, he took me into his trailer and he said, ‘Tony, it’s time for you to meet the bees.’ I only got stung about 26, 27 times, but the adrenaline was gone.”

He mentioned that he had previously negotiated to receive \$1,000 as compensation per bee sting. Todd also talked about Cabrini Green, the apartment complex Candyman took place in.

“We spent a month in Cabrini Green, which is one of the most hostile housing projects ever created,” he said. “We got to talk to the community, which is mostly single Black women. We were told that they had to get their shopping done by 10 a.m., otherwise it was no-man’s land. If you look closely at the opening scene, a lot of these guys are actual gang members.”

Todd shared that he had initial concerns over the release of Candyman.

“So many people saw that movie when they were little. It freaked me out,” he said. “I went to the director and said, ‘Man, did we make a movie for kids? Are we babysitting for them?’ He said, ‘Tony, relax. Anybody who saw this movie when they were little either loved it, or was affected by it, or will remember it forever.’”

Todd also spoke on the lack of diversity not just in front of the camera but behind it.

“I would be on a set of 100 people, and I wouldn’t see anybody of color,” Todd said. “They used to not let more than one of us [people of color] on the set.”

Speaking to the future actors and actresses in the audience, Todd advised students to be fearless.

“You have to be fearless, you have to own this role,” he said. “Every role you go for, write down 10 reasons why you don’t want the job.”

Todd worked as a producer in the 2021 reimagining of Candyman. Before the event’s conclusion, the actor hinted at his role as Venom in Spider-Man 2 that is slated to release on Sony’s Playstation 5 in 2023.

Dowdell says he plans to offer events similar to these regularly.

## Carr Couture Boutique

NIA WHITE  
STAFF WRITER

Carr Couture Boutique was launched in June 2021 from the fashion-driven mind of Lillian Carr, a Hampton University sophomore. Carr’s inspiration for the launch of her boutique came from her interest in the fashion industry and her background as a Strategic Communication major.

“I got the fashion inspiration from different boutiques that I admire as well as people within the fashion industry, vendors that I enjoy looking at on social media and other platforms that really produce fashion,” Lillian Carr said.

Carr Couture Boutique is an online boutique that specializes in clothing for women of all ages.

“Carr Couture is a place for fashionistas who dare to be different,” Carr said. “Carr Couture is not just a boutique, it’s a brand. It’s a place where anyone who has a passion for fashion or is interested in learning more about how their fashion sense can grow.”

The launch of the boutique came after many years of thought, but Carr decided to begin her journey as a business owner in February 2021.

“I have a passion for fashion, and I wanted to have the opportunity to share my passion on a bigger platform so the ability to do that through a boutique came to mind,” Carr said. “I had extra free time during the pandemic. I thought that it would be the perfect time to finally launch my boutique.”

After developing the goal of her business, Lillian prepared to launch Carr Couture Boutique.

“I prepared to launch by gathering all of my business documents, doing a lot of research, creating a business account, getting the necessary funds to

launch my business and preparing the looks that I wanted to launch for my business,” Carr said.

After getting the research and financial side of her business organized, Carr attempted to establish her business’s advertising and photography side.

“I advertise my business through emails, text messages, Instagram, Facebook and TikTok,” Carr said.

Running a small business comes with many responsibilities, including brand promotion and other forms of advertisement.

“The most challenging part is definitely photo shoots,” Carr said. “I feel like everyone thinks that photoshoots are really fun, and they are, in retrospect. However, it’s truly a lot of planning for hair and makeup. You also have to plan for weather changes because you truly never know what will happen in your photos.”

As a business specializing in fashion, the images are an essential part of the brand.

“Photos are truly one of the most important parts of your work, so if you don’t have that piece, then you won’t have the product to produce, and people won’t be drawn to your brand,” Carr said.

Every business has its challenges, especially for student entrepreneurs attempting to balance work and school.

“It’s tough trying to balance running a business while also being a full-time student,” Carr said. “It’s been really difficult to maneuver such trying times, but I’m persevering and making the most out of my experience.”

