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Pacific’s Tristan Blackmon Goes Third in MLS Draft

Tristan Blackmon '18 poses with MLS Commissioner Don Garber following his selection by Los Angeles FC.

Zachary Withrow
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Tristan Blackmon '18 of the Pacific men's soccer team has accomplished quite a lot during his young soccer career. From receiving various honors as a standout at Bishop Gorman High School in Nevada, to earning Pacific's Rookie of the Year award in his debut season, to his recognition as an NSCAA All-American following his junior year, there are plenty of successes one could point to.

For Blackmon, though, his greatest accomplishment to date is the one he always had his eye on.

"I always knew that I wanted to play at the professional level, and nothing was going to stand in my way," he told The Pacifican.

Blackmon was taken with the third overall pick in the Major League Soccer SuperDraft on January 19th by Los Angeles FC, which traded up to acquire the 21-year-old defender. He became the first soccer player drafted out of Pacific in the school's history.

"I am just one guy paving the way for a lot more players from Pacific to do the same thing," Blackmon said. "It's nice to be a leader in that sense, but I couldn't have done it without my teammates, coaching staff, and athletic training staff."

Blackmon's head coach throughout his time at Pacific, Ryan Jorden, could not have been more excited for his standout player.

"I am so pleased for Tristan and for this opportunity that he will have to pursue his soccer career at the highest level in America," Jorden told Pacific Athletics.

Blackmon will join Los Angeles FC as they undergo a process that he has

TRISTAN BLACKMON
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

News
Black Achievements at Pacific
We celebrate Black History Month by looking back at Pacific's black history.

Page 2

Opinion
Notable Black TV Shows and Films
A look into some of the most significant works featuring black America from then until now.

Page 5

Lifestyles
Quirks of Pacific
A look into characteristics you can only find here in Pacific.

Page 7
Black History Month: Black Achievements at Pacific

Scarlett Green
News Editor

February is the perfect month for drinking hot cocoa, doing homework by the fire in the UC, or maybe making some warm cookies with friends. February is also the perfect month to celebrate Black history! In honor of Black History Month, let us look back on a few of the many achievements of Black students here at Pacific.

Pacific’s first Black graduates were William Wealthy Howard (class of 1911) and Mildred Elizabeth Jones (class of 1924). Since widespread racial integration of universities did not begin until the 1950s, the odds were stacked against these ambitious students from the very beginning of their journey to higher education.

Even admittance to white universities at this time was virtually unheard of, therefore, their status as graduates from Pacific is considered even further distinguished.

For the formation of our lively Black Student Union, we have to thank the Pacific students of 1968. Pacific’s Black Student Union was organized with the intention of creating a sense of community for the increased numbers of Black Students being admitted as well as fostering cultural awareness on campus.

Another Black organization we have on campus is the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

The NSBE was founded in 1975 at Purdue University by John Logan, Edward Coleman, George Smith, Stanley Kirdley, Brian Harris, and Anthony Harris. The main goal, as stated by the organization is to, “increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.

The NSBE branch at Pacific is advised by Mr. Patrick Day. Pacific students participating in the organization attend networking conferences in order to build essential, professional skills needed to succeed in the field of engineering.

Organizations like this are extremely important because they encourage Black students to pursue occupations that are not necessarily popular within the Black community.

For example, although the engineering field is mainly comprised of non-minority students and workers (75% of US engineers are white), organizations like the NSBE show minority students that they shouldn’t be discouraged from pursuing their dreams simply because of their skin color.

Advertising in The Pacifican, University of the Pacific’s newspaper, is a great way to reach a college audience of students, faculty and staff.

The Pacifican is a bi-monthly tabloid-size newspaper. Your full-color ad will appear in print and be cross-promoted on our website and our social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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Purchasing an ad in The Pacifican is a great way to gain exposure with college students who frequent businesses off-campus for dining, shopping, entertainment and other services.

Contact us at 209.946.2193 or pacificaneditors@pacific.edu.

Film Showing: “Marshall”
Feb. 22 - 24th 2018 - 8:00 PM @Janet Leigh Theater
Watch Chadwick Boseman (“Black Panther,” “Captain America: Civil War”) star as Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, in his days of working for the NAACP.

