

OPINIONS 9

Iowa incident highlights need to protect bees (p. 9)



Two young adults in Iowa were hit with a slew of charges for vandalizing an apiary, killing half a million bees. There will be no restitution for the Wild Hill

Honey Farm, highlighting a lack of concern for the Earth's shrinking bee population.

BUSINESS 11

Coincheck loses \$400 million in hack (p. 11)



Coincheck, one of Japan's largest cryptocurrency exchanges, lost an estimated \$400 million USD worth of NEM tokens to hackers. Many exchanges are

operating without regulation.

ARTS & STYLE 13

Lincoln Center showcases Jewish film festival (p. 16)



The Film Society of Lincoln Center, in collaboration with the Jewish Museum, held a program of a series of films focused on the diverse Jewish experience

across the world. *The Ticker's* Arts & Style Editor Benjamin Wallin reviews selected films from the programming.

SCIENCE & TECH 17

Brain activity differs in jazz and classical pianists (p. 17)



Composing and playing music is linked with enhanced motor and auditory skills. The brain of a jazz pianist re-wires its actions faster than the

brain of a classical pianist, the study showed, and a jazz pianist was shown to play the same pieces faster than a classical pianist.

SPORTS 21

Eagles, Patriots advance to Super Bowl LII (p. 23)



The Eagles and Patriots had incredibly successful seasons, and will be moving on to the biggest game in sports — the Super Bowl.

The matchup is being billed as "Destiny vs. Dynasty," and will feature quarterback Tom Brady against backup Nick Foles.

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Three USG senators resign between semesters



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Undergraduate Student Government Representative Sens. Zakari Abubakar, Molly Bhuiyan and Michael Cherry all resigned from their positions on the senate table between the end of the Fall 2017 semester and the beginning of the Spring 2018 semester. Read about their thoughts and reasonings behind their decisions on page 8.

USG members speak about goals and aspirations for new semester

A semester into their tenure, the members of the Undergraduate Student Government share their updates on past goals, new aspirations and everything that has come in between.

The Fall semester featured a USG that focused heavily on reinventing old events while also creating new ones. In its first meeting, the current USG had a full e-board, four vice-presidential senators and 15 representative senators. Six members of the table were retained from the previous USG slate.

Although it has set new precedents with new events and programs, the team has also faced a few setbacks, with two resignations in the Fall, and three to start off the Spring semester. USG members share mixed ideas on what this new semester holds, such as the Greek life moratorium that is ending soon.

To read about what your representatives have planned for the Spring, turn to page 2.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Read answers from USG senate table members about their goals on pages 2 through 7 of this issue.

Abnormal weather conditions shock US and other regions around the globe

BY MAYA YEGOROVA
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Extreme weather conditions occurred throughout January 2018, as the United States was plagued with record-breaking frigid temperatures, snow, wildfires and mudslides. Abnormal temperatures and weather were also apparent in other regions, including Australia, Russia, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The extreme weather began on Christmas Day in 2017 when Erie, Pennsylvania's fourth largest city, received 34 inches of snow.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Swim teams finish seasons strong, basketball looks ahead to playoffs with 'Battle of Lex' approaching



WWW.ATHLETICS.BARUCH.CUNY.EDU

Baruch's swim teams and the basketball team are looking forward to successful run in the playoffs. With the Battle of Lex approaching, there is a lot of attention on Baruch sports. Read more on page 21.

REVISITING THE SENATE TABLE



THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Undergraduate Student Government's executive board includes president, executive vice president, executive secretary and treasurer. These positions ensure that the government operates as effectively as possible and serves as an overarching connection between the administration and the student population.



Isabel Arias, President
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I am proud of all the events and initiatives that our team has taken on during the Fall semester including, but not limited to: the Clubs and Organizations Committee and it expanded outreach for new clubs and organizations, the Appeals Committee working to make the appeals process easier for club leaders, the creative original event ideas brought forward by both our Student Services and Campus Affairs Committee and the Legislative Affairs Committee for its advocacy for DREAMers at the CUNY-wide level and beyond.

In particular, I have been very proud of the efforts made by our Arts Committee; the committee members have taken great strides in creating a more welcoming environment for all of our arts students — from their jam session and table reading events, which helped to foster artistic growth and [widen] the exposure of Baruch artists, to advancing awareness of career opportunities in the arts through their collaboration with Baruch's arts department. The Arts Committee's growth is one accomplishment of which I am extremely proud. As always, there is room to grow and improve. We have big plans for the Spring that we look forward to sharing with you all.

What are you working on for USG this semester?

We have many projects for the Spring semester, beginning with our Welcome Week events. [We will also be] continuing to obtain feedback on the issue of Greek life and following up with the appropriate channels, budget workshops and treasury informational sessions, expanded club life outreach, the Bernie awards, Bearcat Awards, BASH and many other projects! As always, we would love to hear from all students as to what they would like to see on campus. We would love to hear all ideas or suggestions and we are working to advocate on your behalf so please let us know what you would like to see!

You mentioned in *The Ticker's* previous spread the possibility of reinstating the [Appeals, Budget and Co-sponsorship] workshops — can you elaborate on the progress of this?

Unfortunately, due to some logistical issues, we were not able to push these workshops forward in the Fall semester, but we have all things [ready] to host these budgetary workshops that will serve to aid all of our clubs and organizations throughout the hectic Spring budgeting process. These workshops will be held as a collaboration between the Finance Committee and our treasury team, therefore incorporating budget concerns and misconceptions about the voucher process.

What happened to hosting the Bearcat Awards in the past Fall semester?

After review, we felt it would benefit more students to host a larger variety of events and programming this semester rather than to offer the awards this Fall. We are doing our best to offer a large amount of new programming to reach the most students and create the most inclusive environment we can.

What is USG doing about Greek life this semester?

As USG, it is first our duty to try to fully understand the student perspective so that we can best act on their behalf. Our Greek life forum hosted last semester was certainly a good first step, but to continue in this regard we will spend the first month of our Spring semester using online anonymous surveys, as well as tabling efforts.

Following this, we will take the appropriate action depending on the student response we receive. Regardless of the students' decision, we will be meeting with the office of the provost to discuss next steps and appropriate actions that take student voices into account.

How have you accommodated, or plan to accommodate, new members onto your team?

In the past, with our inclusion of new members, I have met with each new member prior to the start of their term to help them with their transition. My team and I have also always enacted an opendoor policy so all members and students feel welcome to share their ideas.

You said you want to "... create a pipeline available for students to present their ideas to the proper USG representatives who can help transform these dreams into realities on campus." How have you done this? If you have not, how do you plan to create this pipeline?

In regard to the current semester, in particular, our Clubs and Organizations Committee has worked to have higher levels of outreach in the club suite area, in particular

reaching out to new clubs to hear their concerns directly. This will continue throughout the rest of the year but, for the Spring, we will be instating a program called USG Office Hours, which will involve members of USG tabling on the second floor as well as hosting office hours in the senate conference room. This offers a direct outreach to students so that they are able to have that direct pipeline to their USG representatives; when these representatives become aware of the issues they can then guide the students into making their ideas a reality.

What events has USG offered that incentivized student and club involvement?

USG has held various events with the intention of incentivizing student and club involvement on campus. To name a few: our clothing drive, our book drive and all of our Philanthropy Committee's hurricane relief events.

As a student who has been involved in USG in both the capacity of a representative senator and e-board, what do you feel your tenure offers to both USG and student peers?

My goal when I ran and every single initiative, event and accomplishment our USG has achieved has [embodied] empowerment. I have learned throughout my experience in USG [that] the most important lasting impact I can have on our college is to empower our future leaders, to teach each and every person [that] they have the potential to achieve.

Through diversifying our table of representatives, we have allowed people from all backgrounds to envision themselves in these leadership roles. Through our arts outreach we have empowered our Baruch arts community to share its voice. Through our commitment to advocating on behalf of our DREAMers, we have showed students [that] they can stand up and share their voice even through opposition.

Especially now with the impending Spring USG elections, I challenge each and every student who has an interest to run, [to] go for it; don't allow for obstacles you have constructed in your mind [...] stop you from trying. If you have something to offer, something new to bring, then bring it. We have made great strides but there is a lot more to do and I hope that I have been able to empower more students to take those challenges on next year.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

At the current time, I have no plans of running for reelection in any position. I wish the best of luck to all candidates, and will continue to spend my senior year at Baruch as an advocate in any way I can.



Andrea Valverde, Executive Secretary
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I believe Fall semester went well and we definitely met expectations by continuing traditional events and creating new interactive events. At the beginning of the Fall semester, many of us were just getting accustomed to our roles and trying to plan the year in advance to make the best out of it for all students. Many USG members took on new initiatives in efforts of improving student life at Baruch.

While my job in USG consists of a lot of behind the scenes work, I am most proud of my ability to handle reimbursement paperwork as I've had to do it weekly for our senate meetings. Coming [in] with no previous treasury experience, being secretary has certainly taught me valuable information that I will carry on into the Spring semester.

What are you working on for USG this semester?

This Spring semester, one of the projects I'll be personally overlooking is USG's Office Hours. Many students on campus want to be able to talk to USG more directly and, in response to this, the table as a whole decided to put forward this plan. We will be dedicating hours to which students can come [and] talk to their very own representative senators and either express their concerns or inquire about a certain subject. These hours will be promoted through all our social media once set in stone. We are aiming to kick it off in less than a couple of weeks.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

An issue that personally concerns me is the lack of class availability. There have been instances when required classes have been filled to their maximum capacity depriving other students from the chance to take those classes. USG as a whole has definitely voiced its opinion about this matter and that's as far as we can really go, this issue is to be solved by administration and I know it is something that they are currently working on improving.

The Strategic Planning Committee has held many meetings with students and this issue has been brought

up more than once, with the help of this committee we are confident classes will become more available to students in the near future.

This past semester, there have been several instances of minutes being uploaded later than usual on the Bearcat website. In this upcoming semester, will you implement a timelier system for publishing minutes or release the minutes quickly in a different fashion?

This Spring semester, minutes will certainly be uploaded in a timely manner. They are to be uploaded after being passed at the following senate meeting so expect to see the minutes one week after each meeting.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I do not plan on running for reelection because I intend on studying abroad next Fall semester which will not allow me to commit to any position.

My experience with USG, thus far, has been nothing but great and I know for this new semester it will only keep on getting better. I'm extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to serve as secretary for this year.



Suzanna Egan, Treasurer
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How you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of? How has it been transferring into the treasurer role?

The transition to treasurer of USG was a big shift and unexpected. I was so set on appeals and was planning for [it] the entire year since June. At first, I regretted accepting the position because treasurer can be a full-time position if not managed proactively. It is the supporting backbone to all operations and is an enormous responsibility. After the adjustment period I had in November, [however], I am very proud of the treasury's accomplishments. We have completely caught up on paperwork and USG paperwork is going smoothly so we can pay all of our bills.

What are you working on for USG this semester?
My bursars and I have come in most weekdays in January to ensure that everything gets caught up from Fall and my goal is to have a quicker processing time on our end for all vouchers this Spring.

The shipping and decoration costs of USG's Perfect Winter event seem exorbitant — can you please elaborate on whether this is a regular occurrence with events like this or is this an anomaly?
I am not there to micromanage my event-planning

committees. I do not know their personal situations or their vision for a space. I do prefer to make sure students' dollars go to as much as possible, but this situation was just lack of placing an order early enough to arrive for the event. This is not an anomaly, although these shipping costs were some of the highest I've seen relative to the cost of the merchandise, in the short two months I have been treasurer. My opinion is not here to hinder events from being the best they can be. We have limited vendors that take late payment so sometimes we have to settle for unfavorable costs. That's the nature of holding events that cater to as many Baruch students as possible. We can't just go into CVS and spend 600 dollars of our own money to be reimbursed. I can't expect my members to do that to avoid shipping costs.

