

## OPINIONS 5

### Marine Le Pen refuses headscarf at meeting (p. 5)



The face of French nationalism refused to wear a headscarf to her meeting with a religious leader in Lebanon, which she then canceled. Women should not be forced to adhere to spiritual dress codes, especially for secular meetings.

## BUSINESS 9

### Buffett decries hedge fund managers (p. 10)



The billionaire investor of Omaha took it upon himself to call out Wall Street's biggest fund managers in his annual letter to shareholders. Buffett criticized hedge funds that collect huge fees for overpromising and under-delivering results.

## ARTS & STYLE 11

### Significant Other shows millennial angst (p. 12)



After a successful run off-Broadway at The Roudabout Theatre, Harmon's *Significant Other*, a bittersweet comic delight is now on Broadway, featuring Glick who gives an impressive performance.

## SCIENCE & TECH 15

### Scientists discover new solar system (p. 15)



Scientists discovered a solar system with seven planets approximately the same size as Earth, with three planets possibility being able to sustain life. The research on TRAPPIST-1, the parent star of the solar system, was published in *Nature* on Feb. 23.

## SPORTS 17

### Bearcats fall to CSI in CUNYAC semifinals (p. 17)



Despite an up-and-down season, the Bearcats capitalized on the postseason with an appearance against CSI. The Dolphins took the league early on, and while the Bearcats had several opportunities to get ahead, their season expired by game's end.

# Lew answers questions on state of the economy

BY PAUL JOH  
BUSINESS EDITOR



HEIDI KERR | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

In his first public appearance since leaving the White House, former Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew visited Baruch College to speak about his career path and offer his thoughts about the national and global economy. The event was moderated by Timothy Henglein and Lisa Puran, two undergraduate students within the honors program at the Zicklin School of Business.

Lew, who is one of only four people in U.S. history to hold cabinet-level posts four times, served as the most senior economic official in the United States over the last four years. As secretary of the treasury, he played a critical role in policy making through one of the longest economic recoveries in U.S. history.

Despite having experienced a fair amount of frustration and stress on the job, Lew shared that the chance to make a difference is the main reason he found his job so exciting.

"You have an opportunity in public policy to work on issues that are bigger than anything you can do with your own life or in the life of the people that you see," Lew said.

Lew made a visit to Baruch in order to give insight into the national and global economy, among other issues.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## BHM Committee closes with event honoring Obama's legacy

VICTORIA MERLINO  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The Black History Month Committee held the closing ceremony for Black History Month on Feb. 28 in the Multipurpose Room, focusing on the legacy of former President Barack Obama and the future of the United States. Entitled "#PostObama," the event featured a roundtable discussion that included input from students and guest panelist members from the non-profit organization Street Corner Resources.

The roundtable was moderated by Black History Month Committee chair member Imeh Usoroh, a finance major. Topics discussed between students and panelists ranged from their personal feelings on Obama's legacy, what the Obama presidency means to the African-American community, as well as President Donald Trump's administration.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Women's History Month events begin



CALVIN RONG | THE TICKER

Women's History Month commenced with a celebration of the strength of women, as well as activities, food and giveaways.

BY MAYA YEGOROVA  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baruch College kicked off Women's History Month with an Opening Ceremony event on Thursday, March 2, during club hours. The event's aim was to celebrate the strength of women. Students who attended enjoyed desserts, fun activities and giveaways.

Josephina Ragon, the activities adviser at the Office of Student Life, explained that the idea for this event originated by wondering about how the event could be implemented based on past activities.

It was decided that this could be done on the second floor lobby to catch the attention of Baruch's commuter student population and

tailor to the school's fast-paced environment.

Ragon revealed that she would have weekly committee meetings with students from various clubs. They would brainstorm on how to dedicate the month to women and stressed the importance of the celebration.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## OPINIONS

## State of Baruch College's student bathrooms shows need to emphasize cleanliness

Baruch College is in constant flux with regard to cleanliness and maintenance throughout its campus. While custodians can be seen looming around the club suite or walking from floor to floor in the Newman Vertical Campus, it seems as though bathroom stalls, the undersides of desks and unkempt classrooms are still among some of the most unpleasant sights a student can meet.

This problem, however, is widely perpetuated by some students who refuse to treat Baruch like the home that it is to many other students, especially those who take classes at the end of the day. These students contribute to a cycle of waste and uncleanness that tarnishes the school's sanitary conditions.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



News Briefs

COMPILED BY  
VICTORIA MERLINO

Hostos Community College announced the creation of a scholarship named after Ramon J. Jimenez, a professor and long-time supporter of the college, on March 2. The Ramon J. Jimenez Memorial Scholarship for Social Policy and Practice will be awarded twice annually to full-time students who are enrolled in their final year of college at Hostos. Jimenez, a Harvard-educated lawyer located in the South Bronx, was an integral part of the Hostos community, known for helping to lead the protests that saved the college from closure in 1976. The scholarship is worth \$500.

CUNY TV, the university's commercial-free television station, was nominated 11 times by the 2017 New York Emmy Awards. This stands as a record number of nominations for CUNY TV. Series on the station, including *Arts in the City*, *Asian American Life*, *Black America*, *Nueva York*, *Study with the Best* and *Theater Talk*, were all nominated. CUNY TV has won 14 New York Emmys prior to this year's nominations and broadcasts into 7.3 million households throughout New York City.

Scientists at the City College of New York-based CUNY Energy Institute announced their development of a low-cost, rechargeable high-energy battery. Their findings, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, report the battery's ability to achieve a high life cycle and its high areal capacity, or capacity to fit battery electrodes into a case. No other team has created a battery that meets both of these conditions, reports the researchers. The team intends for the battery to be used at the same scale of the traditional power grid, allowing for more solar and wind energy options to be available to the public.

Queens College was named a top producer of U.S. Fulbright Scholar Program students by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for the 2016-2017 year. The Fulbright Program is a highly competitive international educational exchange program run by the U.S. government. Since 2013, Queens College saw a total of 12 graduates receive the Fulbright honor, with the college annually named a top Fulbright producer during the intervening time. The three students who won Fulbright awards for 2016-2017 all won in the category of "Master's Institutions."

CUNY will not alter its policy of non-discrimination based on gender identity, announced Interim General Counsel and Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Jane Sovern in a statement on Feb. 24. The statement comes as a response to a joint announcement by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education that withdrew protection of the right for transgender and gender-nonconforming people to use single-sex facilities in line with their gender identities. Sovern reaffirmed CUNY's commitment to an inclusive environment on all CUNY campuses, something that is "is not affected by the Trump administration's guidance."

#PostObama gives insight into Obama's legacy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Guest panelist Iesha Sekou, founder of Street Corner Resources, spoke about the Obama presidency's impact on individual African-Americans. Not everything Obama did for the community was readily visible, she explained, giving the example of seeing more African-Americans excited and engaged about voting during Obama's election.

"There was a shift that happened, even with the brothers who had kind of lost hope," said Sekou during the discussion.

Sekou founded Street Corner Resources in 2007 to combat gang and gun violence by empowering young people through education, employment and support systems in their community. Located in Harlem Renaissance High School, the organization focuses mainly on youth in Harlem, though Sekou elaborated in an interview that she loves to be around and speak to "young minds" and young activists in general.

Street Corner Resources was invited to the event by Tamir Brown, the Black History Month committee treasurer and an international marketing major. Brown had existing relationships with all of the guest panelists through his past community outreach work and contacted them for the event in hopes that students would learn how to engage and organize within the students' own local communities.

The idea for the event stemmed from wanting to engage students. The committee originally wanted to have the Baruch College Republicans - The Right Wings and the Baruch College Democrats debate Obama's legacy, but after complications, the committee decided on hosting the panelists talking about



CALVIN RONG | THE TICKER

Panelists at "#PostObama" discussed Obama's impact on African-American society, as well as his legacy following his departure.

the same theme. The event was also originally supposed to be a traditional panel, but was adjusted during the event to be a roundtable with students and panelists sitting next to one another.

"A lot of people had a lot of tension with the transition in [presidential] office, so we figured this would be a great time to just give people a chance to open up and discuss and put their feelings out there," said Usoroh.

Usoroh and Brown detailed the main focus of the Black History Month committee throughout the

month, explaining the committee's goal of raising awareness in the larger Baruch community of the culture, history and struggles surrounding the black community.

"Having just one month to really bring awareness to a whole life—not even just a lifetime, but a millennia of history is not enough. And so our main focus is to get as many people as possible aware of not just social issues, but celebrate the legacy that black people have left and created here not just in America but around the world," said Usoroh.

"We live black history every day," agreed Brown. "So for us it's really about the awareness for other people to come into our consciousness and understand that black history affects everyone. It doesn't matter if you're black, white, Latino, Chinese, Asian, whatever—it affects all of us and we have to come together as a community to celebrate and uplift each other."

Students were invited to sit and chat with both the panelists and one another after the discussion, enjoying a buffet provided by the committee.

Baruch faculty share experiences on Peace Corps Day

BY JONATHAN SPERLING  
NEWS EDITOR

Baruch College students and faculty alike gained insight into the world of international development thanks to a panel discussion on the Peace Corps held on March 1. The event featured a discussion with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers teaching and working in Baruch.

The event began with an introduction by moderator Teresa Liu, who volunteered in East Timor between 2003 and 2005. Now, Liu serves as Baruch's associate director of international admissions.

Liu, who served as a health service volunteer, noted that the date of the event was chosen to commemorate Peace Corps Day, the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's signing of Executive Order 10924, which officially established the Peace Corps.

Liu and the panelists shared their reasons for joining the Peace Corps, as well as how their experiences abroad helped them prosper back home.

"Getting outside of what you're used, getting taken out of country, culture, language, everything is the caveat. The idea is you are being shocked into growing and maturing very quickly because you are outside of your element," said Anna D'Souza, a development economist who served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal between 2000 and 2002. She currently teaches in the Marx School of Public and International Affairs.

Other panelists elaborated on how their time as Peace Corps volunteers altered their world outlooks. Brian Kane, who currently serves as the director of Baruch's Science and Technology Entry Program, explained that one of the draws of Peace Corps was the



BIANCA MONTEIRO | THE TICKER

Baruch staffers recounted their experiences with international development as Peace Corps volunteers on Peace Corps Day.

chance to break the monotony of his former job at a mutual fund company in Baltimore. His responsibilities, according to Kane, "literally required that [he] do the same thing every day."

By chance, Kane's company adopted an elementary school, giving Kane the opportunity to act as a "big brother" to a student at the school. It was partially this experience that drove Kane to pursue the Peace Corps, eventually serving as a volunteer at a credit union in Honduras between 1994 and 1996.

All the panelists agreed that their experiences in Peace Corps also made them more culturally aware. Panelist Cheryl de

Jong-Lambert, who works as the director of communications in Baruch's Office of Communications and Marketing, served as a volunteer in Guinea-Bissau, West Africa between 1990 and 1992. De Jong-Lambert noted that her experiences within Guinea-Bissau's communal society made her more aware of her consumption when she returned to the United States.

"Consumptionism and the obsession with television and phones and all that has really helped me filter a lot of the media and filter it for my kids. We [de Jong-Lambert and her husband] live as simple a life as possible," said de Jong-Lambert.

Over time, the Peace Corps application process has changed for the better. The application process has become more streamlined, with the applicant being notified of his or her acceptance approximately two to three months after the initial application submission. Unlike past iterations of the process, the applicant is also permitted to choose up to three programs, allowing for less of a randomized experience. All in all, the applicant can expect to travel to his or her assigned location approximately six to nine months after submitting the initial application. Despite these changes, the eight-step process remains highly competitive.



# Marketing professor teaches mindfulness and self-awareness

BY ANGEL TORRES  
COPY EDITOR

Sunaina Chugani begins the preparation for the event she is hosting in her Upper West Side apartment on Thursday, Feb. 23, almost two days before the actual event. She starts by buying the ingredients for the food she is going to cook and by cleaning up the space that will soon be inhabited by strangers and friends alike. On the day of, a small group of people make their way toward her apartment in anticipation. Small cushions are placed on the floor; a sign is adhered to her front door and all seats in the apartment are positioned in the shape of a circle.

Chugani is a marketing professor at Baruch College who teaches consumer behavior. She conducts research into her subject matter and how it can affect consumer buying habits; her main goal being to figure out how to prolong consumer happiness and satisfaction.

“I study consumer behavior, but I like to think of it consumer well-being,” said Chugani. “One of the major things I study is hedonic adaptation, which is the process by which happiness fades. I study what speeds that up and slows that down. I think it’s a fascinating topic.”

Chugani started teaching at Baruch three and a half years ago, with her fourth year to be completed in June. Her primary job is the research that she conducts at the college, but teaching has become a big part of her life since it gives her a more direct way of impacting people.

One of the big ideas that Chugani lives by and brings into the classroom is the practice of gratitude. Hedonic adaptation is unavoidable. Individuals are constantly cycling through situations

and objects in their lives, so it is no surprise that the happiness drawn from new things eventually fades. The practice of gratitude is how Chugani combats negative hedonic adaptation, since it helps keep her thankful for everything she has—a practice she shares with her students.

“Everything eventually becomes a status quo. The practice of gratitude helps me look at things and appreciate them. Let’s say I’ve adapted to this nice studio, I can practice gratitude and say, ‘look at how warm it is, look at how cozy it is.’ It brings the studio back to the forefront so you can appreciate it,” said Chugani.

Besides being a full-time researcher and professor at Baruch, Chugani puts time aside to take part in a very interesting organization that complements her research perfectly. Chugani is a part of Awakin, an organization that focuses on self-awareness and mindfulness. Awakin strives to bring a sense of stillness to the lives of people living inside the buzz of a constantly moving city.

The way that Awakin works is through a series of hosts, each of which offers his or her living space and hospitality once a week to whoever wants to attend. Anyone who chooses to come is sent an email with the location and the time of commencement of the event. Each person arrives at the door, which greets them with a sign that says, “Meditation in progress, please come in.” Anyone who comes in at the specified time spends a full hour meditating in unguided stillness; each attendant sits in the most comfortable position, trying to calm his or her thoughts and bodies.

After the hour of meditation, a carefully selected passage is read, followed by the group sharing

their thoughts and reflections on the passage. The circle of people is then served food by the host, which is eaten in a 10-minute period of silence in reverence for the food. Afterward, there is chatter while the food is cleaned up.

The point of Awakin is to give anyone who needs a respite from stress, work or any part of his or her life. The practice of gratitude along with the meditation helps attendees remember to slow down and relax in their lives.

Chugani encountered Awakin when she was finishing her doctorate at the University Texas at Austin. One of her professors brought Nipun Mehta, the founder of ServiceSpace, an umbrella organization of Awakin, to a class.

“Nipun came to give a talk. He was hoping that tons of people would come but there were only four of us there, all Ph.D. students, none of the faculty came. But I was just so mesmerized by what Nipun was saying about harnessing the inherent generosity in every human being. He really combined activism with spirituality, where the way you can make a change in the world is by harnessing the spirituality in everyone. I was truly moved by that,” said Chugani.

Awakin, looked at through this lens, is an experiment in generosity. The host opens up his or her home to strangers and friends alike and offers them a meal. What Chugani truly likes about this experiment is that, besides bringing an evening of peace to some people’s lives, it reminds her of her values.