Building Your Empire: Entrepreneurship 101
Feb. 1st 2018 5:30 - 7:00 PM @DUC Lair
Hear a panel of local entrepreneurs speak on how they began, maintained and grew their businesses.

An Evening with Angela Rye
Feb. 20th 2018 - 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM @Fayes Spanos Concert Hall
Listen to acclaimed CNN political commentator, Principal and CEO of IMPACT Strategies and NPR political analyst with her commentary on key civil rights issues.
Mayor Tubbs Gives Back to Stockton Scholars

Natalia Gevara
Opinion Editor

It is well-known that the cost of attending university has reached new heights for today’s generation of college students. Statistically speaking, Americans owe over $1.45 trillion in student debt.

Yet according to George-town’s Center of Education and Workforce, it is predicted that by 2020, 65 percent of all jobs in the United States will require postsecondary education and training beyond high school. This exemplifies the intensity of Stockton's struggle to send their youth to college, as only 17.5 percent of Stockton residents over the age of 25 have a Bachelor's degree.

Mayor Michael Tubbs empathizes with this issue that Stockton faces, which is why he has introduced the “Stockton Scholars” initiative, which will aim to provide financial assistance to all Stockton students pursuing a high education.

With a $20 million donation from the California Community Foundation, the scholarship will award $1000 a year to Stockton Unified School District students who will be attending a 4-year public university, or $500 a year to those attending 2-year colleges or trade schools. The scholarship will be open for application beginning in the 2019-2020 academic year.

Born and raised in Stockton, Michael Tubbs relates to the struggle that many of the city’s residents face.

Mayor Tubbs of Stockton, CA
PC: City of Stockton

“I firmly believe that talent and intelligence are universal, but resources and opportuni-
ties are not. Stockton Scholars is born out of that belief,” Tubbs said in a letter on the Stockton Scholars webpage.

Although the scholarship isn’t applicable to anyone presently attending Pacific, many students here come straight from the Stockton Unified School District and can appreciate the endeavor of the Stockton Scholars initiative.

“Finances are an issue in Stockton for some students seeking to attend college. I think the program will influence them to pursue a higher education and take it seriously,” History major Oscar Lopez ’18 said.

Lopez attended Edison High School, one of the schools that will benefit from the Stockton Scholars program. He states that receiving an education changed his life for the better, and hopes to inspire others to take the same route.

“I want to be an educator, and the reason for that is because education impacted me in a positive way. I want to be that positive role model in someone’s life, because I know how much that [education] changed my perspective.”

As of now, the application will only be open to those in Stockton Unified. This includes Franklin, Edison, Chavez, Stagg, Jane Frederick, Walton, Special, Stockton High School, as well as Health Careers Academy, Weber Academy, Merlo Institute, Pacific Law Academy, Stockton Early College Academy, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy, Stockton Collegiate International School.

Pacific Honors Moscone’s Life in New Documentary

Scarlett Green
News Editor

Pacific’s media staff is collaborating with the Moscone Center for Public Service to work on a film honoring the life of Pacific alumnus and former San Francisco mayor George Moscone. Mayor Moscone worked tirelessly to create an inclusive community in San Francisco until his life was tragically cut short in November, 1978 by assassination. Although we still grieve the loss of our fellow Pacific Tiger, we also have reason to celebrate his achievements.

While several films have been produced about San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk, who was also assassinated that day, much less attention has been brought to the life achievements of Moscone. However, many people argue that Moscone paved the way for San Francisco to become the inclusive, eccentric, diverse city that we recognize today.

While serving on the board of supervisors, Moscone was a champion for racial minorities, small business owners, and gay rights. After graduating from Pacific in 1953, Moscone went on to serve in the California State Senate as Majority Leader.

These kinds of achievements are what the staff wants to showcase while working on the film. Producer Teresa Bergman said, “The main goal of the documentary is to produce a film that lets audiences know about George Moscone and his political legacy...We hope that many more people will become familiar with George Moscone through this documentary and that they will understand his impact on politics...”.