I do request my committees to submit paperwork sooner and plan sooner to avoid this as much as possible. I will ask for alternatives and justification on why this is necessary if costs seem too high. Perfect Winter's costs for shipping made me uncomfortable. I am fiscally responsible for student government but, more importantly, all of my decisions affect everyone because they paid for these events. There isn't a cookie cutter answer because it's situational. I have to serve all students, follow rules, but also be empathetic for my team. We have an impossible task of satisfying everyone, not to mention we are full-time students.

Both Isabel and [former Treasurer] Ehtasham mentioned the goal of conducting ABC workshops, Ehtasham in particular stressing financial transparency during the semester — will you do something similar?
We do need to conduct ABC workshops and plan to hold

them soon after Spring semester starts. I will say the most effective and most helpful method is when club leaders ask questions. In addition to myself, I have three bursars who can explain and answer voucher questions. We are very communicative and will continue to be. As always, all problem vouchers go to club mailboxes and they are notified of this. ABC workshops are important, but, as always, won't reach everyone so I feel one-on-one discussions throughout the day fix many issues [that] ABC workshops don't. You can't imagine all of the unbelievable circumstances that occur when it comes to paperwork for clubs.

Financial transparency is very important to me. USG is funded by student activity fees so every student has the right to partake in all events funded by us and the right to know how much they cost. However, it does take time to compile and catch up on everything I have missed. My main goal was to learn the role and then finish everything that needed to be done as efficiently as possible. Now that I have a hold on what is going on and how much we actually spend, I would like to consolidate all of our USG event vouchers from [our] Fall 2017 [through] Spring 2018 [budget sheet] and make them public on our website in folders with some organization. This is not as simple as it seems because I have to compile everything from an archive that also includes every single club voucher. To give you an idea, the past two weeks alone we processed [around] 350 reimbursements. Then I have to categorize them and locate where they came from. Although it seems like a daunting task, this is my personal goal to be more financially transparent. We can all throw around the buzzword "transparent" but for once let's actually be it. Vouchers are not private information.



Derny Fleurima, Executive Vice President
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

As in any organization, a transition isn't necessarily seamless. Our transition into USG was no different. We did something that was unprecedented; we created the most diverse group of senators in the history of USG. We brought in students from various backgrounds and organizations in order to truly represent the students in the best way we can. But, it wasn't seamless.

There was a lot to learn, however. After the first week or two, the table got used to hearing club concerns, appeals and just working together. I do think that there are things that we can improve on but I think our Fall semester went well. What I am most proud of is our advocacy and representation of all students. One example that comes to mind is with our DACA informational event during which we provided education on the issues relating to DACA recipients and provided advocacy for those who felt underrepresented. We further unified and advocated for DREAMers at the CUNY [University Student] Senate as well.

What are you working on for this Spring semester?
This semester our theme is "empowerment." We want to create opportunities where we can tangibly help students, faculty and even our surrounding communities. Specifically, from my office, I am working on fostering a greater faculty-student relationship. This means engaging with our administration in hopes of providing them with more clarity on the issues that students face.

Furthermore, I personally am working on providing opportunities for administration to attend more meetings in order to offer students the opportunity to speak to and consult administrators regarding questions they have or simply to be educated on the functions of those offices as well.

Do you feel like you accomplished your goal of “demystifying” USG for students not as involved in club life, and for students who were underrepresented in USG? How did you go about doing this?

As mentioned earlier, our diverse table does the job of representing students from different backgrounds and that helps offer an eclectic perspective regarding the issues that come across our table.

As it relates to "demystifying" USG, I think we have made progress. Making students more aware of what we do and how our organization functions can truly be as simple as going to the club suite and speaking to students. Informing them of an event or a forum personally as opposed to us expecting simply to read an email they have received. Furthermore, Isabel and I have stressed the importance of Senate engagement constantly and instituted mandatory office hours for senators as well so that students can ask the questions that they have and feel connected to their senators. As it relates to students who aren't involved in club life, that is an uphill battle. It is unrealistic to think that we can speak to all 15,000 undergraduate students, however, we can definitely continue to educate and engage our students in the best way we can. That starts on a personal level. It's more than an email or a flyer — more of a handshake and a smile.

How do you feel you are fulfilling your duties to keep meetings orderly and on task?
After our first week as an acting USG, I met with every one of our senators and asked them one question: "Do you feel comfortable sharing your opinions at the table?" I took these responses constructively and worked toward making sure that every senator felt that they could speak on the issues of our students without feeling pressured.

The best way for this to be done is via parliamentary procedure and timing. I think that, with the help of the table, we have done a good job ensuring that we can effectively get things done in meetings and stay on task. Like all things, this wasn't easy to develop nor did it happen easily, however, I think this is something that we have definitely improved on and have made relatively seamless.

How have minority clubs been underrepresented in the past and how have you taken action to change this?
As stated earlier, our table is diverse and highly representative of [our] students. In the past, this wasn't the case. Many students came from similar backgrounds and organizations, but not this year. Our very inception is different, that's how we've changed this.

What are some Baruch issues that concern you at the moment?

Some of the issues that concern me at the moment are class size and faculty diversity. Firstly, regarding class sizes, it has come to our attention that for various courses, mostly business courses, students are able to enroll in classes but the classrooms do not have the capacity to hold students. Some students have reported that they are sitting on the floors for classes that are usually prerequisites for very popular majors, such as finance and accounting.

Regarding faculty diversity, I was made aware of this issue by Dr. Arthur Lewin of the black [and Latino] studies department. His research illustrates that Baruch's faculty diversity is mediocre, at best.

Diversity is important for this college and for students as well. This is something that I will be closely speaking to Lewin and the administration about.

How has USG simplified the budgeting process?
I think that the budgeting process is more understandable. Club leaders are always in our offices learning the process from "The Money Team." The approach is very amiable. When setting up appeals, it isn't "this is how much you get." It's [more so] a conversation between club leaders and us. The Money Team has done a great job of accommodating and working with clubs and one of their main priorities is that club leaders understand the process and learn the rules surrounding it as well.

Do you have an affiliation to a fraternity, and what was the intent of wearing Greek letters to the Greek life forum?
I am a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. established in 1906 at Cornell University [in] Ithaca, New York. Regarding my wearing of Greek letters at the forum, I believe that it was poor judgement on my part to wear my letters. My goal in that meeting was to ensure that students felt comfortable in stating their opinions regarding Greek life and I think that I could have definitely handled that better.

That being said, the Greek life forum had nothing to do with metro city chapters, like mine, which are NOT affected by the moratorium, considering that students can join these chapters because their charter is not on Baruch's campus. Moreover, our focus shouldn't be on my fraternity, or any metro city chapter for that matter, but rather on fraternities chartered on this campus that are actually directly affected by the moratorium. Arvis Chen, chair of Clubs and Organizations, is spearheading the process to gauge student opinion on the topic so that it is done independently and without bias for or against fraternal life at Baruch.



THE VICE PRESIDENTS

The Undergraduate Student Government contains four vice presidents: vice president of Academic Affairs, vice president of Campus Affairs, vice president of Student Affairs and vice president of Legislative Affairs. These vice-presidential senators are required to correspond with their own committees, as well as the appropriate administrative officials, and then communicate students’ needs in those areas.



Suleman Aleem, Vice President of Academic Affairs
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

This Fall semester was one big learning curve for this whole table. There were a lot of mistakes made that we got through as a table. We hope that we can take what we've learned and use it toward accomplishing something special before our term ends.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

I personally have no new plans for USG in the Spring semester because it [has] come to a point where anything I do attracts heavy criticism from my team.

How have your plans for academic affairs committee panned out?

I was not able to make any changes to the whole registration process for students. I tried working with the office of academic advisement, but being that we are still students, there are many limitations we have in terms of what we can advise to students.

Can you speak on the relevance of your meme event? Can you elaborate on your food choice? Will this event be hosted again in upcoming semesters?

I went out of the norm and hosted an event that Baruch hasn't seen before. I don't understand how me hosting a fun and interactive event where students bring their creativity to the stage was so controversial when USG literally drops thousands of dollars on similar events like "Welcome Week" and "Winter Wonderland." My food choice took into account dietary restrictions for students who only eat vegetarian or halal-certified meat and the vendor was Tallgrass. It was a great choice but received just as much controversy as my meme event because it came at a slightly more expensive price. But on the other hand, when another USG representative caters from the same vendor with a larger order, no one bats an eye. You can expect to enjoy Tallgrass on USG's Welcome Week Event on Thursday, Feb. 1.

You’ve been on two USG tables — what do you think your tenure has offered USG and your student peers?

I was able to bring my knowledge from last year and use it as a foundation for how we decided to run USG similarly. By bringing my experience to this table, we've been able to handle situations based on any events that had similar circumstances last year.



Erica Yang, Vice President of Student Affairs
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

Fall semester was a bit of a rough patch. I was still getting my bearings in USG and was learning as I was planning events. I made a [ton] of mistakes along the way, but things turned out great and we had some super fun events. I'm really proud of all the events held in the Fall semester because I love lifting students' spirits (even if it's just a little bit).

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

Spring semester is quite the doozy. We're starting off with a bunch of events for the first week of classes to welcome students back. From there, we have a ton of mini-events in the works. Something major that's coming up is our annual "Bearcats on Ice" at Rockefeller [Center's] ice rink. Keep a lookout for updates on that! As far as other events go, my committee and I have decided that we aren't doing “Baruch's Got Talent” this year, but we are working on hosting a large-scale arts event in its place. We want to be able to showcase and highlight communities on campus that are easily lost in the hustle and bustle. My committee is always open to hearing ideas about what events students would like to see on campus. Please send me emails or stop by my office! (VC 3-272)

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

A Baruch issue that has always concerned me is how little students know about their own school. There is such an enormous amount of free resources available to students that aren't well known.

What steps have you taken in welcoming students and helping them appreciate Baruch more?

A large part of hosting events on campus is interacting with students while they wait on line or while they're enjoying whatever we are giving out. I always try to tell students about the wonderful things that are happening on campus and, in a sense, boost some school spirit. I encourage students to get involved on campus and learn more about things that they are interested in. We have so many different clubs and organizations on campus and I feel that there's a community for everyone here.

Have you brought light to the free resources available at Baruch?

A part of my plan for this upcoming semester is to be able to highlight the free resources at Baruch. From [Peers Advocating Wellness Services] to the writing center to the health center to the gym — I want students to be more aware of facilities that are available to them.

What events have you implemented this semester — which do you plan to continue or expand on?

Many of the events hosted this semester have been the traditional events that USG has always hosted, but I like to think I put a little twist on them. Something I have been very proud of has been an event we hosted during finals week that was in collaboration with USG's Arts Committee (led by our own special bean Brandon Paillere). I want to be able to incorporate the arts into more events on campus.



