

OPINIONS 5

Clubs provide enriching experience to transfers (p. 1)



Baruch College helps transfer students assimilate into the environment by encouraging them to get involved in club life and embrace Baruch culture. A variety of clubs and organizations help shape the transfer experience and find new opportunities.

BUSINESS 9

US trade deficit widens to \$502 billion (p. 10)



Although exports outpaced imports in the month of December, the overall U.S. trade deficit rose to its highest in four years in 2016. The United States managed to decrease its trade gap with China by 20.1 billion.

ARTS & STYLE 11

Creative director Riccardo Tisci leaves Givenchy (p. 11)



The talented Italian designer who has worked with celebrities such as Kim Kardashian West has decided to step down from his 12-year tenure at the French brand, with his replacement still unknown.

SCIENCE & TECH 15

Children prefer relationships with pets (p. 15)



Children receive more gratification from their relationships with their pets than with their siblings, revealed a recent study by the University of Cambridge. Children were also found to get along better with pets than siblings.

SPORTS 18

Patriots stun Falcons in 2017 Superbowl (p. 19)



The New England Patriots lead a comeback against the Atlanta Falcons to win the 2017 Super Bowl in overtime for the first time ever. The Falcons held a lead against the Patriots for the majority of the game, but the Brady Bunch unleashed an offensive fury in the fourth quarter.

Black History Month kicks off with seminar



CONNOR HENCHY | THE TICKER

The opening event of Black History Month at Baruch featured several prominent speakers and provided a space for students to speak about their experiences.

BY YELENA DZHANOVA
OPINIONS EDITOR

Marissa Mathieu, Finance Committee member of the National Association of Black Accountants, hosted the "Opening Ceremony: Black Student Seminar" to kick off Black History Month on Feb. 7.

The Multipurpose Room, set up in a semicircle lined with chairs, served as a platform for marginalized students to speak up specifically about their experiences as black or Latino people.

The event doubled as a seminar, in which students were able to participate and respond to questions posed by Mathieu and a slew of other hosts.

Representatives from many clubs that center around black empowerment were present and took turns leading and moderating the discussion. Prominent speakers included members of NABA, the NABA chapter within Baruch College, and the president and vice president of Black Student Union.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

OPINIONS

Transfer students welcome at Baruch

At first glance, the Newman Vertical Campus can emanate a feeling of monolithic dread that crashes over all who approach it. The building's curvature warns its inhabitants of the figurative and literal uphill climb they must endure in order to succeed at Baruch College. For the 6,854 students who have transferred to Baruch since 2015, the trek seems even steeper. They have discarded the notion of a "traditional" college experience long before stepping into the campus.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Men's volleyball team struggles to win first game

BY OMER SEMAN
COPY EDITOR

Baruch College's men's volleyball team has struggled out of the gates, losing its first seven games of the season. The Bearcats fell just short of a championship in an exhilarating five-set CUNYAC tournament final in 2016 and anxiously awaited the 2017 season. But as their rotation has lost five seniors to graduation and over half of the current roster consists of freshmen, a lack of experience could explain the precipitous drop in their performance.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lucid City releases self-titled album



COURTESY OF EDWARD INZAURO

Lucid City, pictured above, is composed of Catucci, Kesoglides, Levin and Morales. The band has two stops left on its tour.

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ AND ANGEL TORRES
MANAGING EDITOR AND COPY EDITOR

When Kristopher Kesoglides was a child, his mother—a poet—would read her poems to him every night before bed. This, he said, ignited his artistic interests.

By the time Kesoglides reached

high school, his interest in music was well-developed. Though he attended piano classes for two weeks, he decided to take up the piano and guitar on his own. Together with his writing skills, he was able to begin writing and composing music. He is now attending Baruch College and intends to major in journalism and minor in

English.

"My first love was poetry [and] creative writing," Kesoglides said in an interview. "I didn't want to learn music in school. Because I was self-taught, I want to focus on music outside of school and my backup is journalism and English."

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Student government presidents condemn executive order

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ
MANAGING EDITOR

In response to President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, the presidents of 15 CUNY colleges signed a statement condemning the decision. The executive order led to four prominent cases of students not being allowed back into the United States.

On Feb. 9, The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ruled 3-0 against the administration's attempt to reinstate the executive order, causing the president to tweet, "SEE YOU IN COURT." With the decision, the Appeals Court upheld a lower court's ruling allowing visa and green card holders to safely travel to and from the United States. However, CUNY's immigrant community is still concerned with the executive order.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

News Briefs

COMPILED BY
JONATHAN SPERLING AND VICTORIA MERLINO

CUNY campuses and offices closed on Feb. 9 due to a winter storm that blanketed the New York area with up to 14 inches of snow. Baruch College students learned of the cancellation through social media or the CUNY Alert emergency notification system, though there was no official email from the college. Student were excused from all classes for the day. Baruch cancelled numerous events that were supposed to happen throughout the day, including the Club Fair, club meetings and a performance of *The Vagina Monologues*.

The president of Lehman College delivered a testimony on Feb. 7 to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce that highlighted the importance of fighting inequities in higher education. Dr. Jose Luis Cruz was invited to speak at the hearing on “Challenges and Opportunities in Higher Education,” educating those present on how public two-year and four-year colleges are supporting low-income students and making college more equitable. Cruz recommended to the committee that more investment should be made in higher education, including expanding Pell Grant funding and strengthening the Direct Loan program.

CUNY’s Director of Student Financial Aid George Chin died on Feb. 5 of cancer. He spent nearly three decades serving CUNY students, using his official tenure from 1981 to 2008 to advocate for financial aid expansion for low-income students. Though he worked for CUNY, Chin impacted financial aid on a national scale, testifying for the House Education and the Workforce Committee’s Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness in 2003 on re-writing of FAFSA to ensure that low-income students would be treated fairly and receive proper financial aid. Chin was 67 years old.

An anonymous international CUNY student has returned to New York in the wake of President Donald Trump’s executive order on immigration. Thanks to help from CUNY’s Citizenship Now! program, which provides confidential law services to immigrants, the undergraduate student was able to return to CUNY from Yemen last week. The student is one of many international students aided by Citizenship Now!, which set up a hotline in response to the executive order. According to Citizenship Now! staff attorney Isabel Bucaram, Esq., the hotline has received a multitude of questions from concerned students.

Corrections

In the first issue of *The Ticker*, the person who took the photograph on page 15 was incorrectly identified as David Alvarez of *Lexicon*. The photographer’s name is Nudrat Kadir. She is also part of *Lexicon*.

Baruch offers legal services to students in need

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“Our University was founded on the principle that all ethnic and racial groups no matter the gender should be allowed equal access and opportunity to higher education,” the statement read. “We are disgusted by your unreasonable and immoral act which has prevented so many from pursuing the American Dream.”

Trump’s executive order banned citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen from entering the country for 90 days, including valid visa and green card holders. All refugees were denied entry for 120 days, while refugees from Syria were blocked from entering the country indefinitely.

According to a statement posted on Hunter College’s website, the executive order could impact 120 CUNY students, along with some members of the faculty and staff. This is just part of the 40 percent of CUNY students who were born outside of the United States.

The International Student Service Center, which has access to the number of students affected by the order, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump’s executive order resulted in confusion and outrage. On the day when the ban was signed into effect, citizens of those seven countries suddenly found themselves unable to board planes destined for the United States.

In some cases, people who had boarded the planes were asked to exit them. Those who were mid-flight were detained in the airport for several hours or put on the same plane back from where they departed.

The executive order sparked protests in major cities across the country. New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport was soon



AGATA PONIATOWSKI | THE TICKER

Baruch, along with 23 other CUNY colleges, were deemed sanctuary colleges. They are committed to protecting student privacy.

flooded with hundreds of protesters and lawyers demanding for the release of those held in custody.

In an interview, Daniel Dornbaum, president of Baruch’s Undergraduate Student Government, said USG has been trying to help students who needed information.

“There’s not much that we can personally do, but we want to be a resource to students,” Dornbaum said. “A lot of the times, students feel more comfortable coming to us rather than administration. We need to be that kind of [connecting piece] between the resources that this college has and the students on the ground.”

One of the resources mentioned by Dornbaum is a lawyer paid for by USG. Dornbaum explained that USG pays for a lawyer to spend time on campus so that students

can receive legal services for free. The lawyer has temporarily relocated to the Bearcat Den so that students affected by the executive order can have easier access to the help they need.

CUNY officials also signed a document deeming all 24 colleges sanctuary colleges. Similar to the term “sanctuary city,” sanctuary colleges are committed to protect the privacy of their students. This means that CUNY workers will not release information about students without a court order.

Mayor Bill de Blasio has also vowed to protect the privacy and immigration status of New Yorkers, even if it means losing federal funding for the city. If it came down to it, the mayor said he would delete the IDNYC records collected during the application process.

As Trump’s presidency continues, so do the protests voicing their opposition to his candidacy. While his Tweet may signal that he will appeal the executive order, CUNY students can expect their student governments to be on their side.

“We do not stand for hate and we do not stand for discrimination,” the statement from student government presidents read. “All twenty-four of our campuses are located in New York City where thousands have already rallied, marched, and protested the signing of this action.”

“We will join them in their outrage and will continue to oppose a discriminatory agenda as the face of your resistance.”

For now, however, the ruling of the Appeals Court will remain in effect.

Cuomo requires insurers to give free contraceptives

BY VICTORIA MERLINO
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

New York will require insurers in the state to provide free access to contraceptives and medically necessary abortions, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Jan. 21. This announcement comes as a direct rebuke to the current scrutiny the Affordable Care Act is under, as well as reaffirms Cuomo’s commitment to women’s rights, serving as the next step in Cuomo’s “New York’s Promise to Women: Ever Upward” campaign.

Insurers will be required to cover an initial supply of contraceptive drugs and devices for free for the first three months after a woman is prescribed it and then a 12-month supply after that time period. Under the current law, only a one-month supply is available for women. As with the ACA, currently not all contraceptives will be free, but insurers would have to provide one of each type of contraceptive method that the Food and Drug Administration has approved. This will include birth control pills, diaphragms, emergency contraception and intrauterine devices. All medically necessary abortions will also be covered under the new regulations, without the need of co-insurance, co-pays or deductibles.

Congressional Republicans’ efforts to repeal the ACA, which requires insurance agencies to provide coverage for most contraceptive methods, spurred Cuomo into enacting this new legislation.

“Women deserve to make a fair wage and the same salary as any man, they deserve to work in an office free of sexual harassment, they deserve comprehensive paid family leave, and they deserve control over their health and reproductive decisions,” Cuomo said in a statement about the new legislation on



FLICKR.COM

Cuomo promised that insurers will soon be required to provide an initial supply of contraceptive drugs and devices for free.

his website. “These regulatory actions will help ensure that whatever happens at the federal level, women in our state will have cost-free access to reproductive health care and we hope these actions serve as a model for equality across the nation.”

Though Cuomo has had difficulties enacting legislation in the past due to a Republican-dominated State Senate, for this particular law, Cuomo will be able to pass it through unimpeded. The announcement of the legislation coincided with the women’s marches protesting President Donald Trump that took place across the nation, as well as the 44th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the landmark Supreme Court case that legalized abortion in the United States.

One of the affected groups of Cuomo’s new policy will be col-

lege-aged New Yorkers. Two Baruch College students, Denisha Deonarine and Neevetha Nadarajah, have positive thoughts on the strengthening of the insurance regulations.

“I honestly think it’s a great idea—what [Cuomo is] doing—because ... a lot of people are afraid of what could happen—not just women, but people of color, transgender people, LGBTQ people. But [the new legislation] definitely makes me feel, as a woman, safer ... It makes me feel safe that I have the rights that I deserve,” said Deonarine, a finance major.

Nadarajah, a psychology and business communication major, mentioned the prospect of more people who require birth control being tempted to move to New York as they would have greater access to contraceptives than in

other states.

“New York is a considerably liberal state ... so I think that people that require birth control from down South or anywhere where the policies are more strict would definitely come to New York [for coverage].”

New York’s health care exchange insures around 3.3 million people. Though the state runs the exchange independently, it is heavily subsidized by the federal government.

Religious organizations and employers that oppose abortion will not have to offer employees insurance plans that would cover abortions. However, employees of such organizations may purchase a “rider,” or an optional add-on to their policy from their insurer, or receive their insurance from a different source entirely.

Black History Month event explores aspects of black culture

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Mathieu’s introduction consisted of a prelude in which she alluded to topics of natural hair, police brutality and post-Obama legislation. The opening question asked the audience to describe what it means to them to be black. A plethora of similar answers rung out. Participating students yelled out statements such as “to be magical,” “to be unique” and “to have the biggest hair in the room.”

A video about cultural appropriation appeared on the projector screens after the chorale of voices ceased. The video featured a young Barack Obama emphasizing that, “what is truly American is black culture to a large degree.” The nation’s former president took time in the video to explain how black culture became prevalent in the United States and how civil disobedience was a powerful tool that laid out current legislation protecting against discrimination.

A second video played select clips from *School Daze*, the politically charged musical about students attending a historically black college. The clips shown outlined the prejudices and challenges that may accompany students of color.

When the projector screens were not in use, quotes from inspirational and influential black people were strewn across. Among those whose names graced the screen were Jay Z, Malcolm X and Marcus Garvey.

The event maintained an uplifted and proud tone after the videos stopped playing and the hosts regained attention from the audience. A conversation had begun about the successes of black people, which sparked a multitude of anecdotes and engagement from the crowd. Nigel Barker, a senior and finance major who attends

Queens College, gave a brief pitch to the crowd about why black people are inspirational to him.

“I was telling my sisters the other day that when you let black people into certain things, there’s a lot of domination. I told her, ‘Look at tennis.’ I said, ‘Look at golf.’ I said that we didn’t even create basketball and we took over the sport.”

His words elicited cheer and applause from supporters in the crowd. He continued to say that black people have been highly influential in music just as well as they have been in the field of athletics. However, Mathieu disagreed with the statement. She indicated that gospel, jazz and rhythm and blues are musical genres that developed from already existing music that was usually listened to and performed by white people.

The conversation then shifted toward appearance. Mathieu started out the discussion by referencing the nonfiction book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander.

“With appearance comes targeting. In the book *The New Jim Crow*, [Alexander] speaks on when the guys sag their pants, they’re automatically targeted by the police. Even though we don’t really do that right now, at a point that was part of black culture and because we dress like that, we’re automatically targeted,” said Mathieu.

Mathieu then set out to determine how many people in the audience felt protected by the police. Her question prompted similar responses among the seated members, who either articulated their thoughts or nodded in support and solidarity. President of BSU Tinea Smith spoke out against feeling protected in her own neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

“A couple of years ago, my



CONNOR HENCHEY | THE TICKER

The opening event featured videos about cultural appropriation and the challenges faced by black students.

mother would say that it made no sense to call the police because they would never come. Now, when there’s a lot of gentrification in my neighborhood, they want to protect us there. You don’t have to call them now; they’re just always there.”

Smith elaborated on the topic of knowing that the police are in her neighborhood. “I don’t think they’re standing on the corner because they’re trying to protect someone. I think they’re standing on the corner because they’re trying to scope out the corner and protect the gentrifiers.”

In response to a hypothetical query regarding whether white cops should stay in white neighborhoods and whether black cops should stay in black neighborhoods, an audience member ex-

plained his dismay at both possibilities.

“It doesn’t matter whether they’re white or black. It’s the culture of the police department to belittle the black community. To me, it doesn’t matter what color the police officers are. It’s just their culture.” Other audience members expressed the same sentiment.

Professor Arthur Lewin of the Black and Latino Studies Department gave a brief historical anecdote about racial demographics within Baruch College. He said, “I remember years ago—you wouldn’t believe this—but the percentage of Baruch students was 40 percent black and Latino. We were all over campus. We didn’t have to call a special event to get together, because they were just bumping each other in the hallways.”

