

VOLUME 112 • ISSUE 11

BARUCH COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

DECEMBER 4, 2017

# OPINIONS 5 Water contamination creates new concerns (p. 5)



Chemical companies that prioritize profits over people are introducing toxicity into public water supplies. Corporations like those that introduced lead

into Flint, Michigan, need to be tightly regulated to prevent more dangerous incidents.

# BUSINESS **7**FCC chairman plans to revoke net neutrality (p. 7)



FCC Chairman Ajit Pai has announced his aim to revoke net neutrality regulations. If these rules are repealed, the internet could be throttled by internet service

providers.

# ARTS & STYLE 10 DC superheroes unite in Justice League (p. 11)



In the style of 2012's *The Avengers*, Batman, Wonder Woman, Aqua man, Superman, Cyborg and the Flash team up in a film that suf-

fered through

production difficulties, including the addition of a different director and the digital removal of a mustache.

# SCIENCE & TECH 14 Harry Potter techniques can be applied to MRIs (p. 14)



The technique that creates images of smoke, clouds and fantastic beasts in Harry Potter movies can be applied to MRI scans and render them into

images. This can help researchers study the brain and find neurons within it through the study of its images.

# SPORTS 17 Playoff lineup begins to take shape (p. 19)



The Eagles, Patriots, Steelers, Vikings and Rams continued to win this week, furthering their pushes toward the playoffs. The Chiefs,

however, after a 5-0 start, fell to 6-5, setting up what should be a close division

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# USG elects Jorgensen, Dimcevski as senators





NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Jorgensen, left, and Dimcevski, right, join the table at the end of the Fall semester, and will continue to stay on as senators until the end of the Spring semester.

#### BY BIANCA MONTEIRO

NEWS ASSISTANT

Baruch College's Undergraduate Student Government officially elected two new representative senators — Alexander Dimcevski and Emma Jorgensen — on Nov. 21 during its senate meeting. A total of 14 students ran for the positions. Jorgensen was also confirmed as chair of appeals, a position she took over after serving as interim chair for two weeks. The vacancy opened when former Treasurer Ehtasham Bhatti resigned and former Chair of Appeals Suzanna Egan took his place on Nov. 9. The second vacancy followed the resignation of former Representative Sen. Josue Mendez. The two senators officially began serving on the table in the following senate meeting on Nov. 28.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

### 'Paris by Night' delights through music and dance performances

BY SAHAR ILYAS

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Vietnamese Student Association hosted its fifth annual "Paris by Night" event on Nov. 28. The event got its name from a popular Vietnamese musical variety show originally filmed in Paris. Baruch College's version of the show, just like the one on TV, featured musical performances, folklore and plays; it was a mix of both modern and traditional Vietnamese culture.

The hosts of the show were Victoria Cheng and Adam Yu, and they kept the crowd entertained throughout the night with their jokes and several raffles.

Free dessert cards to Bingbox Snow Cream Co., VSA's sponsor of the night, were raffled off along with two Google Home Minis and one Amazon Echo Dot.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### WIB raises money for charity via fashion show



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

The ninth annual "Style Your Success Fashion Show" took place on Nov. 30, drawing in students for a night of business fashion, music and prizes to raise money for the American Cancer Society. To learn more and to see photos, turn to page 2.

#### Baruch men's swimming team leads 4-2

BY MATTEO FLAMIO SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baruch College's men's and women's swimming teams are now well into their seasons, each having thus far completed a total of six races. The men's team has started the season 4-2, while the women's team has started its season 3-3.

The teams started their seasons against William Paterson University, where they were both defeated, with the women's and men's teams falling 113-106 and 123-89, respectively.

In their second and third matches, Baruch faced off against the Division II teams of Queens College and Adelphi University. The men's team was able to defeat Queens 75-22, but was unable to get a win over Adelphi, losing 73-26.

PAGE 2 I THE TICKER NEWS

DECEMBER 4, 2017

# WIB offers fun and fashion in 9th annual 'Style Your Success'

**BY ESTELLE SAAD**STAFF WRITER

The ninth annual Baruch College Women in Business "Style Your Success Fashion Show" event took place on Nov. 30. WIB hosted the show, in which different business attire was styled by volunteer models. Money raised through the event was donated to the American Cancer Society.

Each segment of the show focused on a different type of business outfit. The event was meant to showcase a variety of business styles for women, focusing on business professional, business casual and day-to-night attire, with 21 student volunteers acting as models.

The event was sponsored by numerous clothing companies, and their clothing was featured in the show. These companies included Lit Rose, Tahari Arthur S. Levine, Sacca's Suits & Tailor Shop, Koviem, Steve Madden and Steps New York in Forest Hills.

Representatives from the various brands had a chance to come to the stage and speak about their brands and their clothes. Lit Rose is an online shopping website that was started by a Baruch senior. Tahari is a clothing line that specializes in women's business clothing. Sacca's Suits & Tailor Shop is a custom suit and tailoring store in Queens that is owned by a 24-year-old entrepreneur. Koviem is a custom women's suits company.

The room reflected the "Winter Solstice" theme of the evening with a predominantly blue color in the simple decorations. Little blue and white lights were hung throughout the room as well. The catwalk was at the front of the room, surrounded by chairs for the audience. The DJ played both current and classic music, and the audience sang





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Brands featured and modeled at "Style Your Success" included Lit Rose, Tahari ASL, Sacca's Suits & Tailor Shop, Koviem, Steve Madden and Steps New York in Forest Hills.

along. The event called for cocktail attire, and most of the audience complied. On each chair was a gift bag for audience members to take home. In the bag was a bottle of Tahari ASL nail polish, a plastic Christmas ornament, a 60-percent-off offer to shop at Lit Rose and a few candies. The event even had its own Geofilter on Snapchat.

The club donates the money raised through this event to ACS every year.

"The SYS fashion show is a creative and social way to educate students and outside guests on the

multiple types of attire appropriate for various business settings while raising money for cancer research," said Katerina Papadatis, WIB's event clothing manager. Jenifer Criollo, WIB vice president and event co-chair explained that the event's true underlying purpose was to raise awareness and money for the ACS, a cause that is important to her and to WIB as a whole.

At the start of the event, cookies, empanadas and dips were offered, and later in the show dinner was served. Raffle tickets were sold with the incentive of winning gift cards to places including Schnippers, Chop't, Cava, Sprinkles Cupcakes, Baked by Melissa, Insomnia Cookies, Lit Rose, Out of Print and Modern Pinball NYC.

The models were encouraged by the audience members and their cheering throughout the night. The female models' outfits included simple dresses with blazers, suits and jumpsuits, as well as fancier dresses and furs. Male models wore suits, blazers, sweaters and coats. The clothes were all donated by the sponsors of the event.

At the end of the show, there

was a personality segment in which the models walked out, two at a time, to a song of their choosing. The purpose of the segment was to let the models show the audience their personalities and as a thank you for all of their hard work, Criollo explained. Each club that sponsored the event took a walk down the catwalk, as well as each member of WIB.

WIB had been working on this event, which is its largest event of the year, since September. The club plans to continue the tradition and plan another event next year.

## 'Taste of Africa' fashion show lauds 'New Africa'

**BY LIAM GIORDANO**CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After much anticipation, Baruch College's African Student Association hosted its eighth annual "Taste of Africa" fashion show on Dec. 1 in Mason Hall.

"La Nouvelle Afrique," or "The New Africa," was the name and respective theme given to the show this year.

When asked about the inspiration for this year's theme, Bisi Alade, vice president of Baruch's ASA, explained over instant messenger that the show would promote a younger African perspective.

"The inspiration behind the theme for this year's 'Taste of Africa' event is the uprising millennials. We wanted to have the audience experience Africa from a younger perspective since we are the future of our heritage," Alade said.

Alade continued to describe the idea behind the theme and title of the show to be illustrative of new age African culture.

She pointed out the show's "representation of African culture," dubbed "the New Africa," for younger generations, included millennials. Alade explained that this year's show will really highlight "how we (new African youth) look and have added our own twist to our culture."

In response to inquiries regarding expectations for this year's performances, Alade said, "The African Students Association is very excited to showcase some hidden talent from Baruch students!"

Alade also commented that, "We have an estimated 30 models preparing to showcase our take on

"The inspiration behind the theme for this year's 'Taste of Africa' event is the uprising millennials. We wanted to have the audience experience Africa from a younger perspective since we are the future of our heritage."

Bisi Alade

New African culture, but too many performers to count!"

Last year's event, named "The Evolution," was an enormous success that drew a multitude of students from different areas of Baruch's student life, and ASA expected an even greater turnout this year.

"The Evolution" featured musical performances, individual spoken word performances, cultural dance performances and of course, innovative modeling.

"La Nouvelle Afrique" fashion show, while prepared for intensively, maintains room for improvisation as well.

According to Alade, the fashion show included "events that were unprepared for. It's a show after all and we are just excited to showcase our take on modern African culture."

## VSA hosts 5th annual 'Paris by Night'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The first performance of the night was Jason Nguyen, who played a traditional Vietnamese instrument, the dan bau. Nguyen goes by the name of SoulGook on YouTube and plays a mix of traditional Vietnamese and modern American music on the instrument. Before he began to play, Nguyen gave a short history of his instrument. He said it originates from North Vietnam, and at first, it was mostly played by beggars. The dan bau is a one-string instrument and has a rodlike attachment that aids in creating more notes.

After Nguyen's performance, a group of seven girls who are a part of the Asian Fusion Dance group at New York University danced in flowing black-and-white dresses. Their dance was intricate and was enhanced by the wispy sleeves on their dresses, which added to the harmonious vibe.

Following the dance, VSA put on a small fashion show. The girls who participated as models were dressed in traditional Vietnamese clothing called *ao dai*. The tightly fitted shirts were very long, almost reaching the feet, and they had long slits on both sides that went up to the waist. Both the shirt and trousers were made of silk. The *ao dai* were in bright and vibrant colors and many had nature prints on the shirts.

The fourth performance was a folklore about the God of the Mountain and the God of the Sea competing for marriage to a princess. The two gods were sent on a mission by the king to find items he had listed. These tasks ended up being easy for the God of the Mountain since they were all found on land and he won the competition. The God of the Sea found this



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"Paris by Night" is based on a Vietnamese-language TV show of the same name.

to be unfair and started to fight the God of the Mountain, and this fight continued forever. The actors playing out this skit added a humorous aspect to it, entertaining the audience by making exaggerated moves to highlight their points. The tale is an explanation as to why Vietnam experiences a severe monsoon season; it is due to the never-ending fight between the two gods, one who lays claim to the land and the other who lays claim to the sea.

The next person to take over the stage was a singer, Altynai Eshimbaeva. She sang a cover of Sam Smith's "Writing's on the Wall."

Following that was a performance by the Vietnam Heritage Center's Pretty Fan Girls, a dance

group. They danced an original choreography that included pink and white fans.

The finale of the night was carried out by the JRodTwins, Jason and Justin. The brothers have a popular YouTube channel where they upload covers of songs and other videos. They flew out from California to perform at "Paris by Night." The three songs they performed were "Treasure" by Bruno Mars, a Vietnamese song that they dedicated to VSA and a song by Big Bang, a famous Korean pop band. There was a short meet and greet with the twins after the conclusion of the event.

The event ended successfully with a promise of more to look forward to at next year's event.

DECEMBER 4, 2017 THE TICKER NEWS I PAGE 3

## Rhodes scholar chosen from Hunter for 1st time

BY JONATHAN SPERLING

MARKETING DIRECTOR

A Hunter College senior is making waves throughout the CUNY system after becoming the first Hunter student to be awarded the prestigious Rhodes scholarship.

Thamara Jean, a political science and media analysis and criticism major, was awarded the scholarship in late November.

Jean is the only New York college student to become a 2018 Rhodes scholar, as well as one of 10 African-American students, the most ever in the scholarship's 104-year-old history. In total, 32 U.S. residents were selected to be 2018 Rhodes scholars, out of the 866 applicants endorsed by 299 colleges and universities.

"I found out that I got the interview first and it was really exciting," said Jean, who is also a Macaulay Honors College student, in an interview with *The Ticker*. "It's a rare opportunity, so I was really excited about it."

Jean, who plans on studying political theory while at the University of Oxford, wrote her senior thesis on the Black Lives Matter movement, a piece which she began working on at the movement's peak in 2014.

"I wanted to make sure that I had the opportunity to connect the philosophy I was learning about in class with things that were actually happening in everyday life and it was easy at the time, because the movement was so new, to trivialize it," Jean said. "But I knew from just the classes that I was taking that it had a background in a really strong tradition and I wanted to make sure to connect the tradition to the movement that it came from and essentially advocate why the optimistic life-affirming tradition that it comes from is the best one to use

when shaping protests against racial oppression."

She partially incorporated this thesis into the personal statement that is required for the Rhodes scholarship application. Jean said that the statement mostly touched on "the conversations that we have around race, police brutality and things of the sort. How studying it can better inform and possibly improve the conversations that we have about it."

Jean partially credits Hunter College's faculty and staff with helping her obtain the scholarship.

"I think that ... the process of learning about the scholarship was indicative of the support that I had being a student at Hunter College," Jean said. "I've been lucky and fortunate enough that every professor and advisor that I've had knows me personally and [has] really taken an interest in the things that I'm passionate about academically and they've been essential in pointing me in the right direction and every step of the way."

The Rhodes scholarship is a highly selective international scholarship that entitles a recipient to enroll in any full-time postgraduate course at Oxford for two years. Students can also apply during their second year to study for an additional year. Scholars additionally receive a monthly stipend in order to cover any living expenses while studying.

Access to a sprawling, colonialstyle mansion, the Rhodes House, is also provided to all scholars. The house contains gardens, a library, study areas and numerous other facilities. The scholarship and the aforementioned benefits are funded by the Rhodes Trust, an educational charity established by British mining magnate and Oxford alumnus Cecil Rhodes.

According to the Rhodes Trust,



COURTESY OF THAMARA JEAN

Jean, pictured above, was one of the 32 scholars chosen for the scholarship.

applicants must meet a large array of criteria in order to be considered for the scholarship. This includes "literary and scholastic attainments," "energy to use one's talents to the fullest," "truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindliness, unselfishness and fellowship" and "moral force of character and instincts to lead, and to take an interest in one's fellow beings."

In order to apply, a student must obtain the endorsement of their college or university, provide five to eight letters of recommendation, including one that endorses the applicant's character and four that are written by the applicant's instructors and also write a personal statement that describes their academic interests and the areas that the applicant would study at Oxford.

After her time at Oxford, Jean hopes to apply to Ph.D. programs, eventually become a professor and hopes to do research in the same topics she is studying now. She would also like to do work through nonprofits or community organizations that are "closely involved in what's happening on the ground in the communities that I care about."

## Milliken announces decision to step down in 2018

BY JONATHAN SPERLING
MARKETING DIRECTOR

CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken announced on Nov. 21 that he will step down from his position in June 2018.

Milliken's resignation at the end of the Spring 2018 semester comes in the wake of a battle with throat cancer that has plagued him for at least nine months. Shortly after his diagnosis, Milliken underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatment while upholding his responsibilities as chancellor. Although Milliken has stated that his prognosis is good, "some additional health challenges have followed," according to a letter he authored on his resignation.

Before becoming chancellor in 2014, Milliken served for 10 years as the president of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"The head of a major university like CUNY works closely with a board of trustees in developing and implementing a vision. Of the 17 trustees on the board that recruited and appointed me in January 2014, two remain today," Milliken wrote in the letter. "The governor has appointed nine new members and the mayor four. These new trustees will have their own ideas about CUNY, and they should have the opportunity to help shape the leadership and agenda for the future."