“It’s really easy to get carried away wanting so many things. It’s easy to feel unsatisfied and wanting more and more. What I especially like about Awakin is that it reminds me that there is an inner world and your happiness depends more on your inner world than it does on the



SUNAINACHUGANI.COM

Chugani juggles her Awakin work with being a full-time professor and researcher.

outer world,” explained Chugani.

“Our ability to thrive together in this interconnected world is dependent on our ability to keep kindness, generosity and self-awareness alive. The more self-aware we are at a deeper level, the fuller we can live our lives, the happier we can be, and ultimately, the happier we can make the people around us.”

Chugani mentioned how Awakin reminds her that life is not solely about the publications she hopes to get, nor about all the bumps in life—life is about right now, how beautiful the current moments are.

Through Awakin, Chugani found the courage to bring a lot of these ideas into her classroom. She recognizes the importance of spreading these messages and does her best to interweave them into her lectures. Although she ac-

knowledges that commerce is major in today’s world and consumer wants are insatiable, she reminds her students about the power of enough and the power of gratitude.

Chugani plans to move from New York to California at the end of the Spring semester. There, she intends to focus more on her teaching and less on her research, but she will certainly be continuing with Awakin. Although Chugani is moving, the values she lives by and speaks about will remain through Awakin.

An hour of meditation with strangers may seem daunting to some, but a simple conversation with the professor could be enough to encourage more students to try it. Perhaps Awakin will be as life-changing as it was for Chugani for whoever takes the leap and attends a session.

## Women’s History Month commences with event

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“We want to take this opportunity to commemorate women because we have a minority in society,” said Ragon.

She continued by saying that the inspirational women that she looks up to are her mother and women’s rights activist Sojourner Truth, disclosing that her mother has sacrificed so much and that Truth was influential as an abolitionist during slavery in the United States.

Akim Charles, a computer information systems major, shared the same thoughts as Ragon, explaining that women have been fighting for equality throughout time and are just as capable of accomplishing what men can. He mentioned that he is inspired by his mother who grew up in poverty but became a successful woman who provided for him.

At the event, students were encouraged to answer the question, “Why should we celebrate women?” on a billboard. The written responses included “Because they are empowering,” “I am a strong woman because a strong woman raised me” and “Why not? We are awesome.”

Carlos Avila, a digital marketing major, said that there are few females who hold positions in government and he believes that women deserved to be treated like any other worker.

“That is why I like Ellen DeGeneres because the way she treats people is so unique. She rises above the differences,” he said.

Others said that it is important to bring awareness to Women’s History Month because women are stuck in the background sometimes, even though they can be masterminds.

“I took dance and felt uncomfortable in class because I was the only woman of color. I love Misty [Copeland] ... she is so pure-hearted,” said Lewis.

The event reflected how women can defy boundaries and work hard while rocking it.

“I took dance and I felt uncomfortable in class because I was the only woman of color. I love Misty [Copeland] because she does something out of love, not because she is a woman. She is so pure-hearted,” said Jasmine Lewis, a journalism major. Lewis looks up to Copeland, a woman who became the first African-American principal dancer at the American Ballet Theatre.


Students were offered pins and enjoyed treats such as brownies, cupcakes and Starbucks coffee.

“The pins are cute and the food is an added bonus,” said Susy Camacho, a marketing major and representative senator in the Undergraduate Student Government. “This events brings awareness so we can come together and make a difference.”

Students were further encouraged to pose in the photo booth holding pictures of women such as artist Frida Kahlo, Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, Senator Elizabeth Warren and tennis players Selena and Venus Williams.


Ragon concluded the event by saying that the committee hopes to give women a voice.

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# Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## On-time graduation initiative may face surprising difficulties

Starting in the Fall 2017 Semester, Queens College, a senior college part of the CUNY system, will offer a new program that is meant to motivate incoming freshmen to graduate within four years, the *New York Daily News* reports.

The program will offer undergraduate students access to academic advisement and priority registration in order to ensure that students graduate on time.

To qualify for the program, the newspaper further explains, students must take 15 credits in the Fall 2017 semester and earn 30 credits per year.

Queens College President Felix V. Matos Rodriguez believes that 1,500 freshmen will sign up for the program.

Queens College’s current graduation rate stands at 30 percent for its undergraduate students. However, this rate is based solely on the number of students who graduate within four years.

The article does not explain the consequences if the students do not meet the yearly requirement.

On one hand, Queens College should be applauded for motivating students who are trying to graduate on time. With about 19,000 students, it is likely that classes at Queens College can fill up quickly. Freshmen who do not have priority registration may log into CUNYfirst only to find out that the classes they picked out for the next semester are already closed. Thus, priority registration would strongly benefit these students.

However, there are several factors that make the program seem unsustainable or doomed for failure.

The Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York has long reported that CUNY needs to hire more professors and pay fairer wages to both full-time faculty and adjunct professors. A program that requires students to maintain 30 credits per year may put more strain on understaffed colleges. For example, some professors may be asked to give their lectures to a larger number of students. Therefore, in order for the program to work, colleges may need to invest in hiring more faculty.

The program also puts some students at a disadvantage. Students who work full- or part-time in order to pay their tuition or bills will now be forced to register after students who have the time to take 30 credits per year.

CUNY officials might have a lot to consider before the program is implemented, especially if they plan to expand it to other colleges.

## Media ban infringes on democracy

President Donald Trump barred multiple media outlets from an off-camera press briefing with White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Feb. 24. Outlets such as the BBC, BuzzFeed, CNN, the Guardian and *The New York Times*, among others, were denied access.

The off-camera briefing took place in Spicer’s office, instead of typically used James S. Brady Press Briefing Room, in lieu of his typical daily briefing. Media that was allowed access included conservative outlets such as Breitbart News and television networks ABC, CBS, Fox and MS-NBC. Both *The Associated Press* and *Time* were allowed entry, but chose to boycott the meeting.

Freedom of the press is a constitutional right in the United States and a foundational element of the nation as a whole. Media stands as another check on government, keeping the public informed on what elected officials are accomplishing and whether they are fit to lead.

While Trump has the right to both allow and deny access to various media organizations, actually exercising that right represents an unprecedented turn toward opaqueness.

Government needs to be held more accountable; media is an arm of the people and should not be barred from receiving information that is in the interest of the people.



REBECCA VICENTE | THE TICKER

## Le Pen has right to refuse headscarf

Women who are not religious should not be chastised or scolded for refusing to wear religious attire

Right-wing French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen canceled a meeting with Lebanon’s Grand Sunni Muslim Mufti Sheikh Abdel-Latif Derian. Le Pen arrived, prepared to meet with the Grand Mufti, when she was presented with a headscarf that she was expected to wear to the meeting.

Upon being asked to wear the headscarf, Le Pen responded with “You can pass on to the Grand Mufti my considerations, but I will not cover myself up.” Le Pen then canceled the meeting and walked back to her car.

Le Pen had informed the Grand Mufti that she would not wear a headscarf during the meeting, yet he did not cancel the meeting and she was still presented with a headscarf upon her arrival.

This appears to be a power play on the Grand Mufti’s part. The Grand Mufti may have assumed that once Le Pen was in the situation, she would back down and don the headscarf for the meeting.

The Grand Mufti was evidently wrong. When presented with the headscarf, Le Pen stood her ground and did exactly as she said she would, which was to refuse to cover herself.

It was not a religious ceremony, nor was it located in a sacred place. For a secular, political meeting, Le Pen should neither have been forced to nor expected to wear a headscarf to meet with the

Grand Mufti.

Since the cancelation of the meeting, Le Pen has come under scrutiny for refusing to wear the headscarf presented to her.

However, she is not the first woman to refuse to wear a headscarf to a meeting—Laura Bush, Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama all refused to wear a headscarf to political meetings.

Instead of facing criticism like Le Pen, all of these women were praised and rightfully so. It is one thing to be asked to wear a headscarf in a place of worship, like in a mosque or during sacred ceremonies, but non-Islamic women should never be forced to cover themselves up in a secular place.

Women have worked for centuries to be regarded as equals and, in many ways, women are still not there. There are many hurdles, especially in politics, that women have yet to clear.

In meetings with officials and heads of state, all of these women, Le Pen included, want to be looked upon as equals and treated with the same respect that any man would get. Wearing a headscarf at a man’s demand directly goes against that fight for equality and respect.

Had Le Pen given in and worn the headscarf for the meeting, she would have accepted a position as a subordinate figure who is not to be taken seriously.

It was more effective for her to refuse the meeting, proving

her ability to stand by her beliefs, than to have given in to the Grand Mufti’s demand of her covering herself up.

It is necessary to respect all of the women who choose to wear a headscarf of their own volition due to their religious beliefs.

They must wear their headscarves with pride and let nobody tell them that they are oppressed. The decision that they made when they put on that headscarf in the morning is theirs and only theirs.

However, no woman should be forced to cover herself up in front of a man because of his religious beliefs. Oppression begins when there is no longer a choice.

Le Pen did the right thing when she stood by her choice. In the decision between covering herself up and meeting with the Grand Mufti as a subordinate or refusing altogether, Le Pen chose to stick to her guns and her decision should be respected rather than ripped apart.

As an individual, Le Pen should be commended for her decision. Women should never be subjected to do something they do not want to do on their own. Women should also not be expected to do things that are outside of their interests. By being resolute, Le Pen demonstrated a strong stance that emphasized her strong personality and leadership tactics.

-Deanna Pisacreta  
Economics '20

## Background checks need enforcement

According to the Gun Violence Archive, 2,365 gun deaths, 4,558 gun injuries, 317 unintentional shootings and 54 mass shootings have occurred in the United States as of press time. The United States is no stranger to gun incidents, with gun regulations and gun rights being hot topics of discussion for the longest time.

Purchasing a gun is easy since guns are accessible to the general public. Hundreds of retailers throughout the country sell them, including major retailers such as Walmart and localized family-run shops such as Ken’s Sporting Goods & Liquor Store in Oregon. Prospective gun owners can attend weekly gun shows that take place throughout the nation and buy one.

People can also purchase guns from family members or neighbors. In most states, guns can legally be sold between private parties, like friends or acquaintances. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, "large numbers of firearms are

sold anonymously" at more than 4,000 gun shows each year.

Guns can also be advertised for sale online, but federal law states that the actual sale of the firearms must happen at a licensed store. There, potential gun buyers would be required to go through extensive background checks.

Background checks are required only for in-store purchases, but not for purchasing firearms at gun shows. Gun buyers are mandated to fill out a form from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms prior to purchase. In the form, Social Security Number is listed as optional, but recommended, which demonstrates the bare requirements necessary for identification.

After answering questions pertaining to criminal and mental background, the store then calls the FBI, where the organization runs a background check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. According to CNN, this background check can

take just minutes to administer.

The problem is that it is very rare that people are denied because of a negative background check, which occurs less than 1 percent of the time. The FBI’s website states, “More than 100 million such checks have been made in the last decade, leading to more than 700,000 denials.” The number of people who get denied is not in proportion to the number of people who get approved. Background checks need to be tighter and proper identification must be mandatory.

Many people wonder how the new administration is going to have an impact on gun sales. Many gun supporters feared that if Hillary Clinton won the presidency, there would now be tighter gun restrictions. Under President Donald Trump, however, CNN Money states that background checks have dropped by 20 percent this year.

-Stephanie Edwards  
Business Communications '18

## The Ticker

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The Ticker is published 25 times a year. All work except printing is done by undergraduate students at Baruch College. Please direct all display and advertising questions to the advertising manager. All other queries may be directed to [editor@theticker.org](mailto:editor@theticker.org). Alternately, you may reach us via mail or telephone. Our office is open during regular school hours.

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Suite 3-290  
New York, NY 10010  
(646) 312-4710

Volume 111, Issue 5  
Established 1932 | © The Ticker 2017



# Board of directors needs additional student input

## THE USG REPORT



DANIEL DORNBAUM

Every semester, students pay a student activity fee, which provides additional funding for athletics, clubs and organizations, student government and student media outlets. While part of the money is devoted to printing and technology fees, the other portion is spent on activities and events.

Each year, if these organizations do not spend the money that they are allocated, they generate a surplus fund that can be utilized at a later date. Baruch College's board of directors oversees this pool of money and votes on the allocation of these funds.

As president of the Undergraduate Student Government, I sit on the board along with four other undergraduate students, one graduate student, members of the faculty and staff and two independent directors, who are former students.

The board meets once a month to vote on funding proposals brought to us based on the activity fee. Despite the frequency of board meetings, students are hardly ever present.

Students get to vote for their student representatives who sit on the board, but do not have much of a say after that—we want to turn

that concept on its head.

Over the next two months, USG will be rolling out our participatory budgeting initiative. This will give students who are interested in completing large-scale projects around the school a chance to see their ideas come to life. All ideas are welcome no matter how big or small they are. The proposed projects will be funded through the USG surplus.

Through the month of March, USG will facilitate a number of workshops that will allow students to brainstorm ideas in order to help the Baruch community. From there, we will flesh out the ideas and formulate in-depth proposals for the various projects.

We will work with the respective departments around campus to make sure that all projects are within the realm of feasibility. At the end, we will create a final list of projects.

These projects will go on the USG ballot at the end of April so that all students may vote on them. This will allow students to still have a voice in our government, even if they do not have time to be completely involved in the process. The projects that receive the most votes will be funded.

No one knows the needs of Baruch better than the students and, through this process, we will give you a voice and a vote to address these needs. As the process moves forward, we hope that you will join us and work to make Baruch a better place for all.

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

# Bannon acts as Trump's puppeteer

## THE POLITICKER



REUVEN GLEZER

There are plenty of unexpected elements to the presidency of Donald Trump, but perhaps one of the more worrisome of those elements is the former Breitbart Editor-in-Chief Stephen Bannon.

When Bannon was hired on as the head of Trump's presidential campaign, a door opened up that led to his appointment to the position of adviser to the president in the form of chief strategist. The revitalizer of the "platform for the alt-right" essentially became one of the most powerful men in the nation with the flick of a pen.

Bannon is also a very dangerous man—he is a citizen whose flames of xenophobia and nationalism have been given fuel with his nomination. He certainly does not want to see those flames extinguished.

Bannon's previous publication, Breitbart News, prides itself on being an alternative voice in a media landscape its readers view as too liberal. Readers also regard mainstream media as a stumbling block in national progress.

However, the readers have a regressive view of progress, one that relies on dated notions about equality, race and women that would fit better in the 1960s than it would today. The ultra-conservative news organization positions itself as a voice for those ignored

by ignoring all other voices, especially if those voices are not male, straight and white.

The organization is not above clickbait and regressive material is constantly being promoted on its site. Claims have ranged from former President Barack Obama being a Muslim born in Kenya, a theory Trump happily gave credence to in his reality star days, to indirectly leaking sexually explicit photos of Anthony Weiner in the wake of one of his sexting scandals. The more shocking, ethically gray the material, the better. While Breitbart has always attempted to defend its material, it always fell back into the pit of radically conservative journalism without fail.

Now, Breitbart's former executive chair has the ear of an easily angered, incompetent man, who just so happens to be the new leader of one of the most powerful nations in the world. Trump's own ideological alignment with Bannon only serves to amplify a terrifying future for the United States.

Bannon is not a man above the failures of his peers or former employees. Breitbart, after all, is a brand he helped build. This is not an example of a man moving onto better, brighter things. If anything, he is an example of a malevolent force spreading through the government.

Trump is not a man capable of significant decisions, let alone rational-decision making. That is what Bannon is for—a man who, despite his disgusting encouragement of bigoted voices in the media, is an intelligent, charismatic personality in Trump's inner circle. It would not be too much of a stretch to imagine Trump more as a puppet for the ideas of Bannon, whose own motivations he has kept as hazy as possible.