Frances Subervi, Vice President of Campus Affairs
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

During [the] Fall semester, I feel I've grown through my position, [and I am] extremely excited I got to have a semi-traditional homecoming because, in the past, it was fall-based (not sport-based). [I was] also excited that I got to see the Multipurpose [Room] in white curtains instead of the same blue ones. Personally [I] feel it made the room look bigger and brighter.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

[I will] hopefully work on more sustainability events with Niko Fuentres, as well as social events, including: movie night, two installations (maybe a ball pit) and collaboration with clubs for an event.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

The elevator and escalators haven't been working well and those are students' main forms of transportation to classes. Having them be down for more than a couple [of] hours is not acceptable.

How is your research on switching turnstiles into a tap system for ID cards? How much money would this cost students? How much money would this cost taxpayers? How much money is USG willing to apply to this cause?

Most staff haven't told me a concrete number, [but] they have told me that it would cost too much and the process would be long. All IDs would have to be switched, and building entrances would be closed. I make sure to always bring up this point when I speak to facilities and plan to continue doing this. USG fully supports having new turnstiles, it [has] been a conversation with buildings and grounds for many years, and USG doesn't mind paying for as much as we can, budget-wise.

What new events have you implemented, and would you like to implement this semester?

Homecoming normally is fall-based with a movie, pumpkins, hay, etc. This year I got the chance to make it into a school spirt week with dress-up days, a football game, a pep rally and a homecoming dance.

The shipping and decoration costs of USG's “Perfect Winter” event seem exorbitant — can you please elaborate on whether this is a regular occurrence with events like this or if it is an anomaly?

Originally it was a large number and because of that, we didn't go through with the original order that was over 1,000 dollars just for shipping. The order's shipping amount that we went with is more along the standard shipping amount [that USG] is allowed.



Daniel Morote, Vice President of Legislative Affairs
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I believe that my Fall semester went well but it took a lot of adjusting to the new position. However, I could have completed a lot of more things on campus. I am proud of the outreach and focus that I was able to give to the CUNY DREAMers. Baruch became the first CUNY to hold an event on immigration after the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program] event.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

Well, I am focused on the [Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus] for this upcoming February. However, I am planning new events focused on womens rights and possibly an environmental event.

What events have you hosted that have brought more awareness to social issues?

My Fall semester was taken up mostly by DACA effort but I made sure that Baruch College DREAMers knew their resources and their rights.

In what ways have you advocated for or plan to advocate for more political awareness within Baruch?

I plan to hold more events for social issues in Baruch College because they are very important.

Can you discuss your plans for the Albany caucus this year?

Everything is set up! After months of planning, weeks of marketing and weeks of picking people, we were able to finish everything and it's going to be a blast.

Did you hold a voter registration drive, especially given the local elections in November 2017?

I tried to hold a voter registration drive but the DACA efforts took most of my time. The voter registration drive had little support from the clubs. However, they were notified.

Were they any seminars in the Fall semester, and will there be any in the Spring for social and political issues?

Yes, there will be but we are still in the planning process.

How far along is the progress on a pipeline for government and nonprofit-oriented careers?

The process of creating a pipeline is on its way. I am currently creating a way to build from my past experiences and with the help of my committee, growing with more opportunities.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I do not know yet.

USG CONSTITUTIONAL FUN FACT

According to Article V, Section 3d. of the USG constitution,
"The Chair of the Senate shall be
entitled to call the Senate to order when the Senate is
out-of-session with at least seventy-two (72) hours of public notice."

The Ticker's USG Correspondents



BIANCA MONTEIRO



ANDREW JOHN WINDSOR II

THE CHAIRS AND REPRESENTATIVE SENATORS

Students elect one representative senator for every 1,000 students to represent them and their voices on campus. Of these representative senators, five are nominated by the executive board and approved by the Senate to become chairs of standing committees (those outlined in the USG Constitution) — such as the Appeals, the Clubs and Organizations or the Finance Committees. Other representative senators can become vice chairs or create their own ad-hoc committees, or solely retain the title of representative senator. USG currently has 15 representative senator seats. During the publication of this spread, however, three seats opened up with the resignations of Zakari Abubakar, Molly Bhuiyan and Michael Cherry.



Arvis Chen, Chair of Clubs and Organizations
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I feel like the Fall semester kept me on my toes. When I was not going to events created by these inspiring club leaders, I was learning about USG, club and administrative policies. A lot of this material was new and I had to adapt quickly. My proudest USG-related accomplishment was starting my very own committee. People know it as the Clubs and Organizations Committee, but I call us the Potato Pals!

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

I'm working on the Bernies next semester, which is like the Oscars for club life. I have a \$5,000 budget, a dedicated committee and two vice chairs with tons of ideas. The former chairs of clubs and orgs have laid the groundwork, but we're planning on making it bigger and better than ever. I have a couple other projects along the way, including the social Greek issue and some events, but I don't want to say anything before it's done.

What are some Baruch issues that concern you at the moment?

One Baruch issue I am concerned with is the disconnection between USG, club life [and] OSL. For the past couple years, there has been a tense relationship between the three, but I believe we're mending it slowly but surely. Club life has several misconceptions that can discourage some club leaders from maximizing their success, and I want to let them know that USG has got their back.

Will your cap rule, installed late last semester, for the Multipurpose Room remain in effect? Can you please elaborate on some of the main rules you've set for clubs & organizations?

My rule to increase the \$500 cap to \$1,000 was ambitious and well-intentioned, but not ideal. With USG's co-sponsorship budget, I want clubs to have access to as many funds as possible to create better events, programs, forums, meetings [and] parties.

Being raised from club life, I thought that clubs were broke and did not always have money. But after several meetings with our finance team. I have realized that having a \$500 cap is an adequate amount for co-sponsorship. Our appeals system was set in place to help club leaders with requests over \$500. All club leaders need to do is plan it out! TLDR; the cap will be kept at \$500. So, if you want a co-sponsorship with USG, just let me know two weeks in advance!

In what ways have you advocated for greater club exposure and fostered collaboration within different clubs at Baruch?

As soon as I got the opportunity to become the chair of Clubs and Organizations, I began devoting all of my efforts toward turning club life into a more collaborative community. I knew that every decision I made and will make would support this dream.

This semester I have funded five competitions for club life with rewards for [over] \$100. Whether it was to decorate doors in support of domestic violence survivors or donate clothing for our hurricane relief drive, these competitions have gotten clubs involved and interested in supporting the cause. Clubs can stretch \$100 in multiple ways, but money isn't the only thing that they need.

I think, above everything else, club members and club leaders need to know that they are supported. So, in the mornings, I would walk around the club suite and greet the members. At night, I would say goodbye. Most of them don't know me and give me a courteous nod, but I believe strangers are just friends who don't know each other yet. I've also stepped up the communication between clubs and USG by inviting them to join USG events like the "Lip Sync Battle," and offered other resources like our string lights and a raffle drum.



David Barros, Chair of Finance
[Senior, Accounting](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I feel like the Fall semester went pretty well. Given that most of the people at the table are new to USG, it was a learning curve for us to get familiar with our roles and being able to carry out our responsibilities.

At the end of the day, we did pretty good at adapting. When it comes to USG-related accomplishments, I believe that the committees that planned events knocked it out of the park, from "Welcome Week" to "Homecoming" and the stress relief events. I was there when they were working on the logistics, the vendors and everything they needed to carry out the event and they worked very hard to make the whole process go smoothly.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

This upcoming semester, my committee will work on allocating new, late and returning budgets, which is the core function of the finance committee. I am sure it will be a lot of work but I am fortunate to have a solid committee to support me throughout the whole process.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

The issue that me and the rest of the student representatives have been trying to target is the lack of involvement with club life. Given that Baruch is a commuter school and most of them live in places like Queens and Long Island, people do not get a chance to stick around and get involved. We are currently brainstorming ideas for initiatives to address this issue.



Nicole Taniguchi, Chair of Marketing
[Junior, Corporate Communications](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I think Fall semester went, overall, pretty well. Since a majority of the table was fairly new to USG there was a learning curve but once people got the reins, everyone made their position their own. I felt that the "Lip Sync Battle" was incredibly successful and I heard everyone had a great time! Being able to bring some community, friendly competition and fun to students is something I think we all hope to provide in our events.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

My main goal is to be more creative in the ways we market USG initiatives. We are also incredibly supportive of the Arts Committee initiatives and hope to help them spread their voice.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

There are many Baruch issues that concern me but perhaps one I'm interested in seeing how we approach is the issue is ... social fraternities and whether or not they deserve a place back on campus.

What's the progress on the new USG website?

The website took a bit of a backseat last semester, mostly due to how much work was required for the project. For this Spring semester we plan to work on it full force and I'm looking into having a few committee members dedicated to working on that for those interested.

What's the status of the club calendar?

The calendar would be in conjunction to the website so hopefully once we update that we'll also be done with the calendar.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

As of right now, I am not planning on running for reelection.



Rachel Liang, Chair of Graphic Design
[Junior, Corporate Communications](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

Overall, the Fall semester was decent — there is a huge learning curve to being a part of USG that I did not expect. There is definitely

room for improvement in terms of time management. My role touches a lot of what USG does, but I think the events and giveaways we held were the biggest accomplishments because they created a direct connection to the students.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

I don't have any concrete plans of my own yet for the upcoming semester, but I am interested in brainstorming practical ways to introduce more arts and graphics to any student who's interested. Definitely open to suggestions!

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

Student resources and the social Greek topic. Last semester, we had so many issues with Wi-Fi and just technology not working on campus, so hopefully, the situation is resolved or something actionable is done about it. Also, the moratorium on social Greek fraternities is ending soon and I know a lot of students are interested in the outcome of what's happening after it ends. Regardless of my own opinions, I want to support the students in what they want in their college experience.



Alexander Dimcevski
[Senior, Finance and Investments](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

My time at the table has been fulfilling. Every week we get served a new and exotic dish to accommodate our long and boring meeting.

And along these meetings I've recognized that the USG team is great — they never double dip in the salsa.

What are some issues in Baruch that currently concern you and what are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

Between food breaks I occasionally spend time on what I promised I should work on when I joined [USG].

- online homework: "paying for 10-25% of your grade in addition to what the school is charging you for your grade."
- housing: "helping students to meet students to live off campus."
- international students: "make a messy situation a little better."



Brian Ronquillo
[Senior, Finance and Investments](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I believe we had a proactive Fall semester that allowed this year's USG to showcase the different approach we will be continuing on

taking. We as a collective group are looking to make an impact in the long term and the Fall semester definitely helped us pave the way to what is to come during the Spring. An accomplishment that I am proud of is our continuous work to revitalize the impact organizations like the CUNY DREAMers and the sustainability task force have on the Baruch campus.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

During the upcoming semester, I plan on working closely with the chair of the Finance Committee to ensure that all clubs and organizations have the opportunity to apply for a budget. My personal goal is to receive budget proposals from at least 90 [percent] of all active clubs and organizations during the 2017 [to] 2018 school year. By revisiting the metrics of how the finance committee is able to aware club leaders, I believe that my goal can be achieved.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

A particular issue that concerns me is the lack of awareness many students have on the opportunities that exist on campus via clubs and organizations. As a commuter school, I feel that we under advertise how diverse Baruch is overall. Despite only being considered a business school, clubs and organizations offer a uniqueness about Baruch that is not looked at or taken advantage of by students.

In what ways have you advocated for and encouraged smaller clubs to flourish within Baruch?

Throughout the semester, I have made it my personal mission to guide many small clubs on how to fully optimize the different opportunities USG offers, in regard to funds. [Having] previously [served] as a club leader for a small club, I encourage small clubs to flourish in other ways such as offering to assist in events, helping clubs fill out reimbursement forms and redirecting them to other individuals within USG or Student Life that can assist them with any issues or concerns.