Carr is aiming to continue her business while also being a successful student.



Photo Courtesy of Lillian Carr

After moving on campus, Carr decided to take a break from releasing new clothing items and focus on her academics. Lillian still plans to keep Carr Couture up and running even during her vacation.

“I plan to keep my business running by continuing advertising and just making sure that people know my brand,” Carr said. “I hope that through this next year I am able to engage as many people as possible and build my following so that I can grow my business.”

Carr plans to continue expanding her brand, both as a student and after graduating.

“I honestly just hope my business continues to grow,” Carr said. “I hope that when I graduate from Hampton, I am able to run my business full-time along with whatever else I choose to do with my degree. I want people to know that they have people within the industry that care about them and care about curating the best styles for them.”



# LIFESTYLE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## Five Natural Hair Tips for Cool Weather

TYRONE FARMER  
STAFF WRITER

The colder seasons can feel like a dream bringing much joy, like the holiday season, family time and other festivities, but it can be a nightmare for anyone with natural hair.

The cold air causes hair to dry and frizz, which could consequently cause breakage of hair. Hats, scarves and hoodies seem to be the answer, but the materials are typically very harsh and rub your hair, causing it to break off even more.

It can seem unbearable and leave you wanting to avoid the weather at all costs, but here are five essential tips you need to know to maintain your natural hair through these trying and cold months.

**1. Keep your hair moisturized.**  
Maintaining moisture is the biggest key in keeping your hair looking fresh and complete through the winter months. The crisp air will not hesitate to dry the natural oils out of your scalp. To combat this, apply products such as black castor oil and coconut oil. These are affordable, lightweight options to ensure that your scalp is not dry. Massage the oils into your scalp to lock in moisture, increase hair thickness and growth. A good routine to use for moisturizing is the LOC method. The LOC method includes a leave-in-conditioner to hydrate the hair and scalp, oil to lock in the moisture and cream to define curls, leaving them looking good as new.

**2. Condition bi-weekly**  
Deep conditioners are the perfect remedy needed to get the full, curly look you want to achieve. Try to find all-natural conditioners that work best with your hair type and give you a look you want. Stay away from conditioners with chemicals, which may cause harm in the future. Products using natural oils such as sunflower seed oil and aloe vera might be more suitable. These are perfect ingredients to use since they are thicker oils. Also, apply the conditioner to your roots



Flow Clark | Unsplash

and let it sit for about 20 minutes. You can never condition too much!

**3. Use protective styles**  
Protective styles will be your best friend over these next three to five months. They play a crucial role in preventing natural hair from weather damage. With wearing your hair out, it will eventually begin to dry up. Protective styles hold the moisture in hair longer and allow less maintenance. Try going for a classic box braids look or even faux locs. Both look and work great

for keeping your hair healthy.

**4. Set a routine**  
Keeping a set routine is an essential factor that often gets overlooked. Your hair, just like anything else, needs to be trained. A routine isn't just the products and steps taken to style the hair. It also includes everything done to maintain the hair. To keep hair from breaking off at night, try sleeping with satin bonnets or pillows. Having scheduled days and times for your hair ensures that your hair receives the proper care it needs.

Remember also to drink plenty of water. Your diet can have as much of an effect on your hair as the weather.

**5. Trim**  
Don't be afraid to cut your hair during this cold stretch. Wearing your hair out means that your ends are prone to split because of the exposure. If your hair is left neglected, it will continue to split and eventually cause the hair to break off. To make sure that your hair continues to grow evenly, remember to trim your ends.

NOAH HOGAN  
STAFF WRITER

While students have experienced both incredible highs and possible lows with the passings of both Homecoming and midterm exams, we have reached a pivotal point in the school year. As we continue through the second half of the first semester, students will be looking to buckle down and find a quiet space to complete their assignments.

Campus amenities such as the university library and other free and available workspaces will be more crowded than usual.