As of press time, it is unclear who Milliken's successor will be.

## Two new senators take seats at table

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The USG constitution notes that vacancies can only be filled following two weeks of public notice, often in the form of social media or news postings. Depending on whether it is an executive board position or a representative senator position, this also extends the rigor of the process to which people can apply.

For the treasurer position, Egan was chosen as the executive board's nomination with her appeals experience in mind. The open senator positions, however, were left up to the table to vote for based on an application process. The guidelines of this process, however, are up to the discretion of the table during each election.

In order to prevent students who may have wanted to apply to both positions from becoming discouraged after applying to a position once and not receiving it the first time, the table deferred elections to the week of Nov. 21 in order to vote in both senators simultaneously. This was seen as a better variant to having one election two weeks before the other.

Jorgensen's involvement with USG has stretched over the past three years in the form of participation on seven committees. Her involvement with appeals began this year, with her interview in June and the work beginning in September.

Jorgensen outlined appeals as a large time commitment, citing moments last semester when the team was handling around 13 to 14 appeals, and the work that went into scheduling all the meetings efficiently within the timespan of just two weeks.

Jorgensen, a marketing major, continued by describing some of



Jorgensen and Dimcevski began their senate tenure on the table on Nov. 28.

the changes she's hoping to bring with her growing involvement in USG

"USG is big on transparency, and I feel we can still improve on that," she said. Jorgensen went on to describe plans that she and the "money team" — the treasurer, the chair of finance, the chair of appeals and the chair of clubs and organizations — had for making forms easier for clubs to understand.

"We are trying to work on figuring out a way to communicate our guidelines to the clubs. Some clubs still have questions with forms and USG completely understands how to do forms." Jorgensen described videos as a possible way of communicating this information to clubs effectively.

Jorgensen is looking forward to her new role, saying, "I'm happy for the turn of events. I still have a lot to learn and I have some big shoes to fill with Suzanna but I'm excited about it."

Dimcevski was the second senator elected the night of Nov. 21. He is a transfer student majoring in financial mathematics, and he is currently on Baruch's swim team.

Some issues Dimcevski noticed around Baruch that propelled him to run for representative senator include the way large classes are being pushed to operate in terms of online coursework, the steep prices of the dormitories and the lack of resources some international students have. While USG may not be able to tackle some of these issues directly, they are issues that the government would be able to advocate for and issues that are currently within the senator's realm of concern.

Dimcevski is excited to be a part of the team and expressed interest in his growing involvement with the students on the table.

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PAGE 4 I THE TICKER NEWS DECEMBER 4, 2017

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# Opinions

#### FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

# Inadequate reporting spreads misleading news about CUNY

The *New York Post* put up two articles — "The 'loons' should be the least of CUNY's faculty worries" and "How nutty adjuncts are slipping into local colleges" — that feature ludicrous remarks about full-time and adjunct professors in the CUNY system. One such remark mentioned, in a sinister manner, that a professor had sired 29 children by being a sperm donor. This piece of information offered no relevance to the content of either articles — both of which focused on the disproportionate ratio of full-time to adjunct faculty.

The professor cited as a sperm donor never committed any illegal or treacherous act by being a sperm donor. The donations were a part of his private life and should have been left that way, rather than used as an attempt to provide evidence that CUNY professors are "loons."

The main argument made by the *Post*, however, highlighted the disproportionate ratios in its staff. Although the system's teaching staff totals 20,000, its full-time faculty make up a mere 7,500 of that number, the articles cite. The rest are adjunct professors. This information is presented in the article to demonstrate how poor CUNY's hiring process is, but it fails to shine a light on the real issue behind the lack of full-time faculty: poor allocation of funds.

Although adjuncts require a Ph.D. like their full-time counterparts, they are more common because CUNY gets the same teaching power from someone for lower pay and fewer benefits. Often, the hiring process for adjuncts is very flimsy, and this must be changed. The process, as delineated by the articles, states that hiring adjuncts is often akin to looking through a pile of résumés and picking one, or calling some friends. This description is harrowing, to say the least, as these are the people appointed to teach college students, but also because it allows for a process that can bring faulty professors into CUNY.

Although this information was correct, the *Post* did not give enough credit to some of the people teaching in the CUNY system. It makes note of a few of the bad apples teaching, but its flagrant remarks toward the university system are harsh, almost as if the paper was invested in making the articles more spiteful. One exemplary comment jabs at CUNY for the diversity of its hires, which is something that should be viewed as commendable.

Even if CUNY does need work when it comes to how it treats and views its adjuncts, the *Post* should not be making articles out of flimsy skeletons. The *Post* partially sensationalized a topic that needs to be viewed in a more serious lens — something every news outlet should avoid at all costs.

#### Scaramucci threatens student media

A Tufts University student recently questioned a Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy advisory board member's competency. Camilo Caballero published a pair of op-ed pieces in a student newspaper, *The Tufts Daily*, criticizing Anthony Scaramucci. Scaramucci subsequently wrote a cease-and-desist letter to the student and newspaper, demanding an apology and threatening to sue them on the grounds of defamation should they refuse to comply. Scaramucci is on the advisory board.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts defended Caballero and claimed the article was an op-ed, it could not be construed as defamation. Scaramucci argued that certain allegations in the piece, namely that he is an "unethical opportunist," were stated as fact.

The ACLU claims that Scaramucci is attempting to rob Caballero and *The Tufts Daily* staff of their First Amendment right to free speech. Scaramucci has since resigned from his position on the school's advisory board, claiming that he did not want to involve the university in scandal but still demands a formal apology. Scaramucci has imperiled the freedom of speech and press. Student news organizations are an important source of information because they provide hyper-local news that is rarely found elsewhere in today's world. To censor what these newspapers publish is completely inappropriate.



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STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER

# Chemical companies endanger local residents, require sharper regulation

The unspoken mantra of the Wilmington, Delaware-based chemical company, The Chemours Company, seems to be "don't apologize, don't explain." The Fortune 500 company has recently been put under scrutiny due to the toxic chemical GenX, which has flowed from its plant in Fayette-ville, North Carolina, into the Cape Fear River, which provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of people.

The health risks are not fully known, but North Carolina resident John Fisher, 77, pondered whether GenX or other chemicals in his well caused the cancerous death of his dog and his daughter's dogs next door.

Fisher's circumstance is worrisome because not knowing whether GenX is to blame can impede a potential solution.

There are no environmental regulators in North Carolina that can enforce any legal regulations because GenX is in its infancy chemically as far as research goes. In other words, there is no regulation that requires Chemours to run any tests.

DuPont, Chemours' predecessor, received similar allegations regarding GenX. DuPont started using the toxic chemical to replace a different fluorinated compound after the community located near the Parkersburg, West Virginia, plant claimed through more than 3,500 lawsuits that the compound

was making them sick and had carcinogenic tendencies. DuPont split from Chemours after the corporation was found responsible for one resident's testicular cancer.

In the end, the two companies agreed to settle and pay approximately \$671 million to put the continual lawsuits to rest.

According to Geoffrey Basye, a public affairs consultant and former Federal Aviation Administration spokesman under President George W. Bush, Chemours' silence is in direct relation to the stock market and its shareholders.

Since the start of 2017, the chemical company's stock price has more than doubled, influencing its decision to be silent.

The CEO and the board of directors may not want to risk Chemours' reputation by responding to the accusations publicly but, ironically, this has the opposite effect on shareholders.

Maurice Schweitzer, a Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania professor who teaches negotiation and corporate decision-making, said that "studies have found an apology for medical mistakes can be enough to satisfy aggrieved patients, leading to fewer malpractice actions, greater willingness to settle lawsuits and lower demand for changes."

Restrained chemical safety and investigative reports are not an un-

common scenario in this society. In 2014, Flint, Michigan, underwent a water crisis while a new pipeline was being built to transport water from Lake Huron to Flint.

However, during the construction period, the city turned to Flint as a water source and, soon after, the community acknowledged that the water started "to look, smell, and taste funny."

Tests conducted in 2015 by the Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia Polytechnic Institute concluded that there were dangerous amounts of lead in the water that was being distributed to residents' homes. Consumption of lead can take a dire effect on a person's health, especially children; it may lead to heart, kidney and nerve damage.

It is a recurring problem that companies or people in power are overlooking chemical cautionary reports, which in turn takes its toll on society.

"Financial futures" is not a worthy enough excuse to risk the health and livelihood of local communities.

However, environmental regulators are working toward establishing legislation that will hold these Fortune 500 companies accountable for their environmental risks.

-Heather Shah Cinematic Production '21

### Denver tests supervised injection sites

The city of Denver is assessing a proposal to provide intravenous drug users semi-private booths where they can safely inject controlled substances such as heroin with clean needles. This proposal is a component of legislation that won endorsement from a 10-member committee that aims to combat Colorado's opioid crisis. While the final verdict will be reached in January when the General Assembly meets, this proposal should be met with strong support and eventually be authorized.

Heroin users could use clean needles in private booths that are equipped with a chair and a mirror. They would not face any threat of arrest and would be overseen by trained staff that intervene with a life-saving antidote if an overdose occurred. Staff members would also distribute sterile needles and could potentially distribute distilled water.

Nine countries, including Canada, Germany and Spain, have

already authorized this practice. Cities that established supervised injection locations reported fewer overdose deaths. An analysis of 75 studies discovered that these locations were not connected to escalated drug use or crime.

If supervised injection locations were successful in these countries, Denver should open a location, too. In Colorado, heroin deaths have swelled by more than 500 percent since 2006. In the past three years, more than 2,662 people died from drug overdose. In 2016, 912 people in the state died from overdose, which was a new record high. In Denver specifically, 174 people died, 20 of them in public spaces such as alleys, parks and restrooms.

These numbers are frightening. As the nation's drug crisis escalates, it is time to pay attention to this issue. Opening substance booths in Denver is an effective first step. It is evident that Colorado has an alarming heroin crisis. Allowing supervised injection sites in

the state's capital should strongly be taken into consideration. The people of Denver should be mindful about the out-of-state cities that had promising results. These promising results could be seen in Denver if an injection site opened there. If there is a chance to ameliorate the heroin crisis, then Denver should immediately take it.

The proposal should not be seen as radical. Providing a safe location for controlled substance use is not an extreme social change. Rather, it is a way to help heroin addicts prevent future overdose deaths and resist increased drug crimes. The proposal should be received as a well-intentioned idea that fights a growing problem in Colorado.

If the creation of supervised injection sites makes a positive impact, then Denver's city council and state legislature should legalize this proposal.

-Maya Yegerova Journalism '20 PAGE 6 I THE TICKER OPINIONS DECEMBER 4, 2017

# Consumer DNA tests raise privacy concerns

enealogical DNA testing is a recently popular trend throughout the United States. A person sends a sample of their DNA to a facility, two popular ones being Ancestry.com LLC and 23andMe. In return, they obtain an analysis of their DNA and ethnic background.

The idea behind DNA testing — giving people an insight into their heritage as well as their roots — is fantastic. People tend to overlook just how diverse their ancestry can be, having been influenced by generations of wars and migrations. DNA facilities open doors for people who might have no connection to their birth relatives, and give them answers to questions that they might not even realize they have.

Privacy questions have since arisen. Police may request DNA information from these facilities if they have a warrant. 23andMe has claimed that it has not turned over any information to law enforcement. However, Kate Black, the 23andMe privacy officer, stated that the idea is not ruled out for the future. "We would always review a request and take it on a case-bycase basis," Black mentioned.

Black also said that "[The company tries] to make information available on the website in various forms, so through Frequently Asked Questions, through information in our privacy center."

This disclosure is not that obvious at first glance, however. The FAQ section of the company's site is filled with information about privacy, but none of it pertains to the actions taken in the case of a law enforcement request for DNA. To find this information, one must browse throughout the site or di-

rectly look up the law enforcement guide.

When buying the kit, consumers think more about the results they will receive rather than about their DNA being made available in a criminal investigation. The idea that law enforcement can request DNA information from DNA testing companies is also an issue. The policy is that an officer of the law must have a warrant to obtain a DNA sample from the person in question. Bypassing the interaction with the person is wrong. Law enforcement officers could also use the DNA samples from one of these companies to find a relative of a person they are investigating. This interferes with consent issues from the relative in question, as they did not give their private DNA to any company for law enforcement officials to later obtain.

Looking at the big picture, allowing law enforcement the right to scour databases for a DNA match might be convenient and make the job of finding someone easier. However, it takes away from a person's privacy. The method would allow officers to search databases for not only the person in question, but also their relatives. It is one thing to give up one's rights as an adult, but it is another to give up someone else's rights by relation. Police should have to go through court to obtain a warrant for a specific individual, not a company that someone gave a DNA sample to for a different, unrelated reason. If companies continue with this policy, there should be more indicators available to anyone purchasing the DNA kits.

> -Katarzyna Borkowska International Business '20

## Legislators must preserve free web

THE POLITICKER



REUVEN GLEZE

It is somewhat ridiculous that, after the stunning win for net neutrality a few years ago, the United States has now reached a potential sea change in how the internet functions within the country and, potentially, the entire world.

The Federal Communications Commission is voting on whether to reinforce potential rules that would allow for telecommunication companies to filter through what content a user can receive based on whatever criteria the telecom company chooses.

This could mean a lot of different things, including how much money a user pays for their data, where they live, household income or how the data is split, with the point being that allowing telecom giants to control the flow of information in such a deeply intensive mode is a disruption of communication.

The internet, which in this day and age is needed for everything, should not be impeded for money. The primary reason to prevent such impediments is that the use of financial leverage against people in the consumption of their information is essentially censorship for the digital age.

Lack of economic resources could theoretically deprive an entire community of information. The idea of a single company controlling the data flow of vast swaths of areas, with the ability to demand leverages in order to open certain information, is frightening. People would potentially have to pay extra for news, entertainment or to access their email.

This is a perfectly possible, albeit dystopian, future if net neutrality is killed. Members of the FCC are expected to vote along party lines in favor of the Republican members of the commission. This decision would allow for telecommunication companies to enact discretion on data depending on conditions they set.

Under a business-friendly, anti-criticism government, this vote is handing the tools of oppression over to eager, would-be oppressors.

It could become costly to access any news source other than a specific one that is allowed without impediment by a telecommunications company.

Buying subscriptions to a newspaper will not help if those newspapers are not allowed to work on the digital scale in certain areas. A telecom giant could also ask for payment from both ends, the user and the provider, in order to allow data flow.

Having to pay extra for a Netflix account while Netflix pays for someone's ability to access a user's account is a cringe-worthy prospect in and of itself. The idea of a news outlet being outright banned in an area because of an outside company's personal grudge against that outlet is abhorrent.

It is incredibly easy to take the

internet for granted, especially if one grew up in the present digital age. It is also easy to forget that there are still places where access to the internet is incredibly limited, especially in impoverished communities where any amount of data is a massive expense for a person and their family.

Making that completely inaccessible or filtering their access acts as a direct attack on the social and economic mobility of anyone who wants to move beyond their current circumstances.

Controlling the digital information flow can also encourage propaganda if there are no alternate sources of information to contradict or debate the most easily accessible information.

Net neutrality should be the elementary and default state of information flow worldwide. Restricting this flow would only allow for a larger threat of exploitation.

That is why these permissions need to be defeated by legislation or a swing vote in the FCC.

It might seem like a stretch to suggest that the internet has become as vital as water and electricity, but there is a reason governments take these steps to protect the facilitation of bandwidth. The only question is whether the blow to that facilitation will be internal.

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

Buying subscriptions to a newspaper will not help if those newspapers are not allowed to work on the digital scale in certain areas.