Pacific staff are not the only ones working on the documentary. Some students taking a Documentary Film Production class are given the opportunity to edit clips for the documentary as well. Some of these edited clips will even be featured in the extra cuts on the DVD so students can see their contributions to the production.

First year Media X major Jessica Bautista said, “I’m super excited to be able to work on the film... I think that it’s a great way for me to use what I’m learning at UOP to shed light on Mr. Moscone’s achievements”.

The film is still in production today while staff and students work diligently to give credit to Mr. Moscone. If you would like to make your own contribution to the project, please visit the official documentary website to make a donation. The website can be found at www.pacific.edu/Moscone-Tribute.
The Women’s March and Intersectional Feminism

Natalia Gevara
Opinion Editor

Last year’s Women’s March was the largest single protest day in U.S. history, where it was estimated that 5 million people marched worldwide.

The peaceful protest continued this year, in the wake of the shutdown of the federal government and the notable #MeToo movement. The rally this year took place in some of the largest places in the United States, including New York, Washington, Chicago, and San Francisco. This year, I was fortunate to march in San Francisco on January 20th, 2018.

But something that has been apparent to me for a long time was exemplified as I marched on that Saturday, and that was the importance of intersectional feminism.

Generally, I want to say that intersectional feminism is the only acceptable form of feminism. I also want to note that “white feminism” is the antithesis of intersectional feminism, and therefore, adherents cannot call themselves feminists at all.

By that, I mean that unless you stand for all women, you don’t stand for women at all. The Women’s March highlighted how important it is to be inclusive in all aspects of your feminism. We march for immigrants, LGBT individuals, the disabled, people of color, and people of all sizes, because there are women who fit under each of those categories.

But even though we marched for all of these different individuals, I have come to understand that not everyone who marched that day understands the detrimental effects of white feminism. White feminism fails to address the problems that women of color and other minorities face that white women don’t. When this comes up, some white women have the tendency to instantly become defensive, arguing that it shouldn’t matter because we are all women.

But to simply say that we are all women ignores the oppression that all types of women face. It ignores the fact that race, religion, gender identity, and sexuality plays such a pivotal role in the experiences of some women. It ignores the discrimination against trans women, or Muslim women. It ignores the fact that although white women face obstacles because they are women, they still maintain white privilege.

The disparity between what white women and black women face was made horrifically clear, when 53 percent of white women voted for Donald Trump, while 93 percent of black women voted for Hillary Clinton.

What does this mean? White women cannot control having white privilege, but they can control whether they want to acknowledge it or not. They can also sit down, talk less, and listen to women of color when they speak of their grievances, because they have been silenced for much longer.

Take Emma Watson as an example. Her fierce advocacy for gender equality became apparent in 2015, during the speech she gave at the U.N. headquarters. However, many were quick to point out her “white feminism,” as she didn’t highlight intersectionality at all. But Watson took it as a learning opportunity, a chance to listen and learn about the many layers of feminism.

There are so many different aspects to womanhood, and if we’re not in the shoes of some women, it is imperative to sit down and listen to their stories. Progress cannot be made unless our feminism is intersectional, and I hope the Women’s March will amplify that tenfold in the years to come.

Movie Review: “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”

Gavin McCoy
Staff Writer

Sometimes a film can be so many things that it is hard to define what it is. I believe that “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,” the newest film by Irish playwright-turned-director Martin McDonagh, director of “In Bruges” and “Seven Psychopaths,” is one of those films, and by God does it blend its blend of comedy and drama work so well. So much so that it is now nominated for seven Oscars (at the time of writing this review), and one of my favorite films of 2017.

The plot follows Mildred Hayes, portrayed by Frances McDormand, as she wages a personal war against the Ebbing Sheriff’s Department for the lack of progress in the investigation of her daughter’s rape and murder with three eponymous billboards which directly attack them.

McDormand is accompanied by co-stars Sam Rockwell, depicting a bigoted and racist police officer, and Woody Harrelson, portraying the sheriff of Ebbing facing against Mildred after he becomes a subject of attack in the billboards.

The story evolves into one that addresses a multitude of social issues (particularly about race and the police force) as well as personal themes of family, anger, and redemption. I found the story to be more about the personal themes, illustrating a story that says that human decency could be found in the cruelest of people, and how a mother will do anything for her children.