While universal rules are posted in most libraries, rules are not universally followed.

Here are some tips on creating the best atmosphere and library experience for yourself and your classmates working just as hard in the William R. & Norma B. Harvey Library.

This is a list of Do's and Don'ts when visiting the library.

**DO's:**  
Do respect the library faculty and obey their policy. Respect librarians and helpers, as these are knowledgeable individuals who can help you

in any way you need.

Do respect the university's materials. Although tempting, typical note-taking actions such as highlighting, page folding and underlining library books are taboo. Some books or collections cannot be replaced by the library as simply as popular or mainstream items. Be considerate of fellow students and return the material in the state as you found it.

Do return reading materials and books to where you found them. If you don't remember or are not sure, ask a faculty member. Shelved books in the wrong location can be challenging for library workers to find and students as well.

"I've been in the library not only for a useful workspace but also to find and use textbooks for my classwork," said Brandon Davis, a junior Kinesiology major. "It's kind of frustrating when stuff is in the right place or flat out not there."

**DON'Ts**  
Don't be noisy. The library is one of the few tried and true free public spaces used by primarily students and educators.

The university library has provided designated areas in the main building and a 24-hour study area for collaborative efforts. They are effective

allowing you to communicate with your friends or group members if necessary. If you find yourself working alone, be considerate of those around you and try to keep conversations to a minimum.

"If you want to socialize, go to the Stu," said Jeremiah Williams, a junior journalism and communications student. "Don't interrupt me and my study time for pointless conversation."

Don't take up group rooms or large spaces if you don't intend on being productive. These are very limited yet constantly and understandably in demand. Taking desk space or occupying computers for your friends is thoughtless, especially during exam periods.

"One of my biggest pet peeves is people asking me how long I am going to be in a study room while they have a bag of Wendy's in their hand," Williams said.

While packing a light snack or bringing a bottle of water is encouraged to remain attentive, don't overstep by bringing overly noisy or smelly dishes into the space. Even though the nourishment you bring might be a necessity to keep yourself on task, it could be a major distraction to those around you.

Furthermore, make sure to clean up after yourself when eating or to drink anywhere in the library. Seeing food wrappers and empty water bottles is an unpleasant sight, especially around computers or pieces of equipment.

Don't be afraid to interact with the library staff. Even though the library is regarded as a quiet space, it is OK for you to communicate to someone that you need help with book recommendations for your projects and assignments. As long as you remain respectful, librarians are a great starting point for any type of research-based task.

## COMMENTARY: Walking the Line of Purpose

ALFRED JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

As I wake up and make my way to the mirror every morning, I always find myself asking two questions: What does the day have in store for me? Whatever it may be, am I ready for it? The older we get, the more serious questions like this can get.

Most of us are either taking our first real steps into life or are well enough into it. College is arguably the best place to learn about what you want to do, but more importantly, it's one of the best places to learn about yourself and what you want in life.

As young adults in college, we usually use school as the go-to for motivation, but there's more to life than school. Many people like talking about staying on the grind and having no days off, but what's the goal at the end of the day?

Is this constant grind going to lead to a fulfilling life or just satisfy temporary desires?

At this period in our lives, we should be focusing on what path we want to walk down. Most people get lost in the wind, trying to hold on to something, but if you're not sure about something, your grip will loosen further.

My mind goes in a lot of different directions, so I understand uncertainty. Even on the worst of days, I try to remember what I want in life and why.

Things can get rough, hectic and even confusing

enough for you to be frustrated and lost. The question isn't if you want to keep you going or not. It's if you want the result of your legacy to be worth as much effort as you're putting in.

There's nothing wrong with getting extra credit on assignments and working extra shifts at your job. The issue is when you overexert yourself for something you didn't need to do.

You'll hear phrases a lot in life such as, "Work smarter, not harder," and "If you want it done right, do it right the first time." Too many people fall into trust traps and end up in bad situations. If you care enough about how you want your future to look, know what you're putting yourself through, and learn how to say "no."