What perhaps is most worri-

some is the way Bannon changed the landscape for the outdated views of the alt-right. Even the term "alt-right" is an attempt at normalizing and including out-right dangerous figures, such as neo-Nazi Richard Spencer. It is through such normalization that societies become regressive and irrationally defensive. To the fascist elements of the alt-right whose voices get louder and louder every day, there is an "us" and a "them." The only question that remains is who is on which side and, more importantly, who gets to choose the requirements.

Right now, that man is Bannon. He may not be giving many interviews or comprehensive details about his role as the adviser to Trump, but the slow and steady rise of the voices Breitbart gave megaphones to is an indicator. It indicates a world where hurting people for the purpose of an imaginary common good is just another day for the United States, a world where people of color, non-heterosexual people and women need to fear for their well-being and safety.

The question left is what can be done. The first step, always, is to reinforce the idea that the country Bannon envisions is not one that can be created. In a nation where everyone is welcome, no matter his or her economic background, race or religion, there must be an affirmation that everyone is safe. Everyone must be reminded that he or she will be safe in a world of discrimination and fear. Everyone must be reminded that he or she will be safe from the likes of Bannon.

*Reuven Glezer is a sophomore studying Literary Form and Writing. He is a frequent contributor to The Ticker and an editor for Refract Magazine.*

# Privatization benefits space exploration

## A "competitive entrepreneurial approach" to space exploration signals renaissance on the horizon

Recently, astronomers found at least seven additional planets located about 40 light-years away, a discovery that has once again spurred talks about expanded space travel and exploration.

The planets, all of which were found orbiting the "ultra-cool dwarf" star TRAPPIST-1, are around the size of Earth. Since the planets are in temperate zones, it is possible that they could have water on the surface and may even support life. The exoplanet TRAPPIST-1f seems like the best for the job even though it is a little colder than Earth. The planets do not get much light but their temperatures do not vary considerably from Earth's.

This discovery might prompt some people to recall science-fiction movies and television shows, like Stargate, Star Trek and Star Wars. It seems like modern-day science and technology are finally catching up to those once fantastical concepts. Space travel has been possible for decades and it is time for the dream of commercial space flight to become a reality.

Under President Donald Trump's administration, this might actually become a possibility. The president wants to take space exploration to the next level with what former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich calls a "competitive entrepreneurial approach." This means moving NASA away from using private contractors like Boeing. Instead, private companies like Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin will start to play a bigger role in space exploration.

Trump's plans call for a "space industrialization initiative," in which NASA's \$19 billion yearly budget will be refocused. This new strategy will prioritize economic

growth and the creation of new partnerships to create private sector jobs. This fits in with Trump's promises for more jobs. His direction could possibly create \$1 trillion per year and lead to U.S. domination of the space economy. However, Trump and his advisors are not the only ones who want to steer NASA in this direction.

Andrew Aldrin, son of famous astronaut Buzz Aldrin, highlighted the economic benefits of privatizing space exploration, arguing that it could help NASA bring more momentum to its human space program.

NASA's program has been stalled since 2011 following the retirement of the space shuttle fleet. Aldrin believes that getting more investment in commercial markets can offer a better foundation for projects within human space travel. NASA has not yet been able to jumpstart these projects.

Aldrin states that even with clear interest for commercial travel, some people would also want to maintain "programmatic continuity" for fear that NASA will not stay relevant.

Thankfully, the new administration has already planned for this. Trump stressed that NASA will still be active, but geared more toward deep-space exploration technology rather than low-earth orbit activities.

These plans include the promotion of space tourism, the creation of private space stations, more satellite installations and even industrialization, such as the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and the creation of new materials.

These are things Gingrich said would not be possible with NASA. Gingrich does not believe any program governed by bureaucrats

takes necessary risks or accepts its failures. These flaws, Gingrich says, deter progress.

The battle over whether space travel will become privatized is just beginning. Trump has not even named a NASA director yet and all the talk has caused workers to feel uneasy. Lori Garver, former deputy administrator of NASA during the Obama administration, said that the former administration had wanted to head in the same direction as the current one but made little progress because of congressional pushback.

Even though privatizing will create more jobs, lawmakers are wary because they do not know exactly what those jobs will be. Additionally, they are afraid that, since NASA will lose the privilege of contracting jobs within their districts, the program will go awry. Despite their opposition, privatization seems to be the right option and will allow NASA to regain its former prestige while making space travel more accessible and profitable.

Researchers plan to spend the next decade studying the atmosphere of the planets to find out for sure whether or not they can sustain life.

Even with commercial space flight being an option in the near future, average citizens will not get the chance to touch down on these planets since it would take millions of years to reach them. Additionally, it would take immense wealth that, apart from the 1 percent, nobody can access. However, every step toward privatization is surely one that leads to the TRAPPIST-1 solar system.

*-Jessica Kraker  
English '18*

# GOP officials face backlash from constituents

Republican lawmakers returned home last week during the first congressional recess of the new year. Many of them come from areas that voted overwhelmingly for President Donald Trump.

Upon their return, they were not treated with a warm welcome. Instead, across the nation, they were met with jeers and chants of "tell the truth" and "do your job."

Angry constituents yelled a myriad of questions on topics ranging from education, the environment and the president's links to Russia. The most poignant questions were about the Affordable Care Act or its more colloquial term "Obamacare."

One of Trump's campaign promises was the immediate repeal of Obamacare, something Republicans have been wanting to do for the past eight years. Unfortunately for them, it is a lot easier said than done.

Even the former Speaker of the House John Boehner casted doubt on the repeal's prospects. "I shouldn't have called it repeal and replace because that's not what's going to happen. They're basically going to fix the flaws and put a more conservative box around it," he said in a press release.

The main problem is the lack of clarity of what exactly the replacement plan looks like—not even the Republican Party knows. According to Boehner, "In the 25 years that I served in the United States Congress, Republicans never, ever one time agreed on what a health-care proposal should look like. Not once."

Obamacare allows kids to stay on their parents' healthcare plan until they reach the age of 26. It also does not let people with pre-

existing conditions get turned away from coverage.

In many town hall meetings, people tell real stories about how Obamacare has helped them and their family. In Arkansas, one woman told her senator that three people in her family would be dead without the ACA. A farmer in Iowa told his representative that they were creating "one great big death panel" if they repealed Obamacare and, instead, implored that Congress should improve the act.

For years since its implementation, misinformation about Obamacare has spread like wildfire. Republican lawmakers bring up factually inaccurate points, like "death panels," to discredit the law. The unorganized Democratic Party has utterly failed to defend the law and shoot down these myths.

A poll by Morning Consult found that 35 percent of U.S. citizens thought the Affordable Care Act and Obamacare were either two completely different policies or did not know whether they were the same or different. Further findings showed that 45 percent of U.S. citizens did not know that Obamacare might get repealed.

This confusion can shape the public debate over the health care law. The public's response is democracy at work. Voters are voicing their concerns to their representatives.

They are not being paid to show up and the notion that they are insulting. These are people with real problems who are rightly demanding answers. Repealing this law without a replacement plan will result in people dying or losing their quality of life.

*-Davon Singh  
Digital Marketing '18*



# Partisanship jeopardizes objectivity

Necessary questions arise over the trustworthiness of media outlets covering Trump's administration

When former National Security Adviser Mike Flynn was forced to resign, everyone seemed enthralled. ABC, BBC, CNN, MSNBC, NBC and most other major news networks covered the story extensively. Fox News, however, tried to avoid it, giving the topic significantly less air time on its network.

The network's primetime heavy-hitters, Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly, grazed over the topic as carefully as possible. Both hosts spent significantly less time on the issue than the other networks. During the time that they spent discussing the issue, however, they made the issue appear less significant than it actually was.

For example, O'Reilly acknowledged Flynn's resignation only in passing and then spent the rest of the segment criticizing CNN, *The New York Times* and the rest of "Trump haters" for "whipping up hysteria."

Rather than getting to the crux of the issue and covering Flynn's resignation, Fox consultants took a detour and decided to put a headlight on issues that have not even been brought up originally.

Media bias has been a pervasive issue across all cultures for decades. Ever since President Donald Trump's unprecedented rise to power, traditionally conservative media outlets and their liberal counterparts seem to exist on different planets. This creates

the belief that the media is a divisive instrument that is followed by certain types of people. Fox, for example, seems to attract more conservative readers. CNN, on the other hand, seems to attract more liberal readers.

MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell sees Flynn as the possible catalyst for Trump's impeachment, while O'Reilly sees him as a victim of the hysterical left-wing media. This is just one of the countless examples that divides the press every day.

Even Trump himself has taken a stand against what he considers biased reporting and has banned several media outlets from White House press briefings, citing their tendency to spout what he likes to call "fake news."

Coincidentally, all of the media outlets that are banned are the same ones that have broken myths and have linked Trump to Russia over the past several weeks. Trump's relentless condemnation of the media once again raises the issue of a distinctly partisan style in reporting.

With growing concern among U.S. citizens about Trump's possible connections to Russia, the media serves as the public's only key to knowing the truth. White House advisers, including Kellyanne Conway, have been caught in several lies over the past few months and have even gone as far to dub these lies as "alternative facts."

Alternative facts are not facts

and the White House has not been consistent in telling the public the truth.

Trump feels the need to attack some members of the press because they have the ability to find out potentially damaging truths and present them to the people of the United States. This knowledge can perhaps add to the growing call for his impeachment or lead to him not getting reelected four years down the road.

Fox does not have to worry about suffering Trump's wrath. As long as Hannity and O'Reilly continue to pass the blame to the liberal press rather than question the president and his administration, Fox will be safe.

Partisan media has always existed and will always exist, but now its implications have extended to the highest office in the country. The president himself has become an extension of the partisan media, sending out his advisers to cite "alternative facts" and shun those who do not cover his administration the way he wants it covered.

The best thing the people of the United States can do, regardless of political affiliation, is stay informed. It is critical that one consumes media from multiple sources.

The public needs to confirm stories and facts with several media outlets before holding them as truths. The public needs to question everything.

In the United States, the people still hold the power, and knowledge is indeed power, which only makes it more troubling that Trump wants to deprive the media of it as much as possible.

-Evan Lewis  
Political Science '19

# Supreme creates frenzy

The MTA-Supreme partnership generated a lot of public demand

In a recent collaboration with the MTA, the streetwear brand Supreme launched a limited run of MetroCards with the brand's logo last week. With Supreme's immense worldwide popularity, the demand for these branded MetroCards was incredibly high.

The MetroCards were sold at the only Supreme store in New York City and in seven different train stations. People waited for several hours to purchase the MetroCard that retailed for the regular price of \$5.50.

Supreme first launched in 1994 in New York City with skaters as its target market. The brand has unique marketing plans such as only manufacturing a limited amount of merchandise, which makes its supplies incredibly difficult to obtain at retail price.

With only ten stores in the world, the opportunity to purchase items is extremely limited. As a result, Supreme products are sold out within mere minutes after being put up for sale on its online store. The brand also releases new clothing every week for every season to keep up the hype. Consumers known as "hypebeasts" frequently buy as much Supreme merchandise as possible in order to sell it for major profit.

The brand has an anarchical message that tells consumers to spend their money on what they want without second thought. The message addresses various current political and social issues that may appeal to many people.

Supporters value the authenticity that has made Supreme and its loyal fans a society of their own. Collaborations with major brands, such as Nike, North Face and Playboy, feature prominent artists like Lady Gaga, Gucci Mane, Kate

Moss, Mike Tyson and Neil Young. Due to Supreme's limited supplies and its extraordinary popularity, many people who have access to its items are not necessarily fans of the brand but are simply looking to make profit.

A Supreme T-shirt that featured Moss retailed for about \$40 but is currently being resold on eBay for upward of \$500. Items are generally resold for at least double the price of the retail price and the most popular items are sold at a reckless amount that is significantly higher than the original price.

The branded Supreme MetroCard is currently facing resell of up to \$1,000 on eBay. Using the MetroCard to access the train may be the last reason many people want to obtain it. Owning the card is more symbolic because it is more about the brand and the feeling of possessing something that is so hard to obtain.

People from countries such as Indonesia and Mexico are ordering these MetroCards from resellers. Supreme's reputation in today's pop culture has made this collaboration fruitful for the MTA.

It is the legacy of this brand that makes Supreme an advantageous collaborator. While it may be a good financial idea for the MTA to work with other brands to continue to produce special-edition MetroCards, the effects will not be the same as they were with Supreme.

Supreme is in high demand all over the world, which differentiates it from many other brands. For the MTA, the chaos is over. For Supreme fans, however, the brand will continue its weekly release schedule.

-Yesenia Barrios  
English '18

Ever since President Donald Trump's unprecedented rise to power, traditionally conservative media outlets and their liberal counterparts seem to exist on different planets.

# Students should strive to keep Baruch hygienic

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

While it is easy to get carried away in personal or academic priorities, it is important to note that these habits affect the people in our community far more than they affect the person who does not maintain a clean environment. This begs more attention in helping to maintain classroom environments through simple actions such as thoroughly taking care of our own trash or looking out for trash around us. These actions can promote cleanliness throughout Baruch's common space.

Filthy bathrooms are often an obstacle to students, especially those who spend upward of five hours per day on campus. These students are often forced to shift from stall to stall to find a toilet that is sanitary enough to use and, even then, may choose to refrain from physically touching the seat by squatting instead. This tactic may help keep the student clean, but many students fail to clean the space after themselves, further contributing to the problem.

It is not uncommon to encounter toilet seats marked with blood and other unsanitary fluids.

Because of these unsanitary conditions, custodians are forced to constantly shut down bathrooms in high-density areas. Students are then forced to travel to different floors just to relieve themselves.

These cleanliness issues also extend to students who carelessly litter food, resulting in vermin that plague the club suite area. Janitors are constantly placing traps to capture mice and, while some mice often get caught, it does not erase the initial accelerator of the issue—students who lack a respect

for their surroundings.

Classrooms in the NVC are also plastered with signs from the CUNY Baruch Task Force in Sustainability's 2012 "Take it With You" campaign, which encourages students to take their garbage with them from inside classrooms to trash cans past hallways.

While it is commendable and necessary to put effort into conservation and recycling, there is still a pressing issue with students who refuse to comply to dispose of trash and end up littering throughout the campus five years later. While this is a noble effort, it does not help that these posters fade into the classroom walls. Many students do not even notice their presence or simply ignore them.

Recycling and taking care of litter is not an easy problem to remedy, but taking trash cans out of classrooms and replacing them with poorly placed posters does not do justice for the issue either. Littering is a complex issue that requires reinforcement and constant reminders in order to make sure that everyone practices conservation in the way that it is required of them.

It is necessary that the Baruch community, as a whole, becomes more proactive about the mess that its students are leaving behind and take the time to reflect on how to tackle this problem.

Whether one is at Baruch as full-time faculty or a part-time student, we should all begin viewing the campus as our home away from home and the home of our friends and colleagues, taking the time and effort to treat the building with respect.

-Bianca Monteiro  
Journalism '19

# Immigrant raids must forego warnings

Consequences must be preceded by warnings for undocumented people subjected to repercussions

The subject of how the U.S. government should enforce immigration laws has always been fragile. The current political climate does not make the topic any easier to discuss, especially given the fact that refugees are facing restrictions on coming to the country.