# Gene editing systems may raise distinct concerns

everal years ago, the United Kingdom's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority approved gene editing in viable human embryos. Upon hearing this, questions arise and the imagination runs wild. A dystopian future where everyone is editing their kids' genes to match the parents' desired traits becomes an entertaining idea to ponder.

That is why, at first, the HFEA had only given the greenlight to one research project being conducted by biologist Kathy Niakan at the Francis Crick Institute in London. Only her lab was allowed to do the tweaking, using the CRIS-PR-Cas9 gene editing system to study donated embryos in the first week after fertilization.

In 2017, a lot more people than just Niakan are allowed to play around with the CRISPR system.

Dr. Josiah Zayner, Canadian biohacker and CEO of The Odin, a genetic engineering company, is one such person. Biohackers are not a new caste; they have just been around in different forms throughout the years. Biohackers are really explorers of genes, testing limits and trying new things as they study both plant and animal DNA, while experimenting with gene editing.

Taking biohacking as far as Zayner has seems like something out of a comic book. After all, fictitious villains are often created when scientists push too far. In a move many are calling crazy, Zayner has altered his own DNA, specifically in the muscle cells of his forearm. The citizen-scientist targeted the myostatin gene that prevents muscle growth in humans and animals. He deleted this gene and now is waiting for something, if anything, to happen.

In nonhuman subjects, it often takes around 16 weeks for muscle growth, so now Zayner is tasked with enduring the wait.

One man doing what he wants to his body may not sound like a huge problem, but the results raise a lot of ethical concerns. With how rapidly norms have loosened since Niakan first started her CRISPR experiments, it is only a matter of time before the public, not just scientists, are carrying out these biohacks on themselves and even those around them.

Of course, gene editing raises other concerns that were especially prevalent when Niakan started, such as the so-called "designer baby dilemma," which questions whether it is ethical to alter babies' genes before birth. Still, countries like China have been using it to correct harmful genes like one that caused certain blood disorders. Zayner is not the one people should be worried about, though.

Scientists should be concerned about the people whose research projects are largely left unregulated by the government, giving them more freedom to pursue some less than smart or not so noble experiments. These experiments come with the risk of cancer and other health problems, even mutations.

Whether Zayner is successful or not, there needs to be some strict international laws set up to regulate the genetic engineering of humans as gene modification gets increasingly more accessible. Humans should be able to advance their knowledge without conducting any unethical experiments. A science fiction nightmare must not become the new reality.

-Jessica Kraker English/History '18



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**DECEMBER 4, 2017** THE TICKER BUSINESS I PAGE 7

# Business

# FCC chairman aims to revoke Obama-era net neutrality rules

BY KLAUDIA CZARNOCKA

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER** 

Under President Donald Trump's administration, the new chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, Ajit Pai, plans on deregulating net neutrality rules. If approved, this could change not only the world, but the U.S. economy in particular.

Currently, internet service providers like Verizon Wireless and Spectrum are required by law to treat all of the internet's data with equality. They are not allowed to block content or slow down internet speeds on different websites. The concept of pay-to-play, in other words, is strictly forbidden. These internet service providers fought against net neutrality ever since it was established.

Under former President Barack Obama's administration in 2015, the net neutrality rules were approved by then FCC chairman, Tom Wheeler. According to The New York Times, Wheeler said that the FCC passed these rules in order to preserve the "core of free expression and democratic principles." It is clear that the previous administration acted more on behalf of U.S. citizens as opposed to the current administration acting in favor of big businesses.

The underlying debate that exists in this situation is between freedom of speech, which the net neutrality rules protected, and the choke on the free market.

Many U.S. citizens treat the internet as an essential part of their lives, especially the younger mil-



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

The removal of net neutrality regulations could allow large internet providers, like Verizon and Comcast, to throttle the internet.

lennial generation. This is the first group of people who would suffer from Pai's successful execution of deregulating net neutrality. Under Obama's administration, there was a strong belief that the internet was very important and should be public. The government also viewed the internet as something that was too big and significant to let internet service providers control.

Individual consumers have been driving e-commerce through the roof in the past few years. They surely would not be happy if their basic internet plan did not allow them to order their clothes or groceries online. According to Times writer Tiffany Hsu, research from a Google subsidiary suggests that visitors who have to wait more than

three seconds for a mobile site to load will abandon their search 53 percent of the time.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs would also suffer from this. Relating back to e-commerce, business owners who just made the transition onto online platforms and maybe even run their entire businesses online will see an increased overhead expense that consequently lowers their profitability.

With the rise in popularity of freelance apps like TaskRabbit, or websites for freelancers such as Upwork, this change will be detrimental to simple individuals who take part in the gig economy those who utilize these services.

These groups of people will fight

against Pai's actions in order to protect themselves and stand for their freedom of speech. For some of them, it will not just be a matter of adjustment. The decision on whether net neutrality rules will stay in place can cause small businesses to close down. Laying out the money to get the best internet may not be a problem for giants like Google LLC or Amazon.com Inc. However, smaller businesses will see this as a great threat to them.

On the other hand, proponents of deregulation of net neutrality are big internet service providers. Verizon Wireless and Spectrum, for example, are companies that would definitely like to be able to decide how much internet they provide. Other than the possible

profitable approaches to offering internet, internet service providers believe that this will give them the opportunity to fit their customers' needs better. Some consumers do not need really fast internet and the ones who do should be willing to pay for it.

This change will also allow for more of a free market economy. The current net neutrality rules limit what the internet service providers can offer. However, if these rules are lifted, internet providers can offer different service packages. Dimitri Laloudakis, a student at Baruch College, offered a strong opinion on the topic with his capitalistic approach.

"If you want something faster, you pay for it. This is not a new concept. Why are people opposing the lift of these net neutrality rules?" he asked. He went on to add an analogy to explain his point. "It's a standard business practice. Just like in an airline industry, you can either pay to fly coach or pay more to fly business class where you'd have more comfort. It's the same with Verizon giving you the option to have fast or slow internet."

Laloudakis also commented on the monopolistic setting in which these internet providers can abuse their market power. He believes that "the government should limit its interference with businesses in order to promote innovation and competition."

The repeal of net neutrality regulations can close some doors, but it may open numerous others, with a wealth of opportunities for both future consumers and businesses.

#### Tesla announces release of new Roadster and Semi truck vehicles

BY JAHVON MEADOWS **BUSINESS EDITOR** 

Tesla Inc., the U.S. automaker,

energy storage company and solar panel manufacturer, recently announced its new lineup of electricpowered vehicles. The lineup includes the Tesla Roadster, a new car, and the Tesla Semi, an all-electric semi-truck.

The Semi is a four-motor truck with a range of 500 miles and some self-driving capabilities, according to The Verge. The regular versions of the 300-mile and 500-mile trucks are priced at around \$150,000 and \$180,000 each, respectively.

Tesla claims its Semi truck provides numerous benefits compared to its counterparts. For example, it can go from zero to 60 mph in a mere five seconds, and from zero to 60 mph towing 80,000 pounds, its maximum tow load, in only 20 seconds, a rate much faster than the average diesel truck.

The Semi also offers a transmission that does not require the shifting of gears, a normal requirement for electric vehicles, with regenerative braking.

Tesla asserts that the truck outperforms its diesel rivals regarding qualities such as responsiveness and handling. The Semi can cover more miles than a semi-diesel truck in the same time span, with safer operation in and around traffic, according to TechCrunch.

The Tesla Semi also boasts an unconventional design. The company claims that its cabin is tailored specifically for drivers, with stairs that are designed to make it easier to get in and out, and the ability to stand fully when inside the cab.

According to TechCrunch, the driver is also centered in the cab relative to the road, and there is a removable jump seat for a passenger as well. Touchscreens are positioned on either side of the driver, offering navigation information, blind spot monitoring and trip data logging applications. There are also fleet management and routing tools.

The Semi will charge itself at solar-powered Megachargers, and can get 400 miles of range on a single 30-minute charge. Tesla plans to have these Megachargers placed worldwide so that consumers can easily charge their vehicles.

The Tesla Semi also offers advanced safety features. It has a special battery design that helps reinforce the battery units.

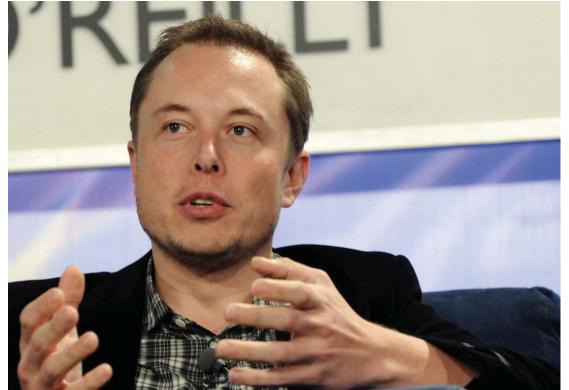
The windshield is also made of impact-resistant glass, and the truck is made to avoid jackknifing by automatically detecting any instability that could lead to this issue. If it detects an issue, the truck will torque each wheel accordingly, while also activating the brakes.

Cameras are included to try eliminating blind spots and help support the detection of objects. They provide alerts to the driver automatically whenever potential hazards are identified.

According to TechCrunch, "Tesla has also built Enhanced Autopilot features into its Semi, which is not surprising given the work it's done pioneering and refining these drier assistance features on its lineup of consumer cars."

On the Semi, Tesla's Autopilot offers automated emergency braking, lane keeping and lane departure warnings to help encourage safe highway driving.

This version of the truck is a day truck, designed for short hauls, and without a sleeper. Tesla said it could easily extend the cab to accommodate a sleeper cabin, and then extend the underlying battery pack to support that as well. It can



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The Tesla Semi is an all-electric truck, which Tesla claims has numerous advantages compared to its diesel truck counterparts.

also be used with or without the aerodynamic cowling above the hood, depending on the height of the trailer it is pulling.

Electric trucks are not only being worked on by Tesla. Nikola Motor Company is working on a hybrid hydrogen-powered electric powertrain, which the company is building together with Bosch.

Daimler AG has revealed its own concept for a Mitsubishi E-FUSO fully electric, Vision One truck with 220 miles of range, but with no specified release window so far. The long-term advantages of electric trucks are great, from an obvious ecological perspective, to a more economic, cost-effective standpoint. According to The Verge, most long-haul diesel trucks are priced around \$120,000 and cost tens of thousands of dollars to operate annually.

Tesla claims its Semi, which is all electric, will provide more than \$200,000 in fuel savings over the lifespan of the vehicle.

Compared to their diesel brethren, electric trucks could live longer and be less expensive to maintain long term. The cost to refuel them over their lifetimes should be far less than the cost to operate a truck that uses an internal combustion engine, like diesel trucks do. Tesla says the Semi requires "significantly less maintenance" than a diesel truck, in particular because "it lacks the high-strain moving parts of internal combustion engine vehicles, including the engine, transmission, after-treatment system and differentials," according to TechCrunch.

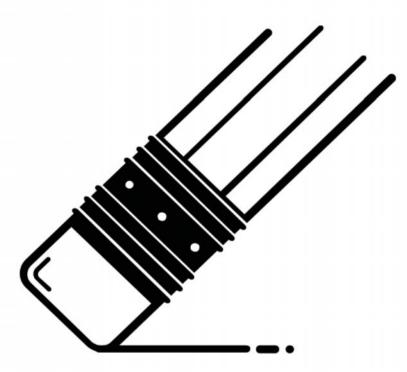
Companies such as DHL Express and Walmart have already put in limited orders for Tesla's electric Semi truck, most likely interested in the potential of these vehicles over conventional diesel ones.

PAGE 8 I THE TICKER BUSINESS

DECEMBER 4, 2017

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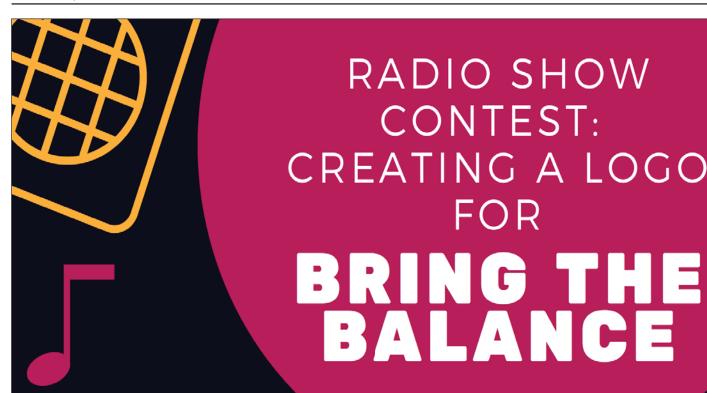
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PAGE 10 I THE TICKER ARTS & STYLE

DECEMBER 4, 2017

# Arts & Style

# Mobile Unit's The Winter's Tale delivers Shakespeare to public

BY REUVEN GLEZER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Fifty years ago, the founder of The Public Theater, Joseph Papp, initiated a mobile theater project he originally titled New York Shakespeare Festival.

With a small cast and a few set pieces, the William Shakespeare production toured New York City, bringing theater to places where it was rarely, if ever, found. These places included libraries, prisons, multipurpose rooms and community centers.

The New York Shakespeare Festival offered members of the community a chance to gather and see an aspect of culture that they may have not experienced before.

Hardly anyone is as suited for the mission to entice people into exploring a different culture than Shakespeare. His landscapes are always somewhat familiar, yet they also manage to singe fantasy into the skin.

Fifty years later, Papp's vision is honored in what The Public Theater has deemed its "Astor Season," through its Mobile Unit production of *The Winter's Tale* — Public's reinvention of Papp's mobile theater.

Under direction from Lee Sunday Evans, *The Winter's Tale* is probably one of Shakespeare's most tonally jarring comedies. The first act digs deep into the foolishness of pompous and jealous men who willingly deny everything that undoes their visions.

Following a time jump, the second half of the play dives right into silliness, young love and magic in a way that might be a turnoff for people new to Shakespeare, especially the audience of the Mobile Unit. Surprisingly, even cut down for time and short on cast, Evans' vision of *The Winter's Tale* remains staggeringly clear.

King Leontes of Sicilia is played by Justin Cunningham, who effectively portrays the character's raging jealousy and pained remorse. Leontes comes under the illusion that his wife Hermione, played by Stacey Yen, has been sleeping with Leontes' closest friend, King Polixenes of Bohemia, played by Nicholas Hoge, and believes that the child in Hermione's womb belongs to Polixenes.

The king, unable to control his jealousy or listen to the wisdom of his court, imprisons Hermione when Polixenes flees at Camillo's behest. Camillo is a kind and loyal member of the court and is played with true joy by Sathya Sridharan. At Hermione's trial, Leontes rejects a vision from the gods that declares her innocent, and so begins the winter of their lives.

Shakespeare's comedies are mired in mix-ups, mistaken identities, kindly strangers and bizarre, unusual places. *The Winter's Tale* is no different. The strangest places in the world are those that hide the deepest secrets for the play's characters, brought cleverly to life by the tiniest details.

Evans' decision to portray the shepherds of the play — played by Christopher Ryan Grant and Nina Grollman — more in the style of American Midwest shepherds rather than Greek ones, added a



CAROL ROSEGG | THE PUBLIC THEATER

From left, Yen, Myers and Grollman do much with little set decoration in The Public Theater's mobile production.

bit of liveliness to the "summer half" of the play, where everything rights itself.

Never has a sheep shearing been so catchy or infectious, with music by Heather Christian filling in some of the transitional gaps guaranteed by the cuts needed to facilitate this production.