He said that the nation has changed a lot during his time spent in New York. Two decades ago, he said, every single major city in the United States had a mayor who was black but that is no longer the case.

After having briefed the audience of upcoming events for the duration of Black History Month, a medley of performances ensued.

On Tuesday, Feb. 14 during club hours, YouTube content creators will be part of a panel discussion tackling expectations, history, myths and trends around beauty and black hair. That same night, the bookstore cafe will play host to a more artistic environment where performers will be allowed to come up on stage and share any experiences or thoughts. Workshops with more gravity will be held in various venues throughout the month.



Dear Dr. Aaron,

*Thank you for 44 years of service to Baruch College and its students.
You have shaped generations of Bearcats and improved the lives of each
Baruchian you have crossed paths with.*

*Your passion for student success has never dwindled and you have always
kept us in your heart and at the center of your world.*

*You have been a role model and a mentor to countless students and there
are not enough words to express our gratitude.*

*You made Baruch College feel like home for every student and as you
move on, know that no matter where life takes you, this home will be
open to you.*

Best,



Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

CUNY students deserve access to discounted textbooks

As the price of textbooks continues to escalate past affordability, CUNY has turned to Akademos, an online bookstore provider that promises a 60 percent cut in textbook prices.

This initiative is particularly helpful for students who struggle to pay for expensive textbooks, pointing them in a direction that allows them to get their textbooks for much cheaper.

The Akademos supplement to the traditional bookstore experience has already been implemented at four CUNY schools: CUNY School of Law, John Jay College, Queens College and Medgar Evers College.

Over the next year, the opportunity to buy books conveniently and cheaply will expand to eight other schools within the CUNY system, including Baruch College.

The layout of Akademos truly helps students save money on textbooks. The website features a peer-to-peer marketplace, which connects students to third-party sellers such as those found on Amazon.com. An analytics portal for faculty provides an easy-to-read format for choosing textbook options and allows staff members to see what texts are being used and helps them select the highest possible quality materials at the lowest possible price.

While students can find similar deals on other websites, Akademos is preferable because it allows students to purchase textbooks using their remaining financial aid funds. The website will allow students to buy and rent new and used books or purchase an e-book, much like Baruch’s own bookstore, but for a cheaper price.

Textbooks are a considerable expense for students, but CUNY is making strides to help by providing them with access to a source that will allow them to purchase their books at a highly discounted price.

However, this version of Akademos is only available at 12 of the 20 schools in the CUNY system.

While Baruch students are lucky to have the opportunity to purchase books for considerably less money than students at other colleges, this privilege should be extended to all of the colleges in the CUNY system. All students within the CUNY system should be able to receive the same benefits from their individual colleges.

It is unfair to give easy access to a select portion of schools within the CUNY system while ignoring other the other schools in the system. Considering the fact that this is a technological advancement, it seems like it would be extremely easy for every single school within the CUNY system to access Akademos. CUNY has 500,000 enrolled students who deserve the best that they can get.

US must strive to reduce teen smoking

In an effort to reduce smoking in adolescents, the New York City Council proposed a bill that will make the open display of tobacco products illegal in stores. The bill would force stores to keep tobacco products hidden beneath the counter until the moment of purchase. A study explains that adolescents are less likely to use tobacco-based products if the products are not visibly present in stores.

The United States does not do enough to highlight the adverse effects smoking can have on the human body. Many pro-smoking advertisements make the unhealthy past-time look normal—if the ad is more neutral, it at least does not show the damage that can be done from partaking in long-term smoking.

Michael Bloomberg, former mayor of New York City, tried instating the same bill in 2013 without success. Bloomberg and the current city council both had the best interest of the public in mind, but more needs to be done to target smoking culture. Ads with honest displays of what can happen should be prominently placed throughout the city and better warnings should be put on tobacco products.

The display ban is a welcome effort to keep New York City youth healthier, but if local and national government wish to keep the best interests of their people in mind, much more needs to be done.



REBECCA VICENTE | THE TICKER

Club life empowers transfer students

Transfer students have a wealth of opportunities to take advantage of when they enroll at Baruch

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Transfer Seminar is not mandatory for transfer students, but it offers a number of resources that ease the path for newcomers, much like its Freshman Seminar counterpart. According to the Transfer Seminar Instructor’s Manual, sessions cover academic research and success strategies, career planning led by a STARR Career Development Center staff member, communication skills, health and wellness activities and more. The SCDC also coordinates with the Transfer Student Organization to host special resume and cover letter workshops, co-sponsor a Career Week Panel in the spring.

Common stories shared in Transfer Seminar sessions include discussions of former schools, persevering through the red tape of the CUNY system and getting accustomed to the labyrinth of hallways at Baruch.

After having spent days in the Admissions Office, Office of the Registrar and Financial Aid Office and having dealt with the paperwork, the first day of classes is when transfer students get a glimpse into the next stage of their higher education.

A closer look at Baruch’s populous makes it seem like the General Assembly of the United Nations. With over 100 languages spoken, 160 countries represented and just as many undergraduate clubs,

the diverse student population attracts prospective students and makes the likelihood of finding a familiar cultural group or club relatively high.

The Office of Student Life oversees the 160 student-run undergraduate clubs and organizations. From a cappella to business to cultural clubs, students should take advantage of the abundant opportunities offered at Baruch. Nearly every club offers free food in general interest meetings—go for the food, stay for the camaraderie.

Some transfer students may feel compelled to take advantage of their college experience and join in on club life. Pablo Martinez, a junior majoring in Computer Science, talked of his experiences and involvement within club life. “I love hanging out with my friends after classes at events. In the Fall semester, when I transferred over, it was difficult to make friends because the whole time, I focused so much on just making the grades.”

Martinez described how his grades began to fall because he lost interest in school. “I didn’t have a super high GPA last quarter because I didn’t get a feel for the school yet. But now that I am involved and enjoying my time here more, I feel more encouraged to do the work.”

Even though Baruch’s cutthroat classroom environment made the workload seem unbearable, he found a happy balance in his life

through club participation. “I really enjoy spending extra time at school, which I didn’t think was possible as I was growing up. I hated school growing up.”

On the other end of the spectrum, Natalie Ryenonkova regrets not participating in more extracurricular activities when she had the chance. “I wish I had done a lot last year [as a junior], but now I’m a senior and it’s hard,” said the corporate communications major.

“I don’t know where to start but I take daytime classes, so I see a bunch of the same faces and they all have club shirts.” Even though she wanted to attend events and get more involved, her limited time at Baruch prevented her from fully embracing all Baruch has to offer.

This academic year, approximately 63 percent of enrolled Baruch degree-seeking undergraduates began their career here as transfer students, according to the Public Relations department. This should only further encourage all students, especially transfer students, to reach out to the OSL, find a club, attend general interest meetings and explore the campus and find interesting events.

It might take a semester to get acclimated to the people and atmosphere, but the relationships built will make the time spent at Baruch almost worth the cost of admission.

-Omer Seman
Finance '17

New football rules lead to fewer injuries

USA Football, the national administrative body for amateur football, announced on Jan. 31 that it will introduce new rules to the game in order to create safer regulations for children who are involved in the sport. Numerous parents expressed concerns about the sport being too dangerous for children to play and implored that it be revamped.

The organization will implement these regulations within a limited number of leagues in a series of trials later this year. The rules will include a smaller playing field that will span 40 yards by 35 yards, a seven-player limit on the field, no special teams and authorized position rotations. Coaches will be mandated to line up athletes of similar size together and two coaches will be permitted on the field to manage plays and direct athletes.

These critical actions result from alarming research that confirms just how harmful football can

be to any player. Jeff Miller, senior vice president for health and safety to the NFL, admitted to the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce on Jan. 31 that there is a direct correlation between head trauma and chronic traumatic encephalopathy induced by vigorous play in football.

This was the first time an NFL executive acknowledged football’s relationship with the detrimental brain disease CTE. The NFL executive sourced his data from Dr. Ann McKee, a Boston University neuropathologist who identified CTE in 176 athletes, including 90 out of 94 former NFL players, 45 out of 55 college players and six out of 26 high school players.

Medical professionals added that constant staggering jolts can curb the growth of a child’s brain. It is hazardous for linemen to endure frequent punches on almost every play from scrimmage because the impacts affect their lifelong health. Investigators noted that college

and professional athletes who begin playing tackle football at a young age have a higher prospect of exhibiting thinking and memory problems as they age.

Participation in the sport has declined as a result. The number of boys aged 6 to 12 playing tackle football has diminished by almost 20 percent since 2009. Schools in Maine, Missouri and New Jersey have abandoned their tackle football programs altogether because of lingering questions regarding safety and a scarcity of athletes.

USA Football’s adjustments will be instrumental in combatting injury. Football is one of the nation’s most beloved sports with a devoted fan base. Athletes deserve the opportunity to safely play the sport that they enjoy. The well-being of young athletes should also be protected and these rules are ultimately a step in the right direction.

-Maya Yegorova
Journalism '20

The Ticker

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REBECCA VICENTE | GRAPHIC DESIGNER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF@THETICKER.ORG
MANAGING-EDITOR@THETICKER.ORG
BUSINESS-MANAGER@THETICKER.ORG
ADS@THETICKER.ORG
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OSEMAN@THETICKER.ORG
ATORRES@THETICKER.ORG
APONIATOWSKI@THETICKER.ORG
RVICENTE@THETICKER.ORG

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The Ticker
One Bernard Baruch Way
Suite 3-290
New York, NY 10010
(646) 312-4710

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Students must convene to combat injustices

THE USG REPORT



DANIEL DORNBAUM

Immediately following President Donald Trump’s inauguration, people took to the streets of Washington, D.C. to protest. In the weeks that followed, millions of people around the world joined in marches and demonstrations to show their dissatisfaction with various issues surrounding the president’s policies. One issue that hit CUNY close to home is the executive order titled “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States.” The executive order banned people from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the United States. The ban was put into place shortly before the start of the Spring semester while many students were still away on vacation or studying abroad. No students from Baruch College were turned away, but Saira Rafiee, a doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate Center, was among those who were. CUNY has a large immigrant population and hosts around 40 percent of undergraduate students who were born outside of the United States. When news surrounding Rafiee broke, students jumped into action by spreading her story to members of CUNY administration

and getting her in contact with those who could potentially help her gain entry. Along with the help of local officials, CUNY administrators organized a press conference at Brooklyn Borough Hall calling for the safe return of our fellow student. On Feb. 4, Rafiee returned to the United States. This story is a perfect example of how student advocacy can play a part in our surrounding political environment and truly affect change in today’s society. Over the course of the next two months, students will need to stay involved as funding for CUNY has been slashed in Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s budget. In order to convince politicians to change this, we must organize and stay involved. Calling representatives, staying updated on CUNY-related news and even sharing information with friends are all ways you can contribute. Many were discouraged and outraged by the actions of some people participating in the marches when they became violent, but it is important to realize that violence is not the only way to be involved. People often describe a protest as something akin to a mob or rally but, a protest can take a variety of different forms. Voting, divesting personal funds or writing letters for a cause are all valid ways to voice your opinion. Democracy only works when the people are engaged and it is our job to make it work for us. If you want to get involved in student advocacy, we are here to help.

Daniel Dornbaum is the president of USG. He can be reached at daniel.dornbaum@usgbaruch.com. His office is located at 3-272 in the Newman Vertical Campus.

Feminism emblemizes radical left

THE POLITICKER



ERIC BUTKIEWICZ

Just a couple weeks ago, millions of women gathered worldwide for the “Women’s March.” This march could have been a great opportunity to pursue women’s empowerment, a movement that could have encouraged women to form their own opinions on political issues and to make independent decisions instead of following the crowd. It could have supported women who held opinions that differ from popular culture. However, the exact opposite took place. This was not a march for women, but an attempt to push a radical left agenda that advocated against Trump, for abortion and for a large welfare state. Everyone who disagreed was publicly shamed and labeled anti-women, despite the fact that over half of the female population disagreed with at least one of these policy positions. These women were the biggest victims of the march because only a single disagreement caused the women protesting on the side of the radical left to disregard them as real women. Women who believed that Trump should be president or were anti-abortion were accused of having internalized misogyny and being a slave of the patriarchy. A woman who forms her own opinions and breaks from the popular beliefs that were represented by the march is considered a

slave. Unfortunately, this mindset is not isolated. Modern third-wave feminism has come a long way since the second-wave feminism movement of the 1970s. Starting in the 1990s, the focus began to shift from empowering women to using the guise of women’s rights to promote a political agenda. At this unfortunate inflection point, with the onset of identity politics, feminism has begun to disempower women. How dare a woman stray from the mob mentality and be an independent thinker. This shame is constantly pushed onto women. Unrestricted abortions, subsidized contraception and, now, even free tampons are all considered women’s rights in popular culture. Feminism has begun to preach the ideology that says that if a woman disagrees with one of these policies, then she herself must be against women’s rights. These mindsets are remarkably regressive considering the fact that they originate from a “Women’s March” filled with “feminists.” Only a few months ago feminist filmmaker Cassie Jaye, released her documentary *The Red Pill*, which focuses on the men’s rights activist movement. Her findings were surprising: what first began as a movie to expose the horrible misogyny of these activists quickly became a movie sympathetic to the activists’ cause. After finishing the film, Jaye was excited to bring her findings back to her feminist friends, but she found that her friends turned on her. The revelations she made in her film did not matter—the only thing that mattered was that they believed Jaye’s politics were wrong. At that point she lost many friends and people who were her longtime allies, who also began

to publicly slander her. From that point on, Jaye no longer used the feminist moniker to describe herself. Feminism, to her, was no longer a movement for female empowerment. This is the unfortunate state of modern feminism. It is a movement that has betrayed all that it has stood for in the past—it has betrayed women. It comes as no surprise that a growing number of women, such as Jaye, are no longer labelling themselves as feminists. Despite the efforts of truly intelligent women, such as author Christina Hoff Sommers and critic Camille Paglia, to save the feminist label, further efforts are becoming a lost cause as the modern feminist movement continues to morph into a movement of the political left. In order to truly empower women, women should be encouraged to form their own opinions on issues rather than being put down for having differing opinions. Women should be encouraged to pursue the lifestyle of their own choice and not be pressured into full-time employment. A stay-at-home mom should be respected just as much as a female lawyer. A woman should not be shamed for expressing her femininity. Only then can true female empowerment be reached. A woman should be respected for the choices she makes under her own willpower, not shamed for resisting the influence of mob mentality.

Eric is a Public Affairs student who is active in organizations including the Baruch College Republicans and the Honors Student Council. Outside of college, he recently founded a nonprofit, Doxa, which aims to increase “debate, discourse and citizenship.”

