

How Cupid came to be

Autumn Jones
Editor in Chief

Cupid and the Greek god Eros are the same individual, believe it or not.

Eros, the Greek god of passionate love, was the son of Aphrodite. He is known for his infamous bow and arrows, which he used to play with the emotions of gods and man to arouse feelings of love and desire.

In Greek culture, Eros was depicted as a heartthrob; an irresistible, studly immortal who affected both mortals and gods. However, during the Hellenistic era, when the Romans adopted much of Greece's culture, Eros was changed. His name became Cupid, and he was depicted as a more chubby and child-like figure.

During the 1840s, the celebration of Valentine's Day exploded. Elizabeth White Nelson, an associate professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas told TeenVogue, "We're always looking for the origins of things, but we attach that mention in Chaucer to the current history of Valentine's Day because [people were specifically] looking for origins [in the 19th

century] — not necessarily because there's a consistent celebration over that period of time."

Today, Cupid is still prominent in different cultural celebrations of Valentine's Day. In Japan, Cupid is viewed as the symbol of love, but the general celebration is for women to gift chocolates to men. Women receive more extravagant gifts on White Day, which is March 14. For coworkers, women gift giri-choco, and friends, tomo-choco. Their true love is gifted honemi-choco.

In Mexico, Valentine's Day is known as Día del Amor y la Amistad. Cupid is illustrated all over the decorations, including balloons. Mariachi bands can also be heard during February because it is associated with Mexican weddings. Día del Amor y la Amistad is mostly celebrated by having brunch, lunch, and/or dinner with family and loved ones to show appreciation and love.

In the U.S., Valentines are given to family, friends, and significant others. This is not the case in France, where only the people "in" love celebrate. Couples usually go out to eat and gift each other flowers and chocolates, but friends do not celebrate with one another.

Despite Eros' figure adapting over time to the Cupid we know today, Valentine's Day has always been a day of celebration of our love for each other, no matter the relationship.



A common depiction of Cupid.

Romance movies to watch for Valentine's Day

By Zoe Hughes
Managing Editor

Looking for a great movie to watch with your Valentine today? Depending on what you're looking for, consider one of the following films.

Rom-coms

- "10 Things I Hate About You" (1999)
- "The Proposal" (2009)
- "The Princess Bride" (1987)
- "Gnomeo and Juliet" (2011)
- "Scott Pilgrim vs. the World" (2010)

- "Father of the Bride" (1991)
- "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (2002)
- "Anyone but You" (2023)
- "50 First Dates" (2004)
- "Juno" (2007)

Drama

- "The Notebook" (2004)
- "The Sun Is Also a Star" (2019)
- "Casablanca" (1943)
- "Someone Great" (2019)
- "Pride and Prejudice" (2005)
- "Twilight" (2008)

Musicals

- "Mamma Mia!" (2008)
- "La La Land" (2016)
- "Grease" (1978)
- "Enchanted" (2007)
- "A Star Is Born" (2018)
- "Hairspray" (2007)
- "Beauty and the Beast" (1991)

Queer romance

- "Brokeback Mountain" (2005)
- "Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975)
- "Call Me by Your Name" (2018)

Brevard College Theatre presents the world premiere of 'Big Bad' by Katherine Gwynn

"Big Bad," written by Katherine Gwynn, puts a modern spin on an old story. A nod to the traditional fairy tale Little Red Riding Hood, Ruby (played by Nell O'Brien '26) must come to terms with the brutal murders of her mother and grandmother (Meemaw, played by Morgan his Maynard '29). Ruby is forced to face her fears and the wolf (Bad, played by Abigail Reeves '27), while struggling to reconnect with her father (Daddy, played by Tommy Ives '29).

This show investigates the influence society has on deciding what makes someone "bad." Throughout the show, Ruby confronts evil and searches for answers among buried secrets. This play demonstrates that what seems wrong may be right, and what seems right could be wrong. It's up to us to investigate and find the answer.