The writing in this film is strange, but that’s not saying that it’s garbage. In fact, the writing is exceptional in every step of the imagination, as it manages to handle two wildly different emotions with care and practice. Some lines in this movie that made me laugh so hard that I ran out of breath because of it. Other lines that bring me to the near-brink of tears.

The fantastic writing is further elevated by the performances of the three leading characters. Frances Mc-
Orange and Black: Student Apathy or Activism? 

Apathy or Activism? 

Andrew Rocha 
Copy Editor 

I do believe that students are capable of taking action and making a positive change on campus, in this country, and around the world. I also believe that some of the significant political and social changes in history would have never occurred if not for the efforts and leadership of activists. 

In these past few years, there have been many times when students have been challenged and encouraged to stand up and make their voices heard. 

I have many friends who have answered those calls and participated in several demonstrations and protests, but I have made the choice to stay seated and remain focused on my classes and exams. 

My decision to remain apathetic is not one that I made easily since there have been many moments in this current political climate that I felt compelled to shout out my position and fight for my beliefs. However, I try not to let my actions be manipulated by emotions and passion and I think about what kind of sacrifices activism would require. 

To stand up and fight for what you believe in takes sacrifice and I am not ready to sacrifice my time or my education. Like many Pacific students, my college education is not cheap and I am not about to let all of the work that I put into getting my bachelor’s degree go to waste. 

I also do not take part in activism because I believe that in order to fight for a cause or to protest another one should have a good understanding of all sides of the issue. Taking part in discussions with people of varying ideologies and conducting the necessary research on a topic takes a lot of time and energy. 

As a college student, that kind of time and energy has to go toward the projects and exams for my classes. 

I should make it clear that I do not believe that one has to make a choice between being an activist or a college student. Again, I have friends who are also college students that have participated in and organized demonstrations. 

I also do not think that being silent is acceptable. Even though I am seated at a desk with a laptop in front of me, I use my position as a writer to make other aware of important social and political issues. 

I am always willing to engage in conversations about social justice with friends. I have chosen to be an advocate who supports the activists from behind the scenes and who attempts to educate those I come across on and off campus. 

Ashley Lyn Judilla 
Co-Editor-in-Chief 

Although my colleague has said that one can be both a college student and an activist, one doesn't even need to be an activist. 

I don't expect everyone to participate in every rally or demonstration or to get caught up in a cause and eventually end up sacrificing not only their education (such as cutting class for a demonstration), but also themselves (neglecting their own needs over the needs of others). 

Leadership in activism is difficult. Many of the most successful activists give up a lot for a cause they believe in. I'm not asking that from anyone. 

What I am asking is for students to participate in their communities. Whether it's on campus or in local elections, one of the many ways to have your voice heard is to know the concerns of your community and whether it reflect your concerns as well. 

Everyone, even the leaders of our communities have their limits. Getting lost in the cause would be eventually losing yourself. However, this doesn't excuse not doing anything at all. 

My colleague is not completely apathetic. He chooses to write to express his opinions and spread awareness. Taking action on issues that affect us should not be shelved because we're busy. 

Taking action can be from participating in town halls to voting in elections to keeping our administration and those in power in check. Do you believe that no one listens to you? That nothing you do or say will or hasn't matter? 

A single voice can make a spark, but a group can make an explosion. Our education here is valuable. 

College is not only meant for us to find work after we graduate, but it also influences our habits and beliefs. Learning happens beyond the classroom. 

Apathy should be beyond us. We have so much information at our fingertips that we should take advantage of them. 

We should fight for not only ourselves, but also for those who aren't able to vote because they lack the resources or because they know it may endanger themselves or their loved ones. 

Who are we to sit back and watch everything go down when before we know it, those same problems could hurt us? Apathy is not the answer to handling our problems here on campus and it's certainly not the answer when we leave it.

Shows and Films to Celebrate Black History Month

Ashley Lyn Judilla 
Co-Editor-in-Chief 

The following is a list of television shows and films featuring an all black cast and black issues. 