Domestic abuse hinders development

Russia proposed a law to decriminalize domestic abuse, an act that depicts a severe lack of progress

It is shocking to fathom that domestic abuse is now permissible by law in Russia even though it has a negative association in many modernized nations. Russia’s parliament has begun to decriminalize domestic violence, an action that should not be tolerated. The Duma has approved an amendment that completely removes domestic abuse from the criminal code with a vote of 380 to three. Referred to as the “slapping law,” it decriminalizes “battery within families.” A first time offender—someone who is classified as an individual who beats a family member, but not to the point of hospitalization—only has to either pay a \$500 fine, serve 15 days in jail or do 120 hours of community service as a penalty. Harsher charges can only be sentenced if another offense is committed within the same year. This seems completely backward for a number of reasons. First, almost half of all violent crimes in Russia have to do with domestic violence, so domestic abuse is a crime that should not be taken lightly. Softening the law would probably lead to an increase in the amount of domestic violence because offenders would no longer fear the harsh punishments or repercussions. The police did not have much power to begin with and now they will have be taken even less seriously because they can no

longer threaten offenders with jail time. The victims are not in a better state either. The psychological impacts of that type of childhood are infinite. They might never live a normal lifestyle because of low self-esteem. They might continue the cycle of violence within their own family one day. They might turn to crime or suicide to get away from that atmosphere. Then there are women. According to a BBC article, 600,000 women in Russia are physically and verbally abused every year. 14,000 of those women die from their injuries, averaging a total of 40 deaths a day. When the article came out in 2013, there was only one 35-room refugee house for battered women in all of Moscow, a city whose population boasted 12 million people at the time. Abused women often have no place to stay or take their children to for safety. Legal help is even harder to obtain. The police did not have much power in stopping conflicts either, according to police inspector Andrei Levchuk. If they did not witness an attack, the most they could do is caution the offender from doing it again. Therefore, women are left to feel bewildered and powerless. According to *The Economist*, debate over the issue of domestic violence came up in 2016 when the Duma decriminalized bat-

tery, which is considered the least violent form of assault in Russia. Unlike most countries in Europe and Central Asia, Russia does not have laws that specifically isolate domestic violence, so many people were afraid that it would be lumped in with battery. However, the Duma instead made it separate and subject to a two-year maximum sentence. Russian officials who favor the change believe that the government has intervened in family matters for too long and that this law will help create a stronger family unit since they will be left to sort matters out themselves. Parents, especially, will be able to discipline their children as they see fit. Other proponents say that women are now more likely to speak up about their abuse because they know their partners will not be sent to Russia’s harsh prisons. The law also fits with traditional values of the Russian Orthodox Church who were furious about the two-year sentence that was decided on last year. They see “the reasonable and loving use of physical punishment as an essential part of the rights given to parents by God himself.” This fits in with the traditional themes President Vladimir Putin is known for supporting. This kind of progress is contradictory. A Russian saying reads: “If he beats you it means he loves you.” If that is what Russian officials believe, they need to re-evaluate what matters more—having a country of healthy and happy people or having a country of hopeless victims. Only one of those options will allow Russia to prosper.

-Jessica Kraker
English '18

Accepting transgender scouts may spark backlash

Nothing hastens change faster than boycotts, lawsuits and diminishing membership and revenue intake. Of course, large media coverage and the shifting ground of sexual and cultural mores in the United States play big parts as well. In recent years, the Boy Scouts of America has reversed its ban on gay and now transgender scouts. The sudden shift made front-page headlines when 8-year-old Joey Maldonado from Cub Scout Pack 87 in New Jersey was removed on the basis of gender identity. Born as Jodi, he began identifying as a boy. Everyone knew Joey was born Jodi, but family, friends and neighbors recognized him as he wished to be recognized. However, his removal from the scouts aroused global attention. At first, the organization hid behind a legal facade and claimed that it does not discriminate on the basis of sexuality, but the issue snowballed beyond control. The Boy Scouts of America has 2.3 million members. The organization was founded by Robert Baden-Powell in England in 1907. His work led to the creation of the *Boy Scouts Manual* that still remains in use today. The manual is strongly imbued with a military and Christian spirit. That influence continues to persist within the Boy Scouts of America today—it gives voice and hope to defenders of traditional rural values and Protestant Christianity. It is no accident that churches sponsor Boy Scout troops and Cub Scout packs. The changing climate of sexual mores and an arc of modernity has opened in the United States’ cultural war. It has become a burning issue within the Boy Scouts, its ef-

fects varying depending on state and geographical location. The Southern Baptist Convention threatens to withdraw from the organization because Boy Scouts of America has begun to accept boys who identify as transgender. The opposition from the Southern Baptist Convention is a reflection of the conflict between conservative and progressive, traditionalist and modern values. In the United States, transgender rights have been facing a lot of opposition. States like North Carolina and Texas, for example, have legislation banning transgender people from using public bathrooms that do not correspond to their biological identity. Transgender identities have made headlines in recent years. *Vanity Fair*, for example, premiered Caitlin Jenner on its cover. The award-winning Netflix original series *Orange is the New Black* and the Oscar-winning film *The Danish Girl* are both examples of media disclosing transgender relationships in an open fashion. There will be immediate backlash facing the decision of the Boy Scouts from the current administration under President Donald Trump—he certainly will not champion this cause. Transgender awareness is not the exclusive property of the LGBT population, but a kaleidoscope of cultural, political and religious forces that are supported by strong citizens and organizations. This awareness may suffer setbacks in the current climate, but the reactions will not last. The embers of an impending cultural war have already been fanned.

-Robert Cambria
Journalism

[Victims of physical abuse] might never live a normal lifestyle because of low self-esteem. They might continue the cycle of violence within their own family one day.

Shooting at mosque demands unity

The latest incident in Quebec demonstrates the need for greater solidarity with Muslim communities

Shortly before 8 p.m. on Jan. 29, a gunman opened fire indiscriminately into a crowd of children, men and women who were worshipping during evening prayer at the Islamic Cultural Centre of Quebec in the Quebecois provincial capital. Six men were killed including Dr. Khaled Belkacemi, a professor at Laval University’s School of Agricultural Sciences and Food.

Alexandre Bissonnette, a student at the university, was arrested shortly after the incident and is now the sole suspect in the shooting. He has been charged with six counts of first-degree murder and five-counts of attempted murder while using a restricted firearm.

A week after President Donald Trump’s inauguration, Martin Robin and Bissonnette, who met at Laval University in Quebec City in 2014, discussed Trump’s ban prohibiting entry to travelers from a number of Muslim-majority nations.

Robin expressed that his exchange with Bissonnette drew fear when he heard Bissonnette discuss alt-right viewpoints such as severely limiting immigration to Canada based on race.

Quebec City in particular, has a murky history of far-right, xenophobic politics that have recently culminated in hostility toward the Muslim-Quebecois community. Last June, during the month of Ramadan, a gift-wrapped pig’s head with a note reading “Bon appetit” was left on the doorstep of the same mosque in which last week’s shooting took place.

In October, a number of far-right groups joined Atalante Quebec, a white nationalist organization, to protest immigration at the Citadelle in Quebec City, unfurling

a banner over the National Assembly reading “Death to terrorists, Islam Out.”

Bissonnette is notorious among his friends and across social media for his own far-right views.

“It’s with pain and anger that we learn the identity of terrorist Alexandre Bissonnette, unfortunately known to many activists in Quebec for taking nationalist, pro-Le Pen and anti-feminist positions at Laval University and on social media,” noted Francois Deschamps on his Facebook page “Bienvenue au Refugies,” which translates to “Welcome Refugees.” The post first appeared following Bissonnette’s first court date.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau released a statement immediately following the shooting at the mosque, explicitly identifying the attack as an act of terrorism against Muslim-Canadian citizens.

“We condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a center of worship and refuge,” Trudeau said. “diversity is our strength, and religious tolerance is a value that we, as Canadians, hold dear”

Trump, of whom Bissonnette is a fan, has remained disturbingly apathetic. Trump’s Twitter account, often used as a sounding board to express his sympathy and horror in the wake of terrorist attacks perpetrated by Muslims bears no mention of the Quebec City attack.

During a phone call with Trudeau, Trump offered his condolences but has otherwise kept himself out of the conversation.

“Today there were terror attacks in Turkey, Switzerland and Germany - and it is only getting worse,” Trump tweeted back in December. “The civilized world must

change thinking!” Trump’s refusal to acknowledge the Quebec City attack as an act of terror, however, suggests that it is actually Trump who must change his thinking to benefit the victims rather than pin them as threats.

Trump also kept silent about white supremacist Dylann Roof’s 2015 killing of nine black worshippers at a historic church in Charleston, South Carolina, and was silent after Roof’s sentencing to death in January as well.

Trump and the Islamophobia that he espouses are but a symptom of a rapidly-expanding, international, white supremacist movement, of which Richard Spencer’s alternative right ideals bear the torch in the United States.

In 2012, Spencer ran an essay contest where he posited the question “Is Black Genocide Right?” His movement has since adopted alarming Nazi symbolism, which Spencer defended as being “in the spirit of irony and exuberance.”

It is absolutely vital that the Baruch College community continues to take pride in being one of the most diverse campuses in the country, especially since undergraduates in attendance represent over 160 different countries.

Today’s rocky political climate leaves many bumps in the road ahead for our fellow students and faculty members who are also members of marginalized communities.

Therefore, it is important now more than ever that students and faculty members unite and display solidarity with Muslim-American peers and with peers of all other targeted groups.

-Samuel Liff
Cognitive Science '20

US should maintain ties

Protectionism is a dangerous concept that can disrupt the economy

Politicians from both parties are embracing protectionism, a dangerous and foolish idea, by enforcing tariffs and pulling out of significant trade deals.

Tariff implementation is intended to cause more people to buy domestic products by raising the price of imported goods, but high tariffs are a recipe for disaster. Not only would they throw other nations into recession, but the United States would be dragging itself down as well.

If the U.S. government places tariffs on Mexican or Chinese goods, Mexico and China will respond with retaliatory tariffs, making exports from the United States more expensive and putting in danger the jobs of millions of people working in trade-dependent industries.

Tariffs on foreign products also make them more expensive for U.S. consumers. In 2009, former President Barack Obama foolishly imposed tariffs on Chinese tires.

According to *The Washington Post*, this tariff helped create 1,200 jobs. It is worth noting that this is a generous number, giving that tire employment was already trending upward. However, the tire tariff cost U.S. consumers \$1.1 billion.

President Donald Trump withdrew the nation from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and now wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement. Trump has complained about free trade’s negative effects on the United States, but the facts tell a different story.

His logic completely ignores the fact that U.S. businesses import goods in order to keep production costs low.

A chunk of these imported goods are intermediate products that are used to make U.S. goods. A

tariff would make domestic goods more expensive. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, international trade deals save the average U.S. household \$10,000.

For 40 years, the United States has held a manufacturing share of 20 percent in the global market. Factory workers are losing their jobs but not because of free trade, as presumed by some politicians.

The biggest threat to jobs, economists say, is automation. To compete with other nations, domestic companies must boost production. McKinsey & Co. stated that 59 percent of manufacturing jobs will be automated, specifically 73 percent of the food industry and 53 percent of the retail sector.

White-collar workers are also at risk. If computers can be programmed to understand speech as well humans do, it is estimated that 66 percent of finance and insurance jobs will be automated.

Many people voted for Trump because he promised to “Make America Great Again.” To them, this meant creating well-paying, blue-collar jobs that would support their families; their way of life is dying and theirs was a vote of desperation.

This portion of the United States has voted for policies that will make it harder on the rest of the nation. Protectionism is a dangerous ideal.

In the short term, there can be some mild gains but, as the evidence shows, the long-term costs are devastating to U.S. consumers and to the world economy. Politicians in both parties need to grow a spine, stand up and stop this madness.

-Davon Singh
Digital Marketing '18

Concept of tenure does not have simple solutions

Whether U.S. Department of Education officials should abolish tenure for professors has been at debate for years. It is difficult to decipher whether or not lack of tenure for teachers in lower education leads to problems within modern-day education.

There are many compelling arguments in support of allowing teachers to gain tenure, asserting that teachers serve a role that enhances positive development of students and thusly deserve job security.

On Feb. 7, Betsy DeVos, a businesswoman, noted political contributor and philanthropist, was confirmed as secretary of education. DeVos has been devoted to expanding educational choice so that all parents, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or family income, can be free to choose a learning environment that they think works best for their kids.

DeVos firmly supports the notion that parents of students who attend kindergarten to 12th grade should be able to enroll their kids in schools that match their needs, whether they want their kids to attend public or private schools. Voters and politicians, however, were not convinced that she had the necessary experience to control the nation’s public school systems.

Many people are skeptical that a woman with minimal experience in public schools was selected as secretary of education. Neither DeVos nor any of her children have ever attended public school. *The New York Times* reported that she has also never taken out a student loan, yet she will be in control of student loans for undergraduate and graduate students.

As a *Times* op-ed written by

a former New York City public school teacher states, “If teacher tenure is an important obstacle to achievement, Mississippi (with no teacher tenure) should have stellar schools and Massachusetts (with teacher tenure) should have failing ones. Instead, it’s the other way around. Correlation is not causation, of course, but across the country, the states without tenure are at the bottom of performance rankings. States with the highest-achieving public schools have tenure (and teacher unions).” The op-ed further argues that teacher tenure laws should be strengthened since the number of teachers is growing exponentially, especially in cities.

Critics argue that tenure can provide an incentive to underperform, making it a tedious process to get rid of underperforming teachers. The costs of firing a public school teacher are huge—\$219,000 in Illinois and \$250,000 in New York.

The “Rubber Rooms” scandal in New York also presents an argument against tenure. The Rubber Rooms are temporary reassignment centers in which teachers whose teaching privileges had been revoked were still protected by tenure. Some were in the Rubber Rooms for incompetence and even molesting students, yet still accrued pensions and benefits during their time there.

Tenure is a difficult issue that does not have a simple solution. It will definitely be a difficult law to establish considering the amount of criticism it garners and the new secretary of education lacks much experience in the field.

-Stephanie Edwards
English '18

Justice selection will not impact courts

Neil Gorsuch displays similar values to previous justice Antonin Scalia, so the balance will be the same

Within the span of a few weeks, the recently-inaugurated President Donald Trump has moved quickly and decisively to keep his campaign’s promises. Utilizing his newfound presidential power, Trump has signed 22 executive actions including executive orders, presidential memoranda and presidential proclamations.

Some of the more controversial actions include a withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a declaration to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, an approval to continue the construction of the Dakota Access and Keystone XL pipelines and a travel ban on people from seven predominately Muslim countries, including restrictions on refugees.

The response from Trump’s party and constituents has wavered. Some of Trump’s executive actions, like the TPP withdrawal, have been received well. Others, like the immigration ban, have gotten Trump ire from high-ranking members of his own party. Many of these decisions have been vehemently opposed by the Democratic Party, who see Trump’s actions as a reversal of former President Barack Obama’s policies on environmental regulations, foreign trade, healthcare and other areas.

One of the more controversial decisions Trump has made is his appointment for the role of associate justice on the Supreme Court. Trump chose Neil Gorsuch, a conservative federal judge who has an impressive track record. Gorsuch has clerked for two Supreme Court justices and has also served as a clerk to a federal appellate justice.

Many have compared Gorsuch’s views and legal style to the late As-

sociate Justice Antonin Scalia, who Gorsuch would be replacing. They are both described as articulate authors of legal opinions and both adhere to texts strictly, preferring to stick to the literal meaning of the Constitution and various laws instead of leaving them open to interpretation.

Earlier in his campaign, Trump promised that he would elect a Supreme Court nominee that was “the very best judge in the country.” Republicans have praised Trump for nominating a judge who is conservative and abides by the Constitution, but Democrats do not share the same sentiment.

In the case *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, the Supreme Court ruled that “requiring family-owned corporations to pay for insurance coverage for contraception under the Affordable Care Act violated a federal law protecting religious freedom.” Gorsuch’s opinion was in favor of Hobby Lobby, arguing that family-owned corporations should not need to pay for their employees’ contraceptive coverage because it would encroach on Hobby Lobby’s religious freedom. Some believe that Gorsuch is being tolerant of unpopular religious views, while others decry it as his readiness to impose on women’s rights to contraceptives.

The second factor is that Trump has also stated that he would appoint justices who would want to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision that legalized abortion in 1973, claiming that the repeal “will happen automatically in my opinion because I’m putting pro-life justices on the Court.”

With the knowledge of Gorsuch’s past judicial rulings and Trump’s promise, Democrats fear that Gorsuch will attempt to over-

turn certain liberal policies like abortion laws and, in particular, the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

Trump’s selection of Gorsuch as a Supreme Court nominee is not a surprise. He chose someone who would rule the way he wanted, someone who would be appreciated by the GOP. With a conservative judge, not much will change. As a result, the ideological makeup of the Supreme Court will continue to stay the same. Of the nine justices on the Supreme Court, there are four justices who usually vote liberally, four who vote conservatively and one who sometimes acts as a swing vote.