All performances will take place in Morrison Playhouse at The Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts on the Brevard College campus. Run time is about 90 minutes. Performance times are as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 1, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 2, 2:30 p.m.

Audiences are invited to join the cast and crew post-performance for an opening night toast on Thursday and a closing toast on Sunday. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://our.show/brevard-college/bigbad> or at the door. Ticket prices are \$5 for Brevard College students, faculty, staff and \$10 for the general public.



Right: The cast and crew of "Big Bad" work on the play.

Bottom right: Nell O'Brien and Abigail Reeves act out a scene from the play.

Below: The flyer for BC Theatre's production of "Big Bad." The show will run Feb. 27 to March 2 in the Porter Center.

THE CLARION

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Brevard College launches dynamic new chamber ensemble

Kyle Stefanick
Staff Writer

Take “note”: a wider selection of musical compositions and styles and something called “flexible instrumentation” will soon be part of the performing arts at Brevard College.

In an exciting development for the BC music department, the college has officially launched a new chamber ensemble. Offering students a chance to collaborate and perform a variety of music, this group will provide an opportunity for musicians to enhance their skills and connect in a more personal setting.

Brevard College’s music program has long been a key part of the college’s strong dedication to arts and creativity. Since the college was established in 1935, music has been a major focus, and this passion for the arts is continuing strong today. The ensembles at the college are a big part of what makes Brevard special, keeping

music at the heart of the campus.

A chamber ensemble typically consists of a smaller group of musicians than that of a wind ensemble or an orchestra. The lack of a conductor in this setting encourages close collaboration, listening, and a deeper understanding of ensemble playing among the players.

Under the guidance of Dr. Cole Hairston, the college’s director of bands, students in the new ensemble will engage in many rehearsals to develop their musicianship and share it with the campus and community. “This class is extremely important to our future. I’ve reached out to other directors to inform them about our approach, and many schools are following suit,” Hairston stated in an interview with the Clarion staff.

The creation of this ensemble is important as it expands the educational experience, offering students new opportunities for personal growth and musicality that were previously absent. This year, the chamber ensemble will showcase

music that is described as “flexible instrumentation.” Flexible instrumentation refers to music that can be played by different combinations of instruments, allowing performers to adapt the ensemble based on available musicians.

A key aspect of the chamber ensemble will be its diverse repertoire, which spans various genres and styles, from classical to modern compositions. This variety not only exposes students to different musical traditions but also allows them to experiment with their interpretations, curating a deeper appreciation for the music.

The ensemble is set to deliver a series of exciting performances throughout the academic year, showcasing the talent of its members. These concerts will not only highlight the hard work and dedication of the students but also enhance the already vibrant cultural scene at Brevard College.

Schedule changes for the 2025-2026 school year

A full week off for Thanksgiving, a shortened fall break, and a Labor Day holiday are among the changes that will take place for the academic calendar starting this fall.

The changes to the academic calendar were announced in an email to campus on Monday from Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, vice president of Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty. No reasons for the changes were mentioned in the email.

The specific changes listed in the email are as follows:

- Starting and ending dates for each semester are different from this year, beginning classes on a Monday and ending on a Friday.
- Labor Day is now a holiday without classes.
- Fall Break is a Friday and Monday to provide a 4-day break.
- Thanksgiving break is a full week.
- The exam period is shortened to Sunday

through Wednesday.

- The 15th week of Wednesday classes is their final exam, meaning that Wednesday classes do not hold additional exams during exam week.
- Easter Break is a Friday and Monday to provide a 4-day break.

The changes to the academic calendar were presented in a faculty meeting on January 28, and Frick-Ruppert invited faculty to give feedback on the proposed changes. Among the rationales given for the changes were to simplify the schedule for both fall and spring semesters, to have similar days without classes for holidays and breaks, and to encourage better attendance on days immediately before and after breaks.