A mixture of classics and contemporary, these works are important for the black community’s representation in media as well as addressing prominent issues that they were facing at the time. Many of these are timeless. Not only because these stories are told well with a great cast, but because many of the issues that these characters face are still being dealt with today. 

According to Dr. John Les­nard, English Associate Professor from here at Pacific, these many notable black works have shown a history of resistance. 

Whether it's from Oscar Micheaux’s “Within Our Gates” (1919) to Jordan Peele’s “Get Out” (2017), these films are, how Dr. Lessard best put it, “what one might broadly call counternarratives, counterimages and also counter-industrial practices and institutions.” 

Significant Shows: 

“Soul Train” (1971 - 2006) 
This American music-dance television show presented important representation for future black artists. “Soul Train” featured R&B, Soul and Dance/Pop performances. Additionally, funk, jazz, disco, gospel and hip-hop artists appeared as well. 

However, the host of the show, Don Cornelius, was not fond of hip-hop. Fun fact: Cornelius was the first black owner of a nationally syndicated TV franchise. 

“Fresh Prince of Bel Air” (1990 - 1996) 
This show defied the stereotypes as well as put these stereotypes in their place. A wealthy African American family in Bel Air, Los Angeles takes in a relative from Philadelphia who got caught into some trouble. 

It's considered a classic. This is a show that one could

BLACK TV SHOWS/FILMS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
Museum of Ice Cream is an Instagrammer’s Heaven

Amaris Woo
Copy Editor

With tickets selling out in about an hour, the Museum of Ice Cream took social media by storm. It started in New York in July 2016, quickly selling 300,000 tickets within its first five days, and has reached Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami.

Museum of Ice Cream is an interactive exhibit that is an Instagrammer’s heaven, complete with pretty pink walls, free ice cream, and a pool full of fake sprinkles. It has been met with sweeping success, with tickets selling out in all cities the Museum has created locations in, with multiple extensions being granted to its locations in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Miami.

Contrary to the name, Museum of Ice Cream is not only about the sweet treat. As visitors wander through the museum’s multiple rooms, they can also see anything from a unicorn and a room with plastic gummy bears to a banana swing and dangling clouds. Cheerful workers pass out free ice cream, cotton candy and mochi ice cream.

There are no time limits except at the Sprinkle Pool. Groups of people are let in and are allowed to spend only five minutes at the famous attraction. Though it is all fun and games, it also has an environmental impact. The museum has already been fined for the dangers that the plastic sprinkles pose for the environment as they slip into storm drains and litter sidewalks.

While the Sprinkle Pool will not be going anywhere anytime soon, the Museum of Ice Cream does plan to make changes to decrease the environmental hazard that was posed by runaway sprinkles.

In response to the fines from the city of Miami, Museum of Ice Cream spokeswoman Devan Pucci released a statement to the Miami New Times, stating that, “we have already begun the process of creating a biodegradable sprinkle for our Sprinkle Pool that will be implemented in the near future.”

Museum of Ice Cream’s co-founders are Maryellis Bunn, a 25 year old former creative strategist, and Manish Vora, a 37 year old former investment banker, with goals to open 180 Museum of Ice Creams worldwide. In an interview with NY Mag, Bunn stated that she wants to be, “the next Disney. I could take all of those different installations...and I could build them out into city blocks. It would be my Heaven. Could you imagine?”

Though it is a cute and unique place, some people have criticized the price and experience itself. To some, it is less like a museum and more like a pretty Instagram spot.

“It’s worth half the price,” says Austin Shima, Bioengineering ’18. At San Francisco’s Museum of Ice Cream in January, visitors paid $44.50, which includes costs for the event and online processing fees.

Dormand gives a genuinely fiery performance as Mildred Hayes. McDormand demonstrates her acting mastery by taking advantage of the script’s blends of comedy and tragedy, delivering some of the most hilarious and emotionally potent lines in the film.

Sam Rockwell’s character, Officer Jason Dixon is arguably my favorite character in the movie, not because he is blantly violent, racist, and dim-witted, but because I feel as if he experiences the most significant change out of all the characters in the film.

I won’t spoil what causes this change, but I will say what I’d never thought I would say: that this movie made me sympathize with a racist.

