**The Highly Anticipated Movie “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever”**

*By Dessalines Yamoussou*

The highly anticipated movie “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” will be released to theaters nationwide on Nov. 11. Wakanda Forever is the sequel to Black Panther, which was released in 2018. Black Panther grossed over $1 billion in the box office.

Ryan Coogler, director of the first film, will make his return as director of “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.” Black Panther is the highest-grossing movie ever directed by a Black filmmaker. It was also the third-highest-grossing film in the United States and Canada at the time of its release.

Additionally, Black Panther was the first superhero film to receive a Best Picture Oscar nomination and the first Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) title to dominate in multiple Oscar categories.

“Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” has some big shoes to fill and earnings for opening weekend are currently projected at $175 million.

The student group Onyx, The Black Male Collective will attend the premiere of Wakanda Forever at Maya Cinemas.

Clarence Curtis, a senior majoring in biology, plans to see the movie when it is released.

“I am curious to see what they do with Kilmonger,” he said.

Kilmonger was the villain from the first film portrayed by actor Michael B. Jordan.

This movie comes with both joy and sorrow as Chadwick Boseman, the original Black Panther, died from colon cancer in August 2020.

The crew was purposeful in honoring their late coworker, and Actress Letitia Wright expressed how the crew honored him by committing themselves to the project.

“We poured everything into this movie,” she said.

Ruth E. Carter, Oscar winner for best costume design, told Variety that white is the color T’Challa wore on the ancestral plane.

“We chose white because it connects us to Chadwick; to T’Challa,” Carter said.

Rihanna will break her six year music hiatus when she returns to the stage next year to headline the Super Bowl LVII halftime show. Super Bowl LVII is scheduled for February 12, 2023 at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Rihanna began her hiatus shortly after the Colin Kaepernick protest, after Kaepernick began taking a knee during the national anthem to protest police brutality in 2016.

Jay-Z and his Roc Nation label will assist with organizing Rihanna’s performance. Roc Nation partnered with the National Football League (NFL) in 2019 to attract more diverse entertainment for the League.

Fans of Rihanna have been consistently asking her for music since she took a break in 2016 to focus on her clothing and beauty line. Her lingerie brand is Savage x Fenty and Fenty Beauty are her cosmetic and skincare products.

After Rihanna had her first child in May, her announcement to return came as a shock to many. Rihanna has 2 musical tracks on the highly anticipated “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” soundtrack.

Braxton “B-Rax” Mitchell, a third year transfer student majoring in graphic design, spoke about Rihanna’s potential new music. B-Rax currently makes music on his YouTube channel “B-Rax.”

“Rihanna doing the halftime? It sounds dope,” he said.

Rihanna poses for a picture as she celebrates her beauty brands Fenty Beauty and Fenty Skin at Goya Studios on Feb. 11, 2022, in Los Angeles. (Mike Coppola/Getty Images/TNS)
By Rashad Flood

On Aug. 30, 2022, Bloomberg reported that Bank of America’s (BoFA) Community Homeownership Commitment is testing the program in a few select cities: Dallas, Texas; Los Angeles, California; Detroit, Michigan; Miami, Florida; and Charlotte, North Carolina.

The BoFA Community Homeownership Commitment program seeks to help first-time homebuyers in Black and Latino and neighborhoods by not requiring down payments, closing costs or minimum credit scores, which are all considered to be key inhibitors to minority homeownership.

While the program is targeted towards Black and Latino Americans, people of all races can apply.

Eligibility is based on income and the location of a property. Applicants must obtain certification from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and complete counseling.

The reasoning for the prerequisites is due to ‘soured’ loans inherited from Countryside Financial Corp and to ensure that applicants will gain the ability to repay, and thus keep the housing they obtain.

BoFA’s webpage detailing the program also does not state if there is a cutoff date for the program.

BoFA’s focus on minorities can be understood by a statement from Black Entertainment Television (BET) reporter Nigel Roberts, who reported that “the real estate industry has a long history of racial discrimination.”

Roberts elaborated with three different cases.

The first involved an analysis by Bloomberg on Wells Fargo which claimed that Wells Fargo approved about 47% of refinance applications from Black Americans compared to 72% approvals for applications from white Americans. Wells Fargo denies these claims.

Another example was federal charges of intentional discrimination against Black and Latino homebuyers in Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware, placed against Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway Inc. which reached a settlement of $24 million.

The last example was Trident Mortgages practices leading to it being involved in the “second largest redlining settlement in the nation’s history,” to which Trident Mortgage did not comment. BoFA intends for the Community Homeownership Commitment to right these past wrongs.

The City of Fresno currently has a collaboration with Bank of America in order to help residents buy homes.

GVWire reported that on June 16 Mayor Jerry Dyer announced a collaboration with BoFA’s Down Payment Grant, which provides up to 3% of a house’s purchase price or $10,000 towards a down payment and can be combined with the America’s Home Grant program which is a lender credit that can provide up to $7,500 to be used towards nonrecurring closing costs.

Neither the Down Payment Grant or the Home Grant programs require repayment. There are potential pitfalls however.

CNBC reported that, while not having to make a down payment would allow for homebuyers to save more money for emergencies, the home loan will cover the value of an entire property which can make monthly payments significantly more costly compared to what they would be with a down payment being made.

Applicants will likely incur extra costs for consulting a financial planner or a mortgage lender to ensure that they can cover the monthly payments.

By Dessalines Yamoussou

Veterans Day is a public holiday held on the anniversary of the end of World War I on Nov. 11 and is utilized to honor United State Veterans and victims of all wars, foreign and domestic.

It is significant to note Veterans Day replaced Armistice Day in 1954. It is important we acknowledge and thank Veterans on Veterans Day because of the sacrifices they make to protect our country.