Because of his track record, his propensity toward clear legal writing and reasoning and his inability to affect the Supreme Court decisions in any major way, Gorsuch is a fine choice for a Supreme Court Justice. Gorsuch’s opinion in the *Hobby Lobby* case does not pertain to a woman’s right to abortion, but more toward religious freedom. Gorsuch has never ruled on abortion before and, if he does, he will probably rule much like his predecessor Scalia did. Scalia vigorously opposed abortion, so Gorsuch will probably do the same.

With the political leanings of the Supreme Court remaining the same, it is likely that rulings like that of *Roe v. Wade* will be upheld. Even if Gorsuch wanted to overturn the ruling, he and his conservative group of justices are tied with the liberal wing in the Court in the number of votes. Additionally, there is no guarantee that he would vote to overturn it, either. The Supreme Court will not be affected by the addition of Gorsuch.

-Jahvon Meadows
Accounting '19

If at the slight mention of “market,” you’re not thinking fruit stands and shopping carts.



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Business

Bank of England keeps rates unchanged, raises growth outlook

BY YELENA DZHANOVA
OPINIONS EDITOR

The Bank of England’s Monetary Policy Committee concluded its February meeting by keeping interest rates unchanged and raising the country’s growth outlook. The Committee, which also decided to continue its bond-purchasing program, reiterated that the implications for monetary policy would not be automatic and will continue to tolerate higher inflation. The BOE’s decision came a day after the U.S. Federal Reserve maintained its lending rates in its first meeting after President Donald Trump was inaugurated.

According to CNBC.com, “The bank voted unanimously in its February meeting to keep interest rates at the record low level of 0.25 percent and keep its quantitative easing (QE) purchase targets at up to 10 billion pounds (\$12.6 billion) for corporate bonds and 435 billion pounds for U.K. government bonds.”

The MPC also decided to keep inflation rate constant at 2.7 percent for the 2017 fiscal year. Committee members expect that inflation will peak in 2018 and drop to 2.4 percent in 2019.

During these exceptional circumstances, the MPC is required to balance a period of above-target inflation with a period of weaker growth. Since the primary objective of monetary policy is always inflation control, any overshoot of inflation above target must be temporary in nature and limited. The MPC, therefore, has made it clear



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Following the Fed’s move earlier this month, the Bank of England held the lending rate unchanged despite rising inflation.

that its tolerance for above-target inflation is limited.

The Committee has unanimously confirmed that the current monetary policy stance remains appropriate. However, the Committee has also proposed important revisions to its forecast. Growth has remained resilient since the referendum in the United Kingdom. The MPC expects growth to increase over the forecast period and be stronger than it was in November.

The economy is predicted to expand by 2 percent in this fiscal year and continue to rise in the following years. This upgrade is expected to increase the level of U.K.’s output by 1 percent over the next three years, which is greater than what

the Committee had anticipated in November. The committee had predicted that growth in the United Kingdom would hit 1.4 percent rather than 2 percent.

This stronger outlook on economic growth is the result of several culminating factors. The first is the chancellor’s infrastructure boost in the November Autumn Statement, which explains fiscal policies in upcoming years and can account for nearly half of the forecast upgrade. Cheaper borrowing rates for households and a rally in the global markets also contributed to the outlook. Together, these factors will continue to shape economic growth, though economists predict the growth to increase for

the time being.

In its Monetary Policy Summary, the BOE stated that “The value of sterling remains 18 percent below its peak in November 2015.” This is expected to be a major contributor to the diminishment in household income. The reduced income may essentially deter people from spending money during this fiscal quarter.

In addition to the fall of the sterling, other factors such as “volatility in the currency exchange rate, higher import prices and a bleak outlook for real post-tax household income” may serve as potential difficulties for the U.K. economy.

Though the economy is projected to grow, the unemployment

rate in the United Kingdom is anticipated to still hover at around 5 percent, which is an improvement from the current standing 5.5 percent.

An article from CNBC concludes that, “The BOE has acknowledged the economy’s somewhat surprising buoyancy since the Brexit vote which has significantly exceeded its own expectations. However, the central bank has deferred the impact of Britain’s withdrawal from the EU rather than omitted its effect altogether.”

Meanwhile, officials from the U.S. Federal Reserve also voted to keep interest rates unchanged for this fiscal year under Trump’s administration. Due to the unpredictable nature of Trump’s agenda and also due to the fact that Trump was inaugurated into office less than a month ago, the Fed voted to act with caution. So far, there is no indication as to when the interest rates are expected to rise in the United States.

An article from *The Wall Street Journal* writes that, “Fed officials are watching fiscal policy makers closely because the Fed has concluded that the American economy is growing at something close to the maximum sustainable pace, meaning that, in the Fed’s view, faster growth would probably lead to higher inflation.”

The most direct reason officials chose to act with caution had to do with Trump’s recently proposed economic policies in the realm of regulation, taxation and trade, all of which could affect growth tremendously.

Executive order fulfills Trump’s promise to weaken Dodd-Frank

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ
MANAGING EDITOR

After spending the campaign trail promising to weaken or repeal the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, President Donald Trump signed two executive orders aimed at giving more financial freedom to Wall Street banks.

The two executive orders were signed on Feb. 3. According to ABC, one of the two executive orders tasked the U.S. secretary of the treasury with investigating any possible changes that could be made to the Dodd-Frank. The second is meant to delay the fiduciary rule, which requires financial advisors to put their clients’ interest over their own profits.

Weakening or repealing the Dodd-Frank will allow banks to spend their funds more freely, possibly leading to the return of high-risk practices that caused the 2008-09 recession.

Dodd-Frank was introduced during former President Barack Obama’s term. Prior to the recession, Wall Street was under much fewer regulations, allowing bankers to knowingly conduct high-risk transactions that put the financial well-being of their clients into question.

These transactions eventually led to the shutting down and merging of several investment banks, most notably Bear Stearns and Lehman Brothers.

Aside from putting more regulation on Wall Street, the Dodd-Frank was meant to keep U.S. families financially safe. According to a statistic cited by *Forbes*, 5 million families lost their homes to foreclosures since the crisis began. However, the National Center for Policy Analysis places that number

at 10 million. Banks knowingly approved loans and mortgages that their clients could not afford, causing them to rack up debt and lose their homes.

The Volcker Rule, which is part of Dodd-Frank, “prohibits banks from owning, investing, or sponsoring hedge funds, private equity funds, or any proprietary trading operations for their own profit,” the CNBC website states.

However, the rule does make an exception for some trading if it is final to the banks’ operations.

There are several entities tasked with ensuring that the regulations set forth by the Dodd-Frank are followed. Most notably, the act created the Financial Stability Oversight Council, which searches for possible risks that could threaten the financial industry. The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission is also tasked with improving

pricing in the derivatives marketplace and lowering the financial risks taken by U.S. citizens, its website states. The Commission is also responsible for creating standards for swap dealers and increasing transparency when trading swaps.

In the end, it was the taxpayers who helped the banks escape the crisis. Thus, the act was put in place partially to ensure that they would not have to spend more tax money on rescuing large banks.

During his campaign, Trump repeatedly brought up the idea of weakening the Dodd-Frank. During a 2015 interview aired on Fox News, *The Wall Street Journal* reports Trump said, “We have to get rid of Dodd-Frank. The banks aren’t loaning money to people that need it ... the regulators are running the banks.”

In several interviews, Trump said that the Dodd-Frank made it

impossible for small and medium-sized business owners to lend the money they need to expand their businesses. However, it is impossible to figure out what Trump wants to do with the regulations—weaken them or wipe them off completely.

In an interview with CNNMoney, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said that the financial crisis showed the need to have regulations such as the Dodd-Frank put in place. She also credited the regulations as leading to a “safer and sounder financial system.”

“Our financial system, in consequence, is safer and sounder,” Yellen said. “I wouldn’t want to see the clock turned back.”

Dodd-Frank helped regulators regain some confidence in big banks. With the Dodd-Frank weakened or repealed, there is a possibility that banks will return to some of their lax loan practices, such as

lowered loan requirements.

On the flip side, however, the 2009 financial crisis taught regulators what warning signs to look out for to prevent another meltdown. It is highly likely that if banks were to return to some of their pre-financial crisis practices, regulators would be able to see the warning signs and quickly take action.

Ending the fiduciary role poses plenty of risks for U.S. citizens who invest in the stock market through financial advisors. With the rule in place, advisors are required to offer investments that are in the client’s best interests.

Without this rule in place, there is nothing that stops advisors from offering their clients stocks that only benefit the advisor’s pocket. This creates a great risk for people who wish to invest in the stock market without understanding how it operates.

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MEHRAJ SINHA | THE TICKER

In his latest effort to undo the Obama administration’s policies, Trump signed an executive order weakening regulation in banks.

Takeover news boost Macy's shares

BY AMIT AGRAWAL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shares of Macy's, the United States' largest department store chain and one of the most iconic chains across the world, jumped as much as 12 percent amid speculation that Hudson's Bay approached the retail chain for a takeover.

Those close to the matter said the talks are in the preliminary stages. Hudson's Bay, which has a market value of \$1.4 billion, is dwarfed by that of Macy's which has a market capitalization of \$13.4 billion. For Hudson's Bay, it would be akin to a snake swallowing an elephant. Only this time, the elephant could also prove to be as fatal as Macy's, which is riddled with a debt of around \$7.5 billion. Macy's currently operates 880 stores across the United States, including the high-end Bloomingdale's and the luxury beauty retailer Bluemercury.

Macy's has been struggling for the past few years, evident through its declining sales. Many department stores have failed to grow their business models, which have come under tremendous pressure amid changing consumer habits and demographics. Consumers have shown a preference for fast and cheap fashion, an area where Macy's is clearly lacking.

Although recently the department store chain started new concepts like Macy's Backstage, which offers off-price apparel, and Last Act, its simplified clearance offering, the initiatives have proven to be a little too late for the retailer as it battles Amazon and other nimble online retailers who have been rapidly gaining market share.

The retail sector underwent one of the most difficult times last year as consumers struggled with nonexistent real growth in their



AGATA PONIATOWSKI | THE TICKER

Hudson's Bay is looking to acquire rival Macy's after years of struggling to grow.

wages. The weak sales numbers, even with plummeting gas prices, speak volumes about the precarious position in which the industry has found itself.

One of the reasons for the dismal performance for the whole consumer retail sector is that it is overburdened with capacity. Mall traffic has been on a steady decline and while rents have been going down too, the declining traffic has aggravated the chicken-and-egg problem for the retailers to extract as much profit as possible from the declining customer base.

Last year, Macy's announced that it would close approximately 100 underperforming stores as part of an exercise to reduce expenses and allocate resources behind strategic initiatives. The company had estimated that the initiatives would drive around \$500 million in savings beginning in 2017—a sizable amount even for a giant like Macy's.

Although Macy's is currently performing less than in past years, the retail giant has had a storied past. The retailer started in 1858 as

R. H. Macy and Co., named after its founder Rowland Hussey Macy as a dry goods store in Manhattan.

Hudson's Bay has had an equally storied past as North America's oldest trading company, which once owned almost a quarter of Canada and was created by a Royal Charter in 1670 by King Charles II. The company owns some of the most recognizable retail brands in the United States like Gilt Groupe, Lord & Taylor and Saks Fifth Avenue.

While it is believed that a takeover between both retailers could streamline operations by consolidating the administrative and executive staff for the two companies, it is widely believed that Hudson's Bay sees more value in Macy's real-estate than in its retailing operation which could prove to be the icing on the cake.

Another possible reason for the takeover could be that Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren, who steps down this year, could hit a jackpot of more than \$80 million if the company is acquired which makes him a motivated seller to an acquirer.

US trade deficit widens to \$504 billion

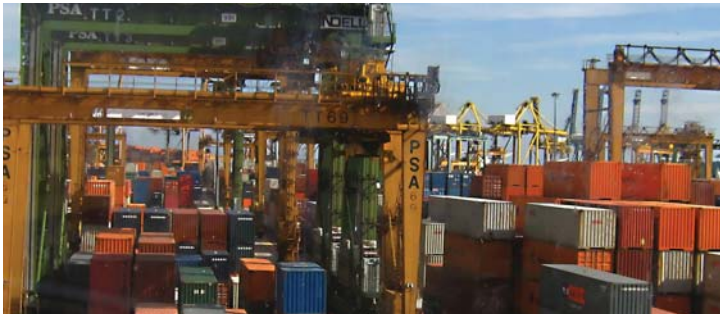
BY PAUL JOH
BUSINESS EDITOR

The U.S. trade deficit rose to a four-year high in 2016, due in part to a stronger dollar and weaker global economies. Despite the overall increase of 0.4 percent over the year to \$502.3 billion, the trade deficit, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau, actually decreased for the month of December by 3.2 percent to \$44.3 billion. For December, exports came in 2.7 percent higher at \$190.7 billion as global demand for goods such as aerospace, biotechnology and electronics soared.

U.S. President Donald Trump attributed most of the losses to failed trade policies, which he believes have cost U.S. citizens millions of jobs over the years. Keeping in line with his campaign promises, Trump has already withdrawn the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a major accomplishment by former President Barack Obama's administration. The deal was engineered to create stronger ties between the United States and countries in the Asia-Pacific region by reducing tariffs.

Trump has also blamed China and Japan for manipulating their currencies and making U.S.-made exports more expensive for foreign buyers. "The dollar gained 4.4 percent against the currencies of the United States' main trading partners in 2016," a Reuters article states.

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, the United States has not recorded a trade surplus since 1975. Over the past couple of decades, more U.S. companies have outsourced their work to lower their operation costs. As more jobs continue to shift overseas,



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The U.S. trade deficit expanded in 2016 as exports shrunk faster than imports.

the United States is forced to import more, creating a larger trade gap. In addition to the cheap labor abroad, China's rise as a global leader in international trade has also taken a toll on the U.S. trade deficit. The United States' trade deficit with China, which is the largest among its trading partners, decreased by \$20.1 billion in 2016, but still totaled \$347 billion.

The deficit with Mexico, one of top importers to the United States after China, increased by more than 4 percent to \$63.2 billion in 2016.

Since taking office, Trump has reiterated plans to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement and has already convinced some automotive executives to pull their business out of foreign countries and instead build factories on U.S. soil. However, many executives, including General Motors CEO Mary Barra, have raised concerns about how these large plants are costly and could take several years to build. It is hard to say how soon these new changes will make an impact on the economy.

Earlier this year, Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto canceled a meeting with Trump at the White

House after the two exchanged heated messages on social media. Trump's proposal to build a wall along the United States-Mexico border with Mexico's money has created a rift between the two nations and serious complications for their future.

"Investor attention will remain firmly on comments out of Washington, D.C., that have to do with future U.S. trade policy," Sam Bullard, chief economist and managing director at Wells Fargo Securities, said. "Depending on what is proposed, the possible negative implications of future trade tariffs, renegotiation of NAFTA, etc., could undermine the positive benefits expected from tax policy changes and regulatory relaxation."

In December, the United States saw a big decrease in its trade deficit with Canada and Mexico. Trump has suggested that he will create more jobs and only make deals that will benefit the country. However, there is much uncertainty about how Trump will implement import tariffs and pursue trade agreements during his term in office. Economists believe that it will take actions far greater than protectionist efforts to fix the massive trade deficits.

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Arts & Style

Tisci leaves 12-year legacy behind in couture brand Givenchy

BY MAXIM IBADOV
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The fashion world has been going through hectic changes. Many famous designers are ending their long-term relationships with big-name brands and are either switching to another brands or embarking on a journey of their own.