Many people favor enforcement through raids, citing the need to strictly adhere to immigration laws. Others feel raids are inhumane because they create fear and can tear families apart.

Most immigrants come to the United States to live better lives. Even immigrants who resort to criminal activity may have initially come to the United States to pursue greatness.

The United States was built by slaves and immigrants. The nation thrives as a melting pot, a country that proudly welcomes immigrant groups of all backgrounds.

Immigrants have worked hard to make sure that their offspring are now significant contributors to society and have the chance to succeed.

Many immigrants have fulfilled the "American dream," themselves, or made it possible for their children and their grandchildren. Various immigrant groups have worked tirelessly and continue to contribute to the nation's culture.

Moreover, a lot of immigrants are employed in fields with less desirable work conditions, such as agriculture, animal slaughter, construction, grounds keeping and service work in which many U.S. citizens may have no interest.

This is not to say that all immigrants who arrive to the United States have limited skills. The country's laws require professionals from other countries to be re-

examined and, sometimes, repeat parts of their higher education to meet domestic standards. This practice occurs most often in the medical and engineering fields.

Businesses turn to foreign labor not just for cost-effectiveness but because they cannot find enough U.S. citizens who are willing to do the work.

Research on the relationship between undocumented citizens and the U.S. economy demonstrates that many of the jobs immigrant workers do remain paramount to the for-profit functioning of U.S. society.

The United States needs immigrants in order to flourish. For instance, within the farming and manufacturing industries alone, the total number of immigrant workers is astounding.

However, better immigration enforcement methods are necessary in order to avoid traumatizing those who are in pursuit of a better life. The U.S. government, no matter the price tag, should set up programs that make it easy for illegal immigrants to become U.S. citizens.

Illegal immigrants should be required to attend courses that teach them the basics of both the English language and U.S. history and culture. Immigrants who are enrolled in the program should also be ordered to do community service work for a minimum of three hours per week.

Immigrants who have legally gone through this process of becoming U.S. citizens would have an in-depth knowledge of U.S. civics.

Furthermore, the program should require immigrants to pay a bit more in taxes for the first few years in the country without the risk of deportation looming over

If some immigrants choose not to comply with this equalizing government program, clear warnings should be dispensed, informing them of the consequences.

their heads.

After some years, immigrants should automatically be eligible for U.S. citizenship, be able to file the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form, get fingerprinted, attend a citizenship interview, participate in an oath ceremony and become a U.S. citizen. Such a program would greatly expedite the process of assimilation and registration as a U.S. citizen.

If some immigrants choose not to comply with this equalizing government program, clear warnings should be dispensed, informing them of the consequences. These consequences can include raids and possible deportation in order to ensure efficacy. Only after a fair amount of warnings have been issued should the U.S. government be allowed to conduct immigration raids.

Moving forward, law enforcement should let current, non-criminal, illegal immigrants stay in the country and deport the ones who have committed high crimes, while rolling out immigration reforms.

-Christopher Rengifo  
Communications Studies '18





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# Business

## Uber’s wave of legal troubles reflect woes in company’s culture

BY YELENA DZHANOVA  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Ride-sharing titan Uber has been caught under fire lately for allegations of sexual harassment within the company and idea theft. Immediately following President Donald Trump’s refugee ban from seven Muslim-majority nations, many Uber users also deleted their accounts because it seemed like it encouraged drivers to try to make a profit out of the tense situation.

Since its launch, Uber has expanded to over 60 countries worldwide. In the United States, Uber employs over 160,000 drivers and data analytics show that more people rely on Uber for transportation rather than traditional yellow taxi cabs.

Recently, Waymo of Alphabet Inc., the self-driving car project under Google, sued Uber after discovering an email thread that contained carbon copies of Uber’s lidar circuit board, which bore remarkably similar attributes to the Waymo model. The plans were intended to be used to propel the self-driving car initiative.

On Feb. 23, Waymo filed a lawsuit against Uber, claiming that a former employee who now works for Otto stole the plans and distributed them to his network of colleagues. Otto is a subsidiary of Uber that now specializes in hardware and software for autonomous vehicles. Waymo’s staff had the plans under wraps for seven years and Otto’s staff released the plans just nine months ago.

Waymo blames Anthony Levan-



CALVIN RONG | THE TICKER

The ride-sharing giant is under fire for allegations ranging from sexual harassment to theft of Google’s self-driving technology.

dowski, former manager at the company, for stealing the files. The lawsuit says he stole over 14,000 top secret files. A colleague says that Levandowski disclosed plans to share them with and replicate them for a competitor. Levandowski left Waymo in January 2016 and went on to form Otto a few months after. Uber bought Otto in August for \$680 million.

Prior to the release of the secret plans, Alphabet aimed to manufacture self-driving cars using Google technology. Alphabet and Uber have a long-standing rivalry that “reflects an escalating talent war in the burgeoning autonomous-driving arena as tech

and auto companies alike compete for skilled engineers,” Bloomberg Technology says.

An Otto staff member accidentally forwarded the email thread in which the plans were contained to a Waymo engineer. Because the plans went through and Uber started to bank on the booming self-driving car industry, Otto benefitted with a collective sum of \$500 million in profit.

Claims of sexual harassment also made their way up to Uber’s Chief Executive Officer Travis Kalanick who requested that they get investigated promptly.

Susan Fowler, a former engineer for Uber, accused her supervisor of

having sexually harassed her. She reported the situation to the human resources department, but employees wrote her claim off in favor of her supervisor. Following these interactions, Fowler chose to leave the institution.

Fowler took to her own personal blog to disclose the incident. “When I reported the situation, I was told by both HR and upper management that even though this was clearly sexual harassment and he was propositioning me, it was this man’s first offense, and that they wouldn’t feel comfortable giving him anything other than a warning and a stern talking-to,” Fowler writes in the post. “Upper

management told me that he ‘was a high performer’ (i.e. had stellar performance reviews from his superiors) and they wouldn’t feel comfortable punishing him for what was probably just an innocent mistake on his part.”

Fowler reports in the post that she had been part of email threads that boasted inherently sexist content. A quarter of the engineers at Uber, she writes, were female when she joined the company. On her last day, only 3 percent of engineers employed were women.

When the post was published and circulated around the internet, Kalanick told *The New York Times* that he had only heard of the incident at that moment. After having learned of the incident, he pushed Liane Hornsey, Uber’s new chief of human resources, to conduct an investigation.

These allegations come at a time when Uber has seen partial reputation damage. Uber lost many users nationwide when drivers started to linger around airports to make extra profits during the detainment. Hundreds of thousands of people deleted their Uber accounts and the corresponding app from their phone to demonstrate their lack of support in light of the events.

Uber’s CEO also agreed to join Trump’s economic advisory council around the same time Uber drivers took advantage of the situation at local airports. Kalanick stepped down from the president’s business advisory council when customers criticized his affiliation with Trump, according to Bloomberg Technology.

## Zicklin School of Business hosts former US Treasury Secretary Lew

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Lew has also held positions outside of the government, serving as the managing director and chief operating officer in two different Citigroup business units. Prior to that, he was the executive vice president of New York University. He served on the board of City Year New York as well as the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities and the Hamilton Project at Brookings, among other organizations.

In his opening remarks, Lew commended Baruch College for its excellent business programs and its reputation as a school that has produced talented leaders from diverse backgrounds. Having grown up in New York as a child of immigrant parents, Lew touched upon issues related to immigration as well as the need for a wider inclusion of global economies.

“As someone who has spent a career helping to shape economic policy, I also know that immigration is one of the best ways to increase potential economic growth at a time when we look at constrained labor markets in the years ahead,” Lew said.

Lew added that the United States has been able to benefit from a fast-growing global economy both economically and in terms of security. He believes that some people today only see globalization as an opportunity for the affluent.

“We have to change the notion that, the growth comes, but only to those who own assets, those who are in large corporations [and] those who have a lot of wealth. And that if you are working for salary, the benefits of global growth and domestic growth that flows from international trade doesn’t get to working people,” Lew said.

He also highlighted several accomplishments of the previous administration, including promoting job initiatives and developing a more transparent financial system.

“By responding with urgently needed economic recovery measures and moving aggressively to shore up our financial system, we have proven yet again that sound public policy continues to make a difference,” Lew said.

Additionally, the United States has been more active in global economic affairs. With tensions rising in Iran, many did not believe that the U.S. government could successfully impose economic sanctions. Lew stressed the importance of creating peace under the nuclear deal and acting decisively.

“We proved that by sticking to your guns and being determined, putting the pressure in place, but also being willing to engage diplomatically we can get something very significant in terms of our national security done,” Lew said.

He added, “The key to future success is not separating countries in a way that will reduce overall global growth. The real solutions lie in innovation and a skilled workforce, which requires investments in education, research and infrastructure.”

Moving forward, Lew believes technology will continue to play a bigger role in the job market. He admits that it is crucial to teach people what the “economy of the future requires” so that they could learn the skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

Having spent the last four years working on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, Lew was also asked about his thoughts on the current relationship between the United States and the Asia-Pacific region. He responded first by calling the with-

drawal from the pact a “mistake,” arguing that the rules that were negotiated required high standard agreements that positioned the United States to “write the rules of the road for the next half century.”

Lew defined the relationship between China and the United States as “bilateral.” He emphasized the considerable amount of progress achieved in trying to push China toward policies that were more free-market oriented as well as the improvement in cooperation between the two nations in the Paris Agreement and the situation in North Korea. Lew also worked with governments in countries where the standards of oversight and reg-

ulation were not equal to that of the United States—“helping to put in place systems where banks could now know who they were doing business with.”

On the topic of the national deficit, Lew reiterated his view that Congress should remove the debt ceiling. He pointed out that the United States is just a few weeks away from hitting its limit once again, which will require the government to set a new borrowing cap.

“One of the things that created the United States as a superpower early in its existence was having an economy that was rooted in the full faith of credit,” Lew said.

Lew explained that debt should be evaluated as a percentage of GDP because the economy is growing every year.

He adds that the trajectory of debt-to-GDP today, compared to the ratio during the financial crisis, has dropped from nearly 100 percent to the mid-70s. The answer, he suggests, must come from a “combination of things” that start with bigger investments in education and research.

Looking back on his last four years in office, Lew shared that he is “enormously proud to be in an economy that is doing well and that is on a financial footing that is much better than where it was.”



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During the event, Lew spoke about several key issues, including the economy, immigration and trade.



# Buffett decries hedge fund managers

BY DILSHAN DOWLAH  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In his annual letter to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway, billionaire investor Warren Buffett applauded the U.S. economy along with his firm's performance as a conglomerate holding company, but criticized practices of Wall Street hedge funds.

What is seen in all of Buffett's annual shareholder letters is optimism for the future, fueled by impressive growth in the past. With a 14 percent increase in net income to \$6.29 billion from the prior year, strategic investments in the insurance and utility industries, among others, and successful long term deals with companies—such as the Bank of America deal, which can potentially bring the company \$10.5 billion at any moment until 2021.

Berkshire Hathaway has impressed the business world year in and year out. The most recent evidence of this is the firm's 23.4 percent increase in stock price in 2016.

Buffet, known as the "Oracle of Omaha" for his consistent record of over-performing the stock market for 50-plus years, is traditionally optimistic about economic prospects—regardless of how disheartening circumstances may be. With all the economic and political uncertainty from the Federal Reserve's anticipated interest rate hike to President Donald Trump's ambiguous rhetoric and policies, Buffett's opinion has not changed for 2017.

In his annual letter, Buffett writes, "Yes, the build-up of wealth will be interrupted for short periods from time to time. It will not, however, be stopped. I'll repeat what I've both said in the past and expect to say in future years: Ba-



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Buffett praised the performance of passive funds in his latest letter to shareholders.

bies born in America today are the luckiest crop in history."

Buffett, a vocal supporter of Hillary Clinton during the 2016 presidential election, strayed away from mentioning Trump or politics directly. He may have, however, aligned himself with those who criticize Trump through the mentions of the economic and historical significance of U.S. immigrants.

"Our efforts to materially increase the normalized earnings of Berkshire will be aided – as they have been throughout our managerial tenure – by America's economic dynamism. One word sums up our country's achievements: miraculous. Americans have combined human ingenuity, a market system, a tide of talented and ambitious immigrants, and the rule of law to deliver abundance beyond any dreams of our forefathers."

Buffett summarized his optimism for broad U.S. economic achievement—a quality of the United States that he credits in part to immigrants. This may be an indirect comment on recent politics, considering Trump's rhetoric and policies on immigrants in the United States.

Hedge fund and investment

managers of Wall Street took up a good portion of the 30-page letter as well. As a strong advocate of index funds, exchange-traded fund and generally less volatile sectors such as utilities, Buffett has supported passive investments over active investments for many years. Buffett criticized highly paid fund managers of Wall Street for over-promising and under-delivering, while collecting huge fees from their clients.

"When trillions of dollars are managed by Wall Streeters charging high fees, it will usually be the managers who reap outsized profits, not the clients."

Of the pages of data that backed up this argument, the most convincing was a bet that Buffett waged with asset manager Protege Partners, which involved comparing the performance of any five hedge funds with an unmanaged S&P 500 index fund over 10 years. Nine years in, Buffett's index fund, administered by Vanguard, increased 85.4 percent without any fees, while the average of the five funds is up a meager 22 percent—a profit that cost investors an average of 2 percent fixed annually and 20 percent of all profits.

# China appoints Guo to repair debt crisis

BY PAUL JOH  
BUSINESS EDITOR

In a recent meeting of the Chinese Communist Party's Politburo, President Xi Jinping appointed a new banking regulator chief to oversee the country's troubled financial system.

For decades, the world's second-largest economy reaped the benefits of over-leveraging, investing heavily in infrastructure and property projects to help boost the overall GDP. However, with debt levels in China climbing at an alarming rate, many economists fear that the country's credit growth is quickly approaching levels that are typically followed by recessions in most emerging markets.

Guo Shuqing, who was officially named the chairman of the China Banking Regulatory Commission on Feb. 24, spent the majority of his career in the financial industry. In his previous role, Guo battled insider trading, market manipulation and other fraudulent activity in China's stock markets as the head securities regulator. Guo's appointment comes at a critical time when the country's debt problem is at record highs.

According to a post on the Federal Reserve Bank of New York's blog, titled "Liberty Street Economics," China is responsible for nearly half of all the global debt created since 2005.

The blog states, "nonfinancial debt in China has increased from roughly \$3 trillion at the end of 2005 to nearly \$22 trillion, while banking system assets have increased six-fold over the same period to over 300 percent of GDP. In 2016 alone, credit outstanding increased by more than \$3 trillion, with the pace of growth still rough-



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With debt levels rising at a dangerous pace, China is turning to Guo for answers.

ly twice that of nominal GDP."

One of the main drivers of China's credit growth is related to the surge in bank lending following the global financial crisis. In addition, shadow credit, which has grown to become an integral part of the loan activity in the country, introduced new investments that are more uncertain and have a higher chance of default than normal loans. Shadow banking helps corporations in riskier sectors that have strict borrowing requirements take out credit "in the form of trust loans, entrusted lending, and undiscounted bankers' acceptances."

Furthermore, banks in China have increasingly relied on short-term investment products that are less stable to help finance their operations. This type of borrowing raises liquidity risks that could surface any time. Wealth management products, which have grown by \$4 trillion or 37 percent of GDP since 2011, were reported as the biggest liability for the banks last year.