Hamed Doumbia, Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

My Fall semester was a reality check. During the Rise Baruch campaign, I was excited about being a part of student government; a feat I was never able to do because the lack of belief I had in myself during my 12 years of public education. I never envisioned myself as a leader or an individual that had a valuable voice. With that in mind, I'm glad that I was able to empower people simply by running for a position on student government. SEEK students do not necessarily think of student government or other large influential organizations in Baruch. Becoming that bridge and connecting them to opportunities is definitely a blessing.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

This year our theme is "empowerment." I am thinking about creating events that students have not yet experienced that will help them discover their inner potential, or simply learn something that will aid them in their collegiate careers.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

Current Baruch issues that concern me are the declining status of ethnic diversity at Baruch, faculty issues within the [The Department of Black and Latino Studies], and the lack of support and representation for certain groups of Baruch students.

You suggested in our previous spread that a USG suggestion box would be a good idea — have there been any moves made on this suggestion?

It's difficult convincing the team on certain ideas [that] I see valuable. Most of the time, I stand alone with my vision; therefore, I search for other ways to implement my ideas into reality. I make sure to make an effort to talk with students who are interested in issues, concerns and ideas they want to have addressed and voice them at the table. That way, I become my own suggestion box.

Some concerns you mentioned included the atmosphere of Baruch, citing the lack of art pieces, as well as Baruch's ID system. Have you initiated any collaborations or projects regarding these, or other student issues in Baruch?

Most of my ideas have been shut down. I generally am discouraged to bring new ideas to the table because of the way they are received. The lack of art pieces is being addressed by our art committee chair, Brandon Paillere, who is doing an amazing job with his team. Baruch's atmosphere still bothers me and I am thinking of more permanent things that Baruch can do to make it [livelier]. Additionally, Baruch's ID system is apparently a cost issue that just seems to be thrown under the rug. The powers at be do not see the immediate value considering that there's an apparent large-scale infrastructure change that must be made in order to have a new system in place. Let's not lose hope, however.



Emma Jorgensen, Chair of Appeals
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What has your current time on the table been like?

My current time on the table has been amazing. I've wanted to be a senator in USG ever since I went to my first senate meeting in 2015. After getting elected this year, and then getting voted in as chair of

the Appeals Committee, I can say with full confidence that this has made my semester amazing, from the friends I've made to the responsibility I now have, I've loved every minute of it and do not regret it for a second.

What are some Baruch issues that concern you at the moment?

Some Baruch issues that concern me at the moment are the lack of impact we make on the entire Baruch student body and also the lack of guidelines and examples for clubs when they appeal. As for the lack of impact, we have many students who are involved in various clubs and show up to various events but we also have a large population of students who aren't interested. I hope that we can change that more. The lack of guidelines and information for clubs about appeals is an issue that I will be working on solving this semester.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

For this upcoming Spring semester I am working on a way to communicate the guidelines for appeals to clubs in a better way. Many clubs understand that they can appeal but they do not understand exactly what information we need from them. Because of this, the process takes longer than it should. To solve this, I am hoping to make an example appeal to send out to all clubs to give them some guidelines to work with.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I do plan on running for reelection. As for the position, I am not 100 [percent] certain what I will run for but my goal would be to run for a position higher than the one I am currently in.



Tarak Chowdhury
[Senior, Marketing Management](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

The Fall semester was an up and down semester. It felt like we could have done much better to serve the students. A lot of moving parts with all of us at the table but by the end we got some things done. Proud of the few events such as "A Perfect Winter," "Book Drive" and "Food Around Baruch."

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

This semester I am trying to get all the logistic together to plan an event at the end of the semester which I can't reveal all info to since I haven't gotten any confirmation yet myself.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

One of the issue that is ongoing is the overcrowding in the VC due to construction in the old building as well the the Wi-Fi. The Wi-Fi was much better by the end of the semester and I hope it continues to be that way this semester.

The previous response in *The Ticker's* spread indicated that you felt that USG could have improved on its communication with volunteers and other students looking to get involved. As a representative senator, in what ways have you worked to close that gap?

As far as my own experience, there are way more people involved in committees from first hand experiences. I am seeing a lot more freshman and sophomores who are interested in helping out, curious as to what we do and overall how USG works.



Brandon Paillere, Chair of the Arts Committee
[Junior, Marketing](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

I think the Fall semester went well. I am extremely proud of the work the Arts Committee has done in just two months of being in existence.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

I will continue to be the chair of the Arts Committee and will be focusing mostly on that

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

The indifference for the arts on campus. The administration's apparent inability to listen to students about greek life.

Discuss the role of your newly chartered Arts Committee and any accomplishments, as well as goals, for the new semester. Do you plan on setting it up as a permanent committee?

The Arts Committee goal is to create awareness for the arts on campus and to make students feel represented.

[Some] ccomplishments we are very proud of:

- the rolling board gallery initiative, which displays students' work in the lobby area. This was made possible by partnering with Encounters Magazine. (will continue in the spring)
- Jam Session events (will continue in the spring)
- Table Read events. An event where fellow screenwriters get together to have the chance to read it aloud and have it critiqued. (will continue in the spring)
- Our new partnership with BPAC through which will be having students be involved in productions
- Our finals week events: Chaoserenity & Cups and Cocoa
- Goals for the new semester
- Continue our recurring events
- Establishing collaborative events with BPAC
- Creation of professional events geared to educate creatives
- Launch content from our new music initiative
- We do plan on setting this committee as a permanent committee.

Can you please elaborate on the structure of the arts committee?

The committee is separated into 5 departments: Performance, Music, Visual/Fine art, Fashion, and Film & Photography. Each department is led by a Medium Director and general members are required to be active in at least one department.

What events has the committee hosted thus far, and which do they plan to host for this upcoming semester?

We have had a Table Read and Jam session event as well as our Finals week events, Chaoserenity & Cups and Cocoa.

For the upcoming semester, we plan on hosting workshops with our music department and career-oriented events for all departments. We will also be hosting a 48-hour film challenge with BPAC.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I will not be running for re-election for any position



Arseny Averyanov
[Junior, Finance and Investments](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

Great! Absolutely.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

Creating a better environment for the students.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

Club spending.

In what ways have you attempted to integrate students into Baruch student life?

I talk to my peers and ask for their opinion on some ideas or issues concerning Baruch's student life.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I'm considering it.



Lin Lin, Vice Chair of Finance
[Junior, Accounting](#)
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How do you feel your Fall semester went? Is there any USG-related accomplishment that you are proud of?

Fall semester I see many good and bad. Many members found a place for their strength to lie but some didn't. We faced some turnover in many positions.

In terms of my personal position, as representative senator and vice chair of finance, I had a good transition into the position. David Barros and I had a good collaboration and teamwork at budgeting and we already thought about how to confront with the upcoming budgeting season. The information session is something what we have in mind.

What are you working on for USG this upcoming Spring semester?

As I said, I will be going to work along with David through the busy season for budgeting season for over 100 clubs on campus. Also I am putting together a chinese USG account so we can target and engage one of the largest ethnicities that is less active in student life.

What are some Baruch issues that currently concern you?

We only have five advisors advising 15,000 students and Advisement center took out T.E.A.M. Baruch peer advisor which was extremely helpful when I was in freshman. And that was last year the program was held. Advisement officers claim that they purchased an online tool to replace peer advisors but it doesn't seem to be running.

In what ways have you advocated for the Chinese community within Baruch?

I constantly post student life events in chinese social media to attract more Chinese involved. I recruit couple people to write weekly articles about what's happening in school and what students can do and enjoy at Baruch.

Do you plan on running for reelection for any position?

I plan to graduate early so I will not be able to run for reelection but I hope to establish a stronger sense of what my position is to those who are willing to take over next year. I heard some reps say they don't see value in USG but it is not what USG make USG member valuable but USG members give values to what USG mean to them.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Benard M. Baruch College Association, otherwise know as the board of directors, is not well known by the average student. However, the board is directly involved with student life. It is tasked with reviewing and approving funds for students that are funded by the Student Activity fee, and oversees other student-related matters.

Art King, Chairperson of the Board of the Directors
Vice President for Student Affairs
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You wrote that you base the board’s success on seeing students “become the impressionable leaders we endeavor for them to develop into,” adding that BOD is successful when it is most effective in supporting the student body. In what ways have students grown into impressionable leaders this semester and how has the BOD helped?

The [BOD] is made up of six student representatives. I continue to be impressed by the commitment of the students to the work being done and issues being addressed on the board and their involvement in the process. These individuals came to their positions with can-do attitudes and are very much engaged in all aspects of the decision making of the board. Punctuality, deportment, creativity and deliberate thinking and decisiveness are some adjectives I use to describe the student members of the board. The student reps recognized the influence and impact they have on funding specific programs and services that affect student life on campus, and they take their roles very seriously, hence my continuing to be impressed by them. I am also pleased with the student club leaders who come before the board to request funding on appeals or new initiatives. Many of these leaders demonstrate the desire to give back to their respective communities and that is what we try to promote.

How have you challenged students to aim for greater success and to enhance their leadership skills and

abilities?

Many of the board members (student reps) came with creative ideas as to how they would like to fund programs and events on campus because many of them are already involved on campus. Again, many of them are active so they make the decision-making process on the board easier, in some ways, because they get it.

They are not going to support programs/events that do not highlight the diversity of our student body or those that are not impactful. They have quickly learned the process, so my job, as chair of the board, is to continue to challenge them to think differently in some cases, but also to sit back and be educated by or learn from them since they are closer to their peers and can easily understand some approaches in ways that I might not be able to do. The club leaders have undergone leadership training done by Student Life and I get to see them present firsthand many of the skills they learned.

How has the board helped students, “better manage their budget allocations ... as well as provide support for students maximize the resources they have at their disposal?”

What we have been focusing on is wastage and poor budgeting, low attendance at some events. We have been discussing and challenging student groups, who present or appeal before the board, to make sure there is follow through from conceptualization of the creative idea or event to paying vendors in a timely manner for goods/services provided to student clubs. We express our displeasure to group leaders when invoices are not paid on time or when events are not well-attended, or not well-promoted, while

at the same time using the opportunity with said leaders to provide them with constructive feedback on how they can do better moving forward. Additionally, we have been encouraging more clubs to collaborate on projects to maximize resources. Many clubs are already doing this, however.

What would you say was the best moment at a BOD meeting in the fall?

There are always good moments at our meetings. Our decision making is through and thoughtful. One decision of the board this last period that I appreciated is when the group voted on spending to provide better furniture for our students in the lounges in the VC on the third, sixth and eighth floors. It was felt the furniture on these floors had become run-down; after much debate and research on the matter, it was agreed that the Board would set aside funds to purchase new furniture. To date, only the third floor is outfitted. The other floors will be done shortly.

In what other ways have you been incorporating more student involvement in these overarching positions?

The board cannot exist without student input. Students making decisions that impact the vibrancy and school spirit of the campus, on matters that impact them is what I am about. In my over 20 years of working with students, I have always collaborated with students on matters that impact them. Students need to be at the forefront of the decision making that affects their college journey. I want to ensure that I am part of developing the next wave of leaders moving into society and making their mark at a better world.

Andrea Maribel Soto, Student Member of the Board
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You wanted to, “effectively aid in making the most out of the money ... to provide students with one of the best college experiences they can have, especially at a commuter school.” What are the pros and cons of funding student life at a commuter school? What has BOD done to lessen the cons?