On Feb. 2, Givenchy's creative director of 12 years, Riccardo Tisci, announced his departure from the legendary brand. In his official statement, Tisci confessed, "I now wish to focus on my personal interests and passions."

For Givenchy, Tisci's exit will have a very detrimental and tragic effect. The fashion house's vision, status and relationship with the public are all a product of Tisci's hard work and unique talent.

Established by Hubert de Givenchy in 1952, Givenchy became the standard of poised style, elegance and grace. After Givenchy himself stepped down as the creative director in 1995, the brand was having a hard time finding a new distinct voice. When Tisci arrived at Givenchy, the brand was facing an identity crisis, lacking a sense of direction.

Between 1995 and 2005, the brand hired young designers such as John Galliano, Juliann McDonald and Alexander McQueen. Although all three of these designers went on to have highly successful careers, they all failed to bring new life to Givenchy.

Galliano went to Dior, McDonald was grasping too much at the brand's past glory and McQueen's

designs were too provocative. Givenchy needed a savior—somebody who was ready to move into the future while remembering to honor the past. The brand took a chance on the 30-year-old Italian designer, Tisci, and the risk was worth it.

Tisci's own Catholic and Southern background was a fresh addition to a French brand that had been supervised by British designers for over a decade. His love for everything gothic fit with the classical grandeur of Givenchy, but was much different from his predecessors.

McQueen's idea of gothic was depressing and decadent, while Tisci focused on two things—religious mysticism and nocturnal sexiness. He was mesmerized by how vulnerable people are when they are in bed at night, whether they are praying or sinning.

In his first solo collection, he astounded audiences with a funeral-like show. In a haunting darkness with the light coming from a gigantic cross, his models appeared out of the smoke dressed in gothic black dresses, long coats reminiscent of Catholic robes and leather jackets that looked like human skin with fresh scars on it.

Tisci continued these patterns in his work for Givenchy, thus popularizing Gothicism in the way that fashion had never seen before. His clothes are feminist to the core. He distanced himself from the signature elegant chastity that was made iconic by Audrey Hepburn and Jacqueline Kennedy and made his women a product of to-

day's world—vocal, sensual and independent.

He quickly gained the admiration of celebrities such as Beyonce, Madonna and Rihanna, who embraced all of the things that Tisci wanted to see in his women. Kim Kardashian West became Givenchy's new Hepburn.

Kardashian West was Tisci's muse and he made her a style icon, bringing her to the heights of the fashion business. Kardashian West famously wore Givenchy's wedding dress on the cover of *Vogue*—an official welcome into the fashion world.

Tisci was able to revolutionize Givenchy by making the brand more democratic and progressive, yet keeping it luxurious and desirable. In 2012, he created a collection of oversized sweatshirts with aggressive roaring Rottweiler prints on them, which became a massive hit.

Kanye West wore these sweatshirts everywhere and the styles quickly became the object of plagiarism by brands like Zara. That was one of the biggest signs of Tisci's success. In 2014, Tisci collaborated with Nike and created a collection of sneakers, Nike Air Force 1, alas bringing the long-anticipated union of high fashion and sportswear. He defied stereotypes.

For the Givenchy fall-winter 2010 collection, Tisci included transgender model Lea T, thus marking the openness of brands to hire people from the LGBT community. The "T" in Lea T stands for Tisci, as the designer became the fashion godfather to a revolution-



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Tisci, pictured above, worked as Givenchy's creative director for 12 years.

ary model.

In 2015, Tisci organized the very first open runway show for a major brand. The show was held on Sept. 11 in New York and was produced together with artist Marina Abramovic. A beautiful dedication to the victims of 9/11 and a triumphant ode to life, the show offered the residents of the Hudson River area and certain fashion students tickets for free, while others were able to purchase them online.

Such an inspiring relationship with the public was crucial to the brand's lasting success over the past 12 years.

In 2005, Givenchy was in economic turmoil, with only seven stores open around the world. Now, there are 72 free-standing stores worldwide, with additional stores scheduled to open in Rome and London.

Overall sales have increased six times since Tisci joined the brand to almost \$600 million annually and the number of employees has increased from 290 in 2005 to 930 in 2016.

When Givenchy created his own brand in 1952, he excited the fashion world with his novel collection of jackets and blouses made from raw cotton. Fifty years later, Tisci was able to make Givenchy great again by preserving its aristocratic lines, but modernizing them with a dark and mysterious sensuality and a constant desire to innovate. It is unsure if Tisci will be focusing on his brand or, according to rumors, will be joining competitor Versace. However, his name and his work will go down in history and be forever encrypted in the legacy of one of the most admirable French brands in the world.

Scorsese's *Silence* follows two priests' religious journey to Japan

REEL REVIEWS



BENJAMIN WALLIN

While sound is usually understood as having varying levels, spanning from inaudible to deafening, quiet tends to have the semblance of uniformity. It is seen as simply quiet, with no variation in it. The truth, however, is that libraries often have different forms of silence.

There is the hush of the main floor, where people speak quietly to one another, and the stillness of the reference room, quiet except for the sound of paper rustling. Beyond that, there is the utter silence of the study room in a college library during finals.

No sound can be heard and the silence itself is deafening to the point where a swiveling chair with a slight squeak is enough to bring about ostracism.

Martin Scorsese's aptly titled film *Silence* explores the absence of sound through the lens of Catholic missionaries in 1600s Japan. Andrew Garfield and Adam Driver play Fathers Rodrigues and Garupe, respectively. The two travel to Japan seeking Father Ferreira, a captured priest who is rumored to have left the faith.

The film opens up with a swell of crickets chirping, bursting with noise, the sound cutting off at its peak, accompanied by the descriptive title.

In *Silence*, Japan is not a good place to be Christian. After mis-

sionaries brought the religion to the country, conflicting with the native religion of Buddhism, retaliation came in the form of torture, death and calls to apostatize, or give up Christianity.

A distressing letter arrives in Portugal from Father Ferreira, speaking of the religious persecution he and others have faced.

Rodrigues and Garupe ask for permission to go to Japan in an attempt to find and save Ferreira. They are the last two priests to be sent, the reasoning made abundantly clear shortly after their arrival.

Immediately after landing off the coast of Japan, the two are scurried away into hiding among a secretly Christian village by their guide, Kichijiro. They are in danger at every moment and are hidden in an abandoned house during the day.

An intense moment of questioning occurs when people come asking for help from the priests without using the secret sign, which would indicate that they are from the village. Rodrigues wants to come to their aid, while Garupe holds him off, worried about the dangers of exposing themselves to an unknown group.

Torture is shown carefully and purposefully. When blood finally shows up, it is extremely noticeable. Pain directed at background characters in films can be something viewers are desensitized to, so often is death and destruction portrayed in movies and on television.

Scorsese uses violence to depict people who are suffering for their faith and willing to stand up to oppression. Not all are so strong.

The guide, Kichijiro, is an interesting character as he repeatedly blasphemes his religion, turning sides when pressure is placed on



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Silence tells the story of Rodrigues and Garupe—two priests who volunteer to travel to Japan to save Father Ferreira.

him. Yet, he always comes back to Rodrigues, asking for forgiveness and absolution. His continued appearance brings some humor to viewers, frustration to Rodrigues and the curiosity of trying to understand his beliefs.

Sound and its absence are utilized artistically well. Boats make their way through a silent body of water, the beat of their movement noted with the isolated sound of drums. The sea is shown with no sound, then raging as the waves beat down on punished Christians.

They have been hung on crosses, left until the moment their bodies can no longer handle the crush of water. After the fury of sound, there is the quiet and mournful hymn of a lone survivor awaiting his death.

Later, at a crucial moment of

Rodrigues' faith, sound disappears completely—he is engulfed by silence.

Thematically, silence is significant. Rodrigues repeatedly turns to prayer for himself, for the people and for Japan. He hears nothing back and is left to contemplate the silence. Ingmar Bergman's cinematic influence is seen in the passionate religious figures, left to consider the fact that their prayer is returned only with silence.

In a moment of thematic balance, Rodrigues is asked why he is silent to the wishes of the imprisoned people and why he does not apostatize to save them. As the film progresses, hope dwindles further and the silence becomes more deafening.

In a commencement speech

entitled "This is Water," David Foster Wallace said, "There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship."

Silence portrays people suffering for what they believe in while others leave their faith, externally or internally, in order to save themselves. Putting aside the ethics of missionaries trying to sway others to their religion, the Christians of Japan did believe in their faith. They chose what to worship.

The film has an emotional poignancy to anyone who can identify it with whatever they worship. Among the beauty and depth, there is sadness and anguish. There are people being persecuted for their beliefs, all while they are surrounded by silence.

Lucid City releases debut self-titled EP on Apple Music, Spotify

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

In early 2016, Kesoglides and his friends formed a band called Lucid City. The band is currently composed of Elise Levin as the vocalist, Juan Catucci on the guitar and bass, Claudio Morales on the drums and Kesoglides on the guitar and keyboard. Two weeks ago, the band released its debut self-titled EP.

The band's history dates back to Catucci and Kesoglides's time in high school, when the two decided to start their own band. At the time, Kesoglides was both the songwriter and vocalist, but he soon learned that singing was not his specialty.

Since their time in the high school band, Catucci and Kesoglides went through four or five rotations of bands. Eventually, a mutual friend told them about Levin and suggested that they should let her join the band. The duo was told that she was a vocalist who had booked a few gigs and needed some session musicians. After many attempts and trials, they finally formed a band that clicked well. Kesoglides then met Morales while working as a bartender, finding the last piece of the puzzle.

"That's kind of how we met," Kesoglides said. "We have a big group of people who are musicians so we have a collective that doubles as a friend group. I was so into punk rock and Green Day, The Strokes, classic rock, Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin in high school days."

The EP features four songs: "Mockingbird," "Lucidity," "Morning After" and "Let It Go." The melody ranges from the exciting heart-pumping tunes of "Let It Go" to softer and calmer tones of "Morning After," which Kesoglides and Levin said was their favorite song to perform.

Kesoglides and Levin explained that the EP was recorded in a studio



PHOTO COURTESY OF EDWARD INZAUTO

Lucid City's debut self-titled EP is currently available on several streaming services, including Amazon, Apple Music, iTunes and Spotify. The band is also on tour until April.

located in upstate New York. For four days, Kesoglides explained, the band would wake up at 10 a.m. and "track, record, produce, re-track, rerecord, reproduce" for 11 to 12 hours a day.

"That was the first time we [the band and its new drummer] came together and had to deal with each other's quirks for four days straight," Kesoglides said. "One day it started to rain and it just felt so freeing ... to be able to make something tangible of our passions—similar to running shirtless in the rain. Even if this goes nowhere, I'll look back and think, 'this was awesome.'"

The band is a good representation of the cultural melting pot for which New York City is famous.

Levin explained that she was

born and raised in Hawaii. Her interest in music and the performing arts was sparked at a very young age, as she recalled that her parents would listen to everything from classic rock to jazz. This, Levin said, influenced her own dreams of starting a career in music.

"There is this story my mom always tells me about how I was four years old and they took me to see a choir for Christmas. I told my mom 'I really want to do that' and she told me I could. I responded, 'No, I want to do that,' as I pointed to the soloist," said Levin.

When she reached college-age, Levin moved to New York City and began taking classes at Queens College.

Aside from music, Levin also

dabbled in the performing arts. Her talent earned her a role in "Hawaii 5-0," though she later laughed and admitted that her character was killed at the beginning of the episode and the rest of the cast was trying to figure out who killed her.

During the interview, Kesoglides shared some words of advice for people who want to get into the music industry.

"You have to put yourself out there," Kesoglides said. "You just have to let people know you are very serious about what you do. You meet a lot of people at bars and even in school. Sometimes they'll tell you they want to jam, but do they really want to jam?"

In the future, the band sees itself recording a new album and trying

to discover new directions. Kesoglides also hopes to start going on out-of-state tours.

"We started to write even more after we reworked the EP. We got a feel for each other and now we know our chemistry and what we can bring to the table in terms of songwriting," Kesoglides said. "Right now we're finding a sound. We're narrowing it down."

For now, Lucid City's EP Release Party has two more tour dates left. On March 11, the band will be performing in The Well in Brooklyn. On April 28, the band will be performing in the Bitter End in Manhattan.

The EP is available on several platforms, including Amazon, Apple Music, iTunes and Spotify.

Nicki Minaj accuses Zanotti of racism

The pop stars claims the designer used her name for a shoe collection without her permission

BY ARTAN LJUKOVIC
COPY EDITOR

Hip-hop and pop music icon Nicki Minaj publicly accused shoe designer Giuseppe Zanotti of being racist because of an unwillingness to collaborate with her on a shoe collection shortly after he debuted 24 shoes named "Nicki." Nicki Minaj also claimed that she was an inspiration to Zanotti and his work.

Nicki Minaj set Twitter ablaze with an onslaught of tweets aimed toward the Italian shoe designer, starting with, "This is wonderful. #GiuseppeZanotti seems to think it's ok to name his sneakers after me but his PR says they won't take our call. Lol."

She went on to allude to shoe collections that Zanotti released in collaboration with other artists such as Jennifer Lopez and Zayn Malik.

This is not the first time Nicki Minaj has taken to Twitter to voice her angst with racism in the industry. Back in 2015, she started a three-way tiff between herself, Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift when her video for "Anaconda" was not nominated for a Video of the Year award at that year's MTV Video Music Awards.

Many have painted Nicki Minaj as the stereotypical angry black woman in these situations, including Swift who misinterpreted Nicki

Minaj's tweets as a personal attack on her.

Nicki Minaj is not just a regular hip-hop and pop artist. Her latest single with Diplo and PartyNextDoor, "Run Up," recently marked her 71st entry on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, leaving her only two entries behind the most acclaimed woman on the list, Aretha Franklin.

Nicki Minaj has two No. 1 albums and 10 Grammy nominations under her belt and is often credited with revitalizing the scene for female rappers.

This is not the first time a black artist was denied a collaboration by a top fashion designer. Back in 2014, Kanye West went on a similar rant during a concert, stating, "I'm not dissing Louis Vuitton, I'm not dissing the Gucci group, I'm just saying don't discriminate against me because I'm a black man or because I'm a celebrity and tell me that I can't create."

Nicki Minaj is not a newbie to the fashion world. In the past, she released a collection of her own and collaborated with other top designers on several campaigns. Her ventures into the fashion world include a clothing line with Kmart and three fragrance lines named Minajesty, Pink Friday and Trini Girl. She also had endorsements with MAC cosmetics and OPI cosmetics. In addition, she was the face of Roberto Cavalli's

spring 2015 campaign. A collaboration with Zanotti, however, would have marked Nicki Minaj's first collection with a designer of Zanotti's caliber.

Regardless, the bigger issue here is racism in the fashion industry, which did not begin nor does it end with the Nicki Minaj-Zanotti situation. Racism is alive and well in any and every industry in the modern age and it is going to take more than just Nicki Minaj speaking up about the issue for it to finally dissipate.

Despite the industry's effort to become more diverse, a report released in Fall 2016 by The Fashion Spot showed that less than 25 percent of models on Fashion Week runways in London, Milan, New York and Paris were non-white.

Another survey by the same magazine found that 78 percent of models in fashion advertisements are white with the other 22 percent being divided among Asian, black and Hispanic models. Although these issues are separate from the one Nicki Minaj is facing, it goes to show that a lack of representation is found in every crack and crevice of the fashion industry and they offer some justification for her frustration.

If only the fashion industry would reinterpret the long-standing claim that black goes with everything, it can become more inclusive and diverse.

Regardless, the bigger issue here is racism in the fashion industry, which did not begin nor does it end with the Minaj-Zanotti situation. Racism is alive and well in any and every industry in the modern age and it is going to take more than just Minaj speaking about the issue for it to finally dissipate.