It's OK to want more from life. Plenty of people are still doing what they can to get higher on the ladder to success. That determination is what brings you where you need to be.

It's OK to take your time and be strategic. Things happen all the time in life, and we get thrown off track. Being organized and planning for the expected and a bit for the unexpected shows how careful you are.

Even being undecided is OK as long as you're safe about whatever it is you want to do.

Things may look hazy at the moment, but you aren't counted out. There are a lot of things that can help you find your way. If you give life enough time and patience, whatever you need will be ready for you when you need it most.



Darius Bashar | Unsplash

Many young adults are doing their best to move through life, navigating through work and assignments, not knowing much about what's going on. It may seem that, at times, we are flailing through life with no sense of concrete direction. We need that pressure to motivate ourselves to be better, but at the same time, we can't let that pressure cause us to collapse before we get a chance to see our potential.

The key is to do what feels right at this moment

and learn from when things go wrong. Our potential as well-adjusted individuals grows as we gain more life experiences and learn from them. The potential is spotted when the care is presented, and time is too short not to take your first steps.



# LOCAL & WORLD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## The Inspirational Legacy of Colin Powell

JONTAYA MOORE  
STAFF WRITER

Colin Powell, U.S. military leader and the first Black Secretary of State, died Oct. 18 at age 84 due to complications from COVID, CNN reported.

According to CNN, Powell was fully vaccinated but suffered from other underlying conditions, including multiple myeloma, a blood cancer that can lead to a compromised immune system, according to CNN. He had also received his second booster shot but became increasingly ill before the scheduled vaccine.

Powell was born on April 5, 1937, in Harlem, N.Y. His parents were Jamaican immigrants. When he was still young, he and his family moved to the South Bronx, according to NPR.

“Mine is the story of a black kid of no early promise from an immigrant family of limited means who was raised in the South Bronx,” Powell wrote in his 1995 autobiography *My American Journey*.

According to CNN, after graduating high school, he attended the City College of New York. It was while in college that he joined the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC). While serving in ROTC, he led the precision drill team and attained the rank of Cadet Colonel, the highest rank offered by the Corps.

According to BBC, following his college education, Powell entered the U.S. Army in 1958. While serving in two Vietnam tours, he was injured several times. Despite these injuries, he was able to rescue three soldiers following a plane crash, BBC asserts.

According to CNN, Powell’s career progressed, and he rose through the ranks becoming the first Black National Security Advisor under President Ronald Reagan and was later promoted to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military point in the Department of Defense under President George H.W. Bush. This made Powell the youngest and first Black chairman in U.S. history, CNN reported.

“I can look at him and say that if all odds are against him and he was able to continue, I know that I can, too,” said Tatum Morris, Hampton University’s Miss Political Science.



Associated Press

During his 35-year military career, he received various awards, including the bronze star and two purple hearts, CNN reported. He continued to serve in the U.S. military until 1993, spending four years as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under the Bush administration, according to BBC.

He rose to great popularity following the Gulf War, helping him shape late 20th century and early 21st century foreign policy, according to CNN. Becoming the first Black Secretary of State under President George W. Bush in 2001, Powell faced encouragement to mount an eventual presidential bid, according to CNN.

However, he said no to running for office, citing that he “lacked a passion for electoral politics,” CNN reported.

In 2008, he was able to use his political assets to endorse the Obama presidential campaign, according to NPR. NPR also reported that he endorsed Obama for a second term in 2012 against GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

Although he endorsed Obama, Powell remained a part of the Republican Party but stated that the party had “moved to the right more than he would like to see it” in his 2008 endorsement of Barack Obama, according to NBC. He later decided to break from the GOP after the Jan. 6 attack on the United States Capitol, CNN reported.

President Joe Biden described Powell as having “unmatched honor and dignity,” according to The Hill.

“Colin Powell was a good man. He will be remembered as one of the greatest Americans,” Biden said in a White House briefing.

For future Black politicians and leaders, especially, he will undoubtedly be remembered as an inspiration.