Being a commuter student doesn’t really force students to be in a college environment with peers 24/7. It is difficult for commuter students to really feel connected to the college community and there is not a lot of motivation to be a part of student life. With that being said, I think that having clubs and events as resources on campus [is] great, because it allows for there to be an opportunity to be integrated into a community. So, the pros come in the form of providing students with the resources to do this. One of the biggest cons I would say is the level of difficulty to make absolutely every student aware of every club and event on campus. To avoid this con, there needs to be more internal communication between USG and clubs. BOD was able to do this with the Roller Hockey Club when they attended one of our meetings regarding their budget by reminding them of the importance of being part of the club life conversation. Since then, I’ve seen them put up a lot more flyers and table on the second floor frequently.

You said that the allocations should “benefit the overall Baruch student body.” How do you determine the benefit of an allocation: quality of event, quantity of students or something else?

The senate table usually does the preliminary evaluation of all these things, and they’re pretty good with determining the benefit of an allocation. However, while at BOD meetings, I do look to see if that event turnout is proportionate to the allocation and also try to make educated evaluations based off of the same event from previous years.

What would you say was the best moment at a BOD meeting in the Fall?

One of the best moments was when the Roller Hockey Club came straight to BOD after their budget wasn’t approved the first time around. Seeing students’ passion and dedication to their club is really great.

Are you running for reelection to any position?

I definitely want to be involved in USG next year but I have not officially decided anything.

Laura Powers, Student Member of the Board
[Senior, Statistics and Quantitative Modeling](#)
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Laura Powers declined to comment on the following questions:

What would you say was the best moment at a BOD meeting in the fall?

What was your proudest moment as a representative during the fall semester?

What do you hope to achieve on BOD this semester?

Ryan Powers, Student Member of the Board
[Senior, Actuarial Science](#)
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You said your goal for BOD this year is “to be transparent, fiscally responsible, and be a bridge for students who want to know more about where their money goes.” How have you demonstrated this in your role?

I feel that my experiences on the board throughout the semester have given me more insight as to where exactly student money is being spent. I am able to give updates to fellow students who ask or have complaints about the spending of their money.

How did your experience last year as the executive vice president of USG give you an advantage on the BOD?

Since I served as EVP, I came onto [the] BOD knowing the rules and procedures they go through since the USG Senate uses very similar procedures. I also had met and worked with many members of the board through that experience, so we were able to operate more effectively as a whole.

What would you say was the best moment at a BOD meeting in the Fall?

The best moment of the semester was probably welcoming Patrick Murphy as an independent director. It’s great to see the board operating at its full potential to ensure fair and thorough allocations of money.

Anthony Odie, Student Member of the Board
[Junior, Actuarial Science](#)
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You wished to “increase allocations that will improve the college’s reputation and student experience.” In your opinion, what allocations improve the college’s reputation and student experiences? Has USG made the correct decision on these allocations usually, or do you find yourself wanting to vote to alter allocations?

I think all of them — there is no specific one — do that, that’s the whole point of student life at Baruch, to enhance the experience. I can’t really single out one organization because every organization has students, each student has been made happy by different organizations. I can say one allocation I did see was the appropriation of funding for rebuilding the [seating area on the third floor] at the beginning of this semester [that was decided during meetings from last semester]. Correct decision? I think they’re all fine, I think the correct decision has been made and if the incorrect decision would be made I’d argue it and ask questions, [I’d vote against it]. I think it’s correct so far, everything that’s been presented.

You declared that you would stand alone in opposition to the board if your vote is acting in the student body’s best interests. Have you done that or had any other controversial votes that placed you against others?

So the Roller Hockey Club came again, and I chose to just abstain, I didn’t vote “no” because I thought the club was great. But I thought it would be more appropriate to put [it under athletics]. We asked them to come back with a revised presentation and asked them to talk more and tell us why the Roller Hockey Club should be given USG funding and, in the end, it didn’t really change my mind. I thought it would be athletics appropriation just because of the cost for a low amount of students, but I think this goes back to what allocations will improve the college’s reputation and experience so, retroactively, I think it was great. It was something that was there, everyone voted for it and I did abstain but it will go to work benefiting the allocations of the school.

You hoped to attend student events on campus to listen to their wants and needs, in order to allocate better as a representative of the student body and their views. Which events were your favorites of the Fall semester and which are you looking forward to in the Spring and why?

I spent my club hours every week at TAMID, an [Israeli] business club, so I spent my club hours there every week. I think the club is a wonderful organization. I did attend some events on the plaza, and I did pop into a few others. Although I did invest a lot of time into TAMID, I am looking forward to most of these events, for example I want to attend BASH this year. I see more events on the plaza because I’m in on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. On Thursday for club hours, if there’s anything before or after I’m happy to attend, definitely will attend as many events as I can. Everyone always has great food and great people, especially since it’s my last semester and I’m gonna graduate early. Something I would like to see though is more Saturday events at Baruch because for students who take online or weekend classes, there could be some more events. It would be great to see that.

What would you say was the best moment at a BOD meeting in the Fall?

For me I just think it was a really interesting learning experience. Previously I was on the [auxiliary] board and, for example, our school was looking for a new vendor and I wanted it to be Panda Express, but we ended up getting the machines. I am not sure what is going to be the future of that space, but I can make an effort for that. I really enjoyed that and I wanted something a bit more frequent, so that’s why I thought BOD was great. I definitely enjoy being at the table and asking questions. In terms of my best moment, just because I saw the actual, tangible results, was allocating funds to that area on the third floor.

Editor's Note: *All responses were edited for grammar and comprehension and follow our in-house style guide and the Associated Press style guide.*

Editor's Note: *All table responses were submitted on or before Jan. 31, 2018, and may not reflect accurate tense (or other factors based on time).*

Editor's Note: *Headshot images were provided by Baruch College's Undergraduate Student Government and photographer Nicole Pung.*

Editor's Note: *Anthony Odie answered via phone call and his responses were transcribed — the written text was revised for comprehension, but is intended to reflect his intentions accurately.*

USG's 'Welcome Week' greets students with food and games

BY COURTNEY GERVAIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After a long winter break, Baruch College came back to a litany of events hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government. The week was dedicated to upping the morale of our school community, as well as giving students a chance to meet new friends and find out about new clubs and organizations. "Welcome Week" spanned from coffee, tea and hot chocolate breaks to free food and a neon party.

On Monday, Jan. 29, USG brought "Cups and Cocoa" to the Newman Vertical Campus. This event was familiar to some, as USG hosted the same event last semester. Not only were they giving out free cups of hot chocolate, but students got to design and decorate their own mugs.

Following "Cups and Cocoa" was a "Tea Break" on Tuesday, Jan. 30. With the hustle of the Spring semester in full effect, it was prime time for a step away from the chaos to relax and catch up with some old friends, or even make some new ones. Yaya Tea, a local tea shop, supplied tea for the event.

The middle of the week left students hungry for more cool things to do at Baruch, and USG supplied on Wednesday, Jan. 31 with tots and totes. "Po-Ta-Totes" was a nifty name for the chance to eat food from Potatopia, a potato based food chain that specializes in all things potato.

Bringing the "Welcome Week" to a close, USG's final event on Thursday night was a "Neon Night" party in the Multipurpose Room. This was a '90s themed party with neon games, such as glow-in-the-dark ping pong. The event brought the week to a close, and the semester to a beginning.



NATHAN LIN | THE TICKER



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

USG's "Welcome Week" featured events on four days of the week as a way to hype up students for the Spring semester. During Monday's event (top left), named "Cups and Cocoa," USG handed out mugs and hot chocolate. Tuesday's event (top right) saw USG serve YaYa Tea, while Wednesday's event (bottom left) brought potatoes from Potatopia. Thursday (bottom right) finished the week with "Neon Night," a night of neon games and fun in the Multipurpose Room.

USG senate table left with 3 vacant seats as Spring semester begins

BY BIANCA MONTEIRO, ANDREW WINDSOR AND VICTORIA MERLINO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER, COPY EDITOR AND NEWS EDITOR

Undergraduate Student Government Representative Sens. Zakari Abubakar, Molly Bhuiyan, and Michael Cherry all announced their resignations from their positions between the end of the Fall 2017 semester and the start of the Spring 2018 semester, leaving three open seats at the table.

Abubakar resigned due to obtaining an internship in the Spring semester that would make USG "impossible for [him to juggle]." He claimed the internship was not a standard schedule and could fluctuate from 40 to 100 hours per week.

For the Fall semester, Abubakar did not feel it went well for him.

"It could have been a lot better. I didn't get the agenda I wanted to get across. ... I was interested in helping revamp club atmosphere, particular with cultural and honor societies. But it's abstract, and cultural clubs are safe havens, which fine and makes sense, but I felt it was creating exclusivity that alienated other groups and I did not like that. Baruch is diverse and I prefer that, so maybe it's something we should push a little firmer," said Abubakar.

He recommended that anyone who is interested in USG should find out what it is about.

"It taught me a lot [and] gave me the opportunity to learn how to work with different-minded people. We are all coming from different places and experiences and outlooks. You might have thought a certain way for a certain way for a long time, and meet people with the same experiences but with completely different angles.

It was a beautiful experience," said Abubakar.

Cherry resigned due to a scheduling conflict between the 5:30 p.m. Senate meetings and a 6 p.m. class on Tuesdays. Cherry, a junior who won reelection as representative senator under the Rise Baruch platform in April 2017, registered for a test prep course over the winter break, albeit too late. His late entry left him with the only class available — right in the middle of his mandated senate meetings.

Faced with the choice of dropping his class or resigning to continue with his academic future, Cherry chose the latter, but not lightly.

"Being a representative senator is much more than just a position, it's a lifestyle ... I was able to plug in kids to events and whatnot by just walking around campus, being involved in all the club events, and I think it stretches far more than just sitting at a Tuesday 5:30 meeting."

Cherry was a familiar face on a newly elected table, having been a representative senator in two student governments.

He was ecstatic to see Representative Sen. Brandon Paillere revive former Representative Sen. Chen Lin's Arts Committee from last year, adding that Paillere has improved it immensely, boasting nearly 70 members. He complimented last year's strength and unity, but added that seeing this year's growth as leaders was a great accomplishment.

Cherry ends his year and a half tenure on the senate table looking back at the good he and his teams were able to do and the meaning it has had to him. His future plans to remain involved have not changed as he said that scheduling conflicts would not stop him from being a representative senator because it



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

There are three open seats at the senate table after the resignations of Abubakar, Bhuiyan and Cherry halfway into their tenures.

was never about the title, it was about representing the students.

Bhuiyan, meanwhile, described the decision to leave USG as "a very difficult, difficult decision."

She recently changed her major from actuarial science to mathematics, and realized in order to graduate on time, she would need to take a math class that would occur during the time USG meets on Tuesday nights. Though she applied to e-permits to take classes at different CUNY colleges, she was unable to find another option.

Bhuiyan plans on staying on as an extra hand on USG committees.

"I feel terrible," she said of her resignation, and described it as akin to breaking a vow.

Of her time in USG, Bhuiyan said her biggest goal was to always make herself seem welcoming and approachable to the Baruch community, something that she felt she accomplished by taking time to introduce herself around campus to various clubs and students.

She looks fondly on the Greek life forum USG held last semester as a highlight of her tenure, saying that the forum is what student government is "supposed to be."

When asked about the rumors

of miscommunication happening within the table — first claimed by former Representative Sen. Josue Mendez — Bhuiyan said that she feels like there can always be room for growth and every team has communication issues, but her reasons for resigning are purely academic.