With each additional yuan of credit proving to be less effective to overall growth, new reforms will

need to be implemented to minimize the bad loans and reduce the inefficiencies in the market. An article posted by the *China Daily* in May 2016 reported that China is taking serious measures to clean up its unprofitable state-owned enterprises known as "zombie" companies. Under the current plan, China will look to clean up as many as 345 of these companies over the next three years. In addition to this effort, the government has made plans to target lower output in its sectors suffering from overcapacity. These initiatives, along with a new regulator to lead them, will allow China to lift some of the burden that has weighed down its economy over the years.

Despite China's predicament, there are several features in its financial system that make the massive debt figures not as bad as they seem. The government's strong balance sheet suggests that the country has the resources to sustain itself in the wake of a financial crisis. However, China's complex banking system makes it too difficult for anyone to estimate the actual level of debt within the country.

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# Arts & Style

## Lifetime biopic fails to accurately depict Spears’ music career

BY ARTAN LJUKOVIC  
COPY EDITOR

For Britney Spears, the princess of pop music and the queen of tabloids, a biopic is just as inevitable as clouds on a rainy day.

In Lifetime’s version of her life’s events, *Britney Ever After*, there was a ton of rain and barely any sunshine as the biopic focused mainly on the rough patches that occurred at the peak of her career, with many of her accomplishments disregarded.

It goes without say that Spears is a cultural icon. Songs like “I’m a Slave 4 U,” “Oops!... I Did It Again,” “Toxic” and “Womanizer,” as well as the albums that those songs come from, assisted in having her career span for almost 20 years.

With a Grammy, multiple Video Music Awards and diamond album certifications from the RIAA, Spears’ legacy is only shadowed by one thing—her tumultuous personal life.

The biopic does a good job of reminding us of key events like her breakup with Justin Timberlake, her quickly annulled marriage to childhood friend Jason Allen Alexander, her marriage to backup dancer, Kevin Federline, the time she shaved her head and attacked paparazzi, as well as her highly publicized comeback at the 2008 Video Music Awards.

What the movie does not succeed in is portraying these events with accuracy or at least in a way that is aesthetically pleasing for the viewers. For one, none of Spears’ music was featured in the movie,

reminding viewers of Lifetime’s unauthorized Aaliyah biopic which was similarly panned by fans and critics, but not of the work Spears actually put in to achieve her status.

Key details that are important to fans of the singer were also disregarded. For example, the iconic denim dress that Spears once wore was changed to a pantsuit. Also, the hot pink wig that she was known to wear in 2007 was changed to purple instead.

Natasha Bassett, the actress who plays Spears, is originally from Australia which may explain why her southern accent became almost its own entity within the movie. She turned Spears into a live caricature that was a little too ditsy and too extroverted, much less enigmatic than the star actually is.

The writers relied a lot on speculation to propel the storyline and in order to craft its scenes, the directors and producers must have spent a lot of time studying magazine spreads and TMZ footage.

Unfortunately, it ended up becoming more about the singer’s battle with her mental health, her conservatorship and the paparazzi, a narrative that Spears has been trying to leave in the past for almost as long ago as the time she returned to the top of the charts back in 2008 with her comeback album, *Circus*. Only a few artists out there have been relevant long enough to be able to enter in and out of the spotlight when they please.

However, Spears’ comebacks became part of the movie’s narrative about 10 minutes before the movie ended, one of the only times



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Bassett plays Spears in Lifetime’s *Britney Ever After*, a biopic on the rise to fame, downfall, then return of the pop icon.

in the movie that a cohesive sequence of events was showcased.

The movie bounced back and forth between important years of Spears’ life and career like 2001, 2004, 2007, 2008, ending in 2013 when she announced her Las Vegas residency which continues until 2017.

The residency was noted for putting residencies back on the map, inviting artists like Mariah Carey and Jennifer Lopez to follow suit. For anyone watching the film

who is unfamiliar with Spears’ issues, this was a major flaw in the screenwriting.

Compared to the silver-screen biopics of artists with similar cultural standing like Selena Gomez, Notorious B.I.G. and N.W.A., this film was a disaster. One day, justice will come for Spears like it will come for artists such as Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson, whose small-screen biopics were also cinematic disasters.

In contrast, the production and

the release of VH1’s biopic of ‘90s girl group TLC was universally praised. Perhaps its success was due to Chilli and T-Boz’s involvement in the project.

Spears, who many claim to be an industry puppet, was portrayed in the movie as incapable of making her own decisions. The fact that a movie was done without her authorization is a testament to the fact that third parties are quick to portray events the way that suits them best.

## Best Picture mishap takes precedence over 89th Academy Awards

BY ANDREW MARZULLO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a night of celebration, unity, jubilation and falling candy, the 89th Annual Academy Awards ended with a great deal of controversy and confusion, as *La La Land*—which took home six Oscars after a record 14 nominations—was named Best Picture.

The cast and crew’s celebration would be short lived.

Presenter Warren Beatty was handed the wrong envelope sealed by accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers and after a moment of confusion, handed the envelope to co-presenter Faye Dunaway. Dunaway announced *La La Land* as the recipient of the Best Picture award. In reality, the envelope was a spare envelope declaring Emma Stone as Best Actress.

The film’s producers gave heartfelt speeches with their awards, just to be informed they were not the intended recipients of the award.

*Moonlight* was the actual winner of the award. Its sudden rise from anonymity was seen as a surprise to many people.

The underdog pulled off the upset but was not able to completely enjoy its moment of triumph, as most people were reeling from the shocking events.

Besides this major unprecedented gaffe, the show was actually a very successful one. It all started with the host.

Jimmy Kimmel did a fantastic job of hosting the show, as he continued his long-standing fake rivalry with Matt Damon, live tweeted President Donald Trump, asking “u up,” led a group of Hollywood tourists through the front row of the crowd and tried to promote Hollywood’s mostly diverse background.

Kimmel walked the very fine line of political moderation as he

called for unity regardless of political background and his handling of the mix-up at the end of the show has been universally praised. Most of the award winners were very moderate as well, taking only subtle jabs at Trump and his policies, leading to a night of little controversy in that regard.

While the host kept the show together, the award winners were the highlights of the spectacle.

Mahershala Ali won Best Supporting Actor for his powerful performance in *Moonlight*.

Ali made history as he was the first Muslim actor to ever win the award, which, in this time of great religious division in the United States, let the viewers hear from a man who belongs to an often persecuted demographic.

Ali, who rose to fame for his role as Remy Danton in Netflix’s *House of Cards*, delivered a poignant speech that encompassed the most powerful theme of the film—acceptance.

The award for Best Supporting Actress went to Viola Davis for her role in *Fences*. Her speech, in which she thanked God for blessing her with her parents and career, was an extremely moving speech that served as a reminder of a simple fact—everyone starts somewhere small and has to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Her speech put the whole night into perspective and united a crowd of Hollywood’s biggest stars under the idea that hard work, dedication and mastery of one’s craft can help a person reach his or

her biggest and brightest dreams.

There are many awards handed out during the Academy Awards ceremony that go to the masterminds behind the scenes. These people leave an indelible mark on the films they work on and without them, we would view their films differently.

The awards presented include Best Director, awarded to Damien Chazelle for his work in *La La Land*, Best Cinematography, awarded to Linus Sandgren for his work in *La La Land*, and Best Costume Design, awarded to Colleen Atwood for her work in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

John Gilbert won the award for Best Film Editing for his masterful job in *Hacksaw Ridge*.

Alessandro Bertolazzi, Giorgio

Gregorini and Christopher Allen Nelson took home the Best Makeup award for their work in *Suicide Squad*.

Other awards include Best Sound Mixing, awarded to *Hacksaw Ridge*, Best Sound Editing, given to *Arrival*, and Best Original Music Score and Best Original Song, both awarded to Justin Hurwitz for *La La Land*. Without these elements, the aforementioned movies would not be the same.

The people behind the scenes are recognized the same night as the icons of the silver screen, showing the true symbiotic relationship between the two facets of cinema.

The awards for Best Actor and Best Actress included a nomination pool of some of the most talented actors and actresses of today. Stone took the coveted award and promised to “hug the hell” out of everyone who helped her reach the pinnacle of her young career. Casey Affleck won the Best Actor award and showed true emotion and shock after winning the award, proclaiming he had wished he “prepared something better.”

As previously mentioned, the presentation of the biggest award of the night was marred in controversy, but it was *Moonlight* that beat out a plethora of incredible films to take home the award for Best Picture.

It was a triumphant moment, as the movie featured a mostly African-American cast, reviving the reputation of the Academy, which took a great deal of heat last year for not featuring any African-American nominees for Best Actor, Best Actress or Best Picture.

While the 89th Academy Awards may be remembered mostly for the closing show mishap, the ceremony was a wonderful celebration of cinema that will go down in history.



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Beatty explains himself after mistakenly announcing *La La Land* as the winner of Best Picture award at the Academy Awards.



# The LEGO Movie spinoff teems with humor and strong storyline

## REEL REVIEWS



BENJAMIN WALLIN

The Batman lore is expansive beyond comprehension. Comics, films, television shows and official merchandising are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the Caped Crusader's multifarious appearances.

The YouTube channel, "How it Should Have Ended," created the Batman the internet needed. The Make-a-Wish Foundation's activities in the documentary *Batkid Begins* utilized classic iconography to make a young boy a hero for a day.

In 2014, *The LEGO Movie* took the crossover possibilities of a world limited only by the ability of things to look like plastic bricks and made Batman a delightfully dark comic relief in an already hilarious movie.

*The LEGO Movie* successfully provided laughs at nearly every moment, then pulled a surprise move of having depth, cementing the film as more than just something to take the kids to watch. As a spin-off, *The LEGO Batman Movie* had a number of difficult hurdles to pass.

Losing the unexpected nature of its predecessor's humor and heart, *The LEGO Batman Movie* had to fly on its own merits. Will Arnett's rapping and commitment-phobic Batman would have to have the depth of a protagonist. Chief of all concerns would be the ability to balance the LEGO and the Batman

in the title, making a film which would appreciate and be keenly aware of both elements. This works out and the spin-off clears all of these challenges.

*The LEGO Batman Movie* is steeped in lore. It is very conscious of its existence within the extensive world of Batman stories. There are references to the 1960s series of *Batman* which stars Adam West. The villain, Bane, looks like he does in the comics, but sounds like Tom Hardy's much imitated performance from *The Dark Knight Rises*.

Locations, characters and song lyrics all come out of a long tradition about a man avenging the death of his parents. His parents are never shown dying, the scene having been worn-out long before Zach Snyder had his chance to make a stylized slow-motion version of the infamous murder.

When Batman's butler Alfred catches him staring wistfully at a picture from the night of the fateful act of violence, the latter reminds him of his "phases in 2016 and 2012 and 2008 and 2005 and 1997 and 1995 and 1992 and 1989 and that weird one in 1966." All of these years reference major Batman movies and are accompanied by imagery of such.

The laughs start coming from the very first moment of the film. Will Arnett's gravelly voice comes in over a dark screen, narrating everything down to the studio logos and the "[e]dgy, scary music that would make a parent or studio executive nervous." Batman fights an enormous crowd of villains, all the while singing music which derives mainly from the Batman theme song.

After beating up the bad guys and being carried out with a hero's procession by a hefty crowd of admirers, he flies back to the Batcave, where the rush of excitement and

noise suddenly disappears.

Batman is lonely. He lives in an isolated mansion with only his butler Alfred for company. He microwaves a plate of lobster and stands in his dark kitchen waiting, while the light slides over him from behind the glass door. This is one of the first examples of LEGO Batman's ability to use scale in comedy.

There are huge moments where the screen is bursting with characters and movement, the jokes coming in loud. Then there are the times of quiet, where even the small touches like accidentally punching in an extra zero on the microwave is a source of a groan from the protagonist and a laugh from the audience.

At a charity event, Batman, now posing as Bruce Wayne, accidentally adopts an orphan. The young boy is voiced by Michael Cera with

boyish charm. While the boy tries to make his way into Wayne's, and later Batman's life, Alfred tries to encourage the dark vigilante to start taking care of his adopted son.

This, coupled with a humorous exchange between Batman and the Joker all come down to one idea—Batman does not commit himself to any one. He has no sidekick or arch-villain.

Upon finding out that he is not Batman's main villain, the Joker decides to recruit villains from all across the LEGO multiverse. The expansive LEGO repertoire is brought out through the appearances of foes as varied as Godzilla, Daleks, Sauron and Voldemort. The narrative is well-focused, revolving around the main flaw Batman's character exhibited in *The LEGO Movie* and really building on it. *The Dark Knight* is a lone crusader.

At one point in the movie, Bat-

man visits Superman's Fortress of Solitude, only to discover a Justice League party going on without him. He is asked to take the group picture. As Wayne, he is expected to be living the high life, happy and rich, yet he is constantly alone even in a large crowd.

Though the theme is not quite as unexpected as the one which came out of *The LEGO Movie's* "Man Upstairs" twist, it is powerful and repeatedly argued through the film, bringing a necessary depth.

In *The LEGO Batman Movie*, the LEGO does not take away from the Batman and vice versa. Humor abounds and it is peppered with a strong character-centered storyline. The voice acting is superb and the action excites like any other Batman movie.

Within the expansive Batman universe, *The LEGO Batman Movie* stands out impressively.



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In *The Lego Batman Movie*, Wayne not only deals with the criminals of Gotham City, but also raising a boy he accidentally adopted.

# Harmon's Significant Other utilizes humor to represent millennials

BY MAXIM IBADOV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many people can find themselves having a moment where they are sitting on the floor, calling a best friend to tell them about a hot date they went on and generously sharing all the risqué details.

Those moments of bonding are among the most pleasant and intimate. Then one day, the friend does not pick up the phone. The line responds with haunting beeps. There are no options but to leave a voice message. These are the moments when the world is slowly falling apart.

In his Broadway debut, young playwright Joshua Harmon poignantly explores many themes in his new play *Significant Other*. Harmon is an alumnus of Roundabout Theatre Company's New Play Initiative, which godfathered another playwright prodigy, Stephen Karam. Karam is the author of a 2016 Best Play winner *The Humans*.

Almost two years after *Significant Other's* highly successful Off-Broadway run at RTC, Harmon's dedication to modern friendships lands on the Great White Way with a grand triumph.

Jordan Berman, played by Gideon Glick, lives in a big city. His friends Kiki, played by Sas Goldberg, Vanessa, played by Rebecca Naomi Jones, and Laura, played by Lindsay Mendez, are his life. All three actresses bring blunt realism to their portrayal of young women on their journey to becoming wives. They are all joyous and relatable.

When Berman's friends start finding their significant others and eventually get married, he feels abandoned. He is trying to be happy for them, but all in vain. His usually contagious positivity gets infected by sadness—a ruth-

less illness that eventually gets the best of him. He goes on many dates with various men, but nothing ever works out.

While his friends share their sheets with their partners, Berman goes to bed with his misery. He cries himself to sleep while desperately trying to figure out every little thing that is wrong with him.

Berman keeps asking himself if he will ever find a guy to spend the rest of his life with. Though he adores his friends, the person he feels most connected to is his beloved grandma Helene, played by Barbara Barrie. Living alone in her apartment while experiencing early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, Helene reminds her grandson that although life can be lonely, there is always somebody there for you.

Glick is a new shining star. He is absolutely brilliant in the role that

he was born to play. He portrays pain so realistically that it transmits into the heart of every audience member, opening scars of past troubles. His portrayal of Berman is a spectrum of feelings ranging from obsession to apathy, from desperation to glee.