The use of a cappella renditions of some of the transitional verse in the play works far better than expected. It brings to mind Classic Stage Company's tepid production of *As You Like It* earlier this year, which also attempted to use music as a transitional tool, but came off as more of a gimmick.

Rounding out the contours of the world is the puppet design, courtesy of James Ortiz, whose bear — the one in the famous line, "Exit, pursued by a bear" — managed to genuinely give the audience a fright when it first came onstage. A puppet also plays the character of Mamillius, voiced by Chris Myers, whose charm and downright adorable nature only become crushing when Leontes' pride causes the gods to smite his only son. The image of the puppet child crumpled in lifelessness proves to be a genuinely haunting image as the first half of the play begins to close.

It is incredibly difficult to judge the Mobile Unit's *The Winter's Tale* without considering The Public Theater's other Shakespeare offerings, such as the resplendent Shakespeare in the Park and its regular in-house productions of the great playwright's works. After all, it is easy to worry that the Mobile

Unit might have watered down the show in terms of finesse and narrative coherence in order to make it a bare-bones touring production.

It can gladly be reported, however, that nothing of the like was remotely visible in the imagined kingdoms of Sicilia and Bohemia that occupied the Public's majestic LuEsther Hall. If anything, the lack of a more lush set and light design makes one pay closer attention to the actors' re-telling of one of the oldest stories in English drama.

At one point during the play, Mamillius tells his mother Hermione "a tale for winter," a dark and mischievous fairy tale.

This show is quite the tale, where a frigid, unhappy winter is followed by a summer brought plainly into view to banish the cold of mistakes.



#### COMPILED BY MAXIM IBADOV

Taylor Swift's new album, Reputation, reigns on Billboard's Top 200 chart for the second week, with a total of more than 1.5 million units sold, already crowning the album as the best-selling album of 2017 and maintaining Swift's status as one of the most forceful names in music. Countrywestern's favorite couple, Tim Mc-Graw and Faith Hill, debut at No. 2 with their new duet album, The Rest of Our Life, having 104,000 units sold. Another country-western mega-power, Garth Brooks arrives at No. 4 with his new box set The Anthology Part I: The First Five Years, with 53,000 units sold, making it Brooks' 19th Top 10 album.

Coco scores a major victory, as Pixar's new animated film set in Mexico dominates the box office with \$71 million in earnings. Once again, Disney and Pixar prove that they are the most influential forces when it comes to sending a powerful message: that Latino representation not only matters, but has a wide international appeal. Wonder, a touching family story starring Oscarwinner Julia Roberts along with Jacob Tremblay as a fifth-grader with a deformed face, finishes in third place with \$32 million.

The Broadway musical *Charlie* and the *Chocolate Factory* has announced its closing date of Jan. 14, following 27 previews and 305 performances. Based on the beloved children's book by Roald Dahl and its 1971 film adaptation, the musical starred two-time Tony Award-

winner Christian Borle in the iconic role of Willy Wonka. Following the closing, the musical will go on a national tour in September 2018.

Jordan Fisher, the star of *Teen Beach Movie* and *Hamilton,* became the winner of the 25th season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" with his partner Lindsay Arnold. At 23, Fisher became the youngest male to win the show. Contemporary violinist Lindsey Stirling and Mark Ballas came in second, with former child actor Frankie Muniz finishing in third with partner Witney Carson.

Streaming service Amazon Studios is in talks with the estate of late author J.R.R. Tolkien and Warner Bros. Television to create a series based on Tolkien's magnum opus, *The Lord of The Rings*. While no deal has been set yet, *Vanity Fair* reports that sources with knowledge of the situation claim that Amazon's CEO Jeff Bezos is personally involved in the negotiations.

Ahead of her anticipated appearance on Broadway in *The Parisian Woman*, actress Uma Thurman shared a touching post on Instagram, announcing herself as a part of the #MeToo movement aimed to demonstrate the scale of sexual harassment in the world. Thurman also went on to attack Harvey Weinstein and "his wicked conspirators." The actress stated that she is "glad it's going slowly — you don't deserve a bullet."

# Robinson's The Magpie Salute gains popularity following successful US tour

BY LUIS LUCERO SENIOR STAFF WRITER

When the famed Southern rock group The Black Crowes decided to split up in 2015, the two volatile brothers who started the band, singer Chris Robinson and guitarist Rich Robinson, each went their own way.

The former started a new band, aptly named The Chris Robinson Brotherhood, which mixed together blues and psychedelia with a strong live band that frequently tours with an ever-changing set list.

As for Rich, he has mostly continued with a solo career, occasionally getting other gigs performing with legendary bands like Bad Company during its 2016 U.S. tour.

Last October, Rich announced that he would be forming a new band called The Magpie Salute. The band would feature other former Crowes members like guitarist Marc Ford and bass guitarist Sven Pipien.

The band's longtime keyboard player Eddie Harsch was set to be included in the lineup, but suddenly died less than a month after the band's formation.

In addition to the familiar faces, new members include John Hogg on lead vocals, Nico Bereciartúa on guitar, Matt Slocum on keyboards, Joe Magistro on drums and Charity White, Adrien Reju and Katrine Ottosen on backing vocals.

Earlier this year, the band performed its first shows with four sold-out nights at New York City's Gramercy Theatre and has been on the road ever since. The band recently returned to the city with two nights at Irving Plaza, not too far away from its debut venue.

The concept of the band is very similar to that of the defunct Beady Eye, another band made up of various personnel from a group helmed by vitriolic brothers, Oasis. While The Chris Robinson Brotherhood is an entirely new concept from the ground up, The Magpie Salute more or less picks up where The Black Crowes had left off.

Some could view this as a cynical attempt at living off the Crowes' legacy. Others could see this as giving the Crowes experience to both longtime fans and those who did not get a chance to see the band during its existence.

Whichever way one looks at it, they cannot deny that The Magpie Salute is a strong live act in its own right. Even with no original material of its own, the band makes the best of the large backlog of Crowes material.

While The Magpie Salute is not reliant on lengthy jams like The Black Crowes or even The Chris Robinson Brotherhood is, each show on its tour is completely different from the last. Since the band claimed to have rehearsed more than 100 songs before touring, it is very understandable why the members would want to switch things up each night.

Their repertoire is not limited to Crowes songs either. Songs from Rich and Ford's solo careers are also performed, with both taking up lead vocals on their respective songs. The band also busted out some cover songs from bands like Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones and Free, among many others.

As mentioned earlier, the set list is made up mostly of Crowes material. In an effort to please the fans, a lot of the songs that were chosen for the show were mostly deep cuts. A similar addition was noticeable for The Chris Robinson Brotherhood's shows, whenever the band featured old band material.

Most spiritual successor bands opt to play it safe and focus on only the recognizable songs. These shows, however, end up becoming a treat for both longtime and newer Crowes fans. Fogg's vocals on these songs manage to pay tribute to the Crowes while adding a new approach to singing, though it takes a little while to get used to hearing the original band's songs being sung by anyone other than Chris.

Surprisingly, Rich and Ford end up both receiving a sizable number of turns on the microphone. Aside from playing their own solo songs, they both helmed a lengthy acoustic middle portion of the show, mostly made up of covers from artists like Gram Parsons and The Flying Burrito Brothers.

One memorable moment came during The Black Crowes song "Exit." Slocum concluded the song with a piano solo, during which the crowd started chanting "Eddie! Eddie!" in reference to departed member Harsch. After the song, Rich acknowledged their chant and joked that "Eddie was smiling up there."

Even without a debut studio album, The Magpie Salute's first tour is hitting all the right notes for fans of The Black Crowes.

Hopefully, the band's impending studio album will manage to expand on the overall Crowes sound without being too attached to the past.

In some ways, The Magpie Salute gives the fans a consolation for what The Black Crowes could have done, had they not abruptly disbanded.

DECEMBER 4, 2017 THE TICKER ARTS & STYLE I PAGE 11

## Troubled Justice League ignores DC Extended Universe's past



**BENJAMIN WALLIN** 

DC Comics movies have been plagued since the attempted creation of a cinematic universe that was intended to rival Marvel's popular mega franchise.

Man of Steel, Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice and Suicide Squad were all critically panned and, even after the positive momentum from summer breakout Wonder Woman, it was still unclear whether Justice League was the type of film that could overcome its predecessors and help DC Comics succeed in the way Marvel has.

The film is a team-up event of six superheroes trying to save the world, building off pre-existing movies, much like *The Avengers* did in 2012. However, although *Justice League* is not a bad movie, it is heavily flawed.

It is no secret that *Justice League* had severe development issues. Following claims that *Dawn of Justice* was dark and not funny, Warner Bros. invited members of the press to watch the filming of some of *Justice League* and released footage to the public.

However, both actions seemed more like attempts to prove that humor would be present in this new film. Then director Zack Snyder left production after his daughter, aged 20, committed suicide, with Joss Whedon taking over in his place.

Extensive reshoots became necessary, to the point where Henry Cavill, playing Superman, had to have a mustache digitally removed due to his concurrent filming of the sixth *Mission Impossible* film.

Issues behind the scenes were not readily apparent on the screen, though some point out the awkward patch where the mustache was replaced with digital skin as an issue. Mostly, the troubling production set up doubt in viewers' minds as to how the film would turn out.

Dawn of Justice had to respond to complaints of Superman uncaringly aiding in the destruction of his city of Metropolis in Man of Steel and Justice League had to respond to the dour nature of Dawn of Justice. The problems were a setup and it was up to Justice League to deliver something surprisingly good.

The most prevalent issue in *Justice League* is its characterization. The Superman of *Justice League* is not at all representative of the previous two films in which he was featured.

In Man of Steel, he was one of multiple blurs in the sky, crashing into buildings and destroying almost an entire city. In Dawn of Justice, he was suspected of bombing Congress, turned into a public menace and only shown as a symbol of hope in a single montage. There is nothing to set up the way Superman is portrayed in Justice League. In this film, Superman is a hero mourned by the world, a symbol of the best that people could achieve. Never depicted as a team player or a leader, Superman is expected to be both, taking on the responsibility for tying together the bickering Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Cyborg and the Flash.

There is dishonesty and ignorance in the way Superman is made to be a beacon of hope, much in the style of Snyder's previous directo-

rial efforts in the emphasis of imagery over a developed narrative.

Visually, the film does not have much to offer. Whereas *X-Men:* Days of Future Past milked a scene with a speedy superhero for many moments and gags, Justice League has a long and dramatic moment for the Flash to do one thing.

The villain, Steppenwolf, a CGI character bent on collecting a few important boxes, is visually unimpressive. Extremely low angles of Wonder Woman feel more objectifying than epic. Even Batman lacks the great visual moments provided during his warehouse fight scene in *Dawn of Justice*.

The stakes are questionable in *Justice League*, making it difficult to feel tension. It is no surprise that Superman returns, as was teased at the end of *Dawn of Justice*, so all questions of who will help save

the day feel moot. The villain's motive is vague and his goal unclear. Whether Steppenwolf wants to destroy the world or just summon the villain Darkseid becomes muddled through the little substance he offers the audience.

There are significant portions in the two-hour runtime wherein the heroes stand around and wait, bringing the immediacy of Steppenwolf's threat to the world into question.

The issues may seem daunting, but there is still merit to this movie. There are attempts to have fun with the quips of the Flash and the surfer persona of Aquaman, but little of these characters is seen.

A moment seen from the Flash's perspective while running past Superman ranks as one of the greatest superhero surprises in the past two decades of the medium.

Despite poor narrative choices, a weak villain and CGI mustache removal, it is hard to say that *Justice League* is bad. Although the film is not a waste of time, spending money on a ticket to see it may not be the best allocation of personal funds.

The DC Extended Universe of films is still stuck in its rut of responsiveness. Suicide Squad was an unearned attempt to cash in on Guardians of the Galaxy's success, and Justice League is a rushed Avengers-style team-up. What the DCEU really lacks is development, since Warner Bros. is rushing to match Marvel's progress, having started five years too late. Building a franchise with the merit of not wasting time is not an admirable approach. The DCEU needs to be fixed in a meaningful way, and DC will need to work hard for it.



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES AND DC COMICS

From left, Aquaman, Wonder Woman, the Flash and Cyborg team up to face a world-threatening foe.

## Gerwig's Lady Bird astonishes audiences with coming-of-age tale

BY CHARLES TABASSO STAFF WRITER

Marion McPherson and her daughter Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson are returning home from another college tour. They have just wrapped up listening to a moving rendition of *The Grapes of Wrath*, and are quietly dabbing the corners of their eyes.

Christine moves for the radio dial but her mother slaps her hand away; she urges her daughter to pause and reflect on the weight of the story's parting sentences.

With a sigh, Christine stares gloomily out the window toward the Sacramento landscape, saying "I want to live through something." The rest of *Lady Bird*, written and directed by Greta Gerwig, is an emotional tour de force and exploration of this dream unconsciously coming true.

Saoirse Ronan was an unquestionably perfect fit to play the solipsistic Catholic schoolgirl, Lady Bird. She seamlessly transitions from rebellious to vulnerable without ever turning the dialogue into clunky one-liners or bitter monologues.

Lady Bird lives on the self-described "wrong side of the tracks" along with the rest of the McPhersons — a family hobbled by unemployment — with her mother Marion, played by a stoic Laurie Metcalf, almost single-handedly supporting them all. Lady Bird's future may not be completely under her control, but her personality is.

As a film seeking to differentiate itself within the genre of comingof-age tales, Lady Bird's favorite method of defying convention is in creating natural circumstances for humor and pain to be fostered, and for the titular character to mature.

Interactions with lifelong best friend Julie, played by Beanie Feld-

Lady Bird lives on the self-described "wrong side of the tracks" along with the rest of the McPhersons — a family hobbled by unemployment — with her mother Marion, played by a stoic Laurie Metcalf, almost single-handedly supporting them all. Lady Bird's future may not be completely under her control, but her personality is.

stein, bring out some of the funniest back-and-forth action outside of a Neil Simon play. Julie routinely steals every scene involving her hopeless crush, the math teacher.

Gerwig has a remarkable knack for juggling her film's characters so that they never lose their momentum off-screen; although Ronan is in the limelight, she belongs to a constellation of fine performances — especially so with Metcalf.

It is remarkable the way that Marion bends over backward and still manages to be the backbone of her family. If anyone were to be the fulcrum of Lady Bird's future, it would be her mother; she is the mouthpiece of poverty, voicing a reality by which her daughter is youthfully blinded.

But as the mother bird that knows instinctively to let her baby learn to fly in free fall, Marion's restraint is also akin to love. Actions are the language through which the McPherson parents best communi-



MERIE WALLACE | A24

Julie, right, questions her lifelong friend, Lady Bird, left, about changing friends in order to fit in with different groups.

cate this with their children.

Despite a largely disappointing side story that needlessly pits father against son for a soulless corporate job, Larry McPherson's role in the family should not fool viewers.

Although he often retreats back into his game of solitaire during many a heated exchange, he nurtures Lady Bird's spirit as tenderly as his wife does, and is deeply affected by his daughter's impulsive nature.

Being — criminally so — a man of few words, he develops as another one of life's punching bags, a punching bag Lady Bird does not realize she has been abusing. The danger lies in how gradual the escalation of Lady Bird's inattention becomes — a fact only Marion ever seems capable of breaking, adept as she is at playing the bad guy.

This confrontation marks the first time Lady Bird, along with the audience, identifies the error in her ways; but by then it is impotently too late to apologize, and viewers have crashed directly into the aftermath of her carelessness.

Understandably, a fundamental part of Lady Bird's personal journey is learning firsthand that not all debts can be repaid, nor all damage repaired.