The three vacated seats are open to anyone in the Baruch student population who is taking six credits, is not on the executive board of another club, has at least a 2.5 GPA and is available for the Tuesday senate meeting. Apply with USG by Feb. 12 for a chance to be elected to a seat.

Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

CUNY needs to offer support and day care to student-parents

CUNY offers just 1,300 day care spots for the children of over 500,000 students in attendance within the CUNY system, the *New York Daily News* said in a recent article that offered statistics in support of the addition of more child care centers within the system.

New York City Public Advocate Letitia James, a Lehman College graduate, asserted in the article the need to establish more child care facilities within the university. The article specified that James said that CUNY must add at least 106 day care spots to better accommodate students who are also parents.

“Too many students have to make the difficult decision between pursuing their education or staying home to care for their child,” James told the *Daily News*. “Rather than holding these student-parents back, we should be doing everything in our power to support their education and that starts with affordable and accessible child care.”

Sixteen of the 24 schools within the CUNY system have a child care center, according to a CUNY webpage on campus child care. The article cites that 16 percent of the 270,000 students enrolled who are in a degree program are also parents or financially support children.

Funds for child care provisions have not risen since 1980. Every year since then, the allocated amount of money going toward existing and developing child care initiatives has stayed constant at \$500,000, according to James.

CUNY has a duty to accommodate student needs to the best of its ability. The public university system’s students often come from low-income backgrounds, and many are working part- or full-time jobs to pay for college, rent and other needs.

The mere presence of child care centers is not enough in an urban university system whose responsibility is to dedicate resources to the needs of half a million enrolled students. It is vital that the university go beyond the establishment of the already present child care centers and instead work to improve and continually invest more into them.

In light of tuition hikes and protests run by the Professional Staff Congress-CUNY, it has proven difficult to raise funds and come up with proper monetary allocations for CUNY initiatives. However, both the city and the state must band together to grant funds for important developments that support CUNY students and their needs, such as child care facilities.

Students who double as parents or caregivers must be given the same opportunities to learn as first-year students fresh out of high school or transfer students who enter with associate degrees. This sprawling university must not neglect students who have child care responsibilities.

MTA officials let down New Yorkers

Earlier this month, the *New York Daily News* reported that MTA officials artificially inflated the number of subway delays that could be blamed on Con Edison power issues.

A series of emails obtained by the *Daily News* revealed that the MTA broadened the definition of incidents that could be considered power-related, such as circuit failures or when a person goes on to the tracks and power must be immediately turned off. Emails sent between July 25 and Aug. 9, right in the middle of the infamous “Summer of Hell,” specifically allowed the MTA to redefine so many power-related delays that the number quadrupled from 8,000 to 32,000.

It is appalling and shameful that the MTA would fabricate an excuse to defend its handling of one of the worst rapid-transit systems of any major city in the world, especially when plenty of real excuses exist. March 2016 is one example, in which the Cuomo administration decided to force the MTA to bail out three ski resorts in upstate New York, tapping into its budget to the tune of \$4.9 million and foregoing critical repairs to the system.

It is time for the MTA to own up to its own shortcomings — a century-old signal system, chronic underfunding and tens of billions of dollars in debt, to name a few — before placing the blame on an energy company.



STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER

Apiary hooligans endanger ecology

Two young adults who killed 500,000 bees at an apiary have done more damage than mere vandalism.

Last month, two young adults were charged for vandalizing a commercial apiary and killing half a million bees for no apparent reason. The 12- and 13-year-old boys caused over \$50,000 worth of damage, said the owners of Wild Hill Honey farm in Sioux City.

Furthermore, business co-owner Justin Engelhardt called the crime “completely senseless,” as the boys did not gain anything from their crime aside from vandalizing and destroying his business.

The boys have been charged with criminal mischief, agricultural animal facilities offenses, burglary, aggravated misdemeanor and possession of burglar’s tools.

Unfortunately for the Wild Hill Honey farm, insurers do not offer beehive insurance, leaving no foreseeable way for the owners to financially restore their former business assets.

This incident highlights the lack of awareness for the Earth’s shrinking bee population, as no consideration was taken by the boys as to how their actions were not only harming the farm owners and bees, but also the ecosystem that surrounds them.

Bees are becoming increasingly endangered, and environmental activists are struggling to find a way to keep a crucial part of the Earth’s ecosystems from succumbing to habitat loss and mysterious ailments.

This situation reveals that

the general public does not care nor understand the issue at hand, which is very problematic considering its significance.

Honeybees perform around 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops, which supply about 90 percent of the world’s nutrition, are pollinated by bees.

According to Greenpeace, an activist group that brings light to global issues such as the honeybee crisis, bees are dying from a variety of causes that are interrelated. Humans are largely responsible for pesticides and habitat loss, which are the two most prominent causes.

This story has brought national attention to the endangerment of the honeybees and has made people more sensitive toward the issue, though the casualties were definitely not worth this benefit. The loss of honeybees should affect people of all ages around the United States.

People need to be aware of their situation, and try to help in any way they can, whether that means not killing a pestering honeybee, or sending money or any other kind of help to activist groups and farms such as the Wild Hill Honey farm.

Additionally, anyone can help the bees by giving their support to activist groups that are trying to reason with the U.S. government to ban certain dangerous pesticides that hurt the bees, as well as protect pollinator health by preserving wild

habitats and restoring agriculture. These boys were not swayed by the implications of their actions on the environment. This also stresses the need for parents and teachers to better explain to children how they have an effect on the environment and to help them be a part of the solution.

Many do not understand the issue and do not think that the boys should be penalized for not knowing the extent of damage that they did. The environmental implications of killing the bees is enormous, and they should be punished regardless — what they did was truly an act of indecency.

Though children often do foolish things, trespassing onto a local farm’s grounds and going on a rampage while knocking over beehives is not a common reckless adventure — rather, it is a malicious offense.

These boys destroyed the Wild Hill Honey farm business and killed half a million living creatures, which is an outrageous act. Their vandalism is even more concerning because they had nothing to gain besides a jolly old time, making a mess out of things that did not belong to them.

Even if the bees were not endangered, the boys deserve to be punished to learn the repercussions of their actions.

-Estelle Saad
Marketing '21

Emergencies demand foolproof alerts

On Saturday, Jan. 13, people located on the island of Hawaii received an alarming notification on their phones. In all caps, the message flashed, “Ballistic missile threat inbound to Hawaii. Seek immediate shelter. This is not a drill.” The message sent the residents on the island to panic.

Less than an hour later, another alert was sent to indicate that the previous emergency alert was a false alarm.

It is essential for the government to have a quick and efficient way to communicate with millions of citizens at once in the case of an emergency like a missile threat. However, such a system should not have the capacity to be turned on accidentally.

The main issue with the incident in Hawaii was that a swap of shifts occurred, which led to the emergency system being tested, thus being accidentally activated. When testing the system, an employee selects between two options to send

out the signal: a test option and an actual emergency option.

Based on this system and how easy it is to accidentally hit the wrong button, it is truly a surprise that it took this long for an accidental emergency to be announced. The mistake could have happened to anyone. Of course, the employee should have been more careful, especially when dealing with something that could cause mass chaos within a state. However, it was the system that was mostly at fault.

When designing such an alert, there should at least be some form of verification to prevent such situations from happening. When it comes to warning the people, the government should keep in mind that sending out such an alert will cause mass hysteria.

This should not stop the government from informing its people about possible threats. If there were a real threat on human life, people would have a right to know that the next few minutes might be their

last. Some might want to say their final goodbyes while others might want to turn to faith but, in the end, it should be the person’s choice. It is important that the government maintains an open relationship with its people.

The situation in Hawaii, although irresponsible and dangerous, was an important learning experience for the agencies involved. The government learned its lesson about safety and precautions in this matter, creating steps that require a verification for future emergency alerts.

The people also learned something from this: it could be a regular, sunny day, but tragedy could strike at any time. It is important to keep going forward and not waste a moment of one’s life. Hopefully, another ballistic missile alert will not happen again, but if it does, it would be better if the threat were a false alarm rather than a real one.

-Katarzyna Borkowska
International Business '20

The Ticker

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Baruch students sound off on the recent government shutdown

President Donald Trump wanted to begin his second year on the job working hard at Mar-a-Lago. Instead, he was forced to stay in the nation’s capital as Congress failed to reach a budget deal. This was the second government shutdown in the past five years.

The key roadblock for this shutdown was not only the government spending levels, but rather the “Dreamers.” Dreamers are young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and now live here illegally.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was created by former President Barack Obama through an executive order to protect 800,000 recipients of the initiative from deportation and allow them to work in the United States.

Trump and the Republican Party simply do not know how to govern.

Trump moved to end the program in September, referring to it as “amnesty-first.” Trump ran on an “America First” platform, pledging to protect U.S. workers from the dangers of globalism. He and his administration see illegal immigration as a threat to U.S. society, arguing that illegal immigrants are taking away jobs and driving down wages.

Economists disagree on this notion. They believe that the effect of illegal immigration is tiny and can vitalize the economy.

In 2013, Trump tweeted: “A shutdown falls on the President’s lack of leadership. He can’t even control his party and get people together in a room. A shutdown means the President is weak.”

Yet, he is directly responsible for this year’s shutdown. Trump and the Republican Party simply do not know how to govern.

It is unbelievable that a party controlling the House, the Senate and the White House was unable to keep the government funded.

The most negative thing about this situation is that the Republican Party used the Children Healthcare Insurance Program as a

bargaining chip. Funding for the program ran out in September, but it took three months for the Republicans to act.

CHIP could have been funded at any time with overwhelming bipartisan support. Instead, it was used as a leverage. This should not be shocking in the slightest, considering that this is the same party that used the threat of defaulting on the national debt to push austerity on the nation.

Trump claims to be a master negotiator but his performance so far has proven otherwise, since Sens. Dick Durbin and Bill Cassidy had a bipartisan deal on immigration ready to be voted on.

At least 57 senators stated prior that they would have voted “yes,” yet Trump rejected that deal. By lunchtime on Jan. 19, Trump and New York Sen. Chuck Schumer had the outline of a deal struck.

However, Trump’s Chief of Staff John Kelly and Senior Advisor Stephen Miller got to him. They demanded even more from Schumer and the deal fell apart.

Trump absorbs the opinion of the last person he speaks to. It is strange to watch the Republican Party destroy itself for the sake of populism.

Back in 1980, President Ronald Reagan and his opponent George H. W. Bush defended these very “Dreamers” in a debate: “Rather than making them, of talking about putting up a fence, why don't we work out some recognition of our mutual problems, make it possible for them to come here legally with a work permit ... while they're working and earning here, they pay taxes here?" he said.

He then went on to give 2.7 million illegal immigrants amnesty with the Amnesty Act of 1986.

The United States will have more government shutdowns in the future, but this is not a problem with the framework of the government. Instead, the problem lies within the inept and incompetent people who have been elected to lead it.

-Davon Singh
Digital Marketing '18

After much debate over the federal spending bill, the government shut down on Saturday, Jan. 20.

As a result, the U.S. military and law enforcement officials were all put on back pay until the government reopened three days later.

By the end of the shutdown, both parties had become masters at playing the blame game, with Democrats blaming President Donald Trump and his administration for being unwilling to compromise on immigration issues and Republicans blaming the left, led by New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, for putting illegal immigrants before the American people.

Republicans have labeled this the “Schumer Shutdown” due to his uncanny ability to play politics with the lives of U.S. citizens.