Spinrilla faces lawsuit

The mixtape streaming site is accused of sharing copyrighted works

BY TAFANNUM RAHMAN
ARTS & STYLE EDITOR

Music apps on cellphones make getting ready in the morning fun, make subway rides feel shorter and allow travelers to listen to their favorite artists on the go. However, many require access to Wi-Fi, unless they have plentiful data.

Luckily for some, Spinrilla lets users listen to music without Wi-Fi access so they can enjoy their tunes wherever they go. Recently, the Atlanta-based mixtape hub has come under fire for allegedly sharing unauthorized music with millions of users. Several record labels are now suing the app.

Spinrilla allows hip-hop enthusiasts to gain access to mixtapes released by their favorite artists. The most appealing part of the app, which is available for iOS and Android devices, features an offline mode that allows users to listen to mixtapes without internet access. Spinrilla Pro is available for an additional monthly subscription but most users opt for the free version because it still grants access to all available mixtapes.

On Feb. 3, the Recording Industry Association of America sued Spinrilla and its founder Jeffery Dylan Copeland in Georgia federal court on behalf of Atlantic Recording Corporation, LaFace Records, Sony Music Entertainment, Universal Music Group and Warner Bros. Records.

The issue with Spinrilla is that users with an account can upload copyrighted content that other users can then download or stream for free for an unlimited number of times. The RIAA has identified more than 21,000 copyrighted sound recordings owned by plain-

tiffs that are available through the service. The labels are suing for direct and secondary copyright infringement and are seeking actual or statutory damages and an injunction. The lawsuit targets commercially released and unauthorized albums and songs available through the service.

This is not the first time the site has been under fire for containing copyrighted material. In 2015, a Universal employee claimed that the release of Drake and Future's *What a Time to Be Alive* was downloaded illegally more than one million times through Spinrilla less than a week after its Apple Music exclusive release.

According to the filed complaint, artists whose music is featured on Spinrilla are not being paid for the use of their music. For many music professionals, the debate of music streaming services centers on the economics of the music industry.

Pop star Taylor Swift pulled her music off the streaming site Spotify to back up her concerns about streaming services devaluing the art of music.

Streaming is a complex issue—while some argue that it enables people to listen to their favorite music whenever and wherever, others argue that it devalues musical work. Free streaming, however, does not mean that artists do not get paid. It means their paycheck comes from advertising rather than more traditional sources.

As of now, Spinrilla is still operating. A take-down notice on the site states, "Spinrilla takes copyright infringement very seriously. In order to provide the best mixtapes and ensure top quality we do not allow infringed upon works to be posted on our website."

Lady Gaga’s silence at Super Bowl LI shocks artist’s longtime fans

BY ARTAN LJUKOVIC
COPY EDITOR

In her 9-year-old career, Lady Gaga rarely chose the path of subtlety. At the 2017 Super Bowl halftime show however, Lady Gaga, known by her legion of fans as “Mother Monster,” shocked her audience by showing signs of a tamer and more understated version of herself. To a degree, instead of getting “Gaga,” we got “Lady.”

For a change, Lady Gaga was subject to criticism by many liberals for not having a strong political message regarding President Donald Trump’s actions since Inauguration Day.

On the other hand, she was commended by conservatives, such as Tomi Lahren, for not being too political or putting on a “satanic ritual” as Alex Jones suggested she would.

Considering her reputation as an LGBT activist, there was a lot of speculation about whether Lady Gaga would use her platform to issue statements against Trump or not. Whether the choice to center the performance around anti-Trump sentiments was Lady Gaga’s or not remains unclear.

Prior to the show, it was announced that Fox would play her performance, as well as the pre-game performance of *Hamilton* singers Renee Elise Goldsberry, Jasmine Cephas Jones and Phillipa Soo, on a five-second delay in case censorship was needed.

As compared to Beyonce’s controversial performance of “Formation” at last year’s Super Bowl halftime, which featured her dancers dressed as members of the Black Panther Party, Lady Gaga’s performance lacked much, if any,

political messages.

Digging deeper, a lack of intersectionality in feminist groups created a double standard between Beyonce and Lady Gaga’s respective performances and resulted in the contrasting responses they received. While Lady Gaga is being criticized for not being political enough, Beyonce was labeled anti-white and anti-police by those who thought she was being too political.

More than ever before, the United States needed Lady Gaga to do what she used to do best during her career’s peak—stir controversy. Lady Gaga, however, did not need the Super Bowl.

The prestigious slot, which in previous years was held by acts like Aerosmith, Beyonce, Coldplay, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Paul McCartney and Prince, is a mere addition to her already solidified legacy.

Seven Grammys, a Golden Globe, two diamond-certified singles, 13 MTV Video Music Awards and 12 records in the book of Guinness World Records are all just a number of achievements that pop music’s chameleon used as stepping stones to make it to the grandest stage of them all.

With all of those honors under her belt, perhaps the hunger and strive to put on a great show was not there.

Most of Lady Gaga’s set list consisted of songs released between 2008 and 2011, back in the glory days of her turbulent career with the addition of “Million Reasons.”

Lady Gaga has solidified her ranking among female contemporaries, like Beyonce and Rihanna, but she is no longer competing to secure top spots on music charts.

Gone are the days when radios constantly featured the robotic chants from Lady Gaga’s songs. These days one could hear Lady Gaga’s music if one is listening to adult contemporary radio stations.

Despite the lack of political statements and fresh music, inklings of shock value and theatrics sneaked their way into her performance.

She began her performance on the roof of the NRG Stadium, which was adorned with the background of Houston, Texas’ skyline and 500 blue and red drones, creating the effect of a starry night. Then, she jumped off the roof and into the stadium.

She sang signature hits like “Poker Face,” “Bad Romance,” “Born This Way,” “Just Dance” and “Telephone” but left out others like “Alejandro,” “Edge of Glory,” “LoveGame” and “Paparazzi,” which was an excellent opportunity to reference the wall Trump plans to build on Mexico’s border. She opted out for a stripped-down version of “Million Reasons” from her latest album, *Joanne*.

Beyond the intricate set design and the career-spanning set list remains one concern. What does it take to create a memorable Super Bowl and why did Lady Gaga fall short of doing so?

In Beyonce’s case, it was her reference to the Black Panthers during her performance of “Formation” and few years before that, a Destiny’s Child reunion. In Katy Perry’s case, it was left shark and a Missy Elliott cameo.

Lady Gaga, who is known for showing up to award shows in eggs, may just be a shell of her former self. The world is just going to have to accept that.

Annual BroadwayCon takes over Javits Center

BY MAXIM IBADOV
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Broadway community held its second-annual BroadwayCon on the weekend of Jan. 27-29 in the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York. Inspired by events such as Comic Con, BroadwayCon is a celebration of U.S. theater tradition, where thespians from all walks of life come together, including both the creators and their excited audiences.

Over the course of three days, BroadwayCon hosted a variety of interactive activities, such as competitions, discussions, interviews, panels, performances, sing-alongs and workshops. Following the footsteps of Comic Con, one of the most enjoyable parts of BroadwayCon is cosplaying, with the most dedicated theater fans dressing up as characters from shows such as *Hairspray* and *Wicked*.

In just two years, BroadwayCon has become one of the most beloved and anticipated events in the Broadway community. Casts of hit shows, crew members, designers, producers and theatergoers come together and share their experiences, opinions and passions of what is going on in the theater world and what to expect in the upcoming year.

One of the most anticipated and exciting events was a panel entitled “Actors and Activism.” Actors talked about the crucial importance of being active in their respective communities and not being afraid to speak their minds and stand up for what is right, which is especially important in the current political climate.

Another highly anticipated panel was composed of the cast

and crew of the hit show *Hamilton*. The panelists spoke about their experiences and what it feels like to be a part of a show that has enjoyed so much success. Many shows used BroadwayCon as a marketing opportunity to showcase what was coming in spring.

Shows like *Anastasia*, *Bandstand* and *Dear Evan Hansen* performed some of their numbers. Other shows like *Amelie* and *Significant Other* announced special ticket contests, where people could get or win free tickets to those shows.

Zeynep Akca, a Baruch College junior majoring in arts administration with the specialization in theater, shared her experience from volunteering in BroadwayCon.

Akca enjoyed seeing how such an event runs from the inside, saying that “It also gave people, who couldn’t afford tickets, a chance to get to experience this wonderful convention and theatre.” Akca also expressed her slight agitation with the rising prices of tickets to Broadway shows and the convention itself.

2017 has only been the second year for BroadwayCon, so there are still many aspects that need work. Featuring actors and putting them in a space where they could freely interact with fans wishing to experience quality behind-the-scenes theater makes BroadwayCon quite iconic. While the community is going through tough times adapting to a small audience of theater-going millennials, this amount of enthusiasm and participation is a great sign.

BroadwayCon is proving that the future of U.S. theater is as bright as a spotlight and its legacy is in great jazzy hands.

The Neal Morse Band releases new album, *The Similitude of a Dream*

BY LUIS LUCERO
STAFF WRITER

One of the most prominent figures in modern progressive rock is singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Neal Morse.

Starting with his critically acclaimed band Spock’s Beard, Morse has made his presence known across various projects, including progressive rock super groups Transatlantic and Flying Colors, his solo career as a Christian musician and now his current project, The Neal Morse Band.

Despite the name, this group is anything but a backing band for Morse. Rather, this is a full-blown creative unit that features every member bringing something unique to the table.

Aside from Morse on lead acoustic guitar, electric guitar, keyboards and vocals, the band also includes Eric Gillette on lead guitar and co-lead vocals. Longtime Morse collaborator Randy George is on bass guitar and Bill Hubauer is on co-lead vocals, keyboards and saxophone.

Transatlantic and Flying Colors bandmate and Dream Theater co-founder Mike Portnoy plays drums. The band made its debut with 2015’s *The Grand Experiment* and is now looking to expand its horizons with a follow-up record, *The Similitude of a Dream*.

Rather than creating a straightforward progressive rock album similar to the previous disk, this new record is now a full-blown concept album.

Loosely based on the Christian allegory “The Pilgrim’s Progress from This World to That Which Is to Come under the Similitude of a Dream” by John Bunyan, the album follows a lead character named Christian, who is tormented by spiritual anguish and is told that

he must leave the City of Destruction to find salvation in the Celestial City.

Concept albums and rock operas are nothing new to Morse. He previously wrote and recorded *Snow for Spock’s Beard*, *The Whirlwind for Transatlantic* and various Christian-themed albums for his solo career. Bandmate Portnoy has also cut his teeth with concept albums like *Metropolis Part II: Scenes From a Memory for Dream Theater*, as well as the aforementioned *Whirlwind*.

In a fitting twist of irony, just before this new record was released, Portnoy’s former band Dream Theater released its second rock opera, *The Astonishing*, this time with Portnoy’s replacement Mike Mangini. Compared to the Rush

and Styx-inspired rock and roll rebellion storyline of Dream Theater’s album, *The Similitude of a Dream*’s storyline is more spiritual in content, in keeping with Morse’s born-again Christian background, but still manages to be easily accessible to both longtime fans and those who are just getting into the genre.

The band also manages to avoid falling into one pitfall that is commonly found with concept albums. While a lot of them could easily be condensed into one album’s worth of great music, a lot of them are packed with interludes, minute-long intros and filler tracks that could easily be left on the cutting room floor.

Across the two disks, there is not one moment of pointless filler and

listeners are in for 100 minutes of musical diversity that only Morse could provide.

While it is billed as a progressive rock album, the band dabbles in all types of music. Aside from standard progressive rock, several of the songs feature elements of Beatles-esque pop, blues, gospel and even country. Adding to the rock opera element of the album, several band members join Morse on lead vocals.

Compared to Dream Theater’s latest album, which had singer James LaBrie providing vocals for all of the characters in the opera, this new album’s vocal contributions result in it sounding more like Who’s *Tommy* and Pink Floyd’s *The Wall* classic rock operas.

While it is too early to say if *The*

Similitude of a Dream could easily stand alongside those two aforementioned operas over time, it is safe to say that The Neal Morse Band’s sophomore effort shows that this new band really is more than just another side project for Morse.

Last month, The Neal Morse Band started a tour to promote its new album. A few days before the North American leg ended, the band stopped by the Highline Ballroom for a sold-out evening.

The shows consist of the band playing *The Similitude of a Dream* album in its entirety, coupled with a changing encore of Morse’s classics. This tour is coming off of Dream Theater’s latest run on the road.

But compared to the vast concert halls and theaters that Dream Theater were playing in, The Neal Morse Band opted for a more intimate setting with stops in smaller theaters and nightclubs.

This approach, coupled with simple rear projection visuals, results in a show that succeeds in getting the album across to fans in a way that is straight and to the point. A lot of the songs take on a whole new life on stage compared to their studio counterparts.

“The Battle,” for example, becomes longer and even more intense than the album version. But the thing that really drives the show is Morse’s stage presence.

Aside from being incredibly quick and charismatic, Morse enhances the concept by wearing various costumes and masks of the characters found in the album, augmenting the *Tommy* vibe of the album.

Closing off this particular night were two cuts from The Neal Morse Band’s debut album and an extended rendition of Morse’s solo song “Author of Confusion.”



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Morse, pictured above, is the most prominent figure in modern progressive rock. His band recently released its second album.

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PETA

Science & Technology

Children form stronger ties to pets than to their own siblings

BY MAYA YEGOROVA
STAFF WRITER

A recent study conducted by the University of Cambridge revealed that children receive gratification from relationships with their pets more so than those with their siblings. Additionally, children have been found to get along better with their pets than with their siblings.

This 10-year-long study of children’s social and emotional growth encompasses data on a child’s relationship with his or her pets, compared with relationships with other people like their parents, siblings and teachers.

The study was printed in the *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology* and was researched in partnership with the WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition, a division of Mars Petcare and co-developed by the Economic and Social Research Council. Examiners observed 12-year-old children from 77 families with one or more pets of various types and more than one sibling in their households.

Pets are prevalent in western homes, yet their influence on children and early adolescents has barely been studied. There are only a handful of investigations on the significance of child-pet bonds. This stems from a shortage of ways that researchers can go about assessing these bonds.

The first goal of the study was to redesign the traditional calculation of human relationship value, known as the Network of Relationships Inventory. Researchers then enforced the NRI to see how pet



AGATA PONIATOWSKI | THE TICKER

The study revealed that children receive more gratification from relationships with pets than with siblings. As a result, they are more likely to share secrets with their pets.

relationship quality differs with pet type and the child’s gender, as well as to compare participants’ contact with pets and siblings.

“Anyone who has loved a childhood pet knows that we turn to them for companionship and disclosure, just like relationships between people. We wanted to know how strong these relationships with pets relative to other close family ties. Ultimately this may enable us to understand how animals contribute to healthy child development,” said Matt Cassells, a Gates Cambridge Scholar at the Department of Psychiatry who managed the study.

While researchers in the past believed that boys had more secure

relationships with their pets than girls, the new data showed that girls had a closer relationship with their pets than boys.

This may demonstrate that girls connect with their pets in a more distinct way. Dog owners were also happier with their pets than owners of other pets. Children gained more delight and were involved more with their pets than with their siblings. They had less disputes with their pets, indicating the impact of a young adolescent-pet relation. Owners of dogs also had the lowest amount of disagreements than owners of other pets.

Children who face challenges such as divorce, illness or an un-

derprivileged upbringing were expected to have a better relationship with their pets than with their peers. They further displayed more selfless acts, such as cooperating, helping and sharing, than their peers did. It was also more likely for these children to confess secrets to their pets than to their siblings.

“It is really surprising that these children not only turn to their pets for support when faced with adversity, but that they do so even more than they turn to their siblings. This is even though they know their pets do not actually understand what they are saying,” Cassells said.

Researchers posited that another reason children get attached

to pets is because pets cannot talk, so they cannot be critical or judgmental.