More info about academic calendars can be found on the Registrar’s page on MyBC at https://my.brevard.edu/ICS/Offices/Registrar/Academic_Calendars/

BREVARD COLLEGE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR	
August 11, 2025 Monday	Summer Session and Orientation Dates
August 18, 2025 Monday	Start of Fall Semester (Classes Begin)
August 22, 2025 Friday	Midweek Break (No Class)
August 25, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester
September 1, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
September 5, 2025 Friday	Midweek Break (No Class)
September 8, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
September 15, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
September 22, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
September 29, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
October 6, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
October 13, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
October 20, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
October 27, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
November 3, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
November 10, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
November 17, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
November 24, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
December 1, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
December 8, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
December 15, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)
December 22, 2025 Monday	Midweek Break (No Class)
December 29, 2025 Monday	Start of Spring Semester (Classes Begin)

Black culture's impact on LGBTQ+ communities

Mari Carter
Staff Writer

Black culture has significantly impacted and influenced the LGBTQ+ community in various ways. A prominent example was the development of ballroom culture, which is a means of



Beyoncé performing in 2023

expressing self-identity through music, dance, or performances alike; RuPaul's Drag Race is a prominent example.

The Harlem Renaissance played an influential role in not only the LGBTQ+ community but, more notably, the Black community as a whole. The Harlem Renaissance was a pivotal moment in history when many Black Americans migrated from the South to the North, specifically Harlem, New York.

The movement focused on Black American artistic expression. A majority of the artists and performers had included LGBTQ+ liberties in their expressions, not shying from the controversy or implications that came with it. This was a big deal for the time, as it included life struggles of Black Americans' daily lives.

Langston Hughes included themes of queerness in his writing, like a boy coming out and dealing with disapproval from his father. He also presented queer stories such as "Blessed Assurance" and "Seven People Dancing."

Black culture has also played a very necessary role in queer rights movements, drawing inspiration from the civil rights movement. Compton's Cafeteria Riot is especially relevant because it was against the constant harassment of trans women and drag queens.

Music and performance arts are still important

and relevant now, with people such as Beyoncé, Janelle Monáe, and Big Freedia all incorporating elements of Black queer expression into their music. These inspirations and expressions make way to navigate not only racial discrimination, but also sexual discrimination, an issue that can be hard to handle and experience.



Langston Hughes

Doctors deem worst flu season in 15 years

Sammy Vargas
Staff Writer

Doctors have said this winter flu season is the worst in 15 years. According to the data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Friday morning, the numbers haven't peaked this high since 2009-2010, while other virus and infection numbers suggest a decrease.

In some instances, schools have closed due to

the number of students and teachers contracting the flu. Some school districts report this being the worst flu season they can remember. A school district near Fort Worth, Texas, with over a 3,200-student system, reported Tuesday that 650 students and 60 teachers were out due to the flu.

So far, the CDC estimates have been 24 million flu illnesses, 310,000 hospitalizations, and 13,000 deaths; including at least 57 children. 43 states have reported high or very high flu

activity, and it is most intense in the Southern, Southwestern, and Western states.

To prevent the transmission of seasonal viruses, medical professionals recommend refraining from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, as this can facilitate the spread of germs. Additionally, it is advisable to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, regularly disinfect commonly touched surfaces, and maintain distance from unwell individuals.

Kendrick Lamar calls out Trump, Drake, and America in historic halftime show

Madeleine Pollock
Staff Writer

On Feb. 9, Kendrick Lamar played at the 59th Super Bowl Apple Music Halftime Show where he made many statements about America, Black culture and history, and famously dissed Drake.

Lamar utilized powerful symbolism throughout the show and also had cameos from singer-songwriter SZA, professional Tennis player Serena Williams, actor Samuel L. Jackson, and record producer DJ Mustard.