Powell is survived by his wife, Alma, and their three children, NBC reported.

## COVID-19 Creates Academic Struggle for Younger Children

KAIYA OTEY  
STAFF WRITER

Public schools across the nation opened their doors to students in September for the first time since the start of the pandemic. As numerous schools adjust to in-person education after more than a year of teaching virtually, Virginia Beach Public Schools says that many children suffered academically during that virtual year.

Virginia Beach City Public Schools released data that about 1,914 students were held back after the 2020-21 school year. That’s 1.75 times as many as the average of the three prior school years, which is usually around only 1,100 students.

“It concerns me any time students aren’t achieving at the level which we would anticipate,” Dr. Kipp Rogers, Chief Academic Officer of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, said in an interview with WAVY. “The pandemic year, last year, was extremely challenging for all parties involved.”

Virginia Beach City Public Schools have teacher vacancies at every grade level right now, according to WAVY. VBCPS Chief of Staff Dr. Don Robertson said at this time last year they had only 20 vacancies. Robertson says the shortage of teachers has led to larger class sizes.

“We’re fluctuating right around 100. We’re hiring and then we might lose somebody. We’ve been right about a 100 for the last six weeks,” Robertson said to 13News.

He also said that there’s a shortage of substitutes in Virginia Beach. He says the COVID-19 pandemic safety measures, like wearing a face mask, are also impacting that.

“For those who are not used to doing it, many of them have decided I’m not going to come back and substitute until that’s been lifted,” Robertson said.

According to 13 News, Norfolk Public Schools has the highest teacher vacancies and more than 100 teacher vacancies. Portsmouth Public Schools representatives said, according to their human resources department, they have 46 teacher vacancies. Chesapeake Public Schools need 40 teachers. Hampton City Schools says they are short 23 teachers and are 98.5 percent staffed.



Oregon National Guard | Flickr

Peggy Peebles, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Clinical Experiences and Pre-K through 12 Outreach at Hampton University, shed some light on her experience with student adjustment to virtual learning.

“I observed that student teachers enjoyed the virtual experience because it created a better understanding of students’ personalities,” Peebles said. “They noticed the students seemed more comfortable online rather than in person ... I was surprised. At the same time, there are a lot of cons due to the pandemic, such as approvals for visitation [and] differing opinions on the vaccine causing rifts between people.”

Earlier this September, Virginia Beach families

demanding to change the Virginia Beach City Public Schools school board. Petitions rose to recall six of the 11 school board members, according to WTKR.

A study conducted by NBC, found several reasons may contribute to quarantine-related falling academic performance.

Schools are struggling to teach students remotely or in classrooms in which children wear masks or are made to sit behind plastic shields, separating them from their instructor and other classmates are some of these reasons.

In addition, with quarantine protocols, more children have been missing school for extended

periods due to sickness, and technology-related issues led to attendance and participation issues as far as virtual instruction went. Some districts report that the number of students who’ve missed at least 10 percent of classes, which studies show could lead to devastating lifelong consequences, has more than doubled.



# SPORTS AND ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## COVID-19 Versus the Sports World

CHANCE WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

For close to 20 months, the sports world has undergone unprecedented changes during the COVID-19 pandemic. The suspensions of professional sports leagues in early 2020 began a long period of uncharted territory for athletes, including those at Hampton University.

On March 11, 2020, the National Basketball Association suspended its 2019-2020 season. After a hiatus that lasted longer than the average NBA offseason, Commissioner Adam Silver formulated a plan to resume play. The remainder of the 2019-2020 season was played in the Walt Disney World Resort, located in Orlando, Florida.

The NBA spent approximately \$180 million to hold games. League revenue dropped 10 percent to \$8.3 billion due to the pandemic, according to Zach Lowe and Adrian Wojnarowski of ESPN. Besides the 10 percent drop in revenue, there was a \$400 million loss in merchandise and sponsorships, according to Lowe and Wojnarowski.