“Even though pets may not fully understand or respond verbally, the level of disclosure to pets was no less than to siblings,” added Cassells. “The fact that pets cannot understand or talk back may even be a benefit as it means they are completely non-judgmental.”

The research supports the growing proof that household pets have a vital effect on a child’s maturation and could benefit children’s social abilities and emotional health. The University of Cambridge confirmed that a firm relationship with pets increases a child’s overall joy.

Cocaine users more likely to engage in unprotected and unsafe sex

BY YELENA DZHANOVA
OPINIONS EDITOR

A study conducted by researchers at Johns Hopkins University confirmed that cocaine users face a greater likelihood to engage in unprotected sex and have greater sexual impulses and sexual desire. Previously, scientists linked cocaine use to risky sexual behavior that promoted the risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

For this study, researchers invited 15 healthy cocaine users to participate, of which the results of only 12 were recorded and used in conclusions.

Researchers attracted healthy, regular cocaine users through advertisements in newspapers, on the radio and on the internet in Baltimore, Maryland. Each applicant faced an initial interview medical examination and screening to determine his or her state of health. The participants ranged in age from 18 to 45 years old.

Researchers only considered the pool of applicants who fell into the standard of cocaine addiction as defined by the researchers prior to the beginning of the study. To screen for a control, applicants also stated whether they had both protected sex using a condom and unprotected sex at least once in their lifetime. Other applicants excluded from participating in the study exhibited signs of prior mental illness, cardiovascular disease or other medical disorders.

After having selected the participants, researchers enforced a no-drug and no-alcohol policy for 24 hours so that no other influences conflicted with the results of the experiment.

Scientists then measured sexual desire and sexual decision making in each participant under the influence of different doses of cocaine.



CALVIN RONG | THE TICKER

Cocaine users are more likely to engage in risky sexual behavior that leads to contracting HIV and other diseases.

Sexual decision making refers to the thought of using a condom during sexual intercourse.

Scientists also measured “delay discounting,” which refers to “a behavioral process whereby delaying an event reduces its value.” In order to measure and account for delay discounting, each participant selected photographs of hypothetical sexual partners.

From this selection of photos, participants were asked to rate how likely they were to have immediate unprotected sex as opposed to delayed protected sex with the individual shown in the photo. This study, along with previous studies, has verified that the desire to have

immediate unprotected sex increases as the level of attractiveness increases in individuals shown in photos.

Researchers broke up the study into sessions in which participants took different doses of cocaine in order to simulate the answers to different queries and hypothetical scenarios.

During each session, the respective participants were shown the selected photograph. The participants were then instructed to read a short description of a hypothetical sexual scenario with the person in the photo. The participant then assessed how high his or her sexual desire was from zero to 100 while

staring at the photo and after reading the selection.

Researchers then asked the participants to determine the likelihood that they would use a condom in the same hypothetical scenario, if a condom were readily available for use. Participants referred to the same zero to 100 scale to describe the likelihood of using a condom.

The study concluded that “seven delays were examined in separated scales: 2 min, 5 min, 15 min, 30 min, 1 h, 3 h, and 6 h. These delays are shorter than those in previous studies.” Since the study controlled for the amount of cocaine orally taken by participants prior to making these decisions, the re-

sults surmise that cocaine causes greater sexual impulse, such as the decision to not use a condom if one were not readily available.

To compare the act of impatience, researchers also asked the participants if they would rather have a small sum of money today or \$100 a week from now while they were under the influence of cocaine. The researchers found that participants exhibited no difference in the willingness to wait between trials when they received cocaine and trials in which they did not. This indicates that the impatience was solely directed toward sexual intercourse rather than other pleasures, such as gaining money.

During sessions when cocaine was administered in higher doses, participants indicated a stronger sexual desire for the individuals whose photograph they had selected.

However, participants did not report significantly lower likelihoods of using an available condom for the hypothetical sexual encounter when they were given a dose of 250 mg of cocaine as opposed to a placebo. The difference was negligible, at 0.2 percent, which suggests that just the knowledge or anticipation of having consumed cocaine can heighten sexual desire.


Researchers discussed that the results of this study may be pivotal to understanding how drugs, like cocaine, affect an individual’s sexual desires and choices. This study was the first experiment that measured sexual desire and sexual decision making in terms of cocaine consumption.

It is also the first study to suggest a correlation between the amount of cocaine consumed and the decision to use a condom during a sexual encounter while under the influence.



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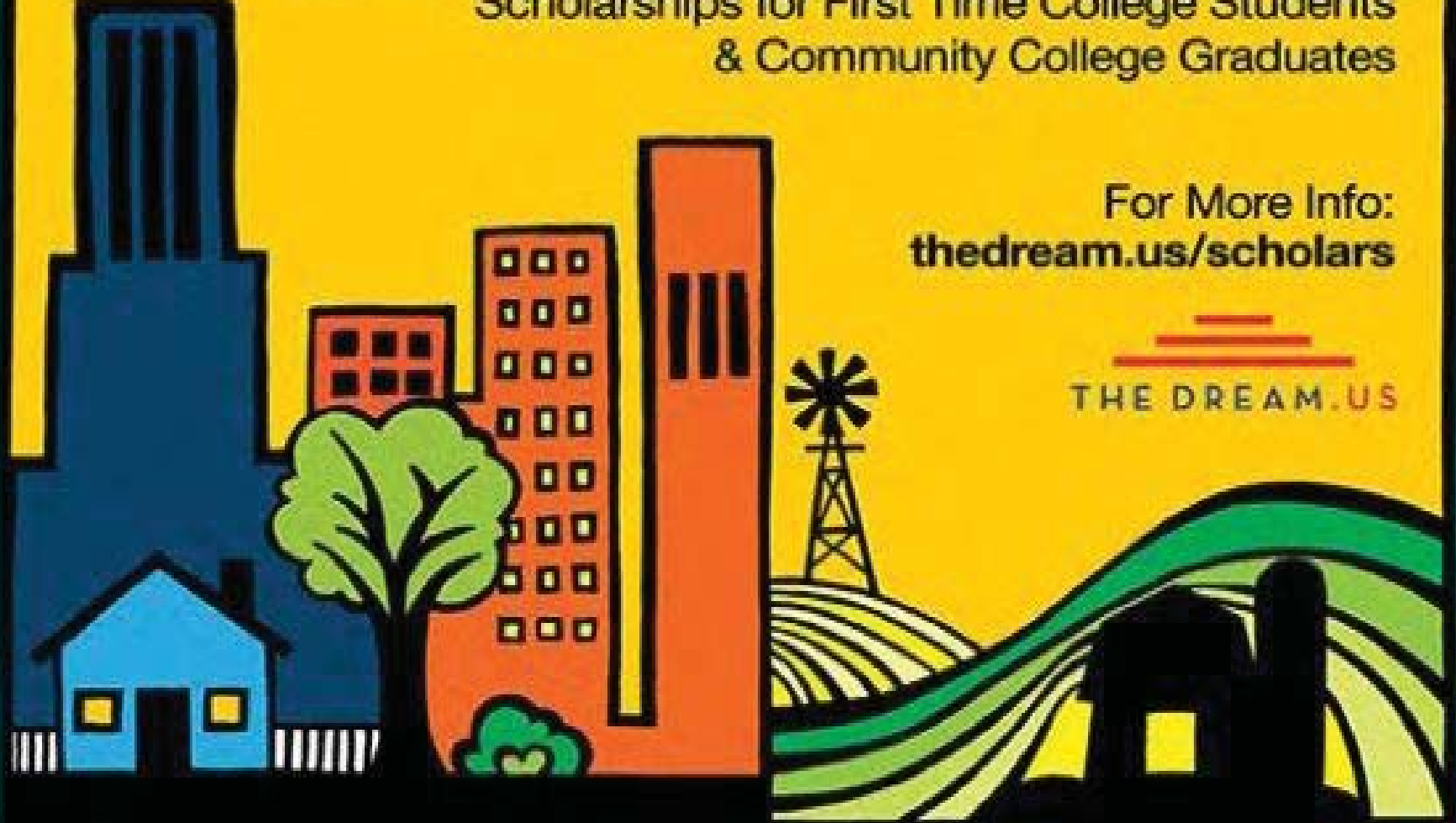


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Sports

Bearcats struggle early on, look to turn fortune in CUNYAC play

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Nevertheless, the remaining veterans on the team are among the most accomplished players in the conference.

Senior captain Brendan Murphy is ranked top 10 in both assists and digs per game while middle blocker Samuel Rabidoux is top seven in blocks and hitting percentage. The duo, along with opposite hitter Stephen Roach and 2016 Team Rookie of the Year Nicholas Godino are on the frontline of Baruch's offense.

However, the glaring weakness, is the team's defense, which has allowed the second-worst hitting percentage, assists and kills per set in the conference. On top of that, the offense suffers the most blocks per set.

The Bearcats often find themselves in competitive sets, but frequently fail to finish strong. On Feb. 4, they faced a tough three-game slate at the Ramapo College Quad in Mahwah, New Jersey, starting with the host team. Baruch matched the Ramapo Roadrunners point-for-point in the first set 12-12 until a stretch of errors forced it to call a timeout. The Bearcats won possession back thanks to a service error by Ramapo's Paul Close, but failed to capitalize as the Roadrunners went on a 7-4 run to end the first set 25-17.

The two sides were mirror-images in the second set, exchanging multiple two-point advantages. Murphy dished out 10 of his 21 assists and Roach collected four of his 10 kills to lead the Bearcats, but a late error handed the Roadrun-



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The Bearcats have hit a rough patch to begin the season while battling lack of chemistry through their first seven games.

ners a 25-23 second set victory. The third set was eerily similar to the first, with Baruch trailing 14-11 before sophomore Nathaniel Chin and freshmen Aaron Kim and Ryan Pape subbed onto the court. Ramapo dominated the rest of the match with a combination of a rigid defense and efficient offense; their 0.407 hitting percentage and four blocks in the set put the Bearcats away for good at 25-15.

Up next for Baruch was the even more impressive Lasell College Lasers, who entered their match with an 8-0 record having dropped one set all season.

The Lasers sat atop the Great Northeast Athletic Conference in kills and assists per set, outclassing Baruch in all major offensive categories and had the more experienced roster. Fresh off a victory against Stevenson University, the Lasers were primed to take out the struggling Bearcats, but Baruch displayed grit and tenacity throughout the match.

Godino and Roach scored the first four points for Baruch in the first set, all assisted by Murphy. Later in the set, Murphy and Rabidoux combined for a block and Lasell senior Patrick MacDonald commit-

ted an error, which brought Baruch within one and forced his team to burn a timeout.

The Lasers went on to win the next seven points during Tristan Davis' service due to a pair of aces, errors by Chin and Roach and kills by Jeffrey Vautrin. Just one point away from conceding the first set, Baruch gave a valiant effort to stay alive, but a ball handling error by middle blocker Jacob Rudin ended the set 25-19.

Baruch jumped to a 3-1 lead to start the second set, but dug itself in a hole it could not come out of with five straight errors. The Lasers

offense never relented as it took the second set 25-17. The lopsided nature of the match granted the freshmen a chance to familiarize themselves with the physicality of college-level athletics.

By the time the third set rolled around, the entire roster had a taste of in-game action. Though the match ended in straight sets 25-15, Baruch had no time to dwell on its mistakes as one game remained on the docket for the afternoon.

Baruch's final opponent of the day, the Stevenson University Mustangs, was also swept by Ramapo and Lasell, giving hope for a more competitive match.

But the Mustangs never trailed as they demolished the Bearcats in three sets of 25-17, 25-16, 25-15. They tallied 10 blocks to Baruch's two, outhit Baruch 0.333 percent to 0.000 percent and notched 11 more assists than the Bearcats, who seemed depleted of energy at the end.

All three of their opponents had at least one thing in common: experience. A majority of their rotations featured upperclassmen with refined instincts from years of developing chemistry on the court.

Despite the misfortune, there is no reason for the Bearcats to throw in the towel just yet. In fact, the team still has a full slate of CUNYAC matches coming up and can easily flip the tables come playoffs.

With every humbling loss, the team gains invaluable game experience and learns to gel and come to form. Should it capitalize on these experiences, it will be back to its winning ways in no time.

Melo's future with Knicks uncertain

Longtime Knick receives unwarranted criticism amid rumors of departure and locker room trouble

BY STEVEN TSAKANIKAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The New York Knicks have been a colossal disappointment this season. Derrick Rose is a liability on defense, Joakim Noah is playing unproductively in only 22 minutes a game after coaxing the Knicks out of a \$72 million contract last summer and Kristaps Porzingis has not scored 20 points in over a month. Madison Square Garden is burning to the ground while Phil Jackson, president of basketball operations, keeps quiet in his office.

When the Knicks traded for Carmelo Anthony almost six years ago, they were hoping he could restore their historic franchise to greatness and bring them their first championship since 1973. Melo has not been able to deliver, but he has remained loyal to the fans, the city and the organization.

Lately, fans at the World's Most Famous Arena have booed Anthony whenever he takes the floor in an attempt to run him out of town. Some look at the situation objectively and wonder if potential free agents are being turned off by the fans' treatment of Melo knowing the same could happen to them. The fans, and apparently Jackson, are ready to push the reset button again and build around Porzingis.

Over the past few weeks, Jackson reportedly talked to other teams that he believes Anthony would be willing to join. A deal involving Melo cannot be processed without his approval under the "no trade clause" of his contract. Jackson has shopped Melo to the Boston Celtics, Cleveland Cavaliers and Los Angeles Clippers.

Melo has consistently voiced his desire to stay in New York and win



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Anthony will reportedly consider voiding his no-trade clause for the right team.

here, but admitted that he would consider waiving his no trade clause if the organization wanted to move in a different direction and rebuild. If Jackson does not like the returns on any deals for Melo, he can opt to keep him on the roster and try to quickly rebuild through free agency like he attempted last summer.

Two of Anthony's closest friends, Chris Paul and Dwyane Wade, have early termination options that could make them both free agents this summer. Knicks fans know better than anyone, however, relying on free agency does not always pay off.

The team has lost frustrating game after frustrating game and although it is not far from a play-off spot in the Eastern Conference, it has not shown any indications that it can make a run. New York recently lost 21 out of 29 games—a meltdown nobody predicted when the team was sitting at the third seed in the East at 14-10. This losing stretch has taken a toll on everyone from Porzingis, to Melo, to coach Jeff Hornacek, all of whom have criticized the team publicly.

With the trade deadline rapidly approaching on Feb. 23, Antho-


ny will have a little more time to ponder potentially waiving his no trade clause as he will not be featured in the All-Star Game for the first time since 2009.

An under-appreciated player his whole career, he could receive the chance to play for a contender and win his first championship, something that has eluded him up to this point.

If Jackson does find a deal he likes for Melo and the former Syracuse Orangeman does not want to stick through yet another rebuild, fans should acknowledge Anthony and all he has done for this organization. He has not been perfect, but he fought night in and night out for the city, the fans and for his team.


Melo could have easily packed his bags and left in 2014 when he was a free agent, but he said that winning a championship in New York City would mean so much more than winning one elsewhere. Many players fear New York and the Knicks for their bright lights and expectations, but Anthony has embraced these with open arms and has been nothing short of professional with the tough New York media.

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Falcons stunned as Brady leads comeback for fifth Superbowl

BY ANTHONY DELANUEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The New England Patriots and Atlanta Falcons recently faced off for Super Bowl 51 on Feb. 5, with both teams having quite a story to tell.

Both teams were immensely talented with Most Valuable Player award winners at the quarterback position, pro bowl wide receivers and highly ranked defenses that dominated during the playoffs.

The first three quarters shocked the world, with the Falcons dominating straight out of the gates and capitalizing on multiple offensive drives that ended in touchdowns. With the Patriots in Falcons’ territory at the start of the second quarter, running back LeGarrette Blount fumbled, which led to a Falcons recovery and an ensuing touchdown—the first score of the game. This allowed for Matt Ryan and the Falcons to take control of the game and gain momentum.