The one thing that this play does masterfully is it shows how one feels after they shut the door of a lonely apartment. It is important to see on stage that the emotions one may feel are universal.

Harmon's play is the first true show about millennials on Broadway. Its language, themes, dialogues and jokes are all representative of the generation that formed in the world of social media and broken communication.

Despite the sentimental themes, this play is a comedy and the jokes are absolutely hysterical. Harmon's

comedic lines are so realistic that the laughs escape the viewers' bodies almost unconsciously. Audiences cannot help but conspicuously look at one another or mumble "that is so me" every once in a while.

The humor is the essence of this play. Even the most dramatic dialogues are full of sarcastic comments, emblematic of the generation that uses memes to deal with the realities of today's world.

*Significant Other* breathes with a lot of youth. The show opens with the characters jamming to Rihanna at a bachelorette party. To enrich the fresh feelings of the play, director Trip Cullam draws inspiration from the things we dedicate most of our time to—social media.

The set is constructed in square-like shapes that look like app icons and the lights are inspired by Insta-

gram filters. Life is depicted in this play in a realm that Broadway has not seen in a very long time.

*Significant Other* features no usual theatrical drama. There are no destructive family issues, terminal illnesses or abuse.

There is just the everyday, almost routine like, battle with destiny for one's happiness in life. The characters think that being happy means being loved or being with someone.

We are not defined by relationship status, but rather by connections with people. So instead of chasing a person to have a wedding with, the Bermans of this world should capture their youth with as many happy and sincere memories as possible.

We are only young once and if destined to be, our significant other will eventually come as well.

Audiences cannot help but conspicuously look at one another or mumble "that is so me" every once in a while. The humor is the essence of this play. Even the most dramatic dialogues are full of sarcastic comments, emblematic of the generation that uses memes to deal with the realities of today's world. *Significant Other* breathes with a lot of youth.



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Berman, played by Glick, struggles to find his significant other and desperately tries to figure out what is wrong with him.



# Hughes releases album after hiatus

BY LUIS LUCERO  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Glenn Hughes has quite possibly one of the most impressive resumes in music.

Starting his career with the cult classic funk rock trio Trapeze, the bass guitarist and singer found himself with various stints in a wide variety of groups over the years, including two iterations of hard rock mainstays Deep Purple, a handful of collaborations with Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi and the critically acclaimed blues rock super groups Black Country Communion and California Breed.

In the interim of his major projects, Hughes has also released several albums as a solo artist since 1977. After an eight-year hiatus, he finally has a new solo album, *Resonate*, out for longtime fans.

Prior to the 2010s, Hughes has always had a connection to soul and funk.

Whether it was Trapeze or Deep Purple’s dabbling into both genres during his tenure, he made it known that his Motown- inspired influences played an integral role in his singing style.

With Black Country Communion and California Breed, the former of which is also returning with a new studio album this May after a brief split, Hughes has shed the funk and soul in favor of full blown hard rock and blues rock that draws inspiration from his fellow contemporaries like Bad Company, Free and Led Zeppelin.

*Resonate*, musically speaking, seems to pick up where both projects left off and the end result is an album that leaves fans of both bands thoroughly satisfied.

The record gets things started quickly with “Heavy.” The title of the song is absolutely apt for both

the song and the album as a whole. The song grabs listeners with an intense assault of hard rock and only gets more powerful across all 11 tracks.

The energy of this song carries over throughout the whole album and there are hardly any moments to catch one’s breath.

To top it all off is Hughes’ voice, which does not seem to show any signs of aging whatsoever. Listening to this album, it is very easy to figure out why he is known as “the voice of rock” alongside legends like Robert Plant and Paul Rodgers.

Another aspect of Hughes that was quite surprising on this album was his bass playing.

While Hughes never claimed to be on the level of John Entwistle and Lemmy Kilmister, the bass guitar throughout this album is hard crunching and stands beside the guitar while still locking down a steady groove that drives the songs.

One area that contrasts the rest of the album is the lyrics. While the influence of 1970s hard rock is prevalent on the album, Hughes opts not to mimic the simple lyrical prowess of classic rock. Instead, he goes for a very introspective approach to the words.

Hughes tackles subjects like his newfound appreciation for life after becoming sober, his ambivalence toward the music industry and artists who do their music solely for monetary gain and his reconciliation with his sense of faith and religion.

Compared to what he has done in the past, solo or otherwise, this new album shows how far he has come along in the lyrical department.

While the whole album is nothing but heaviness all throughout, two tracks on the album provide light deviations from the album

that manages to bring musical diversity without killing the overall flow. “Landmines” sees Hughes paying tribute to the funk and soul influences that shaped his career and “When I Fall” is a ballad that dabbles in progressive rock with its heavy use of keyboards.

Hughes’ backing band, taken from his recent touring band, augments the overall classic rock sound for which the album is aiming.

Guitar work is handled by Soren Andersen, who ties together elements of all of the major guitarists that Hughes worked with including Ritchie Blackmore, the late Tommy Bolin and Joe Bonamassa, along with a more modern heavy metal sensibility.

For most of the album, Pontus Engborg is sitting behind the drum kit, bringing a sound that bears strong influence to classic drummers like John Bonham. On keyboards is Lachy Doley, providing the classic Hammond B3 organ sound that was heavily defined by both Deep Purple’s Jon Lord and Black Country Communion’s Derek Sherinian, all while incorporating elements of modern players like Jens Johansson.

For the opening and closing tracks, Hughes enlists the help of a longtime collaborator, drummer Chad Smith of The Red Hot Chili Peppers. Much like Hughes, Smith manages to transition impeccably across genres, giving a drumming performance that also has a lot of influence from both aforementioned drummers.

It might have taken eight years, but *Resonate* was definitely worth the wait.

For those looking forward to more of Hughes, as mentioned earlier, Black Country Communion will be returning this May for their long awaited fourth album.

# Fashion takes Oscars

The alternative funk legends take over Madison Square Garden

BY MAXIM IBADOV  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Who you are wearing is as prominent a question as who the winners of the night are going to be at the Oscars, a night of broken ambitions and embarrassing flubs.

Fashion at the Oscars has become such a crucial part of the biggest night in Hollywood that many people tune in just to see the exquisite dresses that fashion circles are going to be discussing for months.

This year’s Oscars’ fashion drama started even before the red carpet was rolled down Hollywood boulevard. Karl Lagerfeld, creative director of Chanel, told Women’s Wear Daily that the company made a custom gown for Meryl Streep, but the actress decided to go for another designer’s dress because they offered to pay her for wearing their dress. Lagerfeld even accused Streep of being cheap.

The celebrated actress did not take such accusations lightly and issued a public statement saying that being paid for wearing dresses is against her ethics. She also demanded an immediate apology from Chanel, which came in the following days.

On the night of the Oscars, Streep satisfied everyone’s curiosity by wearing Elie Saab, a designer who has once again proven to be one of the stars’ favorite choices for Oscars dresses. Streep, who was nominated for an award in the Best Actress category, paraded in a blue open shoulder gown, which consisted of pants under a lengthy skirt.

But the dress drama did not go unnoticed during the ceremony. In his opening monologue, the

host of the show, Jimmy Kimmel, made a joke out of it.

“Nice dress,” he said, addressing Streep. “Is that Ivanka?”

Singer-turned-actress Janelle Monae also wore an Elie Saab gown, with black and gold patterns and embroideries atop see-through silk. Emma Stone chose a ‘50s inspired mermaid dress, while Jessica Biel and Dakota Johnson opted for long sleeve golden dresses. Johnson, however, fell flat with a very unflattering hairstyle that made her almost unrecognizable.

Presenter Halle Berry walked the carpet in a classic Hollywood black and golden Versace dress, while also awing Oscar viewers with her stunning afro hairstyle.

Attendee Ginnifer Goodwin, nominee Ruth Negga and winner Viola Davis went for bold red tones, with Negga going for an airy Valentino dress and Davis dominating both the carpet and the ceremony with a custom Armani that highlighted her silhouette. Brie Larson took on a femme fatale look in her Oscar de la Renta mermaid dress.

As for the men, Mahershala Ali stole the red carpet with his black-on-black Ermenegildo Zegna ensemble, as he was able to bring some spice into the usually boring men’s red carpets outfits. Dev Patel also stood out in his custom Burberry with a white jacket.

In a year where the political climate is so intoxicating, it was hard not to expect political commentary, even on the red carpet.

Many celebrities including Negga, model Karlie Kloss and songwriter Lin-Manuel Miranda wore blue ribbons in support of the American Civil Liberties Union.

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# Science & Technology

## Genetics impacts feelings of anxiety surrounding mathematics

BY YELENA DZHANOVA  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Different levels of anxiety complement different activities, report scientists who have previously studied anxiety. Likewise, anxiety induced by mathematical activities comes in varying levels, but researchers now conclude that anxiety surrounding mathematics, in particular, may be genetic.

Researchers from King’s College London tested anxiety levels in participants while they completed tasks, such as reading a map and solving simple geometry problems.

The population sample consisted of nearly 1,500 pairs of twins who were selected from the "Twins Early Development Study," a twin study based in the United Kingdom. The researchers contacted over 16,000 families with twins born between 1994 and 1996 to take part in the study. Currently, 10,000 twins are still in the process of contributing to the study. Each family resides in either England or Wales.

Researchers selected twins to measure anxiety surrounding mathematics as a genetic predisposition. Each twin shared at least 50 percent of the DNA with the other twin. Each set of twins was evaluated using The Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7-item Scale, a test used to determine anxiety disorders in clinical cases. GAD-7 results help identify signs of panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and social anxiety. The scale asks participants to rate seven problems on a scale of one to four, which respec-

tively covers the range between “not at all” bothered to bothered “nearly every day.”

Researchers also modified the Abbreviated Math Anxiety Scale to specifically determine the level of anxiety caused by mathematics. The AMAS uses a five-point scale to determine how anxious participants are when confronted with nine math-related activities. Examples include reading a math book or listening to a math lecture. All of the participants had already left school, so researchers also slightly modified the examples.

The researchers also tested a measure of spatial anxiety among the participants. Spatial thinking involves activities such as mental navigation, mental rotation and spatial visualization. The test asked participants to rate how comfortable they were with finding their way around meandering streets, using a shortcut without a map and following instructions to get to a new location. To measure rotation and visualization, participants were asked about their comfort level with completing a jigsaw puzzle or mentally rotating objects and figures.

Regarding gender differences and anxiety associated with math, the study writes: “Socio-cultural factors, such as the gender stereotype surrounding mathematics and, more generally, [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] subjects may contribute to these observed sex differences in anxiety. For example, women who value mathematics, and are acquainted with the social stereotype



CALVIN RONG | THE TICKER

King's College researchers had study participants test anxiety levels through certain tasks, including geometry problems.

that women tend not to do as well as men in mathematics, tend to be the most sensitive to the pressure of gender stereotype and to feel anxious about mathematics.”

The study examines the link between spatial and mathematical abilities and success in STEM fields and concludes that anxiety may prevent people from reaching success in those professions. Lack of motivation to perform these skills may also deter people from exercising or trying them.

The researchers identified and accounted for different forms of anxiety, such as general anxiety, mathematical anxiety and spatial

anxiety.

The results consistently revealed that each form of anxiety showed a strong genetic connection to each individual twin who participated in the study, indicating that anxiety may be a genetically determined quality. Differences in spatial anxiety, in particular, were not pinpointed to a cause. However, researchers speculate that the difference in twins’ levels of spatial anxiety can be attributed to the fact that they take part in different extracurricular activities and have different teachers or different groups of friends.

Anxiety associated with math

directly correlates with less involvement in math-based programs. It also disables and discourages students from pursuing or further developing math skills.

This study can further assist in helping to pinpoint anxiety-inducing factors in children and students in an academic setting. It can help educators and parents predict the topics in which anxiety will most likely arise and whom it will most likely affect. This may enable educators to prepare interventions to help students get over this anxiety and increase their individual performance in areas where math is required or expected.

## Researchers discover solar system containing 7 Earth-like planets

BY JONATHAN SPERLING  
NEWS EDITOR

The existence of a solar system containing seven planets approximately the same size as Earth was discovered by a team of researchers, according to a paper published in *Nature* Feb. 23.

Out of the planets, three orbit a parent star, known as TRAPPIST-1, at a distance known as the “habitable zone.” The habitable zone describes the perfect distance between a planet and a parent star that allows for the planet to sustain life.

If a planet is located too close to a parent star, its oceans will boil, creating thick clouds of vapor in the atmosphere. This atmosphere traps solar heat sourced from the planet star, raising surface temperatures and ultimately making the planet uninhabitable. TRAPPIST-1 has a cool temperature and radiates significantly less heat than the Earth’s sun, making the area surrounding it a habitable zone.

TRAPPIST-1 is located approximately 40 light years away from Earth, or about 44 million years away at the cruising speed of a commercial passenger jet.

It is a dim and small celestial body located in the constellation of Aquarius, making the solar system one of over a dozen exoplanet systems located there. It is TRAPPIST-1’s dimness and relatively cool temperature that allows the planets to fit into tight orbits around the star.

The constellation is also home to Gliese 876, a red dwarf star orbited by four planets and calculated to be approximately 15 light years away from Earth. Scientists have discovered nearly 3,500 of these exoplanets in total.

The discovery that three of the planets orbit TRAPPIST-1 within

the habitable zone implies that they may have the perfect surface temperature to contain liquid surface water and possibly sustain life.

"This is the first time that so many Earth-sized planets are found around the same star," said lead researcher Michael Gillon from the University of Liege in Belgium.

The research team utilized data from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope-South in Chile and other assorted, ground-based telescopes to note the masses, orbits and sizes of some of the planets.

More specifically, scientists were able to determine the architecture and rocky terrain of the planets by observing how the planets’ motions blocked sections of TRAPPIST-1’s light.

Although scientists are not yet certain of whether the planets currently sustain life, they noted that there is a lot of time for organisms to come into existence and evolve. TRAPPIST-1 is approximately 500 million years old, yet its estimated life span is approximately 10 trillion years. In comparison, the Earth’s sun is already nearly halfway through its lifespan of 10 billion years.

According to astronomer Ignas Snellen, who works within the Dutch Leiden Observatory, TRAPPIST-1’s relatively long lifespan can be at least partially attributed to the slow rate at which it burns hydrogen, giving it more than enough time to allow for life to evolve.

"I think that we’ve made a crucial step towards finding if there is life out there," said University of Cambridge astronomer and paper co-author Amaury Triaud.

As for actually standing on the surface of a TRAPPIST-1 system planet, an observer would find himself or herself staying in seem-



AGATA PONIATOWSKI | THE TICKER

The seven planets were found to be approximately the same size as Earth, with three planets possibly able to sustain life.

ingly relentless twilight. TRAPPIST-1’s dimness results in low amounts of natural lighting on its surrounding planets.

According to Triaud, TRAPPIST-1’s infrared wavelengths would be enough to warm the surface air of the planets, but not enough to make the skies brighter than the Earth’s skies immediately following a sunset. Due to the tightness of the planets’ orbits, an observer’s view of the six planets while standing on one planet

would be unique.

"If you were on the surface of one of these planets you would have a wonderful view of the other planets," said Gillon. "You wouldn't see them like we see Venus or Mars, like dots of light. You would see them really as we see the moon ... You would see the structures on these worlds."