In addition to professional sports leagues, the NCAA also has been affected by the pandemic. On March 12, 2020, the NCAA announced that the remaining men's and women's basketball tournaments would be canceled. This led to the NCAA falling victim to a \$600 million decline in its total revenue, according to Jenna West of Sports Illustrated.

The NCAA was supposed to receive more than \$800 million from CBS and Turner for the 2020 NCAA Tournament, according to West. However, the entity only received \$113.1 million.

The effects of COVID-19 on the NCAA have been seen on a business level and a personal level.

During the 2020-2021 basketball season, the Hampton University women's basketball team faced tough challenges.

"We were all thrown into [the season]," HU point guard Tori Davis said. "There were a lot of freshmen and transfers, and we didn't know each other. We were learning not only what our coach wanted but also how each other played."



Chris Brown | Hampton University Athletics File Photo

HU forward Nas Nigatu echoed Davis.

"We had nine new players," Nigatu said. "We had under a week to prepare for our first game, which wasn't an easy thing to do because we had to learn a new system."

Having a sports season start with only one week to prepare is a recipe for complications that extend further than having to learn a new system.

"We hit the ball rolling, so we had a lot of injuries at first," Nigatu said. "It was very hard... just coming in as a freshman into college that soon."

In addition to typical injuries, COVID-19 also had a direct effect on the women's basketball team. "Our season had to end early [due to COVID-19 complications]," Nigatu said. "We had to quarantine for about three weeks."

The Lady Pirates also missed the fans that attend games and fill the Convocation Center with energy.

"Not having the fans that fuel your energy... we were always in an empty gym and had to bring our own," Nigatu said. "If we didn't have that [energy], the gyms weren't the best environments to play in."

While it's easy to look at the negatives, some good things came from the pandemic. A significant aspect of the positives that came from COVID-19 was the NCAA's decision to grant an extra year of eligibility for its athletes. NCAA athletes all over the country, and at Hampton specifically, plan on taking full advantage of that.

"I was able to get a college experience without taking a year [of eligibility]," Davis said. "I'm coming in now as a freshman, technically, know-

ing the speed of the game, how it's played, and how other people play. It was definitely a plus."

College athletics and most other things have been returning to how they were before the pandemic started. This leads to increased excitement in athletes.

"Definitely having fans... it's going to be great being able to see people that I know come to my games," Davis said. "It'll be nice to get hype from the crowds."

Nigatu felt similarly.

"I'm excited to see our fans show up and support and to win... win, win, win, win." The Lady Pirates' first home game will be Nov. 13 against the Richmond Spiders.

## Raiders Coach Jon Gruden Resigns

WYNTON JACKSON  
STAFF WRITER

Las Vegas Raiders coach Jon Gruden announced his resignation Oct. 11 after a probe through the Washington Football Team's emails for a legal inquiry found he sent numerous racist, misogynistic and homophobic comments within the organization, The New York Times reported.

The first wave of messages emerged Oct. 8, headlined by Gruden's comments about National Football League Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith. A particular assertion from Gruden to then-Washington GM Bruce Allen in 2011 stated that Smith "has lips the size of Michelin tires," according to The Wall Street Journal.

Raiders owner Mark Davis called his coach's comments "disturbing," ProFootballTalk reported, yet Gruden still coached in a losing effort to the Chicago Bears that Sunday.

The following day, more emails came out where Gruden was caught using homophobic slurs toward NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, according to The New York Times. The Times added that there were also numerous pictures of women wearing only bikinis bottoms exchanged between Gruden and Allen, including women on



Travis Air Force Base | Flickr

the Washington cheerleading squad.

More than 650,000 emails were uncovered in an unrelated investigation into the Washington Football Team. The Times reported that the pattern of derogatory comments between Gruden and Allen lasted from 2011 to 2018.

The Raiders did not fire Gruden, and he stepped

down from his position because what he said became public. Gruden even had some supporters within the media, including journalist Jason Whitlock on Twitter.