Following a Patriots three-and-out, the Falcons again went down the field and scored a touchdown to take a 14-0 lead. The Falcons gained confidence with each yard gained and every stuffed Patriots drive. Ryan, who won the regular season MVP, finished the first half on 7 for 8 passing with 115 yards, one touchdown and, for the first time in a Super Bowl, a perfect passer rating of 158.3.

Indeed, the most surprising aspect of the game was the Falcons’ defense holding up its end of the bargain against the Patriots’ offense led by the future first-ballot Hall of Famer Tom Brady. The defense peaked when safety Robert Alford nabbed a dart from Brady and returned the interception 82 yards for a “pick-six,” which gave Atlanta a 21-0 lead. With that defensive touchdown, the Falcons win prob-



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Brady led the Patriots to one of the most historic comebacks in Superbowl history, lifting his fifth trophy in an illustrious career.

ability jumped to 96.4 percent. The Falcons’ defense held the Patriots to just three points and sacked Brady twice while forcing two turnovers. As the first half wound down, many prematurely dubbed Atlanta’s performance the greatest Super Bowl upset of all time.

After fans witnessed the Super Bowl halftime show headlined by Lady Gaga, they were treated to arguably the greatest comeback in sports history.

The Patriots, down 28-3, faced a 25-point deficit with 8:30 minutes remaining in the third quarter. After a Patriots 13-play drive that ended in a touchdown and a 12-play drive that ended in a field goal, the Falcons then proceeded to fumble with 0:8:30 remaining in

regulation.

Dread started to seep into the ecstatic attitudes of the Falcons’ faithful; Patriots fans had seen it countless times and opposing teams had feared falling victim to the methodical last-minute Brady comeback. Just five plays following the New England fumble recovery, the Patriots found themselves hitting pay dirt yet again and succeeded on a two-point conversion to make the score 28-20 with just under six minutes to play in the game.

The Patriots’ defense fed off of the momentum, sensed the pressure and found its typical form in short time. After the Falcons took a 28-3 lead, they had four offensive drives that resulted in three punts and a turnover for a total of 44

yards gained.

The events that occurred during New England’s final drive of regulation was must-see drama. With 0:2:30 remaining in the game, Brady heaved a pass down the middle of the field that initially looked to be incomplete, but actually bounced off Falcons defensive back Alford’s foot. Wide receiver Julian Edelman secured the 23-yard catch that left fans with flashbacks of David Tyree’s memorable Super Bowl catch years back. A rushing touchdown by running back James White and successful two-point conversion shortly after completed the comeback.

The Patriots’ offense was now on a roll and as both teams headed to the first-ever overtime in Super

Bowl history, it was pretty clear all confidence had now switched to the Brady Bunch. White, Brady’s premier weapon, had a combined 139 total yards from scrimmage and three touchdowns, leaving the Falcons defense befuddled and tired. Now dominating the passing game and running game alike, the Patriots went into overtime with the first possession, ecstatic after winning the coin toss and knowing that a touchdown would seal victory for the first team to score.

In overtime, Brady went 5 for 7 on passing; of those five completions, three went for 14 yards or more. By the time the Patriots were on the Falcons’ two-yard line, the Patriots could see victory in sight. As White ran the ball, three Falcons defenders draped over his back to no avail. White and the Patriots fought their way to one of the best Super Bowl comebacks of all time.

Brady had his fifth Super Bowl victory, the most by any quarterback in NFL history and the Falcons now laid claim to the greatest collapse in Super Bowl history. The Patriots’ dynasty was complete and as for the Falcons, immortality had alluded them.

In the days following, the Pats’ star tight end Rob Gronkowski, sidelined for the big game with a back injury, could be seen chugging beers with rowdy fans at the Superbowl Parade in beantown. When asked if retirement was on his mind, Brady refuted any speculation, explaining he is having too much fun playing the sport. The 39-year-old is playing his best ball and if all holds up, there is no ceiling on how many more Superbowl rings Brady may walk away with.

As for the Falcons, the team has surrounded Ryan and Jones with enough talent that they should be solid contenders for season to come.

Isles mull relocation rumors while Rangers set sights on playoffs

BY ANDREW MARZULLO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Henrik Lundqvist, Mark Messier, Denis Potvin and John Tavares: all names that symbolize the greatness of New York hockey past and present. Arguably the NHL’s fiercest and most personal rivalries play out between the New York Rangers and the New York Islanders.

While they both share the same amount of Stanley Cup Championships with four apiece, the Rangers’ success in recent years has greatly outweighed the Islanders’.

Madison Square Garden is the Mecca of sports, home to the Rangers since 1968. It should come as no surprise that the Garden is sold out every game during the season and that the average price of a ticket is about \$100. The Rangers are a perennial Eastern Conference contender, showing no signs of slowing down. The team reached the Stanley Cup Finals three seasons ago and reached the Eastern Conference Finals two years ago after winning the President’s Trophy for attaining the NHL’s best regular season record. This year, the Rangers are contenders again and have stayed hot through the All-Star break.

The Islanders, however, cannot say the same. Though they made the playoffs last year and won their first playoff series in 22 years, they have not been able to live up to their lofty expectations this year. They already fired head coach Jack Capuano and waived former starting goalie Jaroslav Halak, who is now playing in the AHL. Unfortunately for New York hockey, the rivalry that had playoff implications for the past three years is shaping up to be a lot more one-sided this time around.

On top of the on-ice struggles,

the team has struggled to attract crowds. The team moved to Brooklyn’s Barclays Center from Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Long Island last year, its first move since their inception in 1972 and attendance has been dismal since. In fact, through its first 10 games, its attendance ranked dead last in the NHL at 12,000 people per game or just 78 percent of the Barclays Center.

Even when the Rangers and Islanders clash in Brooklyn, the Isles struggle to pack in fans for the storied rivalry. The Rangers’ red, white and blue jerseys in the crowd dominate the few blue and orange faithful. All the while, Rangers’ fans overwhelmingly chant “Potvin Sucks” in ridicule of their bitter opponents.

The Isles’ recent woes have provoked Barclays Center management to contemplate evicting its newest tenants. The Islanders’ inability to drive ticket sales has affected the complex’s bottom line, which prompted the idea of ditching the team in favor of concerts and other marquee events.

There has been plenty of backlash against the Barclays Center in recent days, overwhelmingly in support of the Islanders. Many argued that the Barclays Center was ill-equipped as a hockey arena to begin with, supported by many player complaints of poor ice conditions at the complex. In addition, the stadium always gives preference to the Brooklyn Nets basketball team and plans the Isles’ schedule around the other events taking place, giving the team lowest priority against all other events.

The door has closed for a possible relocation to the Coliseum after renovations to the floor plan have essentially rendered hockey an impossibility. There have been



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The Islanders have hit a rough patch amid being approached by the Barclays Center to relocate due to sluggish ticket sales.

discussions with the New York Mets about moving to Queens, closer to the Coliseum and in a more accessible location for the Isles’ Long Island fan base. This would require building a state-of-the-art stadium next to Citi Field, which in theory would attract tourists and crowds to Flushing Meadows, but at a tremendous cost to taxpayers and spelling parking, scheduling and traffic nightmares.

However, the most intriguing rumor involves Hartford, Connecticut, the former home of the

Hartford Whalers. The Whalers moved from Hartford to Carolina in 1997 and became the Carolina Hurricanes. The NHL’s return to Hartford would be exciting, yet impractical. The market is extremely small and interest for the Whalers’ return would be shaky. Even as a temporary move, the far distance from Long Island would fail to solve the issue of drawing crowds. The Islanders’ fan base would be completely alienated and even the die-hards would not want travel to Connecticut to see their team play.

No matter what, the Islanders, who were a storied dynasty in the early 1980s, winning 19 consecutive playoff series and four Stanley Cups, need to find an answer and return glory and pride to the New York City hockey rivalry.

The Rangers, however, are well-positioned for a playoff run this season, sitting just three games back of the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Still, the team must make up ground quickly as the Metropolitan Division becomes a four-team race while playoffs edge closer.

Baruch Weekly

FEBRUARY 2017

- MON
13

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: BARUCH VS. JOHN JAY COLLEGE
5:30 p.m. | B2 Level - Main Gym | Free
- TUES
14

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: ME, MY HAIR & I
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | Multipurpose Room | Free

DEVELOPING CULTURAL AWARENESS IN THE WORKPLACE
12:40 p.m.-2:20 p.m. | NVC 10-170 | Free
- WED
15

THE INTERNET'S CHALLENGES TO ETHICAL JOURNALISM
2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | Engelman Recital Hall | Free

HUMAN RESOURCE PANEL
5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | NVC 2-125 | Free
- THURS
16

THE GREEN PRINCE
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Engelman Recital Hall | Free

QURAAN CLASS
6:45 p.m.-9:00 p.m. | NVC 3-210 | Free
- FRI
17

CIDR SEMINAR SERIES: "EARLY CHILDHOOD HEALTH STOCKS AND ADULT WELLBEING: EVIDENCE FROM WARTIME BRITAIN."
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | The CUNY Graduate Center, Room C202 | Free
- SAT
18

KUO TWO PIANO BENEFIT RECITAL FOR CITY GRACE CHURCH
7:00 p.m. | Engelman Recital Hall | \$30 - \$100

BLACK HISTORY MONTH DIGITAL ARTS STUDENTS ART EXHIBIT*
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. | Bliss Hall, Bronx Community College | Free
- SUN
19

BALE FOLCLORICO DA BAHIA: PROFESSIONAL FOLK DANCE COMPANY FROM BRAZIL*
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. | Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, Lehman College | Free

**Off-campus event
For full list, visit www.baruch.cuny.edu/calendar*

CROSSWORD

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9. ALTERNATIVE TO KNIT STITCH
13. FLU SYMPTOM
14. "WE WILL, WE WILL ROCK"
15. THE COLOR OF SOME OLD PHOTOS
16. CRÈME DE LA
17. PILOT'S ESTIMATE
18. OFTEN-MISSED HUMOR
19. *TEAM THAT'S NEVER BEEN IN SUPER BOWL
21. *TEAM WITH MOST APPEARANCES BUT NO WINS
23. ARTICULATE
24. *WASHINGTON'S SUPER BOWL MVP, _____ RYPIEN
25. PROTESTANT DENOM.
28. UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER
30. LUNG POUCH
35. A.K.A. THE ISLAMIC STATE
37. TIBETAN MONK
39. "SEMPER FIDELIS" TO U.S. MARINES, E.G.
40. *PITTSBURGH'S SUPER BOWL MVP, _____ SWANN
41. JERRY MAGUIRE, E.G.
43. "FOR" IN SPANISH
44. REDUCE PRESSURE
46. THOSE NOT IN FAVOR
47. LARGER-THAN-LIFE
48. SEABISCUIT'S HOUSE
50. BIG TOP

52. "FAT CHANCE!"
53. "THE SUN _____ RISES"
55. HORSE POKER
57. *COMPANIES PAY BIG FOR IT ON SUPER BOWL NIGHT
61. *ONE OF 4 TEAMS WITH NO APPEARANCES
64. SAD FACE
65. GIRLS' NIGHT OUT, IN TEXT
67. SHIPPING BOX
69. R2-D2, E.G.
70. CONTAINER FOR ASHES
71. REMOVE LOCATION FROM IMAP
72. SINGLES
73. BIRD-TO-BE
74. BORIS GODUNOV AND NICHOLAS ROMANOV

DOWN
1. CHLOROFLUOROCARBON
2. * _____ ADDERLEY, APPEARED IN 4 OF FIRST 6 SUPER BOWLS
3. LAST WORD ON WALKIE-TALKIE
4. ADVISORIES OR REMINDERS
5. ANTEBELLUM
6. WINDOWS TO THE SOUL?
7. DECOMPOSE
8. EXOTIC JELLY FLAVOR
9. _____ WIG OR _____ WINKLE
10. SECOND WORD IN A FAIRYTALE?
11. **THE _____ IS THE THING"

12. BIG NAME IN CHIPS
15. FORMER HIMALAYAN KINGDOM
20. AFRICAN ANTELOPE
22. PART OF INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO, ACR.
24. REMINDER OF PAST
25. *SUFFERED 4 CONSECUTIVE SUPER BOWL LOSSES
26. HERETOFORE
27. SANTA MARIA'S COMPANION
29. *SHE'S A LADY
31. TUG-OF-WAR PROP
32. LOCKER ROOM INFECTION?
33. COURTYARDS
34. *VINCE LOMBARDI, E.G.
36. GIVE THE COLD SHOULDER
38. CASINO CHIP
42. HINT OF COLOR
45. LAMENTATION
49. FREDDY KRUEGER'S STREET
51. POPULAR POLITICAL PROMISE
54. SMOOTH TRANSITION
56. MENDS A SOCK
57. '70S HAIRDO
58. EUROPEAN "CURTAIN"
59. JUSTICE'S GARB
60. DEUCES
61. CHINATOWN GANG
62. WINE COUNTRY
63. RECIPE COMMAND
66. * _____ STADIUM IN HOUSTON
68. LT.'S SUBORDINATE

REBECCA VICENTE | THE TICKER

CROSSWORD SOLUTION:
ISSUE 1

G	R	A	S	S	E	E	L	A	R	A	B
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Career Spotlight

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SAVE THE DATE

Interview Prep Workshop with Target
Wednesday, February 15, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., NVC 2-190
Learn how to ace interviews with executives at Target at this workshop.

Building Your Brand: The Personal Pitch
Wednesday, February 15, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
This workshop is designed to help you establish and use an executive personal pitch.

Diversity Career Expo
Thursday, February 16, 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., NVC 2-190
Meet with 20+ employers and organizations interested in recruiting diverse talents for internships and jobs.

Creating Your Own Major: The Ad Hoc
Tuesday, February 21, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., NVC GYM
Want to major in different disciplines? Learn how to create your own major at this workshop.

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

JWC REAL ESTATE GROUP

Real Estate SEO Marketing Intern

JWC Real Estate Group is looking for a Real Estate SEO Marketing Intern. We are seeking an ambitious and highly motivated individual to help monitor and maintain our online presence as a luxury real estate group. The ideal candidate would have strong research skills, creativity and preferably an eye for design and aesthetics.

Responsibilities include monitoring, maintaining and overseeing our online presence as a luxury real estate firm, including our social media accounts as well as our principal broker's agent pro-

files on MLS sites (Realtor, Trulia, Zillow), researching new and effective ideas for future marketing campaigns, working with office administrators and head designers to meet deadlines for assignments, the ability to think "outside the box" and assist in brain storming concepts for upcoming marketing project, and assisting in our mailroom where we send our physical newsletter each week.

This is a great opportunity for anyone looking to expand his or her professional experience in the marketing industry. At JWC

Real Estate Group, we work in a strong team-based environment where we provide all the tools, assistance and guidance for all of our team members to grow. As a premier real estate brokerage firm in New York City, the potential for growth is limitless.

This is a paid internship for students majoring in business management or marketing; for more information, visit Starr Search with ID 100903.

PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

CHECK OUT THE **PEER TIP OF THE WEEK** FROM **SCDC'S PEERS FOR CAREERS PROGRAM**

"If you attended the Career Fair on the 10th, now would be a good time to keep in touch with all the recruiters you networked with. Schedule a networking lunch or an informational interview and get to know them better to get your foot in the door for those upcoming opportunities."

- THALIA MARTINEZ
PEER FOR CAREER

FUN FACT

Did you know that the Diversity Career Expo on Feb. 16, 2017 has over 20 employers? Meet with recruiters and learn more about internships, scholarships, leadership programs and entry-level jobs. Featured panelists will be discussing diversity and inclusion at the Expo. For more information, visit the Starr Career Development Center or Starr Search.