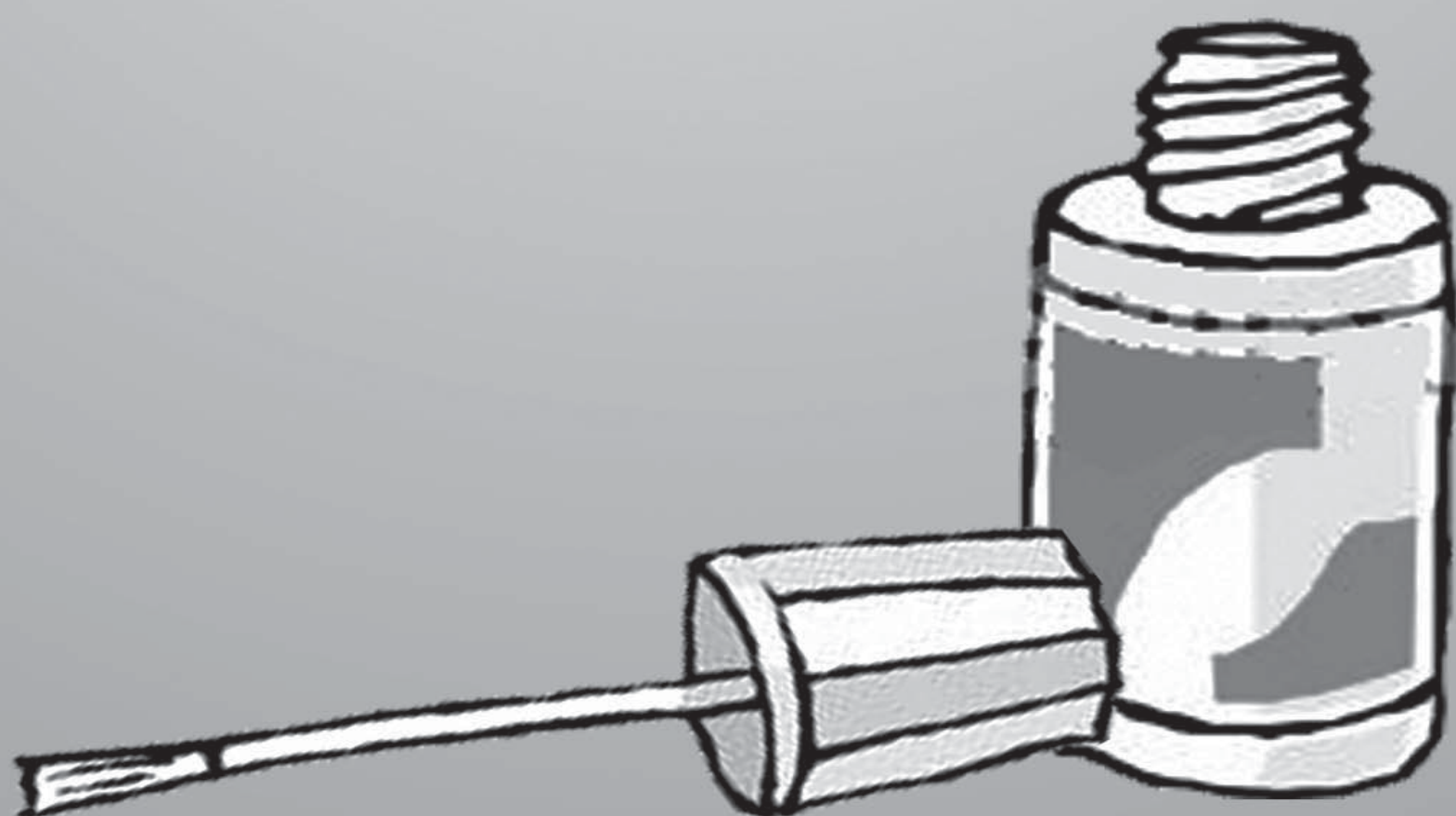
Although the TRAPPIST-1 planets orbit quickly around their parent star—a full year on most of the planets equates to two weeks on

Earth—the days of the planets are incredibly long. Constant gravitational pulling as a result of the planets’ tight orbit routes leads to irregular planetary transit and possible tidal locking. This means that one side of each planet in the system will almost always be facing toward TRAPPIST-1.

It is still unclear if these seemingly eternal days will lead to the TRAPPIST-1 system being deemed incompatible with life, or if the day-length will be suitable.



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# Sports

## Despite comeback, Bearcats fall to CSI in CUNYAC semifinals

BY OMER SEMAN  
COPY EDITOR

Baruch College men’s basketball team advanced to the CUNYAC semifinals for the third consecutive year.

After bulldozing the John Jay Bloodhounds to end the regular season, the two sides squared off again in the quarterfinals. The rematch featured 16 lead changes, matching 3-pointers and clutch free throws in the final minutes. Baruch prevailed 67-58 in coach John Alesi’s 100th career win, earning a spot in the semifinals versus the top-ranked College of Staten Island Dolphins.

The Dolphins entered City College’s Nat Holman Gymnasium with a pristine 16-0 2016-17 conference record that includes two single-digit victories against the Bearcats and a 13-game winning streak. Sophomore co-captain Bryler Paige opened the contest with a 3-pointer and Alesi quickly called a timeout after the team was down 11-5. Following, William Sixsmith answered with a 3-pointer of his own, but the Dolphins’ defense limited the Bearcats in the paint for the entire game.

CSI’s players followed their defensive assignments, rarely faulting in effort and fundamentally sound throughout the match. As for the Bearcats, once junior co-captain Chimaechi “Chima” Ekekeugbor drew two fouls within one minute, Alesi opted to sit him in favor of freshman Allen Villar eight minutes into the half. A scoring drought ensued as neither side could find the

bottom of the rim.

With Chima on the bench, the Bearcats leaned on Villar for buckets, but the big man failed to capitalize on a number of opportunities. CSI consistently moved the ball on offense, blew past defenders and vacuumed rebounds off the glass. An emphatic dunk by CSI’s Kevon Murphy set the Bearcats behind 38-18 at the half.

Alesi chose to start Doyin Isaac over Jack Sixsmith in the second half as Baruch was in dire need of a scoring punch. Jack usurped Isaac as the starting point guard halfway through the season as his mentality as a facilitator better complemented the starting five. His attack-first mindset provided a needed edge off the bench and helped to either maintain a lead or spark a comeback.

The Bearcats, led by Isaac and Paige, hounded the Dolphins in an intense half-court press to start the second half. Isaac finished on a crafty inbounds play, which was followed by a transition 3-pointer by senior Dwayne Brydie, forcing the Dolphins to call a timeout. Paige and his fellow Bearcats pestered the CSI backcourt the instant they crossed half-court and never relented. The flustered Dolphins turned the ball over multiple times, giving Baruch ample chances to pull off the upset.

Ensuing, Chima, who faced double-teams all game, pump-faked, maneuvered around two defenders and laid it in while drawing a foul. The free throw rolled in to bring the Bearcats within 12, but CSI never took its foot off the ac-

celerator. The Dolphins barreled through Baruch during an 8-0 run fueled by transition baskets and an impregnable defense. Try as they might, the Bearcats could not slash through the phalanx of long arms established by CSI, forcing the underdogs to take contested jumpers that routinely fell flat. The Dolphins’ fluid, efficient offense was a stark contrast to the Bearcats’ sputtering, ineffective efforts. Baruch shot 28.3 percent from the field, 33 percent from behind the arc and 60 percent from the free-throw line. The Bearcats’ inability to score, paired with a leaky defense, further illuminated the disparity between the two teams. Nevertheless, Baruch displayed resiliency and competitive pride until the final whistle.

Following a missed 3-pointer, Paige sprinted up court and dished the ball to Chima, who converted two free throws after drawing a shooting foul. Baruch’s nonstop pressure gave them the edge in the turnover battle and on the fastbreak, with Isaac draining a 3-pointer to cut the deficit to 13 with just under seven minutes to play. After a CSI timeout, Isaac stripped the ball from Frank Schettino and rose up for a three, but his shot rimmed out. He and Brydie failed to connect on jumpers during Baruch’s next possession, but Villar battled in the paint for back-to-back offensive boards and laid it in. With time winding down, Alesi substituted Brydie for William on defensive possessions and swapped the wing players when Baruch had the ball. The rotation accentuated both of their skill



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The Bearcats fought hard to erase the CSI lead, but struggled to defend their own basket.

sets—William’s sharpshooting and Brydie’s tenacious defense. After another CSI timeout, the Bearcats clamped down on defense, chased their assignments and grinded for 25 seconds only to see Vincent Dacunto rattle in a three. An uncontested transition layup put the Dolphins ahead 18 points with three minutes remaining. At that point, time was their worst enemy. Baruch intentionally fouled CSI in the waning seconds in order to stop the clock, get the ball back and

heaved desperation threes. Schettino converted three of his final four free-throw attempts enroute to a triple-double as CSI sealed the victory 71-54.

Losing to the eventual champs brings no solace to the Bearcats. The team has gone from CUNYAC champion in 2014-15, to losing in the title game, to falling in the semifinals. Another offseason of cultivating talent and honing their skills will hopefully be the recipe for bucking this trend.

## Davis scores 52 points in otherwise uneventful All-Star weekend

BY ANTHONY DELANUEZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From Feb. 17 to Feb. 19, the NBA held its midseason contest between the best in the Eastern Conference and the best in the Western Conference. Fans and coaches voted for the best and most popular NBA players from the 2016-17 season to participate in a number of contests, the grand offering being the All-Star game.

One of the main headlines during All-Star weekend was the famed dunk contest. After many years of criticism over the decline and lack of appeal in the dunk contest, Zach LaVine of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Aaron Gordon of the Orlando Magic put on a captivating display last season that resurrected the event and made it one of the most anticipated contests of this year’s All-Star weekend. LaVine chose to sit out this year’s event, leaving Gordon as the de facto fan favorite.

Surprisingly, Gordon’s parade was trumped by two unknowns that created intrigue in the contest. Glenn Robinson III and Derrick Jones Jr. of the Indiana Pacers and the Phoenix Suns, respectively, would take part in the contest with barely any NBA experience. There was also Los Angeles Clippers center DeAndre Jordan who leads the league in dunks and created intrigue due to his towering frame.

Despite the lead-up, this year’s dunk contest was, as Ananth Pandian writes for CBS Sports, “pretty, pretty, pretty bad.” Gordon was ousted in the first round after recording more attempts than actual dunks. This included an attempt to alley-oop a basketball from an overhead drone, with Gordon just barely throwing it down on his third try. Jordan also faced elimination

in the first round, leaving the final round to the two newcomers.

Failed attempts and low scoring dunks drained the interest from the final round. Although Jones had arguably the best dunk of the night, it was ultimately not enough to win the contest. Robinson came away with the trophy thanks to measly competition.

Another highlight event that brought up headlines was the 3-point shooting contest. Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors shocked the association when he declined to take part, but there was plenty of shooting talent elsewhere around the league. Defending 3-point champ Klay Thompson came back to defend his crown against a field that featured eight of the top 22 shooters in the league.

Despite being heavily favored to repeat, Thompson was ousted in the first round. By the final round, only Kyrie Irving of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Eric Gordon of the Houston Rockets remained. Gordon came out on top after both players battled for supremacy in overtime.

As for the All-Star game, the Western Conference scored at will in a 192-182 victory. With New Orleans being the host city, the Pelicans’ best player Anthony Davis was relied upon heavily to represent for the home crowd, to which he easily delivered. Davis benefitted from a Western Conference team that seemed determined to help pad his stat line, finishing with an All-Star game record 52 points and 10 rebounds. Davis would go on to raise the Most Valuable Player award after clocking in more than 30 minutes of play time. Davis was able to send New Orleans fans home happy.

One of the many headlines heading into All-Star weekend was



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The best of the best from the NBA took the court as part of All-Star weekend, highlighted by a record 52 points from the Pelicans’ Davis.

the interaction, or lack thereof, between teammates-turned-rivals Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant. After Durant left Westbrook and the Oklahoma City Thunder during the offseason to join the two-time Western Conference champion Warriors, the two have not been on speaking terms. Westbrook has been vocal in his criticism of Durant for giving up on the city that had championed him for so long. During their teams’ three meetings during the regular season, Westbrook has been defiant in his lack of forgiveness, their latest meeting ending with a cheeky exchange between the two during

post-game handshakes.

Come game time, many were interested in seeing just how Western Conference coach Steve Kerr, also coach of the Warriors, would manage his roster and how he might place Durant and Westbrook on the floor. Shockingly, Durant and Westbrook connected for an alley-oop, sending the crowd into pandemonium. Minutes later, the bench players poked fun at the pair for their touching display on the court.

For players and fans equally, the NBA All-Star game is a time to enjoy the sport of basketball in its essence, without any of the competition involved. Many gather to

celebrate the skill and camaraderie from around the league before heading into the second half of the season. With the trade deadline now past, many teams are gauging their talent in hopes of making a significant run at the postseason. This year’s playoffs are shaping up to feature many of the familiar faces in the Warriors and Cavaliers, but with the twist of many hopefuls in the Pelicans and the Sacramento Kings not too far out. Still, there is plenty of basketball left to be played and the ever-changing landscape of the NBA can see many shakeups in the standings by the time the playoffs come around.



# Knicks take on Cavaliers after All-Star break amid trade rumors

BY KEVIN MENDEZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The New York Knicks entered the All-Star Break having lost seven of their last nine games. In a season characterized by inconsistent play, the subtle smear campaign of perennial All-Star Carmelo Anthony by Knicks President Phil Jackson and team owner James Dolan’s war on beloved former Knick Charles Oakley, All-Star Weekend was a welcome respite for both the Knicks and their fans.

The weekend started on a positive note as Anthony, who initially thought his streak of seven consecutive All-Star appearances was snapped, ended up replacing Cleveland Cavaliers power forward Kevin Love. Ironically, the two had been connected in trade rumors only weeks before.

Power forward Kristaps Porzingis was named to the World Team’s roster in the Rising Stars Challenge, joined by center Guillermo Hernangomez, who was named as an injury replacement for injured Denver Nuggets guard Emmanuel Mudiay.

Porzingis contributed 24 points and Hernangomez had two of his own as part of the World Team’s 150-141 victory. The following night Porzingis would add to his own personal list of accomplishments as he took the Skills Challenge trophy, defeating Utah Jazz forward Gordon Hayward in the final round.

On Sunday, Anthony would contribute 10 points in 19 minutes of play in a losing effort as the Eastern Conference All-Stars had no answers for New Orleans Pelicans star Anthony Davis and his record setting 52-point performance. The Western Conference walked away with the 192-182 win.

Following a feel-good All-Star



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Freshly removed from the All-Star break, the Knicks took the court against Cleveland despite being sidetracked by Anthony trade rumors.

Weekend, the Knicks spent most of a tense Monday in Cleveland as rumors spread rampantly. The biggest question in whether Anthony would remain a Knick and whether the Knicks could complete a swap of Derrick Rose for the Minnesota Timberwolves’ Ricky Rubio. Yet the Knicks neither added nor subtracted at the deadline. The decision to stand pat had some, including Anthony himself, questioning Jackson’s commitment to winning. Others like Rose were relieved to be able to finish the season in a Knicks uniform.

Parallel to the swirling trade rumors, it was also announced that Oakley would not only be in attendance for that night’s game against

the Cavaliers but that he was also the special guest of Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert. Oakley was frequently spotted during the game seated right behind the Cavaliers’ bench, a stark contrast to the image of him being forced out by Madison Square Garden security on Feb. 8.