“The wrong guy”

Early in the show, Lamar set the tone by saying, “The revolution’s about to be televised. You picked the right time, but the wrong guy.” This has been interpreted by many as a jab at President Trump, who was in attendance at the game. According to popular media, some believe that this line is a call to resistance against Trump, whereas others believe that ‘the resistance’ is simply referring to Lamar’s televised halftime show.

“Uncle Sam”

Samuel L. Jackson took on a narrator-like role introducing the show by saying, “Welcome to the great American Game.” It has been hypothesized that his character was an embodiment of racism and classism in the United States through his commentary and the history of ‘Uncle Sam’ as a common national personification of the U.S.

Jackson interrupted Lamar on numerous occasions; he says that Lamar is “too loud, too reckless, too ghetto” and after SZA’s appearance says “That’s what America wants. Nice, calm,”



Kendrick Lamar surrounded by dancers wearing red, white, and blue.

which could be interpreted as a call-out of racism in America, and the media’s perception of Black culture.

Drake diss

Drake and Lamar have a history of ‘throwing shade’ at one another online and through their music, and there were multiple aspects of the halftime show that could be considered a diss at Drake. Lamar had a chain around his neck with an ‘a’ on it, referring to the line “a-minor” on his track “Not Like Us.” Drake had accusations of engaging with minors, so this lyric is considered a reference to that.

It is also possible that bringing SZA and Williams on stage was an intentional diss at Drake, as he was rumored to have been in relationships with both of them.

Serena Williams’ Crip walk

Serena Williams’ cameo was bigger than a diss at Drake; it was an allusion to the 2012 Olympics controversy and Black history. After winning a game at the London Olympics, Williams crip walked and was criticized by the media due to the dance being associated with gang culture, even though it has become a dance frequently seen in mainstream media.

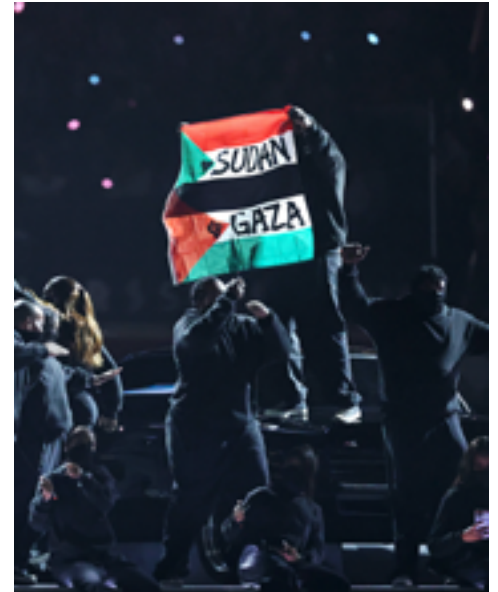
This ties into Black history as the crip walk was first created by Harlem dance legend and disability rights activist Henry “Crip” Heard, who lost an arm and a leg in a car accident. A California street gang known as the Crips later adopted the dance and used it as a form of communication.

Colors and costumes

All dancers were wearing red, white, or blue, which made up the colors of the American flag. Lamar was wearing blue, and notably blue bell-bottoms that have caused a stir online. Some people believe that the pants were a call to resistance against the government as in the 1960s, bell bottoms rose to popularity as a form of protest against the Vietnam War.

At the end of the show, only the dancers in the inner circle who were wearing white survived the “game.”

See ‘Lamar,’ page 6



The flag that was displayed by one of the dancers during the half-time performance.



Uncle Sam, a historic personification of the United States and the character played by Samuel L. Jackson.

The many advertisements of Super Bowl LIX

Abigail Callahan
Staff Writer

The Super Bowl was Sunday, Feb. 9 with the Philadelphia Eagles playing the defending Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs.

Many Super Bowl viewers tune in only for the iconic advertisements.