As a United States Navy Veteran, I am personally aware of these sacrifices and want to thank all my fellow Veterans for their service.

Fresno State has a Veterans Resource Center (VRC) to assist veterans, reservists, guard and active duty service members, and dependents receive their educational benefits after being admitted. If you are a member of the aforementioned groups, give the VRC a call at 559-278-6036 or visit fresnostate.edu/veterans to inquire about resources.

Students can also visit https://www.military.com/veterans-day/restaurants-veterans-day-military-discounts.html for a list of Veterans Day free meals, restaurant deals and discounts for 2022.
The Uniqueness of Our Voices

By Zion Sanders

Do you feel like there’s room for your unique voice?

Whether you are Black, Asian, White, Mexican, or if you fall under the umbrella of the term “other”, your voice is uniquely made, no matter what others may say.

Using your voice is a vital part to use, whether it’s used to spread awareness, or to educate others, it is important to use your voice to spread your message.

The uniqueness of your voice allows you to spread your message to the world and bring about awareness to a cause that you are passionate about.

One example is the myth that the Black community does not experience emotional traumas and does not go through mental health struggles.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Author Tarrin Morgan II uses her voice to combat and communicate that she is trying to “educate and erase the stigma associated with mental health conditions within the Black community, especially when it comes to Black men because too many of us are suffering in silence.”

She uses her voice to bring about awareness of mental health issues that have plagued the Black community for generations. Morgan explained that through her willingness to speak up, she birthed the idea of founding the Real Talk Session Series. She said she created this series to help educate and entertain the Black community. Through this series, she was able to, “deliver easily accessible education to the community and to make a positive impact on education reform, criminal justice reform and mental illness.”

Use your voice to speak out on issues that are important to you. You can use your voice as a tool for things such as education and helping others.

You can use it to tell your story. It might change the lives of others and may help your community.

Talented Bulldogs

By Zion Sanders

Meet Krystyn Burgess, she is a senior and will be graduating with her Bachelor of Arts in Flute Performance.

Burgess will be performing in this year’s recital in the Wahlberg Hall at Fresno State on December 5, 2022, at 7:00 pm. It will be approximately an hour long, and she is open to answering any questions that the audience may have after the performance.

Burgess is originally from Visalia, California and graduated from Mt. Whitney High School. Her college education began at San Jose State University for about a year, and transferred to College of the Sequoias to receive her Associates Degree in Performing Arts (ADT). Burgess later transferred to where she is currently attending, Fresno State, and has been for two years.

Burgess also mentioned that she is heavily involved in campus activities. She is a part of the President's Quintet, which is a scholarship group in the Music Department. Burgess also performs in the Wind Orchestra on campus, and she is involved in Outreach and Special Programs, a program that helps teach K-8 grade students how to go to college by giving campus tours and tabling at events all around the city of Fresno.

She is also a coach for the marching band at Redwood High School, in her hometown. As well as working at the Save Mart Center.

Uhuru: When and why did you start playing the Flute, and how has the journey been since you began playing?

Burgess: I started playing the flute in 6th grade. I chose it because it was the smallest instrument and nobody else was up for the challenge at the time. My family has been very supportive of my journey throughout the years by helping me get private lessons and being in the audience at every concert.

Uhuru: What motivates you to continue choosing this career path?

Burgess: My motivation to succeed every day is my grandfather that passed away last year. I always enjoyed showing him my solos and seeing the impressed look on his face. Making him proud is what keeps me focused on my goals.

Uhuru: What are your plans once you graduate?

Burgess: I’m currently looking at graduate schools — the University of Oregon and Long Beach are at the top of my list — to help me get into bigger symphonies and orchestras all over the world.

Uhuru: What are some hobbies you enjoy doing?

Burgess: Outside of school my creative outlet is my art shop I call Schae’s Place! I make resin art and I also crochet and knit various items. I started this business about a year ago and it continues to grow everyday. I have my own website and I’m most active on Instagram. I’m a very creative person and I always need somewhere to put my creative energy, so I’m always crafting! I try [to] keep up with pop up events similar to Art Hop here in Downtown Fresno, but my main focus will always be music.

In my free time I also put fun improvisations over my favorite R&B songs by Ari Lennox, Smino, and SiR... I hope that one of them could call me up someday and put me on a track! If I’m not in rehearsal or at work, I’m home with my cat Sage watching Netflix.

Uhuru: Where do you see yourself in the future?

Burgess: I hope to be in orchestras behind the scenes of movies, musicals, plays and more.
Student of the Month

By Rashad Flood

Michael Anthony Brent is a freshman electrical engineering major, who came from Brea, California. He described it as a small town where everyone knew each other because there is only one high school.

Brent is also an avid gamer and has talked extensively about his experiences with the Monster Hunter and Dark Souls franchises. He currently lives on campus and is a part of the wrestling club.

Uhuru: Why did you choose to attend Fresno State?
Brent: Originally it was brought up to me by one of wrestling coaches which got me thinking about it, but the Fresno State Division 1 status was dissolved. I still wanted to experience what living on my own would be like. Since Fresno was far enough that I wouldn’t be home all the time but close enough that I could still visit, I decided to go for it.

Uhuru: Your major is electrical engineering, right? Why did you choose that?
Brent: I've always been interested in robots and electronics, plus my dad is an engineer so it's the only thing I've really thought of.

Uhuru: How's your overall experience with Fresno State been so far?
Brent: So far it's been a pretty positive experience. It was a little hard to adjust at first, but now that I've got a hang of my classes and my teachers have been really nice, it's been going pretty well for me.

Meet the Staff

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