The Knicks would have no small task as they began their second half schedule with a meeting against the defending NBA champion. The Cavaliers came into the game winners of nine of the last 10 meetings between the two teams. Once play started, the Knicks did little to reverse that trend as Cleveland picked up the 119-104 victory. Kyrie Irving led the Cavaliers with 23 points and LeBron James picked up

a triple-double of 18 points, 13 rebounds and 15 assists. Kyle Korver also thrived for Cleveland collecting 20 points in 31 minutes off the bench. The Knicks would trail for most of the first half, down 69-51 at halftime. A late Knicks third-quarter run saw them cut the deficit to 87-79, but Cleveland re-inserted its starters and dominated the fourth quarter by as much as 19 points. To compound their problems, Porzingis left the game in the second quarter with an ankle sprain. In his absence, guard Courtney Lee had a solid game picking up 25 points. Anthony finished with a sound 20 points, but it was simply not enough to answer Cleveland’s offensive barrage. The Knicks were

swept by Cleveland in the season series for the second consecutive year and have now lost 10 consecutive games to the Cavaliers dating back to October 2014.

New York returned to Madison Square Garden on Saturday for a meeting with the Philadelphia 76ers. The Knicks took the court without Porzingis, with the heart-breaking loss to Philly on Jan. 11 still fresh on their minds. In that game the Knicks blew a 10-point lead with less than three minutes left, capped off by T.J. McConnell’s buzzer beater to hand the Knicks a crushing 98-97 loss.

This time around, the Knicks dominated the first half as they posted 31 in the first and an additional 29 by halftime, led by Anthony’s 17 points on 7-for-10 shooting. The Knicks would head to the locker room leading 60-50 and went on to lead by double digits for most of the second half. But another late defensive collapse allowed Philadelphia to rally all the way back to the lead with nine seconds remaining in the fourth, thanks to a go-ahead shot by Jahlil Okafor to give the 76ers a 108-107 advantage. Determined to take his fair share of buzzer-beater endings, Anthony would respond on the following possession, sinking the winning shot with three seconds remaining. Anthony’s game winner capped off a 37-point performance while Rose posted up 18 points and Justin Holiday had 14 in the 110-109 victory at Madison Square Garden.

With the win, the Knicks remained five games back of Detroit for the eighth playoff seed. In order to seize the moment, the team must set aside any off-court drama and focus on picking up efficient wins. While the championship seems to be a long shot at this point, the Knicks should at least fight for a manageable playoff berth.

# Team USA gymnastics doctor Nassar behind sexual abuse scandal

BY YELENA DZHANOVA  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Renowned gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar is facing possible jail time because of 22 counts of sexual abuse filed by Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette.

During his time as team doctor, Nassar had nine patients who were female gymnasts training for the Olympics. The victims were part of the well-known group USA Gymnastics, a prominent Olympic organization that assembles the national team. Allegedly, two of Nassar’s patients were less than 13 years of age when he sexually abused them.

NBC News cites various testimonies that explicitly describe Nassar’s episodes of sexual abuse, which were often exceedingly graphic and involved involuntary penetration in his office and at local gyms. Victims claim that Nassar told several of the young girls to keep the process a secret from their parents.

Police say more than 80 women have come to testify against him in the trial since the news of the sexual abuse got out. They believe that there are more victims out there who have not yet come forward.

The large-scale offense first unraveled when an anonymous 25-year-old woman testified to having been sexually abused by Nassar at the age of 6. She was a family friend who described how playing a game of hide and seek went awry.

Currently, Nassar is being held without bail for possession of over 37,000 collected images and video recordings of child pornography. He had recorded several videos on a GoPro camera, which showed direct evidence of child molestation. Specifically, the videos revealed images of Nassar groping several young girls while in a pool.



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A large-scale scandal found Nassar responsible for sexually assaulting patients, many of them teenage gymnasts.

Recently, Nassar received another count against him for allegedly trying to destroy the evidence. Officials found his hard drives that contained the videos and images in a garbage bin.

At least two dozen women have filed complaints and contributed to the lawsuit against Nassar. Some have even filed their own lawsuits for their own experiences. Some victims also filed lawsuits against Bela and Marta Karolyi because they claim that the abuse ordinarily happened at their Texas training facility, where they were expected to be responsible for each gymnast. Both Karolyis deny any involvement or prior awareness of the activities.

Nassar has since pleaded innocent and denied all allegations against him.

Prior to the numerous charges of sexual abuse, Nassar maintained a reputation as a credible doctor for young women practicing professional gymnastics. The charges relate back to the period of time when he was a faculty member at Michigan State University from 1997 to 2016. Last year, the MSU administration fired him after accusations spread.

At Michigan State, Nassar was the Chief Medical Coordinator of the USA Women’s gymnastics team. Now, as allegations continue to surface, many of his former patients are starting to come forward. Most claim that because they were so young, they could not determine that what he was doing was wrong.

Former Olympic gymnast Jamie Dantzscher used to seek Nassar’s help to deal with chronic back

pain. In the 2000 Olympic Games, Dantzscher received the bronze medal for Team USA in gymnastics. She was 13 at the time when Nassar conducted a physically intrusive procedure on her and claimed that it was to relieve the back pain and realign her hips. Dantzscher was one of three former elite U.S. gymnasts who recently stepped forward with an accusation of being sexually abused by Nassar. Jessica Howard and former national team member Jeanette Antolin disclosed their memories of sexual abuse involving Nassar on national television.

NBC Sports writes, “All three accused Nassar, a volunteer team doctor for USA Gymnastics for almost three decades before his tenure ended in July 2015, of touching them inappropriately while he dis-

guised the abuse as treatment.”

In her testimony, Dantzscher claims that Nassar prohibited and discouraged his patients from talking during the procedure and talking about the procedure after.

Originally, Dantzscher decided to be an anonymous accuser, referring to herself as “Jane Doe.” When she debuted on *60 Minutes*, she disclosed her identity and elaborated on the treatments she received from Nassar during her younger years in competition.

Dantzscher announced on *60 Minutes* that she went to Nassar for regular treatment from the time she was a young teenager to around her 18th birthday. She told audience members who tuned into national television that Nassar insisted that they be alone, which violates certain USA Gymnastics policies.

Parents and coaches trusted Nassar to give the proper treatment to each athlete because each athlete was in serious training and competed for hefty prizes.

Attorney John Manly from California indicates that Nassar had some charm to his personality and was able to create a trusting environment.

Nassar was frequently left alone with the young athletes in their rooms where they slept at venues all around the world during competitions. Manly claims that Nassar entices the young women to feel safe around him by giving them candy and listening to their problems.

The latest strike in the case against Nassar comes from one of his assistants, who remains anonymous, claiming that he kept her in the dark about 2014 mandates from the MSU Dean’s office instructing Nassar to always keep a second person in the room with him when operating on a patient.



LUNCH

WITH  
THE

PRESIDENT

Come meet and talk with  
**Dr. Mitchel Wallerstein, Baruch President**

**Thursday, March 16**  
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm • NVC 14-270

Free Food, Snacks, and Drinks. Space is limited.  
RSVP: [baruch.cuny.edu/president](http://baruch.cuny.edu/president)

Dude,  
it's not  
rocket  
science.



**Write for Sports**

Visit *The Ticker* in VC 3-290 to get started.



We have  
free beer.

P.S. We don't actually have free beer.



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# Baruch Weekly

## MARCH 2017

- MON  
6

**FAMILY FEUD HOSTED BY AMERICAN MARKETING ASSOCIATION**  
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | NVC 3-215 | Free
- TUES  
7

**ART-A-THON**  
All Day | Free

**THE FOUNDATIONS AND ETHICS OF ENTERPRENEURIAL STRATEGY**  
12:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m. | NVC 14-220 | Free
- WED  
8

**PAUL ANDRE FEIT MEMORIAL LECTURE: SERGIO RAMIREZ**  
12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | Rooms 750 and 760, Library Building | Free

**THE INFIDEL**  
6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. | Engelman Recital Hall | Free
- THURS  
9

**NEURO CULTURE - NEUROSCIENCE AND THE LAW: ARE WE THERE YET?**  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. | Engelman Recital Hall | Free

**WIKIPEDIA EDIT-A-THON FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. | NVC 7-205 | Free
- FRI  
10

**CIDR SEMINAR SERIES: "ESTIMATING AGE SPECIFIC MORTALITY FOR THE GLOBAL BURDEN OF DISEASE PROJECT: A NEW RELATIONAL MODEL LIFE TABLE SYSTEM"**  
1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | Room 9204, CUNY Graduate Center | Free, Registration Required
- SAT  
11

**HOJAS DE PAPEL VOLANDO**  
8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. | BPAC | Free

**THE HABANA BOYS\***  
8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. | Lehman Center for the Performing Arts | \$25-\$75
- SUN  
12

**CUNY-WIDE MATH CHALLENGE**  
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. | NVC 5-150 | Free

**THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL BALLET\***  
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. | Lehman Center for the Performing Arts | \$25-\$75

*\*Off-campus event  
For full list, visit [www.baruch.cuny.edu/calendar](http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/calendar)*

CROSSWORD

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STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER



THEME: FINISH THE LYRICS

ACROSS

1. FACE FRINGE

6. GO LOW, AS IN JEANS

9. "OH, MY!"

13. UNDERWAY

14. TIRE MEASUREMENT

15. WEAR AWAY

16. LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, E.G.

17. ROMAN GODDESS OF PLENTY

18. PREVIOUSLY AN OILER

19. "I'M READY, YES, I'M READY FOR YOU. I'M STANDING ON MY OWN

21. "ON A DARK DESERT HIGHWAY, COOL WIND IN

23. IT'S ALL THE RAGE

24. PERSON, PLACE OR THING

25. PC BRAIN

28. BINGO-LIKE GAME

30. MOSES' OLDER SISTER

35. BE IN PAIN

37. SAIL SUPPORT

39. "COME ON, SHAKE YOUR BODY, BABY, DO THE

40. "HEAT OF THE MOMENT" BAND

41. SINGLE-CELL PROTOZOAN

43. "THEN ALONG COMES

44. GREAT WHITE, E.G.

46. "GOODNESS GRACIOUS!"

47. COMMONER

48. "RAINDROPS ARE FALLING ON

50. SAHARAN-LIKE

52. "CAUSE I'M A WOMAN! W-O-M-A-N..." SINGER

53. LIKE ROMAN EMPIRE

55. ENT'S FIRST CONCERN

57. "MY DADDY'S SLEEPING AND MAMA AIN'T

60. "SO PUT ANOTHER DIME IN THE

64. "...I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN I SEE YOU

65. " TO JOY"

67. ABOMINATION

68. FORMAL DISHES

69. "SO BYE, BYE MISS AMERICAN

70. "OH, I WAS ONLY TWENTY FOUR HOURS FROM

71. FRONT-LINE COMBAT VEHICLE

72. CREDIT CARD ACR.

73. WHEEL SHAFTS

DOWN

1. QUILTER'S STUFFING

2. NOT MANY

3. SOMETHING THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE

4. DISAPPEAR, LIKE INTO THE SUNSET

5. UNBROKEN SERIES OF EVENTS

6. SEE HIM RUN!

7. CLEOPATRA'S CAUSE OF DEATH

8. WHATCHAMACALLIT

9. "SUMMERTIME" OR "PORGY AND BESS," E.G.

10. "LAUGHING ON THE

INSIDE" IN TEXT

11. MONTH OF PURIM

12. D.C. BIGWIG

15. THAI OR MEXICAN FOOD, E.G.

20. A.K.A. DROPSY

22. DELISH!

24. SMALL BOUQUET

25. GEOLOGICAL RIFT

26. AGGRESSIVE

27. "UMBLE" HEEP

29. "I'VE GOT A BLANK SPACE, BABY, AND I'LL WRITE YOUR

31. BOISTEROUS PLAY

32. COLLECTIVELY

33. COME TO TERMS

34. "...HERE'S MY NUMBER, SO CALL ME

36. CONTAINER WEIGHT

38. KIND OF SKI LIFT

42. "FAREWELL" IN PARIS

45. V.I.P. IN HAWAII

49. DRAPER OF "MAD MEN"

51. ACTRESS FANNING

54. PARKINSON'S DRUG

56. UPDIKE'S "RABBIT

57. TURKISH HONORIFIC

58. "ALL YOU GET IS PAIN. WHEN I WANTED SUNSHINE I GOT

59. SOUND ON OLD MACDONALD'S FARM

60. AUDIENCE'S REJECTION

61. HILLARY'S HUBBY

62. BRITISH RIVER

63. DECEMBER 25TH, FOR SHORT

64. PRE-COLLEGE CHALLENGE

66. PARTY BOWLFUL

CROSSWORD SOLUTION: ISSUE 4

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## Starr Career Development Center

# Career Spotlight

[baruch.cuny.edu/careers](http://baruch.cuny.edu/careers)  
[blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/starrlights/](http://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/starrlights/)  
[blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/scdc/](http://blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/scdc/)  
[@BaruchSCDC](https://www.facebook.com/BaruchSCDC)  
Baruch College Starr Career Development Center

## SAVE THE DATE

- Career Weeks: Marketing & Advertising**  
**Tuesday, March 7, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., Room 750, The Library Building**

Attend this panel and networking event to hear from top industry professionals and learn about their careers, companies and tips for current students. Companies include Google, IPG, Ketchum, and McCann NY.
- On-campus Recruiting Workshop**  
**Thursday, March 7, 5:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190**

Attend this workshop to become eligible for on-campus recruiting.
- Writing Winning Resumes**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 12:30 p.m.-2:00 p.m., NVC 2-190**

This workshop will provide insight on how to write professional, marketable resumes.
- Mastering the Job Interview: Basic**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190**

## INTERNSHIP UPDATE

### PROGRESSIVE BUSINESS MEDIA

#### 2017 Editorial/Writing Intern

Accordo is a full service compliance consultancy to the financial services industry advising on all aspects of regulatory compliance seeking a part-time intern to support the company's upcoming marketing and operational initiatives. The internship will focus on expanding the email database to prepare for marketing campaigns. The selected intern will work directly with the marketing team to streamline company priorities and business growth activities. Responsibilities include updating and building out Ac-

cordo's current email marketing list, identifying potential clients through targeted research and data mine email addresses, helping to optimize the email marketing platform and analytics, keeping management informed of progress by submitting activity and results reports and assisting with ad hoc projects as needed including creating new reports, market research, etc. Qualifications include student in pursuit of a degree in business, finance, marketing, or equivalent thereof, proficiency with Microsoft Office Excel, Pow-

erPoint and Word, must be self-motivated with superior oral and written communication skills, strong attention to detail, able to work effectively both independently and in a team setting and responds quickly to shifting goals and priorities in a growing organization. **This is a paid internship open to all class levels; for more information, visit Starr Search with ID number 96778.**

## PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

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

"Make sure to frequently update your LinkedIn page. In recent years, LinkedIn has become especially important for advancing one's career, whether that be in networking with colleagues or connecting with potential employers. Starr has many resources to help students with their LinkedIn pages -- be sure to take advantage of our workshops!"

-VICTORIA MERLINO  
PEER FOR CAREER

## FUN FACT

Did you know that Starr Career Development Center has a personal assessment module called Focus 2 that analyzes your strengths and weaknesses to offer career advice? Focus 2 has assessments for work interests, values, personalities and skills, and combines the results to make career path recommendations. Visit Starr Career Development Center for more information.