Each year, companies try to make a funny, wacky, or even serious advertisement for better or worse. They pay a steep price to reach what is usually the largest television audience of the year. This year the reported price was eight million dollars for 30 seconds of airtime.

In a poll, Brevard students were asked what commercial they liked most and why. An anonymous student said, "I liked the Seal as a seal commercial because it was very unexpected and hilarious." Another student who liked the same commercial said, "Mountain Dew Seal because I was not expecting the seal to be Seal." This commercial was with British singer Seal, portrayed as a seal for Mountain Dew's performance of Kiss from a



The Mountain Dew Super Bowl commercial starring Seal.



The Pringles Super Bowl commercial.

Lime, a playful twist on his hit, Kiss from a Rose.

One student said, "I enjoyed the Reese's Lava Cup commercial because of its humor and creativity! The grandma at the end made me laugh." Another student shared their favorite, "The Lilo and Stitch ad promoting the movie release date."

The Super Bowl also included promotions for the Daytona 500 race and The Masked Singer. A uniquely creative commercial came from Angel Soft's Potty-unity advertisement, encouraging watchers to step away from the TV during their commercial just before the halftime show.

In a world where people rarely watch live television and skip commercials, this past Sunday was unique. Beyond the game, the parties, and the food, it is the last place where commercials are part of the event. People pay attention and expect to be entertained by the advertisements.

Hopefully, the audience enjoyed this year's commercial production and the companies saw a positive return.

Lamar halftime show

Continued from page 5

Palestinian/Sudanese flag

Partway through the show, one of the dancers unfurled a Palestinian and Sudanese flag and displayed it, which could be interpreted as a call to action to the U.S. government to stop the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and protest against the Sudanese Civil War. The NFL said "no one involved with the production was aware of the individual's intent."

The "Game"

The show had many references to a game, from the PlayStation-shaped set, to Uncle Sam's narration, to the text on the crowd. Some critics are interpreting this simply as a reference to video



Harlem dance legend and disability rights activist Henry "Crip" Heard who invented the Crip walk.

games, whereas others are saying that is a social commentary on how American capitalism 'rigs the game,' meaning that people of color or lower social class are less likely to succeed, despite the misconception that everyone has an equal chance of success.

This point is orchestrated when Lamar says, "40 acres and a mule, this is bigger than the music. Yeah, they tried to rig the game but you can't fake influence." This is another nod to Black history, as after the Civil War, the U.S. government promised to give all formerly enslaved people 40 acres and a mule, a pledge that was never fulfilled.

At the end of the show, the words "warning wrong way" and "game over" flashed on the crowd.

Tornados win away game against Salem Spirits

Senior guard Josie Hester led all scorers with 20 points as the Brevard College women's basketball team (15-5, 10-3 USA South) out-scored Salem (0-19, 0-13 USAS) 32-10 in the fourth quarter to claim a 66-38 road victory on Wednesday evening.

The Huntersville, North Carolina native continued her dominant work from distance, connecting on six 3-pointers to reach the 20-point mark for the seventh time this season. It was also the fourth time in 2024-25 that Hester has made six or more 3's. In addition to her offensive output, she also grabbed five boards for Brevard.

Lexi Shepard added nine points, three rebounds, and three steals as Brevard held Salem to under 40 points, recorded 17 steals, and forced 29 total Spirit turnovers. Malayka Rankin led the reserves with eight points alongside five rebounds and three steals, while Jada Petty-Wilkins aided the Tornado defense with seven rebounds and four steals - both team bests.

The Tornados held a 17-7 edge on the offen-



Junior Lexi Shapard dribbles the ball up the court (photo by Caden O'Brien.)

sive glass, which resulted in 18 second-chance points. BC's reserves poured in 27 points, and the dominant defensive effort by Brevard led to 32 points off turnovers.

Brevard returns to the Boshamer Gymnasium on Saturday for Senior Day against Meredith, beginning at approximately 4 p.m., preceded by a special ceremony.