Woodo Harrelson as Sheriff Bill Willoughby, while being the most minor of the three main characters, still delivers a fantastic performance as an honestly conflicted character dealing with the rage of Mildred Hayes and the bigotry found within his police force. The minor characters in the film also gave excellent performances, with Peter Dinklage as well as Caleb Landry Jones and Zeljko Ivanek giving incredible, if brief, performances as some of the more eccentric of Ebbing’s residents.

However, I have to criticize the performance by Lucas Hedges who played Mildred’s son Robbie. Hedges’ performance, while not being entirely mediocre or bad, pales in comparison to the rest of the main cast. He plays a rather one-dimensional angsty teenager dealing with a whole lot of problems.

Another issue I have with this movie is a flashback scene where the themes and dialogue converge to get a little heavy-handed and sloppy. It surprised me so much that I rose my hands at the screen and wondered, “Really? Did they have to say that?” Over all these criticisms I have with the film aren’t enough to detract it from its rail of greatness.

I’d recommend this movie to practically anybody who will not be easily triggered by hot-topic political issues addressed in the film. Other than that, if you wish to see a compelling, deep, and sharply-written tragicomedy, this is the film for you.
A Look Inside the Quirks of Pacific

When you have been attending Pacific for long enough, you begin to pick up on its quirks. From elementary students flooding the UC on school tours, the melodic singing of Burns tower, or the sporadically changing Spirit Rocks, it all just becomes part of the experience of attending the University.

But if you've missed out on a few of these Pacific-exclusive whims, we've got you covered!

For starters, how many students are aware of the Media X major dab? Known among Media X majors, it's sort of like a regular dab, except both arms are utilized to make an "X."

Many Media X majors dab in this form of greeting, sometimes even doing it in unison.

In addition to the distinct interactions that students have on social media has played a role in highlighting aspects that are unique to Pacific.

One Instagram account, dubbed "bathroomsofpacific," is exactly what it sounds like. It's an account that posts photos of the various bathrooms here at Pacific.

The Instagram account exemplifies the beautiful diversity of our bathrooms, from the spotless Alumni house bathrooms, to the library bathroom on the second floor without a stall around one of the toilets.

On occasions, "bathroomsofpacific" will post photos of the bathrooms with the caption "name that bathroom!" Essentially, whoever runs the account is on a quest to highlight every single bathroom here at Pacific, especially the lesser known ones.

Another Instagram account, albeit more questionable, is called "pacifictreereginas."

Though this may sound rather kinky, the account posts photos of trees around Pacific with indisputable photos, they look like vaginas. It can't be said what the exact endeavor of this Instagram account is, but it can be said that it is strangely amusing.

On Twitter, a new account has risen, labeled "Burns Tower." With a biography that reads "daily dose of bongs," the account tweets a series of "bongs" at the new hour. Incredibly simplistic, yet sort of genius.

At a time when our country is so divided, it is heartwarming to know that Pacific students can revel in harmony to our university's many quirks.

A predominantly white university comes in growing conflict between university politics, social injustice and ill-judged activism. The comedy-drama, satirical show "Dear White People" takes a look into not only external conflicts that the black community faces, but also inner conflicts.

"Dear White People" can take the audience in an emotional rollercoaster ride: frustration, glee and shock. But the most memorable moments are one of near heartbreak because some moments just hit too close to home.

**Notable Films**

"Within Our Gates" (1919)

This film deliberately counters movies like D.W. Griffith's "Birth of a Nation" (1915) that consisted blackface and deemed giving power to blacks as a threat to the white characters' livelihoods.

Black filmmaker, producer and distributor, Oscar Micheaux, tells the story of a young black woman trying to keep a Southern school for poor black children open to the public. Check this movie out as it's one of the earliest black films to go against Hollywood's imagery and narratives of the black communities.

"Bamboozled" (2000)

I can't talk about black films without mentioning one of the most notable figures for black film: Spike Lee. "Bamboozled" doesn't get as much recognition as "Do The Right Thing" (1989) or "Malcolm X" (1992), but it's a look into the hypocrisy of the entertainment industry where a black writer pitches a show where black people put on black face.

Dr. Lesard describes it as "a very bleak satire that takes a very critical look at Hollywood's history and present of racist films and images."