Schumer put the wants of the undocumented above the needs of U.S. families.

If the government had remained shut down much longer, military personnel and law enforcement officials would have continued to work without pay and their families that rely on those paychecks would have suffered for it.

Even worse, the funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program was worked into the spending bill.

Without the program, thousands of children would have been left without health insurance, something neither party wanted, yet Democrats were willing to risk it if it meant a chance to put Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in the spending bill.

Schumer played politics with the United States, stating that without a shutdown there would be “no incentive” to negotiate on immigration issues.

The problem with this logic is that the United States is not a kindergarten classroom.

Keeping the government running is not the same as a piece of candy one can dangle in front of a child to force them to behave. One cannot weaponize a shutdown in order to force negotiations.

By essentially forcing a shutdown, Schumer proved he cares less about how he negatively impacts American lives and more

about his own political agenda. The government in place is for the purpose of ensuring it continues to run; shutting it down simply to incentivize a negotiation goes against everything Schumer’s job is supposed to mean.

What the Democratic leader failed to realize is that Trump was a highly successful businessman before taking office.

Opinions of his politics aside, the president knows how to negotiate for what he wants and there was no way he would allow Schumer to bully him into negotiations for a policy which he did not agree with, no matter its perceived importance.

If Schumer wants a negotiation, he is going to have to bring something to the table other than holding the entire U.S. government hostage in a shutdown.

At the end of the day, the spending bill was practically agreed upon until the Democrats threw in the DACA monkey wrench at the last minute.

They did not actually disagree with anything that was in the bill, but they opposed the bill because there was no DACA fix in it. However, Trump already gave Congress until March to come up with a legislative fix for DACA.

The left weaponized the shutdown in an attempt to force the votes of Republicans, but to no avail. The simple fact is that Schumer wanted the government to shut down.

He negatively impacted the U.S. people in a failed attempt to take a stab at Trump and his administration.

-Deanna Pisacreta
Economics '20

The left weaponized the shutdown in an attempt to force the votes of Republicans, but to no avail. The simple fact is that Schumer wanted the government to shut down.

Chinese government infringes on speech rights

In China, hip-hop music was recently banned by the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People’s Republic of China. The ban was not solely placed on hip-hop, also banning actors with tattoos from appearing in the media.

Looking at it from afar, this new rule might not seem like a big deal, but a closer look at it reveals that this issue is teeming with other, possibly more serious problems. For example, China’s constitution allows its citizens the freedom of speech, but the regulations surrounding the republic’s media policies are so vague that they allow authorities to censor what they think is unacceptable.

Much of the censorship is due to China being run by its Communist Party, which has the authority to control what is being shown to the public. The party cracks down hard on people who violate its views.

The Communist Party believes that hip-hop is socially unacceptable because it degrades women and promotes drug use. For this reason, it has pulled rappers from the media and has forced them to apologize for their content.

The two most popular rappers who have recently been pulled were PG One and GAI, whose real names are Wang Hao and Zhou Yan respectively.

On a more worldwide scale, censoring the voice of the public and controlling the media has become a prominent issue. With an unsteady global political climate, especially in the United States, this can be quite scary. As others look toward China, which currently boasts one of the strongest economies in the world and has great

power, they see that the country is suppressing different views and getting rid of anything that goes against its beliefs.

This suppression makes it more acceptable for other countries to do the same, as if blocking out what one does not want to hear is the right thing to do. However, this is not right because there are always two or more sides to anything. One view cannot be forced onto others.

If this ban took place in the United States, there would be a huge uproar, and there actually is an uproar right now because people are angry at China for unjustly banning hip-hop and other subcultures it deems inappropriate.

The outrage in the United States is justified because it is not simply a matter of cultural differences. Instead, it is more of a matter of the Chinese government having too much power to be able to censor what the people are allowed to do. U.S. residents realize that they have been given the great privilege to express themselves however they want in the media without the government cracking down on them.

The freedom of speech is a right that should be universal. To control how people express themselves, as China did, is wrong not only because of its effect on the hip-hop culture, but because it could possibly give way to the Communist Party believing that it can control other aspects of the Chinese people’s lives.

Censoring hip-hop in the media may seem small, but it can rapidly lead to other, bigger things.

Sahar Ilyas
Marketing '18

Apple battery offer lets down dedicated userbase

On Dec. 28, Apple issued an informative and apologetic statement regarding the slowed-down performance and decaying battery life of its devices following an iOS update. Succeeding the update, many Apple customers who had iPhones that predated the iPhone 7 complained about issues with their phones’ performance slowing down and batteries shutting down unexpectedly. This resulted in Apple facing multiple lawsuits.

Apple customers believed that perhaps the company had intentionally caused the phone performance and battery to be faulty so that customers would have no choice but to upgrade their phones to a newer and more expensive model. However, Apple decided to adhere to customer needs and issued a public apology on its website and offered a discount on battery repair work for older models. Apple customers would be able to take advantage of this opportunity to purchase a new battery at a lower price.

Apple stores worldwide have had customers lined up to purchase new batteries at their Genius bars.

Getting my iPhone 6 Plus battery replaced, for example, cost me \$29 plus tax. The process required me to make an appointment at a local Apple store and wait on a long line with other customers who were also there to get their batteries replaced.

At the Genius bar, an Apple technician might ask a customer to wait, even if they have an appointment. Afterward, the technician would analyze the customer’s battery through a visual graph

presenting the current status of the battery’s condition.

Although the appointment and battery deal are both helpful, the wait times are absolutely ridiculous. Apple must realize that because the issue is affecting a multitude of customers, it needs to hire more technicians so that it is not overwhelmed by angry consumers.

The whole idea of the battery replacement program is so that Apple can regain the trust and loyalty of its customers. These customers are already furious and unamused about their phones shutting off at 40 percent battery life alongside the lagging performance, so the last thing they want to deal with is a long wait time.

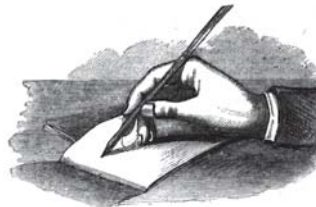
In addition to the out-of-warranty battery replacement program, Apple has sought to release a new iOS update in which one can view the current condition of their iPhone battery instead of having to go to an Apple technician.

Apple customers pay over \$500 for a phone. They should at least expect that the phone’s battery and performance will exceed expectations, but in these past few months, Apple has been a disappointment. Simply issuing a statement and replacement program will not show sincerity — Apple must reconsider ways to prevent the problem and to keep its customers satisfied instead of having to regain their trust. Actions matter more.

Apple’s approach to this issue was great in theory, but a failure in practice.

-Farah Khan
Communications '20

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Business

Trump proposes 30 percent tariff on solar panels and cells

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ
MANAGING EDITOR

President Donald Trump signed a ruling that raised the tariff on imported solar cells and panels to 30 percent. However, while Trump said the increased tariff will boost the U.S. solar power industry, experts believe that this move will have the opposite effect.

When enacting the tariff, Trump said that it would prevent cheap products from entering U.S. markets, which in turn would boost the U.S. solar industry and create more manufacturing jobs for U.S. workers, Reuters reported.

However, several organizations, including the Solar Energy Industries Association, stated that the tariff would lead to job loss, increase costs and deter investors.

A press release from SEIA states that the tariff will result in a loss of 23,000 jobs in the United States. This is in comparison to the 260,000 to 374,000 workers that the solar industry currently employs.

SEIA CEO Abigail Ross Hopper is quoted in the press release, stating that the tariffs “will create a crisis in a part of our economy that has been thriving, which will ultimately cost tens of thousands of hard-working, blue-collar Americans their jobs.”

Business owners operating in the solar industry have also expressed their opinion on the issue.

“Government tariffs will increase the cost of solar and depress demand, which will reduce the orders we’re getting and cost manufacturing workers their jobs,”



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Both analysts and experts claim that Trump’s tariff would lead to greater job loss, an increase in costs and fewer investments.

RBI Solar Inc. CEO Bill Vietas stated in the press release.

The first 2.5 gigawatts of imported cells will be excluded from the tariff.

The tariff is also set to gradually decline. According to a graph published by Vox, the tariff will remain at 30 percent for only one year, after which it will decrease by five percentage points during each consecutive year. By the fourth year, the tariff will reach and remain at 15 percent.

Vox also states that, “It’s worth keeping in mind that the panels themselves are less than one-third

of the final cost of a solar installation, and as hardware costs go down, the relative costs of labor, permitting, and taxes go up. The 30 percent tariff would add between 10 and 15 cents per watt to the final installed price of solar.”

This is because the solar industry is still largely dependent on technology produced in other countries. According to *Newsweek*, “The majority of solar industry companies in the U.S. rely on 80 percent of imported solar technology.”

In previous years, the solar industry experienced significant

growth that was supplemented with tax credits for some residential and commercial properties that installed solar panels.

According to SEIA data, the solar industry experienced an average annual growth rate of 68 percent between 2006 and 2016. In that same period of time, the cost to install solar panels fell by over 70 percent.

The report concluded by stating that at the end of 2017, the industry reached 1.6 million solar panel installations in the United States. The number of installations was expected to reach 2 million in 2018

and 4 million in 2022.

With the new tariff in place, the industry may not be able to reach these projections.

Job loss and higher tariffs would mean that the number of installations will fall significantly, and some companies may not be able to handle the financial burden. The high cost might also deter new businesses from entering the market.

GTM Research issued a forecast that claims the new tariffs will result in an 11 percent decrease in solar panel installation.

Compared to the previously stated 10 to 15 cent per watt price increase, GTM Research predicts that the price increase will reach 10 cents per watt in the first year but fall to 4 cents per year by the fourth year, when the tariff is set to decrease.

The decrease means that by 2022, there will be 1.2 million fewer homes powered by solar energy, according to GTM Research.

The effects of the new tariff are already being felt, as *Newsweek* reported that Sun Power is postponing its \$20 million factory expansion. The company cited cost concerns as the reason that is preventing it from further growth. Other solar companies have also postponed or canceled new investments as a result of the tariff.

The U.S. solar industry has experienced rapid growth over the past decade. However, imposing the tariff will have a negative effect on manufacturers who still largely depend on foreign technology to produce its panels.

Cryptocurrency exchange Coincheck’s hack causes \$400 million loss

BY JAHVON MEADOWS
BUSINESS EDITOR

Coincheck, one of Japan’s biggest cryptocurrency exchanges, recently disclosed that it had lost at least \$400 million worth of NEM coins to hackers.

The exchange’s network was hacked on Jan. 25, and the attack went unnoticed for eight hours, according to Engadget.

This gave hackers enough time to transfer around 500 million NEM coins, one of the lesser-known cryptocurrencies, illicitly off the exchange from a “hot wallet,” a type of storage that allows easy spending of cryptocurrency via the internet.

Due to the unpredictable fluctuation in cryptocurrency value, the exact amount of money stolen is not precisely known or constant, but Coincheck and outside sources have estimated it to be above \$400 million.

Following the hack, the popular cryptocurrency exchange suspended trading in all tokens besides bitcoin, suspended all withdrawals and stopped deposits into NEM coins, according to Bloomberg.

Coincheck has promised to partially refund the 260,000 cryptocurrency investors affected by the theft, using its own capital, at a rate of 82 U.S. cents for each coin.

The Coincheck hack is the largest cryptocurrency theft on record, surpassing the \$400 million in bitcoin stolen from the Mt. Gox exchange in 2014.