"[Gruden] said something in a private email that was intended for one person to read/know. Anybody insulted is someone who spends their life looking to be insulted," Whitlock tweeted.

The Raiders named special teams coach Rich Bisaccia as the interim head coach, according to the New York Times.

## Broadway is Black!

TRINITY GOPPY  
STAFF WRITER

Seven plays are debuting on Broadway this fall, and for the first time, all seven are written by Black playwrights.

The fall lineup, according to NPR, includes Pass Over, Chicken & Biscuits, Lackawanna Blues, Thoughts of A Colored Man, Trouble In Mind, Clyde's and Skeleton Crew.

Pre-pandemic, there were very few plays that showcased Black artists.

"To say Broadway is a white space is kind of like saying there are clouds in the sky," actor Tristan Wilds, who stars in Thoughts of A Colored Man, told the New York Times.

Broadway is changing, and for many, it is a long-awaited change.

"The future of Broadway will hopefully be more

inclusive and diverse," Hampton University first-year theatre arts major Faith Gibbs said. "This is one step forward for Black artists, and I am excited to see what happens next."

A more diverse Broadway is necessary for Black artists. Not only is Broadway a theatrical platform that boosts the careers of those who work there, but it also increases the longevity and reach of their work.

"I think people are going to be refreshed to be back in the theater, but also refreshed with the stories they're getting in the theater," playwright Douglas Lyons told NPR. "There's a whole generation of artists that have not been seen, and I feel like this COVID thing stopped the world and gave Broadway no excuse to not see us."

This season is a monumental chapter for the future of Broadway. As a result of the pandemic, Broadway will look a lot different. Many issues will arise, such as ticket sales, limited capacity

and social distancing. These pressures can be surreal for any Broadway show but even more so for new, Black-written plays.

"We have these seven plays coming when we don't even have audiences yet, so this can't be a measuring stick for how to move forward — this has to be the first step on a journey," Dominique Morrisseau, the writer for Skeleton Crew, said to the New York Times.

Regardless of the issues, many of the new plays have risen to great expectations with their debuts. Black-written plays such as Pass Over and Chicken & Biscuits have so far received excellent reviews and recognition.

"We know that we — the Black playwrights this season — are literally pushing the boulder uphill," Lynn Nottage, a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, said to Variety. "Broadway is not up and running to its full potential, and that's a reality we're facing. Thank

God we're a resilient people. We're used to hard work, to obstacles, and we're used to beating the odds."

These accomplishments are an inspiration to aspiring young people who want to follow their dreams.

"This is something that I feel empowered by—to see people that look like me accomplish their dreams is amazing," Gibbs said. "For some time now, there are not many Black writers that have been given their flowers in the theater industry, and it is empowering to see."



# OPINION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021

## What’s Wrong with Black Content?

GRACE HACKNEY  
STAFF WRITER

When thinking about the range of Black movies and TV in the '90s and early 2000s compared to what there are now, you would think they'd have gotten better. Better writing, better representation of intersectional identities, better marketing, just better. I'm not so sure that's the case.

When it comes to present-day Black entertainment, most of it seems to stem from struggle. I can't even think of one TV show about Black high schoolers that does not involve some sort of stereotypical trauma.

In the '90s and 2000s, you had *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Moesha*, *The Parkers*, and *Sister Sister* to tell the stories of Black kids in high school. You had *A Different World* to tell the stories of Black students in college. You had *Living Single*, *Girlfriends*, and *Martin* to tell the stories of Black young adults.

I didn't even mention the plethora of Black family sitcoms from the '70s and '80s. Not only were these shows entertaining, but they also featured Black people dealing with day-to-day life issues and not only Black struggles.

While these shows touched on issues that affect the Black community, those issues were not the narrative that pushed the entire storyline forward. Not to mention that these shows featured characters of all sizes and shades, unlike the Black TV content that we see today.

When thinking about Black shows now, the first thing that comes to mind is Kenya Barris and his roster of "ish" shows. While I like these shows, I do think the shows cater to white audiences.