Lady Bird, however, is determined to live life on her own terms, in spite of her mother and the turbulence of navigating her Catholic high school, which proves itself a formidable force that ferries Lady Bird along most of her various lifealtering decisions.

She quickly begins to mix and match friends to blend in with different crowds, adjusting herself like the burgeoning socialite she is, much to Julie's chagrin. Having known her best friend the longest, Julie has a perception of Lady Bird that the audience expects to be one-to-one. As such, when she openly gauges the growing distance between them, it is indisput-

able and worrying.

Gerwig does not shy away from examining whether Lady Bird can truly be the best judge of herself and implies, with an opening quote by fellow Sacramentan Joan Didion as her epigram that it still takes a village to raise a child, no matter how rebellious or deep into California they might live.

Gerwig also strongly believes that there is more to her hometown's character than fornication and flower children. She said in an interview with *Vanity Fair* that "home really comes into focus when you are leaving," and only then can the impression of one's community be recognized.

Lady Bird's metaphorical flight out of Sacramento may have truly set her free, but all birds tend to migrate in the direction of home.

As a film, and as a character, *Lady Bird* astonishes with its story and resonates all too well with its audience.

PAGE 12 I THE TICKER ARTS & STYLE DECEMBER 4, 2017

# Lincoln Center revives DeLappe's rewarding story, The Wolves

BY REUVEN GLEZER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A pack of motivated, clever and terrifying creatures have made their home at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and they are only going to be there until Jan. 7.

The titular indoor soccer team of Sarah DeLappe's *The Wolves* may not be the fanged and furred predators of the forest, but they are forces of nature in their own right, turning the thrust stage of the Mitzi E. Newhouse into what is unmistakably their own territory.

After a brief run at the Duke on 42nd Street, the Pulitzer-nominated play has been revived at Lincoln Center with a vivacity rarely afforded to works with such specific subject matters. Anyone could easily imagine that the stories meant

to be told through the eyes of a girls soccer team would be, at the very least, a little unrelatable.

They would be incredibly wrong to think so. The girls of the ensemble make up the Wolves, a team ready for the Nationals, and eager to hear rumors of talent scouts.

The Wolves prove themselves as truly a collective, even when they held simultaneous conversations about the Khmer Rouge, children trapped in cages or whether one of them needed a pad because their period was just not leaving them alone.

DeLappe's casual, conversational writing makes the dialogue feel less like tropes in a blender and more like the genuine insights of teenage girls, while the adults are out making the rules and figuring out who is up to being coach this time around.

Once the audience hears the Wolves announce who they like best, it is hard not to nod in agreement when they say they do not want the coach who "made us do scrimmage in our sports bras."

The Wolves, only referred to by their numbers for a majority of the play, especially by one another, are clearly parts of a singular, much more powerful whole. When no one else is around, though, each girl becomes far more than her number.

While the concept of putting a magnifying lens on the parts of a whole is not new, DeLappe's tight writing allows for the insight to be less of a case study and more of a fly-on-the-wall situation.

The little things that set them apart become fascinating, even if perhaps these problems have been laid out before in soap operas

and cheap television series about the lives of adolescents. DeLappe clearly understands that sometimes the things viewers might see as dramatic do in fact happen to people.

The soccer team would be nothing without the direction of Lila Neugebauer, whose spot-on staging makes the maneuvers these girls pull off not only believable, but also a joy to watch.

The sheer precision makes this endeavor feel less like an exercise in scenario-based storytelling, and more of a genuine act of telling a story within the world into which DeLappe has chosen to look.

The production team also took fascinating measures to create the world of *The Wolves*. Laura Jellinek, whose puzzle-piece sets sometimes feel like interdimensional doors, has encroached the stage of

Once the audience hears the Wolves announce who they like best, it is hard not to nod in agreement when they say they do not want the coach who "made us do scrimmage in our sports bras." The Wolves, only

bras."The Wolves, only referred to by their numbers for a majority of the play, especially by one another, are clearly parts of a singular, much more powerful whole.

and cheap television series about the Mitzi E. Newhouse with turf—the lives of adolescents. DeLappe even the back wall of the stage.

It feels almost like some sort of otherworldly forest where the Wolves reside, practicing high-knees and butt kicks in preparation for their next battle. Right outside that forest, though, is a world of college-aged boyfriends, port-a-potties and therapists.

Asta Bennie Hostetter, responsible for costume design, created a slick battle uniform for the Wolves that makes any changes to and from those uniforms an almost holy moment.

Lap Chi Chu's lighting, with its signature powerful eruption of bold radiance, emanates an environment that reminds the audience of just how competitive, and how grueling, being an athlete can be.

This is put to best effect in a silent scene starring only #00, played by Lizzy Jutila, whose own silence proves to be a barrier for something much heavier within. It is hard not to jump when #00 finally makes her exit after these moments.

Overall, *The Wolves* is something of an out-of-the-way, yet rewarding, revival for Lincoln Center. Such quick resurrections of shows like *The Wolves*, which opened and closed in 2016 at the Duke on 42nd Street, could easily be cash grabs and filler material for a slow season.

The play proudly stands on its own on a new stage that seems better suited for the story DeLappe and Neugebauer want to tell. It pulls off being a lens without necessarily feeling like any kind of lens.

If anything, the audience may as well be sitting on the bleachers or just passing by the quad where the Wolves do their stretches and argue strategy, only to stop and briefly listen to something bursting from young voices.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIETA CERVANTES

DeLappe's *The Wolves* tells the story of the titular Wolves, a women's soccer team getting ready for the nationals.

## Dream Theater returns to stage with 25th anniversary celebration

BY LUIS LUCERO

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Dream Theater, the Long Islandbased band of progressive metal titans, has returned with a brand new tour.

But with no new studio album since the release of its 2016 double rock opera, *The Astonishing*, the band and its members have decided to celebrate their past, specifically the band's 1992 breakthrough album, *Images and Words*, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

The tour, aptly named "Images, Words & Beyond," features both a collection of Dream Theater classics and a complete performance of the aforementioned album.

The past three years have seen Dream Theater actively partake in touring. Aside from two separate tours for two studio albums, the band also staged several festival tours in Europe. The fact that Dream Theater was able to stage yet another world tour after all of that is very remarkable.

Adding to that, this year also saw a former band member, founding drummer Mike Portnoy, stage his own tour of Dream Theater material with his carefully assembled band, The Shattered Fortress.

Portnoy's tour received rave reviews from fans, adding to the anticipation that Dream Theater faced from its fans regarding this new tour.

While it was nice to finally be able to get a full tour of band classics after seeing the group play nothing but *The Astonishing* in its entirety, it feels as if Portnoy did a better job of encapsulating the Dream Theater experience than the real Dream Theater did.

The night started with a performance of "The Dark Eternal Night" from the 2007 album, *Systematic* 

Chaos

In contrast to the full-blown progressive rock that defined the last album, it was admittedly a nice change of gears to finally see the members embrace their metal roots. While singer James LaBrie's voice was fairly good for this tour, his stage presence has changed dramatically since the last tour.

In contrast to playing various characters in a rock opera, LaBrie opted instead for more of a Bruce Dickinson-like approach of speaking to the audience in between songs.

The first half of the show brought about a few neat surprises. The middle of the set featured a couple of deep cuts from the band's discography, including the jazz fusion-inspired instrumental, "Hell's Kitchen," off its 1997 album, Falling Into Infinity, and "To Live Forever," a song originally from the writing sessions of what would eventually become Images and Words.

For the first time in Dream Theater's history, bass guitarist John Myung finally received a dedicated solo spot in the show.

But rather than use his solo as a means of showing off his skills as a player, Myung decided to pay tribute to one of his musical idols, Jaco Pastorius of Weather Report.

There were also several moments during which the band teased the audience by playing short snippets of well-known classics like The Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" and Metallica's "Enter Sandman" in the middle of its own songs.

After a 20-minute intermission, the main portion of the show began, following a faux radio montage of 1992's biggest hits played over the loudspeaker. It was here that the most noticeable change in Dream Theater's performance style became apparent. From this point

on, every song was performed a half step below its original recorded key.

This stylistic choice could be taken as a sign of how much of a toll the band's lengthy period on the road is having on the members, namely LaBrie. Also, the spontaneity that made up the first set was mostly absent for the rest of the show.

While the band added solo spots for the remaining three members — guitarist John Petrucci, keyboardist Jordan Rudess and current drummer Mike Mangini — during the album tracks, it feels like the band added them just to make it sound less like it was playing the record note for note.

A point of comparison can be found in The Shattered Fortress, in which Portnoy finally got to perform the Dream Theater epic, "The Twelve-Step Suite," the performance energy from that band permeating throughout the venue.

It was very clear that Portnoy had been wanting to stage his tour for years. Dream Theater had previously performed *Images and Words* in its entirety a handful of times during its "Chaos in Motion" world tour in 2007, but those times saw the band take the album and add something new to the songs, largely at Portnoy's suggestion. This time around, the energy from that tour's performances was mostly gone.

The three aforementioned solos were admittedly impressive, but they did not serve any purpose other than simply padding out that portion of the show.

Overall, while it was nice to see *Images and Words* presented in full, it seemed that Dream Theater was just going through the motions for an obligatory anniversary.

The sole encore that night was

a performance of the Portnoy-written epic, "A Change of Seasons." At first glance, it looks like simple fan service to play the song for the first time in 10 years, but according to the band, this song started out as another track intended for *Images and Words* that ended up not making the final cut, thus giving the song purpose in the show.

Unfortunately, the song ends up suffering the same problems as the main set. It is a great performance, but one that lacks any real passion.

Dream Theater is an undeniably strong live act, but this latest tour ends up showing a band in desperate need of a rest after constant touring.

Hopefully, the band will take a lengthy sabbatical from touring after this current trek wraps up. Perhaps that time away could also be spent working on a new studio album.



JIMMY FONTAINE | ROADRUNNER RECORDS

Dream Theater played songs from its 1992 album, *Images and Words*, on the "Images, Words & Beyond" tour.

DECEMBER 4, 2017 THE TICKER ARTS & STYLE I PAGE 13

# David and Goliath shifts underdog perspective

BY ALEX WIECKOWSKI

The classic biblical tale of David and Goliath tends to be interpreted as an underdog story of a feeble shepherd against a gigantic warrior, the young shepherd winning with only a stone and sling. Since then, the story has come to represent battles between underdogs and giants. Many believe that David's victory was miraculous. But Malcolm Gladwell disagrees.

In his book *David and Goliath*, Gladwell challenges how people view obstacles and disadvantages, and shows how sometimes a person's perceived weaknesses can actually be their greatest strength. Gladwell starts his book by re-examining the fight between David and Goliath. He argues that David actually had the upper hand in the fight for a variety of reasons.

First, David used a sling, a weapon that can hurl rocks at incredible speeds and hit targets up to 200 yards away. David had experience with the sling, as this was his weapon of choice for fighting off lions and bears. David also had no armor, so he could move quickly and freely without any additional weight slowing him down.

Goliath, Gladwell argues, was at a disadvantage because of his weight and choice of weapon. Goliath wore a full suit of armor, which gave him an additional 100 pounds to carry, as well as a sword. Goliath, expecting close range combat, was not prepared.

Gladwell goes through several examples of disadvantages such as dyslexia, race and loss of parents, and shows how certain individuals actually attribute their success in life to their disadvantages.

Just as perceived weaknesses can at times be strengths, there are times when an advantage can actually be a disadvantage. To make his point, Gladwell uses the example of a student pursuing a STEM major at Harvard University. Getting into an elite and prestigious school such as Harvard, instead of a liberal arts school such as Hartwick College, to pursue a STEM major would be expected to be an advantage, but Gladwell has the statistics to prove otherwise.

Gladwell found that although the bottom third of Harvard students had higher SAT scores than the top third of Hartwick students, the Harvard students had a lower likelihood of getting a STEM degree. The SAT scores of the bottom third of Harvard students averaged 581, compared to the top third of Hartwick students, who had an average score of 569. Yet, only 15.4 percent of those Harvard students graduated with a science degree, compared to 55 percent of the Hartwick students.

After pondering on these results, Gladwell realized that it is not how smart a student is, but how smart they feel relative to their fellow classmates. Gladwell goes on to another study that shows that the best students from mediocre schools were almost always more likely to be hired than good students from the very best schools.

The world can be a complicated and complex place; sometimes one's greatest weakness can be their greatest strength and vice versa. Although challenging, Gladwell's book does a compelling job of explaining these phenomena through the use of history, psychology and powerful storytelling.

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# Science & Technology

# Dog ownership leads to lower risk of cardiovascular disease

BY MAYA YEGOROVA

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Dog owners have a lower risk of death by cardiovascular disease, according to an Uppsala University study.

Cardiovascular disease is the main cause of death worldwide. and in 2016 it was responsible for 45 percent of deaths in Europe. Dogs may be crucial in lowering cardiovascular risk by offering social help and encouragement to engage in physical activity.

A meta-analysis of 11 observational studies discovered that dog owners walk more and are more engaged in exercise than those who are not dog owners. Two studies found alterations in physical activity when people had dogs.

An additional study found that dogs help owners maintain physical activity during bad weather.

Previous studies on dog ownership and the dangers of cardiovascular disease are contradictory. In people without cardiovascular disease, dog ownership was inversely linked with indicators of cardiovascular risk, such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Other studies discovered nonexistent or unclear links.

Researchers intended to explain the link between dog ownership and cardiovascular disease risk by inspecting over 3.4 million Swedish adults over 12 years. The study was divided into the national cohort and twin cohort.

Swedish residents who were aged between 40 and 80 years as of Jan. 1, 2001 were allowed to participate in this study. This was the selected age range because researchers wanted to eliminate younger people, who had a smaller risk of cardiovascular disease, and the elderly, who had a lower chance of owning a dog. Residents were recognized using the Total Population Register, which encompasses information on birth, migration, changes in citizenship, civil status and death of all Swedish citizens.

Researchers then duplicated this review in the "Screening Across the Lifespan Twin Study," a substudy of the Swedish Twin Register, for the twin cohort. The Swedish Twin Register is a longitudinal study of twins born in Sweden. The final analysis included 3,432,153 people in the national cohort and 34,202 people in the twin cohort.

For the national cohort, researchers obtained death statistics from the Cause of Death Register and incident disease data from the National Patient Register from Jan. 1, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2012. Analyzing death statistics up to Dec. 31, 2014 was allowed for the twin cohort. Socioeconomic variables were obtained from the Register of the Total Population.

Basic variables included sex, year of birth, country of birth and educational attainment. Researchers also looked at marital status, presence of children in the home, area of residence and annual household income. For the twin cohort, no demographic statistics were available.

Researchers used self-described variables including body mass index, physical activity, employment status, type of accommodation,



NICOLE PUNG LTHE TICKER

Dog ownership is linked to a variety of health benefits, including reduced risk of high blood pressure and diabetes.

physical impairment, need of assistance for typical daily activities and socioeconomic index.

As of Jan. 1, 2001, every dog in Sweden is mandated to have a distinct identifier, such as an ear tattoo or subcutaneous chip, filed at the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The Swedish Kennel Club has also been filing information on dog owners' private identity numbers since 2001.

In the study, dog ownership was recognized if the owner registered with these two organizations or had a partner reported as a dog owner in these two organizations.

In the national cohort, research-

ers found that ownership of dog breeds initially bred for hunting, such as terriers, retrievers and scent hounds, were linked to a low risk of cardiovascular disease. Dog ownership was inversely linked with vulnerability to heart failure and cardiovascular disease.