"Moonlight" (2016)

In terms of black films, there has been a release of great studio films that are not just for entertainment, but also a way of painting the world around us in a color we're not all too familiar with.

In "Moonlight," directed by Barry Jenkins, we watch a young black kid grow into an adult in Miami. In three important stages of his life, this character goes through many physical and emotional abuse as well as difficulties with his identity. This film shines a light about a part of the unspoken difficulties that those who are black and LGBTQ+ face.

"Get Out" (2017)

In American horror films, stereotypically, the token black character always dies first, but what happens when the main character is black?

Reminiscent to Stanley Kramer's "Who's Coming to Dinner?" (1967), "Get Out" is a horror film where a young man meets his girlfriend's parents for the first time. They just don't know that he's black.

Alongside "Moonlight," "Get Out" received a lot of praise. It's an original and innovative film where its subtlety is one of its greatest features.
The Current State of Pacific Men’s Basketball

Ameer Othman
Sports Editor

We are 23 games into the 2017-2018 season. Pacific Men’s Basketball currently stands at 10-13 record (5-5 in conference play) in the midst of their second season under head coach Damon Stoudamire.

The team is fresh off a game against BYU (18-5) on Saturday, with the Tigers falling 65-80 thanks to an impressive performance by Yoeli Childs. They have a lot of new guys, and they are figuring out who is someone who, at the next level, will show people that something is there," Bradley said.

Blackmon's new coach, LAFC's Bob Bradley, told MLS-Soccer.com that he is intrigued by his new talent.

"Tristan is a really interesting one. He's from Las Vegas, he's grown a lot at the University of the Pacific, and we feel he is someone who, at the next level, will show people that something is there," Bradley said.

Blackmon figures to play an integral role in the team’s development. The Las Vegas native has scored the most goals in Pacific’s history, and also proved to be a strong, versatile defender as he moved from forward, to winger, to right back during his time on Knoles Field. He fully intends to use this new opportunity to continue progressing as a player.

"For me, the most exciting part is the learning aspect. How much can I learn this year about the game? How much growth can I take as a player? What things can I fine-tune so that I can make a difference? These are the types of things that excite me. Learning about how to be a better you," Blackmon explained.

As he moves on to life as a professional athlete, Blackmon told The Pacifican that he would always look back fondly on the moment he and the Pacific men’s soccer team were selected to compete in the NCAA Tournament for the first time.

"It was a surreal moment for not only the team but for the entire Athletics community. It was an incredible moment hearing your name called to play in the first round, when last year you were 3-15."

Blackmon is sure to make at least a few more unforgettable memories in Los Angeles. Undoubtedly, the Pacific community will be watching and cheering him on the whole way.

Stoudamire was focused on the bigger picture of developing a young core group that can develop chemistry and build to get Pacific to its first NCAA tournament appearance since 2013.

Being a part of the coaching staff of the Arizona Wildcats and Memphis Tigers prior to his arrival at Pacific, it seemed that Coach Stoudamire was exactly what Pacific needed to reinvigorate their men's program. We are a month shy of the two year anniversary of Pacific's announcement of the hiring, so let us see how the team has progressed under his tutelage.

2016-2017: 33 games, 4-22 (4-14 in conference) *team vacated 7 wins
2017-2018: 23 games, 10-13 (5-5 in conference)
Overall: 56 games, 14-35. (9-19 in conference)

The team’s improvement is not only seen across the two seasons, it is also seen within this second season in particular, as noted after their loss to St. Mary’s on January 20th.

Head coach Randy Bennett spoke about Pacific’s progression led by their young core and how they have improved in the time between both games against the Gaels.

“They are a tough team, and this is a tough place to play,” Bennett said. “I think the main difference between now and the first time we played them is that they are figuring it out. They have a lot of new guys, and they are figuring out who should be in each role.”

The jury is still out on how and if the team has improved under Coach Stoudamire. Nonetheless, a strong end to the season can erase any lingering doubts and will help build momentum for a 2018-2019 hopeful playoff push. Pacific travels next to play Pepperdine on Saturday, a team they beat earlier this month 92-78 at the Spanos Center.