I also don't consider *Grown-ish* to be a Black show. Barris himself said he cares about what white people think in his Netflix show, *#BlackAF*. It is evident in his work, especially since people have criticized Barris for not featuring dark-skin characters in his sitcoms.

Now all of this is not to take away from the good Black shows there are right now that are not built off of Black trauma and stereotypes such as *Insecure*, *Run The World* and *Queen Sugar*. I would even loop *Power* in as well. However, we need more for our Black teens and



Walt Disney Television | Flickr

young adults. I know we love *All American*, but that can't be our only option.

Now let's talk movies.

The '90s and early 2000s were almost like a renaissance for Black movies. Not only did you have the classic hood movies such as *Boyz In The Hood*, but there was also an abundance of romantic comedies, biographies and dramas.

*Love Jones*, *Malcolm X*, *Eve's Bayou* and *Coming to America* are just a few. There was also a selection of movies about Black college life like *Drumline*, *School Daze* and *Stomp The Yard*. What happened to these types of movies? Why aren't they being made anymore?

Today, Black movies that aren't about a historical figure, slavery or Black trauma lack good writing. *The Photograph* is a movie that had so much potential. It had a solid cast, good storyline and beautiful cinematography, but the writing seemed elementary.

We got *Black Panther*, though. That was a great one.

I'm not going to talk about Tyler Perry's movies.

Every few years, we get a Kevin Hart comedy. I would consider those to be Black movies. They serve their purpose, but we need more.

I do think we are starting to get a little more. We

have Jordan Peele making Black horror movies where the Black people aren't the first characters to die. Marsai Martin vowed never to produce content about Black trauma, and I'm excited to see what Issa Rae's next big project will be as we approach the final season of her fantastic show, *Insecure*.

It's important to remember that our fight is for equality and representation, not assimilation. It's important to remember that white people do not need to like our movies. They are not for them.

## Student Loans are a Problem

SYDNEY MCCALL  
STAFF WRITER

Millions of students across America are in a bind with student loans, even though most have no option but to take them out. For those who have graduated college, loans have been holding them back for years.

Student loan debt in the United States totals up to \$1.73 trillion and grows six times faster than the economy, according to the Education Data Initiative. Additionally, the average student borrowers are in debt by \$39,351.

For the class of 2020, the average starting salary was \$55,260 after graduation. So why does the average student owe most of their annual salary?

It starts with financial education. College stu-

dents are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA and take out as much as they offer if their families cannot afford to pay. For an 18-year-old to take out a large sum of money they will owe back, mandatory and extensive financial counseling should occur.

The simple entrance loan counseling offered does not seem enough for young people to sign a 360 deal with the Department of Education.

Additionally, the government should provide a student loan debt forgiveness program. As a part of his campaign, Joe Biden promised a forgiveness program, but many people wonder where it is or how it will be rolled out.

"I am betting on a student loan program to save my life," said Joy Prince, a 2000 social work graduate from George Mason University. "I am

still struggling to pay off my student debt 20 years after graduation."

Hampton students are also very fearful about how they will pay off their loans when they graduate.

"I am already worried about how I will afford to pay my tuition after I graduate," said Monae Fletcher, a second-year biology major at HU. "I plan on attending medical school, so I do not have an option as to whether or not I take out loans."

In August, Hampton University paid the outstanding balances of continuing undergraduate students. That relief took a burden off so many students. No student should be under stress or pressure simply because of the financial implications of getting an education.

Everyone deserves the right to an education, and money should not have to be the reason education has to stop. A national student loan forgiveness program should be put in place by our administration.

Also, colleges and universities should educate students thoroughly on loans and finances before students take out loans. These actions would save so many young people from debt, stress and crisis.

Editor-in-Chief: Sara Avery  
Associate Editor: Nicole Pechacek  
Web Editor: Allyson Edge  
Advisers: Professor Edward “Butch” Maier, Jr.  
and Dr. Lauren DeLaCruz