In the twin cohort, researchers found that dog ownership is linked to a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease in single households, and a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease and all-cause death in the general population. Similar to the national cohort, the twin cohort revealed that ownership of hunting dog breeds is linked to a low risk of cardiovascular disease. Ownership of all purebred breeds was linked to a lower risk of all-cause death.

Dog ownership can reduce cardiovascular risk by diminishing social isolations, depression and loneliness. These stress factors trigger coronary heart disease and cardiovascular death. Dog owners also experience a quicker recovery from high blood pressure and physically strenuous tasks, and pursue outdoor recreation for enjoyment more than people without dogs.

As of press time, this set of studies is the largest analysis of the link between health and dog ownership

## **Technology from** *Harry Potter* **movies** allows scientists to study brain in detail

BY ALI HUSSAIN STAFF WRITER

Two projects presented on Nov. 18 at the 2017 Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in Washington, D.C., showed that the technology used to create fantastic beasts, smoke and clouds in movies can also be used to alter neurons and brain structures in detail.

Tyler Ard, a neuroscientist in Arthur Toga's lab at the University of Southern California, elaborated and said, "the same rendering techniques that are used to make graphics for Harry Potter movies" can be applied to MRI scans.

The methodology involved turning massive amounts of data into images. This is a necessity when trying to generate images of the brain given the complexity of and sheer number of data points involved in the project.

MRI scans are also referred to as magnetic resonance imaging scans. They involve using a giant magnet and radio waves in order to look at organs and structures within the body. They can be used to detect anything from torn ligaments to malignant tumors, but they are most often used to produce images of the brain and spinal cord.

MRIs generate many data points, and the methods illustrated by Ard can take this great number of points and turn them into images by simply entering them into a software program. Ard's team intends to release the code that it used for the software freely so that other researchers can also utilize the program.

Another avenue of research Ard and his team are investing into is combining the visualization software from their first project with



DAPHNELLY DELACRUZ | THE TICKER

virtual reality in order to explore the brain in three dimensions and even perform virtual dissections of

This is especially useful in comparison to the past way of brain exploration, which was to take slices of a brain and analyze it. This was a precarious task that did not always produce optimal outcomes. However, the utilization of 3-D imaging allows researchers to bypass this route and instead take the less risky and much more accurate path.

This same technology of VRcan also be used to trace neurons. Scientists can don a VR headset and enter the microscopic world of neurons as determined by the scans. One millimeter of the human brain can pack up to 50,000 neurons, each one forming 6,000 connections with other neurons.

The traditional technique involved scrolling through 2-D images endlessly to find what the re-

searcher is looking for. Now, with the headset and some handheld controllers, researchers can trace neuronal pathways in a way that allows for greater growth.

To test the system, four neuroanatomists, researchers who study the nervous system, expertly mapped and traced several labeled neuron image stacks. The tracings were as accurate as they used to be in 2-D images, but they were completed 1.7 times faster. The team plans to release the VR program for commercial interests within the year.

The projects shown this month exemplify the revolutionary side of science. They combine the areas of biology, physics, chemistry, math and computer science. This indicates a move toward the future that was not there before. Neurosurgery and neurology are becoming easier for scientists to assess, resulting in solutions to issues people may not even know exist right now.

## Scientists predict major earthquakes for 2018

BY JUAN CARLOS VERGARA

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Research conducted by the University of Colorado Boulder suggests that there could be an increase in severe earthquakes due to Earth's slower rotation.

Roger Bilham of the University of Colorado Boulder and Rebecca Bendick of the University of Montana conducted a study where they looked at earthquakes of magnitudes 7.0 and greater that had occurred since 1900.

Both scientists found that in periods of slower rotation there were between 25 to 30 intense earthquakes a year, and that in average years, there were only about 15 major earthquakes happening annually since the year 1900.

The scientists cannot expl with certainty how slower rotations can lead to severe earthquakes. A possible explanation, Bilham suggests, is that when Earth's spin slows down, the equator shrinks, which means that the edges of the tectonic plates get squeezed. Although this amount of squeezing is not huge, it puts a bigger tension on plate boundaries that are already under stress.

Bilham and Bendick found that there had been several periods of around five years over the past century and a half when Earth's rotation slowed with this effect on the equator.

In other words, researchers searched for correlations between periods of intense seismic activity and other factors, and discovered that when Earth's rotation decreases by even the smallest amount, the change was followed by periods of increased intense earthquakes. According to Bilham, even the slightest changes

in Earth's rotation are measured by atomic clocks, which happen every few milliseconds per day.

This slowdown of Earth's rotation was observed in 2014, 2015, 2016 and now 2017. If 2018 is the fifth year of the slowdown, and if this pattern holds, then next year can be expected to have the most severe earthquakes. Severe earthquakes are defined to have magnitudes above 7.0. Scientists expect to see more than 20 severe earthquakes in the next year.

If this hypothesis is correct, the ability to predict earthquakes would be an advancement to the fields of geology and geophysics. In addition, knowing that earthquakes will be more constant in the next five years is useful to the city planning department when considering how to construct buildings that would be stronger and more safeguarded against these natural phenomena. In other words, knowing how many earthquakes are likely to happen in the future will make people act now, rather than later.

While scientists predict that more than 20 earthquakes will occur in 2018, they do not have exact information on where these earthquakes will occur.

There are many reasons to be skeptical. Even though Bilham and Bendick were able to find a correlation between Earth's periodic slowdown and earthquakes, there is no evidence of a causal relationship. In addition, 2017 did not have 15 to 20 intense earthquakes as predicted; there were only seven earthquakes that were above 7.0 in magnitude. Even if the earth gets 20 to 30 earthquakes in the next year, this increase would not necessarily be caused by Earth's slowing rotation.

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DECEMBER 4, 2017 THE TICKER SPORTS I PAGE 17

# Sports



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Nowitzki scored a season-high of 19 points as the Mavs bested the Thunder Saturday.

## Cavs begin to surge, Celts continue winning

BY MATTEO FLAMIO SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Last week of the NBA continued its exciting action as the league began to shape itself. It began with the Los Angeles Clippers traveling to the Big Apple to face the New York Knicks. The Clippers were trying to end their eight-game losing streak, but their very poor play led them to lose 107-85. Kristaps Porzingis led with 25 points. The Knicks move to 9-7 on the season. The Minnesota Timberwolves went to Charlotte to face the Hornets. Hornets' Dwight Howard had a very strong 25 points and 20 rebounds as he led his team to a 118-102 victory over the T-Wolves. Jamal Crawford led his team with 19 points. The Detroit Pistons hosted the Cleveland Cavaliers, where the Pistons hoped to continue their hot start to the year and the Cavs are trying to turn their season around. The Pistons' offense was nearly nonexistent as they were only able to total 88 points in their 116-88 defeat. Kevin Love led the Cavs with a double-double.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, only had one game between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Chicago Bulls at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. The Bulls had a commanding 19-point lead in the third quarter, but the Lakers were able to completely shut down the Bulls' offense in the final two quarters, leading them to a strong 103-94 win. Lakers' rookie Kyle Kuzma continues to dominate this season as he scored 22 points. Bulls' Lauri Markkanen impressed with 17 points and 14 rebounds in the loss.

Wednesday, Nov. 22, had a showcase of games starting with the Philadelphia 76ers at home against the Portland Trail Blazers. Joel Embiid had a very impressive game with 28 points and 12 rebounds in their dominating 101-81 win, while Trail Blazer Damian Lillard contributed 30 points in his part of the loss. The 76ers are now 10-7 while the Trail Blazers fell to 10-8. The Indiana Pacers faced off the Orlando Magic, where Pacers' Victor Oladipo was looking to impress against his former team. He was able to, as he finished with 29 points, nine rebounds, five assists and seven steals as he led his team to victory. Magic's Nikola Vucevic scored 25 points in the team's 105-97 loss. The Boston Celtics were riding high on their 16-win streak going into Miami to face the Heat. Miami got out to an early lead and never looked back as the combination of Goran Dragic and Dion Waiters helped end the Celtics' win streak. Kyrie Irving had 23 points in the 104-98 loss.

Thursday, Nov. 23, had no games scheduled so everyone could enjoy Thanksgiving with their families.

Friday, Nov. 24, had the Denver Nuggets host the Memphis Grizzlies. Nikola Jokic went off in the fourth quarter, during which he scored half of his 28 points and was only two assists away from a triple-double in the Nuggets win. Marc Gasol had an impressive double-double, but his effort was not enough in the 104-92 loss. The New Orleans Pelicans visited the Phoenix Suns, where the two big men, DeMarcus Cousins and Anthony Davis, dominated in their 115-91 win. T.J. Warren led the Suns with 18 points. The Golden State Warriors matched up against the Chicago Bulls in Oakland, where the Warriors showed why, even without Kevin Durant, they are the most powerful team in the league. Stephen Curry put on a show, scoring 33 points in the 143-94 rout over the Bulls.

Saturday, Nov. 25, featured the Knicks, minus Porzingis and Kanter, against the Houston Rockets. The Knicks took an early lead but the super power of James Harden and Chris Paul was too much for the Knicks. Harden had 37 points and 10 assists in the 117-102 win. The Dallas Mavericks were visited by the Oklahoma City Thunder, where both teams tried to turn their seasons around. Legend Dirk Nowitzki scored a season-high of 19 points as the Mays were able to defeat the Thunder 97-81. Russell Westbrook finished with 28 points. The Milwaukee Bucks traveled to Utah to face the Jazz. The Jazz connected on 18 three-pointers as the team was locked in from downtown. Giannis Antetokounmpo's 27 points and 13 rebounds were not enough in the 121-106 loss.

Sunday only showcased three games. The most exciting game was between the Brooklyn Nets and the Memphis Grizzlies, where they were many questions on the Grizzlies sideline. After being down 79-65 going into the third quarter, the Grizzlies subbed allstar center Marc Gasol out. He was benched during the fourth quarter, which greatly upset him, considering he is the centerpiece of the team. This led to their 98-88 loss to the Nets. After the game, the Grizzlies' management fired head coach David Fizdale.

# Ekekeugbor breaks all-time scoring record at Baruch, swim teams surge

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The men's team moved to 1-2, while the women's fell to 0-3 on the season. Baruch had its first home races against CUNYAC opponent York College. Both the men's and women's teams dominated in their home openers, with men winning 108-68 and women winning 104-67.

Baruch traveled to CUNYAC rival College of Staten Island, where both teams were able to defeat the Dolphins in their matches; the men won 131-79, improving to 3-2, and the women won 140-96, improving to 2-3.

Baruch then hosted the College of New Rochelle at home in the ARC Aquatic Center. The women's team won its third straight game and the men's team improved its record to 4-2 after defeating New Rochelle 109-67 and 103-85, respectively.

Their next matches are at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Winter Championship from Dec. 1 through Dec. 3 at the Nassau County Aquatic Center on Long Island.

Before the Baruch men's basketball team was able to step onto the court against its first opponent, Kean University, the team was named No. 1 in the 2017-18 CU-NYAC preseason men's basketball poll, making the team the favorite to win the CUNYAC Championship. The team received a total of 78 points, with seven of those being first place votes.

The men's basketball team is starting the year on the right note, going 2-1 so far. The team traveled to Union, New Jersey for its first game, where Baruch played against Kean University.

Division III forward Chimaechi Ekekeugbor led the Bearcats to an 85-67 victory with his impressive double-double of 26 points and 17 rebounds. Forward Andre Harris also impressed in his first game with Baruch, as he scored 24 points while shooting 50 percent. Baruch led by 14 at halftime and in the second half Kean was able to cut the lead to five points, but Baruch's high-powered offense kept the team in front. For Kean, DeAndre Thomas had 25 points.

Baruch's next matchup was at home in the ARC Arena against Yeshiva University. Ekekeugbor and Bryler Paige combined for 46 points in their home victory.

Baruch had a big 21-point lead in the second half, but Yeshiva's Maccabees were able to make a late run and cut the lead to seven. The Bearcats, however, were able to stand tall over the Maccabees by a score of 83-73.

Baruch's first loss of the season came in a hard-fought battle against SUNY Old Westbury's Panthers. The Bearcats were down by 17 points at one point in the first half, but were able to fight back to tie the game 58-58 in the second half with just under 12 minutes remaining. The Panthers were too much to handle as they jumped out to a 65-58 lead, but another run by Baruch gave them a 73-72 lead.

Old Westbury, however, continued to fight hard, and came away with the 79-75 victory in this very hard-fought game by both teams. Ekekeugbor led Baruch again with 21 points and 17 rebounds, along with help by guard William Sixsmith, 13 points, and guard Paige, 15 points. Alan McDonald of Old Westbury led his team with 15 points in the victory.

Baruch hopes to continue its strong start of the season.

During these games, Ekekeugbor was able to surpass Chris Beauchamp's record of 1,573 career points at Baruch, becoming the team's No. 1 leading scorer all time with 1,598 points. With the season still very young, this number will be able to greatly increase.

### GSP return sets up many possibilities

**BY PETER LAMBROU** STAFF WRITER

Following a four-year layoff from MMA, Georges St-Pierre, also known as GSP, defeated longtime UFC veteran and middleweight champion Michael Bisping at UFC 217 on Nov. 4 to become the new undisputed middleweight champion. The former welterweight champ also became the fourth person in history to win belts in multiple divisions.

This win comes after constant debate concerning St-Pierre's passion for fighting.

UFC president Dana White had publicly stated in 2016, "Georges St-Pierre doesn't have that 'I want to be a world champion' attitude anymore. He doesn't have that drive and desire that he once had. And if you don't have that, no, you shouldn't fight."

St-Pierre continued to argue against White that he was the best that he had ever been. The crowd saw that on Nov. 4, with an excellent performance by the newly crowned champion. He showed the background of a more well-rounded fighter and vastly improved his striking.

There are many possibilities for St-Pierre's next fight, the most likely of all against Robert Whittaker. Whittaker had beaten Yoel Romero back at UFC 213 in July to claim an interim belt that gives him exclusivity to be the next person fighting for the undisputed title. Bisping did not fight Whittaker next was because Whittaker needed knee surgery following the Romero fight. There are a lot of gray areas in this fight, which make it interesting to see where the UFC will go.

The proponents of the fight claim that St-Pierre's most recent contract ahead of the Bisping fight states that he must defend the belt at least once following his victory. However, Whittaker is not an easy fight. He has perhaps the best boxing in the game and very good takedown defense. The only problem is that there is a fight card in Whittaker's home country of Aus-



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The return of St-Pierre opens up many possible "super fight" matchups.

tralia in February. The UFC and Whittaker have both expressed huge interest in the mixed martial artist fighting on that card, which would mean a quick turnaround for St-Pierre.

Another possible matchup would take place between Anderson "The Spider" Silva and St-Pierre. This fight was supposed to take place back in 2012, when both fighters were at the top of their game and ruled their respective divisions. It was supposed to settle the argument of who was the greatest of all time in UFC. Unfortunately, Silva has recently been flagged by the United States Anti-Doping Agency for a banned substance.

If found guilty, this will be the second suspension of Silva's career and will most likely lead to a long-term suspension, like fans have recently seen with Jon Jones. The possibility of not being able to return until his mid-40s could spell the end of Silva's career.

The original fight for St-Pierre's return was supposed to be against Tyron Woodley, but following three matches that saw Woodley fight conservatively to victory did nothing but infuriate the UFC's brass. Woodley is the current welterweight champion, a division that St-Pierre ruled over for most of his career.

It is a dangerous fight for the middleweight champion, given the heavy hands and elite wrestling of Woodley. Woodley has been looking for a "big money fight" since his victory over Robbie Lawler at UFC 201, but his recent performances against Stephen Thompson and Demian Maia have only deluded White from making that happen.