Sophomore Kennedie Noble shoots the ball against Salem (photo by Caden O'Brien.)

Tornados fall in exhibition match against Bobcats

The Brevard College men's basketball team took part in an exhibition matchup against NCAA DII Lees-McRae (10-13), with the Bobcats earning an 82-64 victory.

The game counted towards regular season records for the Bobcats, but was an exhibition for Brevard.

Graduate guard Carson Evans led four double-digit scorers for BC, scoring 12 points with three made 3-pointers, while also putting up three assists and two steals. Twain Wilson scored 11 points with a team-high four rebounds, while KK Horton and Dre'Shaun Brown each had 10 points. Charles Reed totaled a team-high three steals, and BC's defense held Lees-McRae to an 0-for-16 mark from beyond the arc.

Brevard made 10 3-pointers in the contest while LMC could not connect from deep. The

Bobcats had a 39-21 edge on the glass, went 18-for-22 from the free throw line, held a massive 60-20 edge on points down low, and scored 12 second-chance buckets. Each side turned the ball over 20+ times.

The Bobcats utilized a 9-0 run to open up a 10-point cushion, 15-5, eight minutes into the contest. BC got to within six points on three separate occasions, but could not trim the margin down further as LMC held a 12-point lead, 40-28, at the break. Wilson led the way for BC in the first half, totaling eight points.

Lees-McRae kept Brevard from pulling within single digits through the entirety of the second half to close out the 18-point victory.

Brevard returns to action with Senior Day this Saturday, as William Peace visits Brevard for a 2 p.m. tip at the Boshamer Gymnasium.



Freshman Twain Wilson against recent opponent Mary Baldwin (photo by Caden O'Brien.)

Super Bowl Recap: the Eagles win it all

Ace Evett
Staff Writer

Super Bowl LIX, held on Feb. 9 at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, saw the Philadelphia Eagles beat the two-time defending Super Bowl Champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, with a final score of 40-22. This victory marked the second Super Bowl victory in franchise history for the Eagles and prevented the Kansas City Chiefs from securing a third repeated Super Bowl victory, which would have set a new NFL record.

First Half Highlights

The Eagle's defense performed extremely well in the first half by holding the Chiefs to a mere 1.2 yards per play and forcing two turnovers.

Rookie cornerback Cooper Dejean had a stand-out moment when he returned a 38-yard interception for a touchdown off of Patrick Mahomes, on the cornerback's birthday.

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts showcased an exceptional performance where he completed 17 of 22 passes for 221 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for 72 yards. Each of his touchdown passes connected with his star receivers Devonta Smith and A.J. Brown.

Even with the Eagles dominating the Time of Possession battle, the Chief's defense contained the Offensive MVP Saquan Barkley as well as anyone could, keeping him at just 31 yards rushing.

Second Half Developments

Despite a valiant effort, the Kansas City Chiefs



Jalen Hurts poses with the Vince Lombardi Trophy.



couldn't overcome the large deficit they had in front of them.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes connected with rookie wide receiver Xavier Worthy for two touchdown passes. He also had a touchdown pass to veteran receiver DeAndre Hopkins.

The Eagles' defense managed to maintain their pressure, accumulating a total of six sacks and three turnovers throughout the game.

Halftime Entertainment

The halftime show featured hip-hop icon Kendrick Lamar, who was joined by SZA in

their hit song "All The Stars," which added to the performance's excitement.

Kendrick led off his performance with "GNX," a teaser, then jumped straight into "Squabble Up," "HUMBLE," "DNA," "Euphoria," "Man at the Garden," "Peekaboo," "Luther," "All The Stars," "Not Like Us" and ended with "TV Off."

Super Bowl MVP

Jalen Hurts was named Super Bowl LIX MVP for his outstanding contributions, leading the Philadelphia Eagles to an unforgettable Super Bowl Victory.



Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts runs with the ball against Kansas City.