A fight that would elevate the world of combat sports beyond mainstream sports and entertainment media would be one between St-Pierre and "The Notorious" Conor McGregor. It would be a historic fight between the two biggest pay-per-view drawers in MMA history.

This fight would most likely

shatter the Floyd Mayweather-McGregor numbers and designate the sport of MMA as a household one. From a business aspect, this fight makes the most sense. It could happen at 155 pounds, 170 pounds or even a catchweight fight to which both sides agree.

The buildup and the media tours would be like nothing the audience has ever seen before and would make for a truly momentous occasion.

On paper, the actual fight is very intriguing. Setting McGregor — perhaps the most well-rounded striker in the game against St-Pierre — with an all-around fighter would create a great matchup with a whole array of possibilities.

There have already been Vegas betting lines behind the possible fight, which have St-Pierre as the favorite over McGregor. White's comments on the fight leave fans on the edges of their seats, saying, "Never say never."

PAGE 18 I THE TICKER SPORTS DECEMBER 4, 2017

# Lundqvist, Zibanejad continue to lead Blueshirts to victories

BY FELIX MALAMUD

After taking the NHL by storm with a six-game winning streak, the New York Rangers headed to Chicago to take on the Blackhawks on Wednesday, Nov. 15. The Rangers jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first period thanks to a goal by Mika Zibanejad. The game stayed that way up until the end of the second period, mainly because the Rangers failed to capitalize on numerous power play opportunities, something that fueled their hot winning streak.

The Blackhawks tied the game at 1 in the final minute of the second period and proceeded to score three early goals in the third period. Down 4-1, the Rangers pulled goaltender Henrik Lundqvist from the game after allowing four goals on 34 shots. Ondrej Pavelec replaced him in goal. That sparked a comeback attempt by the Rangers, as they quickly scored two goals, courtesy of Kevin Hayes and Rick Nash. But the Blackhawks were just too much to handle and closed the deal with two goals of their own to win 6-3.

Former Ranger Artem Anisimov recorded his first career hat-trick in the game for the Blackhawks. Two days later, the Rangers were in Columbus to battle their division rival Blue Jackets. The game was a display of world-class goaltending by Lundqvist and Blue Jackets goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky. Lundqvist out-saved Bobrovsky 40-36, but the Blue Jackets outscored the Rangers 2-0, handing them their second consecutive loss.

The Rangers could not create many high-quality scoring opportunities and struggled to stave off the pressure from the Blue Jackets. After these two consecutive road losses, the Rangers found themselves back at .500 at 9-9-2. They headed home for a game against the Ottawa Senators on Sunday, Nov. 19. Lundqvist was in net again for the Rangers and continued his fine play with a 20-save shutout en route to a 3-0 Rangers victory. Michael Grabner, Hayes and Zibanejad scored for the Rangers. Lundqvist recorded his second shutout of the season and the 63rd of his career, passing Hall-of-Famer Turk Broda for 16th all-time in that category.

Coming off a dominating 3-0 shutout win at home, the New York Rangers looked to start a brandnew winning streak and keep pace in a very tight Metropolitan Division. They would have to do that without their captain and defensive leader, Ryan McDonagh, who suffered an abdominal strain in the win over Ottawa.

Losing such an important piece of their team did not stop the Rangers, however, from dominating that week. They won all three games to extend their overall winning streak to four games and their home winning streak to eight games. That is their longest home winning streak since nine straight home wins in October and November of 2015. On Wednesday, Nov. 22, the Rangers hit the road to take on the Carolina Hurricanes.

The Rangers controlled the pace of the game from start to finish and the 6-1 final result certainly reflected that. Chris Kreider and Jesper Fast scored two goals apiece, with Zibanejad and Paul Carey each adding a goal. Lundqvist dominated with 32 saves in the victory. Zibanejad's goal was a gift, as he chipped the puck into the Hurricanes' zone from center ice and Hurricanes' goaltender Scott Darling could not catch the puck in his glove. The puck fell into the back of the net as a result, and Zibanejad

had his team-leading 11th goal of the season.

For a team that was struggling to win games on the road, the Rangers looked like there was no rust in the first place. They looked to carry that momentum back home against the Detroit Red Wings on Friday, Nov. 24. The game was a display of world-class goaltending, with Lundqvist and Red Wings' netminder Jimmy Howard stopping practically every shot they saw.

After Detroit's Tomas Tatar opened the scoring on the power play just over four minutes into the third period, the Rangers responded when Kreider beat Howard fivehole with a backhand shot. The game remained 1-1 until sudden death overtime. Just 37 seconds into the extra session, Mats Zuccarello beat Howard with a shot over his glove to win the game for the Rangers. The 2-1 overtime thriller was the Rangers' seventh consecutive home victory.

Lundqvist made 40 saves in an outstanding performance. Up next, the Rangers hosted the Vancouver Canucks, one of the biggest surprises in the NHL this season, on Sunday, Nov. 26. The Rangers started off very shaky, carelessly turning the puck over and not paying attention on defense. They found themselves down 2-0 late in the second period. The Rangers responded in a big way with a goal by Fast late in the second period, his third goal in his last three games, and a goal by Grabner 19 seconds into the third period, his 10th of the season.

The Canucks responded 41 seconds later, scoring off another Rangers turnover and a fortunate bounce. The Rangers did not quit, as four and a half minutes later, Jimmy Vesey tied the game at 3-3 resulting from beautiful passing work by Hayes and Nash. The game went to overtime tied 3-3 and stayed that



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Lundqvist's incredible play has been the key to the Rangers' recent surge.

way through the entire 5-minute extra frame. Thus, the game went to a shootout, where the aforementioned Vesey was the hero for the Rangers, scoring the game-deciding goal in the seventh round.

The Rangers' 4-3 victory was their fourth straight overall, their eighth straight at home, and their ninth in the past 11 games. The power play, which was the driving force behind the Rangers' previous six-game winning streak, struggled this week, going 1-for-6. In fact, the power play has gone an abysmal 1-for-15 since the Rangers' six-game winning streak ended against the Chicago Blackhawks on

Despite their struggles on the power play — which dropped to 22.2 percent, ninth in the league their even strength play and their penalty kill has remained dominant, and is now ranked 12th in the NHL at 81.3 percent. The Rangers are also getting increased contribution from all four lines collectively, a great sign moving forward. But the biggest factor in the Rangers' recent surge has to be the play of Lundqvist in goal, who has played out of his mind during this stretch. He has a ridiculous 1.39 goalsagainst-average and .958 save percentage in his last five starts and has drastically improved his overall numbers to a 2.62 goals-againstaverage and a .918 save percentage. Zibanejad still leads the Rangers in goals, with 11, and points, with 22. Zuccarello leads the Rangers in as-

Currently in sixth place in the Metropolitan Division with a 13-10-2 record and 28 points, however, they are only 5 points behind the division leading Blue Jackets.

# Jericho-Omega match set for Wrestle Kingdom 12

BY TALHA NADEEM CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Nov. 4, Kenny Omega successfully defended his IWGP U.S. Title against Trent Barreta at the New Japan Pro Wrestling's special, Power Struggle. Following the match, Omega lauded Barreta for his performance and issued an open challenge for his title. After a pregnant pause, the crowd was left disappointed when nobody seemed to answer his challenge, and Omega was just about to bid the crowd adieu when the stadium lights went out, and a figure appeared on the screen.

Chris Jericho, the multi-time world champion and self-proclaimed "Best in the World," appeared on an NJPW screen for the first time ever.

He had been feuding with Omega over Twitter for several weeks prior to the event, but nobody considered the possibility of him putting his money where his mouth was and actually challenging Omega to a match. As a WWE legend, this marks Jericho's first appearance outside of the company since 1999.

Jericho appeared on the big screen and praised Omega for being a "dynamic, fantastic, tremendous performer," adding that although Omega is one of the finest performers today, "he's not the best in the world. I am."

During his promo on Omega from the big screen, he referenced several of his greatest rivalries, including Edge, CM Punk and Shawn Michaels. He said that although they claimed to be the best at one time or another, "they're all gone and [he's] still here because [he's] the best in the world. [He's] the greatest of all time," adding

that "[he's] the alpha of this business."

He then followed it up with a challenge to face Omega for the IWGP U.S. Title at Wrestle Kingdom 12, the Japanese Wrestling equivalent to WrestleMania, the "Super Bowl" of wrestling entertainment. Omega answered in the affirmative, which was met by a roar of approval by the excited fans in attendance.

Jericho's success can perhaps be attributed to his longevity and his ability to reinvent himself. Whether he's throwing catchphrases, playing a silent bad guy or even doing something as ridiculous as putting people on a list, Jericho has remained over with the audience and that has helped him remain relevant for over two decades.

Omega is perhaps not as well known in the United States as he is in Japan, but any die hard or even causal wrestling fan can tell you that he is among the greatest performers of the last decade.

His trilogy of matches with Kazuchika Okada received rave reviews and coverage from media outlets around the world, and his performance at the G1 Climax and at the inaugural U.S. Title tournament this past summer sold out arenas all over Los Angeles.

The idea to do a super match was one Jericho had been planning for months. In an interview with Busted Open Radio, he explained how he drew inspiration from McGregor and Mayweather's fight. He explained how it was "the biggest match in boxing history just because you never thought you'd see it" and that he was confident in both his star power and Omega's charisma to help drive the hype forward.

## UFC 217 gives company needed boost

BY TALHA NADEEM CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This year has been sluggish for the UFC. On Nov. 2, UFC 217 desperately needed to prove that it was capable of running a big-time show without relying on box office attractions like Jon Jones, Conor McGregor or Ronda Rousey.

UFC 217 was the shot in the arm that the organization needed that proved that, given the proper hype and booking, it could deliver at any time. The event was significant as it was the first time in UFC history that three titles changed hands in one night, and it has sold over 1 million pay-per-view buys. Five "performance of the night" bonuses were handed out, a rare feat that shows just how ferocious the competition was.

In what can be described as the biggest upset of the year, Rose Namajunas took on the defending champion Joanna Jedrzejczyk in a quick match that saw the challenger floor the champion three minutes into the first round. Jedrzejczyk had maintained an undefeated streak with 14 wins up until that point and it looked like she was closing in on Rousey's record, which had dominating title defenses leading up to that point.

Jedrzejczyk fights with a bullying style that relies heavily on her offense, using it to overwhelm her opponents with little regard for defense. It is often said the best of fighters are those who take an opponent's strength and turn it into a weakness, a feat that Namajunas used to outfight her opponent.

Moving forward, the 25-yearold strawweight champion has a plethora of opponents to look forward to, including Jéssica Andrade and Karolina Kowalkiewicz as options, as well as future prospect Cynthia Calvillo if she defeats Carla Esparza at UFC 218.

As for the former champion, Jedrzejczyk's future remains uncertain as a rematch for the title seems unlikely. An unwritten rule of the UFC is that rematches are not a given and that it depends on various factors to determine a rematch, such as crowd response, performance and performers' shelf life. At 30 years old, Jedrzejczyk might not be the same fighter she once was. A move to the soon-to-be-created women's flyweight division is an alternative, as she would be an instant title contender.

Georges St-Pierre came back from a four-year hiatus, moving up from the welterweight class to defeat Michael Bisping and become the new middleweight champion.

It has been a long road for St-Pierre, and his victory over Bisping was his first decisive finish in over a decade.

St-Pierre showed that he had not lost a step, and although he was fighting a true elite of the 185-pound class, he showed that he could hang with the best and earned the submission victory.

Moving forward, many have speculated that St-Pierre might not be able to continue at the middle-weight class and might go back to the welterweight division. His next title defense is in the air and fans can only speculate the direction the UFC may be headed with the middleweight champion.

As for Bisping, he recently fought at UFC Fight Night 122 in Shanghai against Kelvin Gastelum in the main event. Two fights within a 21-day span was always a questionable choice made by the UFC, but with Anderson "The Spider" Silva's drug suspension, it desperately needed a big name to replace him and fill the card. Bisping had his medical suspension

reduced from 30 days to seven in order to make the fight, while the loss to Gastelum has made the argument for his retirement even more credible.

It is true that he is everyone's favorite underdog and has pulled out performances that have silenced even his harshest critics, but questionable booking from the UFC has left most scratching their heads.

Joe Rogan, on his podcast, questioned Bisping's booking and did not understand the logic of Bisping accepting another fight within three weeks of the brutal beating he received at the hands of St-Pierre

"It just does not make sense ... It's just not smart. I know Bisping wanted to do it," Rogan argued, adding that "[they] really have to protect the fighter from themselves."

The last of three main events saw former Team Alpha Male partners Cody Garbrandt and T.J. Dillashaw settle their bitter rivalry over the bantamweight championship.

In the second biggest upset of the night, Dillashaw overcame the odds and took out Garbrandt in the second round in a vicious strike fest.

Dillashaw was in no way the underdog, but no one expected him to take out Garbrandt so brutally in the second round. As the second undefeated streak broken in the night, Garbrandt is still in the contention for the title and a rematch is not out of the question.

As for Dillashaw, he called out flyweight champion Demetrious "Mighty Mouse" Johnson for a super fight during the post-fight interview. Even if the challenge is accepted and approved, there is no certainty regarding the title for which would be fighting.

DECEMBER 4, 2017 THE TICKER SPORTS I PAGE 19

## Chargers, Steelers, Eagles continue to impress, Chiefs slump

**BY RAY MAURER** SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In Weeks 11 and 12, the "pretenders" in the league attempted to convince fans they were legitimate contenders. Some were successful, while others were not. The Kansas City Chiefs, after starting the season 5-0, could very well surrender their AFC West lead to the Los Angeles Chargers, who have heated up after a 0-4 start. Other division races are heating up, such as the three-team race in the NFC South.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Miami Dolphins finally played their rescheduled game, after Hurricane Irma forced them to take their bye in the first week. The lineups were very different from the rescheduled game compared to the original Week 1 lineup. The Dolphins traded Jay Ajayi to the Philadelphia Eagles before the deadline in a surprise deal. As for the Bucs, Jameis Winston would be out due to a shoulder injury, but the game was exciting nonetheless. The Bucs took a 20-7 lead into half, after dominating time of possession. The Dolphins lost Jay Cutler to injury early on, but the offense found its way with Matt Moore in the second half. The Dolphins tied the game 20-20 in the fourth, but the Bucs were able to seal the deal with a touchdown to ice the 30-20 win.

A battle of NFC supremacy took place in Minnesota as the Los Angeles Rams visited the Minnesota Vikings. With both teams at 7-2, a chance at home-field advantage was possibly on the line.

As expected, it was a defensive battle; the Vikings' defense held the explosive offense to seven points through the first three quarters to keep them in the game. Adam Thielen and the Vikings exploded for 17 points in the fourth quarter, ending the game on a 20-0 run.

Thielen had another big game with 123 yards and a touchdown, pushing the Vikings to 8-2. As for the Rams, a surprisingly disappointing performance left fans wondering how the rest of the season will go.

The most surprising move in the NFL during Week 11 was the benching of Tyrod Taylor. The Buffalo Bills decided they would move forward with rookie Nathan Peterman under center, even though the Bills were currently in a playoff spot. That experiment did not go too well, to say the least. Peterman's five interceptions in the first half found him a spot back on the bench, and the Chargers took full advantage scoring off of each turnover. The Chargers dominated 54-24. Needless to say, Taylor regained his starting spot for the Bills.

The red-hot, 7-2 New Orleans Saints looked to continue their winning streak at home against the Washington Redskins, but this matchup would require overtime. Kirk Cousins threw for 322 yards and three touchdowns, giving the Redskins a solid 24-13 lead. The Saints refused to quit, scoring 18 points in the fourth. Alvin Kamara caught a remarkable tipped pass touchdown, avoiding four tacklers to tie up the game late in the fourth. A field goal was all the Saints needed to finish off the Redskins, and kicker Wil Lutz delivered. The Saints moved to 8-2 with a 34-31 overtime win, while the Redskins moved a little further back in the playoff hunt.

The other matchups around the NFL in Week 11 included a 40-17 Pittsburgh Steelers victory on Thursday night against the Tennessee Titans and a 19-7 Jackson-ville Jaguars victory in Cleveland against the Browns. The Baltimore Ravens' defense shut out the struggling Green Bay Packers in Lambeau Field, 23-0. The Detroit Lions

edged out their division foes, the Chicago Bears, 27-24. The Houston Texans, led by a late score by DeAndre Hopkins, edged out the Arizona Cardinals 31-21, in NRG Stadium.

The New York Giants triumphantly beat the Kansas City Chiefs 12-9 in overtime. An unbelievable catch by Roger Lewis in overtime set up a game-winning field goal for the Giants, moving the Chiefs to 6-4.

The Cincinnati Bengals beat an ugly offensive team in the Denver Broncos, who continue their starting quarterback carousel, 20-17. The New England Patriots beat the Oakland Raiders handily in Mexico City 33-8. The Philadelphia Eagles rolled on to 9-1, beating the Dallas Cowboys 37-9.

Finally, Monday night, Nov. 20, ended the week with a matchup between the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks. The Falcons led steadily throughout the game, but the Seahawks hung in there, answering each score. Ultimately, a game-tying field goal attempt by Blair Walsh missed wide left, giving the Falcons a 34-31 win.

Week 12 started out a little differently, as it started with Thanksgiving Day football. Except for Dallas Cowboys fans, it was a great day of football for the entire NFL. The Cowboys were embarrassed by the surging Los Angeles Chargers, losing 28-6. The Cowboys are now 0-3 without Ezekiel Elliott and seemingly have no idea what they are doing offensively. If they do not turn it around next week, their playoff chances will be gone. On the other hand, the Chargers look like they are going to overtake the Chiefs for the AFC West, as they have been playing great football.

The Vikings headed to Ford Field for their Thanksgiving Day matchup with the Detroit Lions. Case Keenum exploded for 282 and two touchdowns, but Marvin Jones Jr. made a ridiculous touchdown catch in double coverage to keep the Lions in the game. The Lions blocked a field goal and returned it for a touchdown to tie the game, but it was negated by an offside penalty, enabling the Vikings to hold on to their 30-23 victory.

In the final game of the day, the Giants looked to end the Redskins' playoff hopes. The Giants played good defense and had a chance to tie the game late in the fourth. A strip-sack fumble by Ryan Kerrigan put the game out of reach for the Giants, so the Redskins stayed alive with their 20-10 win.

Although most of the Thanksgiving matchups were the headlines of the week, there was still more football on Sunday, Nov. 26. The rest of Week 12 did not disappoint. The Rams were once again featured in a top NFC matchup, this time with the Saints. Unlike the week before, the Rams prevailed by a score of 26-20. Jared Goff and Cooper Kupp were the sparks that the Rams were looking for last week. Goff tallied 354 passing yards, 116 of them to Kupp. For the Saints, Kamara had a monster game, with 188 total yards, but it would prove to be insufficient. The battle for home-field advantage in the NFC is heating up.

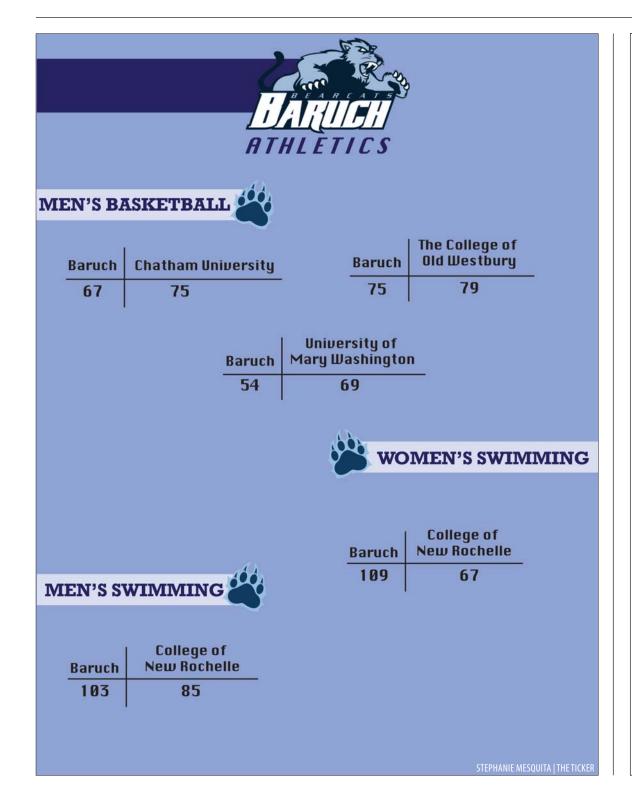
The Jaguars and Cardinals faced off Nov. 26 and the story of the game was Calais Campbell's return to the University of Phoenix Stadium in Arizona. Campbell became alive in the second half, scoring a touchdown on a force to get the Jaguars back in the game. An oddly time-managed drive by the Jaguars left Arizona some time with the score tied. It proved to be too much time. The Cardinals drove down the field and kicked a game-winning 63-yard field goal to send the fans home happy. The Cardinals won 27-23, sending the Jaguars back to second place in the AFC South.

The Packers snapped out of their recent skid at the perfect time, in Heinz Field on Sunday night football against the AFC leading Pittsburgh Steelers. The Packers had been struggling for weeks, but jumped all over the Steelers early, scoring on the first drive and keeping pace with the Steelers through three quarters. Antonio Brown had an absurd performance, amassing 10 receptions, 169 yards and two touchdowns.

Le'Veon Bell showed why he is the best running back in the NFL, with 35 touches for 183 total yards. The Killer B's were too much to handle. A sideline toe-drag catch on the final drive by Brown kept this game from reaching overtime, setting up a Chris Boswell game winner. The Steelers moved to the No. 1 seed in the AFC with a 31-28 victory. Brett Hundley showed life for the Packers, which is a great sign moving forward in their wildcard chase.

The scores around the rest of the NFL included a 30-16 Bengals win over the Browns, 35-17 Panthers win over the Jets and 20-16 Titans win over the Jets and 20-16 Titans win over the Colts. Rob Gronkowski's two touchdowns led the Patriots to a 35-17 win over the Dolphins. The Falcons continued rolling, beating the Bucs 34-20. The Eagles move to 10-1 with a 31-3 win over the Bears. Taylor's Bills won 16-10, clinching the Chiefs' winless November, 16-10. The Seahawks beat the San Francisco 49ers 24-13.

The Raiders-Broncos game started with a brawl, leading to ejections and suspensions for Aqib Talib and Michael Crabtree. As for the game, Derek Carr and the Raiders handled the Broncos 21-14, while Paxton Lynch injured his ankle and left the game early for Denver. The Ravens were able to muster up enough points to hold off the Texans on Monday night, Nov. 27.





PAGE 20 I THE TICKER CALENDAR **DECEMBER 4, 2017** 

# **Baruch Weekly**

## **DECEMBER 2017**

**MON** 

**BLOOMBERG I** 

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | Subotnick Center | Free

**SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CLUB - GENERAL MEETING** 

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. | NVC 3-240 | Free

**TUES** 

12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. | NVC 3-215 | Free

**UCLA HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER** 

12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | NVC 2nd Floor Lobby | Free

**WED** 

HILLEL TABLING

11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | NVC 2nd Floor Lobby | Free

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING: BARUCH VS. JOHN JAY COLLEGE 6 p.m. | ARC Pool | Free

**VSA'S PIE AN E-BOARD MEMBER** 

11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | NVC 2nd Floor Lobby | Free

JPMORGAN MEET & GREET

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. | NVC 3-215 | Free

FRI

**THURS** 

**ASCEND LEGACY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM** 

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. | NVC 3-215 | Free

STF'S INDUCTION CEREMONY 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. | NVC 2-125 | Free

SAT

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: BARUCH VS. OLD WESTBURY** 

12 p.m. | NVC B2 Level - Main Gym | Free

MEN'S BASKETBALL: BARUCH VS. MORAVIAN COLLEGE

4 p.m. | NVC B2 Level - Main Gym | Free

**SUN** 

**ACCOUNTING CLUB FOOD DRIVE FOR CSI FOOD PANTRY\*** 

All Day | CSI Building 3N Business Office | Food Item

Internship Seminar Wednesday, Dec. 6, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 2-190

In this seminar, learn everything you need to know

Thursday, Dec. 7, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190 Are you interested in creating your own major? Learn how at this workshop!

Spring 2018 Undergraduate Job & Internship Fair Friday, Feb. 2, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., NVC Gyms Connect with 70+ employers for internship, part-time and full-time opportunities.

**Diversity Career Expo**This is an opportunity to connect with a variety of employers interested in Baruch students.

about the many benefits of internships!

Creating Your Own Major: The Ad-Hoc

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



CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS 1. OSCAR, E.G. 6. DEBATE POSITION 9. JUDICIAL DOCUMENT

13. HAWAIIAN VERANDA 14. DEADEYE'S FORTE 15. CAPITAL OF EGYPT 16. LUMPS OF SOMETHING

17. BELUGA YIELD 18. AR ON TABLE OF ELEMENTS

19. \*FIRST STATE TO
OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZE
CHRISTMAS

21. \*COUNTRY WHICH PRODUCED FIRST ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREES
23. BOILING EMOTION 24. GRAIN IN "THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT" 25. EOUINOX MO. 28. \*ON CHRISTMAS IT OFTEN

INCLUDES HAM OR GOOSE 30. IN STYLE 35. TWELFTH MONTH OF JEWISH YEAR 37. \*MAX AND SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER
39. JACK BLACK'S LIBRE 40. SATURNALIA'S PLACE OF ORIGIN

41. RAT'S WORLD 43. MOVIE SPOOL 44. ACTRESS PERLMAN, PL. 46. ANGLER'S DECOY 47. PARTNER OF "VOID" 48. "A CONNECTICUT \_\_ IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT" 50. SPEED OF OBJECT

DIVIDED BY SPEED OF SOUND 52. A LAYER IN PLYWOOD 53. PLEASE DO NOT DELAY
55. \*" THE SEASON TO
BE JOLLY..."

57. \*BELOVED MONTGOMERY WARD CREATION 61. \*"CHRISTMAS CAROL" AUTHOR 65. AVOID, AS IN TAXES
66. ENT'S FIRST CONCERN?
68. ALFRED HITCHCOCK IN
HIS OWN MOVIE, E.G 69. WHAT TAILOR DID

70. #19 ACROSS ABBREVIATION 71. DRIVER'S 180 72. SIN OVER COS, PL. 73. BLADE DROPS 74. MEXICAN COINS

DOWN

1. AQUARIUM DWELLER 2. ROOM BORDER 3. DWARF BUFFALO 4. TORAH TEACHER 5. DIVEST ONE OF A GUN 6. "FOR" IN SPANISH 7. ORINOCO OR GRANDE 8. OPPOSITE OF ALPHA 9. \*LIKE HOLIDAY MEMORIES? 10. CAPITAL OF LATVIA
11. WEDGE IN A GOLFER'S

12. BROADWAY RECOGNITION 15. DAIRY AISLE PACKAGE 15. DAIRY AISLE PACKAGE
20. BRIBES OF REWARDS, IN
THE OLDEN DAYS
22. LIBERTY TREE, E.G.
24. "NAKED LUNCH"
CREATURES
25. "\*LIKE CHRISTMAS
26. GREETING IN THE LAND
OF "MELE KALIKIMAKA"
27. PART OF COW'S STOMACH
29. \*YULETIDE
31. REPAIR, AS IN SOCKS
32. FERFJF OVER

33. CONCH, E.G.

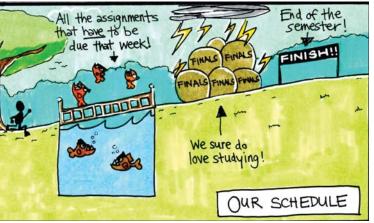
34. \*POISONOUS CHRISTMAS BERRY 36. PLUMBING PROBLEM
38. RED CROSS SUPPLIES
42. ABDOMINAL MUSCLES
45. \*LIKE A LETTER MAILED

TO SANTA
49. SIXTH SENSE
51. DIAPHRAGM SPASM
54. BEST WAY TO SHOP! 56. \*THE KIDS DO IT IN OPENNG OF "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS"

57. CATCH YOUR BREATH 58. IRIS HOLDER 59. DRACULA'S BANE 60. WORDS FROM WORDSWORTH 61. BIG ATTRACTION

62. OUTBACK BIRDS 63. INFAMOUS EMPEROR OF #40 ACROSS 64. DAUGHTERS' BROTHERS

67. BELGIAN BREW



# **CROSSWORD SOLUTION: ISSUE 10**

blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/starrlights/

In I Baruch College Starr Career Development Center

Starr Career **Development** Center

SAVE THE DATE

# Career Spotlight

# INTERNSHIP UPDATE

#### **Doctors Without Borders**

#### Summer 2018 IT Intern

Médecins Sans Frontières, or Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian organization that provides medical care to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters or exclusion from health care in over 70 countries. We welcome candidates who bring a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences to join us in working toward MSF's common mission.

The IT Intern will assist the Information Technology Team in maintaining, upgrading, and troubleshooting, while gaining practical experience with IT and operations for the general workings of a large international NGO. The intern will learn how an IT department runs within a nonprofit and have the opportunity to learn about MSF's programs and operations in the United States. Video and teleconferencing are used extensively at MSF and the IT Intern is expected to learn how to use and support these tools.

As the IT Intern, applicants will be expected to configure PCs following MSF-USA standards, support technology needs for meetings, tele/video conferences, other events and presentations, image new computers, set up technology resources for staff, schedule and install software upgrades, learn troubleshooting techniques while responding to IT trouble tickets, keep the IT workshop organized, and assist in reporting and documentation of various elements of the MSF-USA IT Department.

Starr Search ID: 109705

## Peer Tip of the $\mathsf{W}$ eek

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

Thank you notes are a great way to stand out after an interview. A good technique is to write them as soon as you can while the meeting is still fresh in your mind. To maximize their effectiveness, be sure to send them within 24 hours of the interview!

- Vitoria Waterkemper, Peer for Careers

#### ENDAI WORLDWIDE **Digital Marketing Intern**

Endai Worldwide specializes in email and customer insight software and specialized digital marketing campaigns for its clients. Its employees are business builders, data athletes, and proven marketers and have helped clients succeed since 1999.

The Digital Marketing intern position is a paid opportunity for a minimum of 35 hours per week at the company's Manhattan headquarters.

Interns will learn the basics of web analytics and the use of tools for analyzing online data, use

data mining techniques to provide insight into online browsing and shopping behavior, master paid and organic search analytics and optimizations to drive efficient high-quality traffic and sales, work alongside our product development team to test and refine our customer intelligence and email platforms, execute digital marketing strategies with the Endai Client Services team.

Endai is looking for a recent college graduate or current student who completed at least 60 credits that has a passion and nat-

ural curiosity for learning, loves problem solving while developing creative solutions, has strong critical thinking and communications skills, is willing to work independently while showing interest in providing leadership through subject expertise, and can lead and contribute to improvements in technical and/or business processes. The company also prefers math, computer science, economics and business majors.

Starr Search ID: 109786