Many cryptocurrency exchanges operate with little to no regulation, and many have neglected essential practices that are standard in a professional financial services firm, such as cybersecurity.

As a result, these exchanges

have suffered numerous outages and hacks as bitcoin and its ilk have risen in both value and prominence.

The exponential growth of these coins has seemed to pique the interest of thieves, as the frequency of hacks against cryptocurrency exchanges has increased in recent years.

According to CNN, last month, South Korean bitcoin exchange Youbit filed for bankruptcy after being targeted by cybercriminals twice within a few months. Hackers also stole \$70 million worth of bitcoin from NiceHash, a digital currency trading platform based in Slovenia.

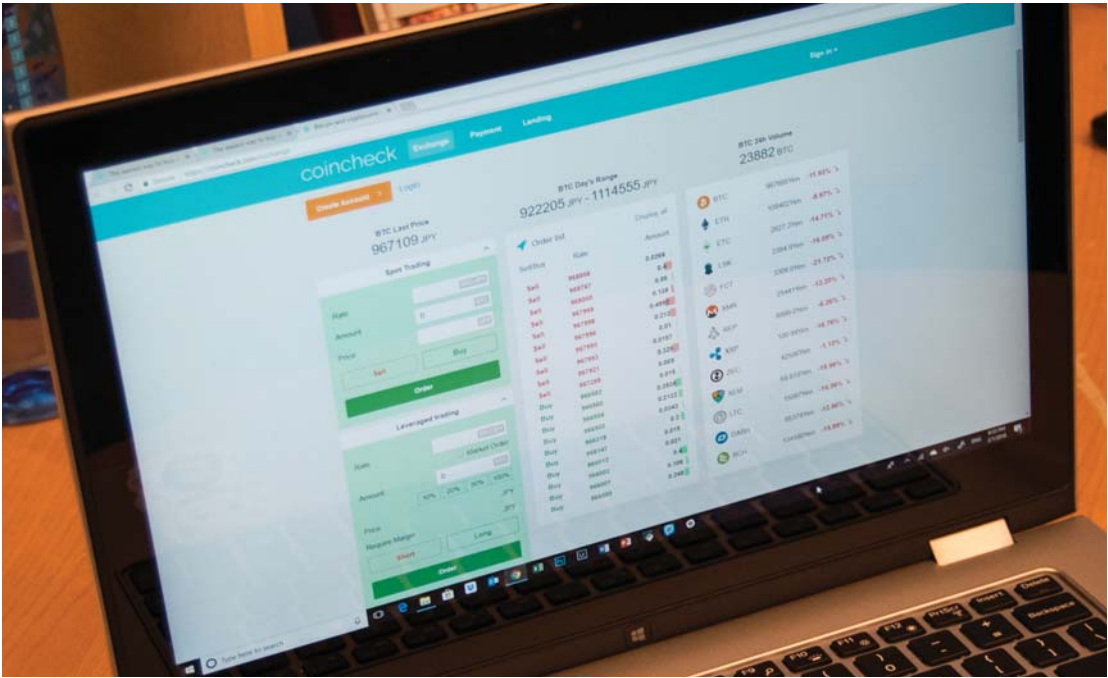
Yvonne Zhang, who recently spoke on a panel on the future of cryptocurrencies at an Association of Futures Markets conference in Bangkok, claimed that the buyer alone is responsible for checking the quality and sustainability of goods before purchase, according to Bloomberg.

If they fail to perform due diligence and understand exactly what it is they are trading in, or fail to concern themselves with the risks involved, then, in light of this recent hack, they can only blame themselves.

However, national governments do not seem to agree with this idea. They believe protecting the consumer is best, as they attempt to figure out how to regulate this cutting-edge industry. Each country is taking a different approach to the problem.

China is home to the world’s largest community of bitcoin miners, but the country is trying to halt cryptocurrency activity.

Last year, the government banned ICOs, initial coin offerings, which are the equivalent of initial public offerings for new



NATHAN LIN | THE TICKER

As cryptocurrencies increase in both value and prominence, governments are becoming more concerned with regulating them.

cryptocurrencies.

It called on Chinese-based exchanges to stop trading in cryptocurrencies, and laid out various proposals to discourage bitcoin mining, an energy intensive process integral to bitcoin, according to Bloomberg. Chinese companies abroad are also subject to the country’s domestic ICO ban.

Now, the Chinese government wants to target online platforms and mobile apps that allow centralized trading of cryptocurrency. China is not against cryptocurrency; the People’s Bank has run trials of its own prototype coin, according to Bloomberg. Bitcoin and its peers, however, present both risk in the financial markets and another means of moving money out

of China, which the government wants to prevent.

The U.K. Financial Conduct Authority, the country’s largest regulator, has warned investors that if they invest in bitcoin, they should be prepared to lose their entire stake.

In contrast, last year, Japan’s government officially recognized bitcoin as a form of currency, and began to license cryptocurrency exchanges, according to CNN.

Japan is one of the world’s biggest markets for cryptocurrencies, and policymakers have created a licensing system to increase oversight of local exchanges as a result.

By introducing licenses, they are trying to avoid the Mt. Gox exchange collapse that affected

cryptocurrency markets worldwide in 2014. The company went bankrupt, and its users still have not been compensated. Mt. Gox was based in Japan.

According to Bloomberg, Coincheck was “four months past its deadline for receiving a license necessary to operate, as part of Japan’s new legislature to vet and audit cryptocurrency exchanges. It was allowed to continue operating while awaiting a decision from the Financial Services Agency.”

The agency is getting ready to penalize Coincheck in relation to the hack. Japan is one of the more pro-cryptocurrency countries among the G-20, so it will be interesting to see how regulators act in response to this hack.

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Arts & Style

Grammys marked by disappointment and surprising choices

BY MAXIM IBADOV
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The 60th annual Grammy Awards took place in New York City for the first time in 15 years.

Rapper Kendrick Lamar opened the ceremony. His dramatic theatrics were perfectly suited for the city that never sleeps.

Performing songs “XXX.” and “DNA.” from his revolutionary album *DAMN*, the artist did not shy away from special effects and harsh political statements, crafting his opening into an emotionally challenging and vehemently captivating display of his talent. Even occasional poignant interjections by comedian Dave Chappelle brought wholesomeness to this rap spectacle, setting a tone for the night that was full of surprises.

Chappelle presented Best Rap Album, which appropriately went to Lamar, who ended up sweeping the rap categories and even casually endorsing Jay-Z for U.S. president along the way. Chappelle himself later returned to the stage to accept the Grammy for Best Comedy Album — the first time this category was televised during the ceremony in decades.

The most triumphant artist of the night was Bruno Mars, who swept all the major awards. Mars collected Song and Record of the Year for “That’s What I Like” and “24K Magic,” respectively, and Album of the Year for *24K Magic*. Mars showed his chops as a performer with his live rendition of “Finesse,” joined by the joyous Cardi B, but his awards leave the highly



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Corden’s return to hosting the Grammys was one of many disappointments in the music awards show.

consequential and challenging works by Lamar, Jay-Z, Lorde and Childish Gambino uncelebrated. Gambino, aka Donald Glover in the non-musical world, showcased his unhinged, raw talent during the night’s most endearing moment with “Terrified” from *Awaken, My Love!*, offering a view of what might have been an edgier choice for Album of the Year.

Still, the Grammys offered a variety of noteworthy moments. Stripped down from her regular circus, P!nk delivered a vulnerable performance of her new single “Wild Hearts Can’t be Broken.” Grammy debutant SZA lived up to her five nominations and charmed the audiences with “Broken Clocks.” New York native Lady Gaga performed a touching tribute to her late aunt by singing an updated ballad version of her song “Joanne,” before proudly stat-

ing “time’s up” and erupting into “Million Reasons,” which she performed with an electrifying zeal.

This year’s Grammys were the first music awards show since the #MeToo movement and the Time’s Up campaign began. While some members of the music industry tried to show solidarity by wearing white roses in support of the movements against sexual harassment, their display did not match the powerful focus that took place at the Golden Globes. Nevertheless, everything got serious when actress and singer Janelle Monáe got to the stage.

She called out the industry for not paying enough attention and introduced Kesha for a performance. Joined by Bebe Rexha, Camila Cabello, Julia Michaels, Andra Day and Cyndi Lauper, Kesha was barely holding back her tears when performing “Praying,” a forceful

survivor’s anthem that works as a soundtrack of the #MeToo movement. Kesha did not win any Grammys, losing to Ed Sheeran in two categories.

Following the performance, Cabello took center stage to deliver an inspiring address to DACA recipients, sharing her personal story of success as an immigrant from Cuba. Holding that immigrant note, the former Fifth Harmony member introduced the Irish rock band U2, whose members performed “Get Out of Your Own Way,” a song heavy with the topics of the American dream and freedom, which they performed on a boat with a view of the Statue of Liberty.

The performance did not work well with its introduction. Instead, Cabello’s speech paired with “Despacito,” the first Spanish song to be performed at the Grammys in nearly 30 years. A major radio

breakthrough from Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee, the two notably substituted Justin Bieber with Puerto Rican actress Zuleyka Rivera, showing that this song is still a hit even without a white North American artist. More Latino vibes were served by DJ Khaled, who brought out Rihanna and Bryson Tiller for their summer hit, “Wild Thoughts.”

The night of music in New York City would not be complete without some Broadway swing. First, this year’s Tony-winning prodigy, Ben Platt, brought the house down with his exemplary rendition of “Somewhere” from *West Side Story*, by Leonard Bernstein. If Platt’s rich riffing was not enough, the Grammys were in for a treat when the legendary Patti LaPone delivered a pearl-clutching tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber with “Don’t Cry For Me Argentina” from *Evita*. Reprising her 1981 Grammy performance, the two-time Tony winner sang stunningly before striking *Evita*’s iconic pose.

The biggest upset of the night was a timid job from the show’s host. After successfully hosting the Grammys last year, James Corden held back and looked like an adorable human version of Paddington, trapped between big egos and cringeworthy clichés. His MTA version of the viral Carpool Karaoke series with Sting and Shaggy felt too staged and uncomfortable. The two performed a medley of “Englishman in New York” and “Don’t Make Me Wait,” which sounded pleasant, but was completely unnecessary. The show had better moments than this encore performance.



COMPILED BY MAXIM IBADOV

British powerhouse Sir Elton John has announced that he will be retiring from his life on the road after almost 50 years in business. John’s goodbye tour, “Farewell Yellow Brick Road,” will consist of 300 concerts spanning five continents.

John will also continue working on several projects, including the current work-in-progress Broadway musical adaptation of the 2006 film *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Rock band Fall Out Boy’s new album *Mania* reached No. 1 on the Billboard 200, becoming the band’s fourth LP to achieve this feat with 130,000 equivalent album units. The soundtrack to *The Greatest Showman*, which includes the Golden Globe-winning and Oscar-nominated single, “This is Me,” stayed at the second position with 109,000 units, while Ed Sheeran’s ÷ (*Divide*) — which collected two Grammys on Sunday — is back in the top three with 47,000 units.

Three-time Tony Award-recipient Bernadette Peters put on her Sunday clothes as she took on the titular role in the smash production of Jerry Herman’s *Hello Dolly!* Peters replaced Bette Midler, who broke box office records and won a Tony for her performance. Other new cast members include stage and screen veteran Victor Garber, London heartthrob Charlie Stemp and Broadway debutant Molly Griggs.

The production has won four Tony awards, including the coveted award for Best Revival of a

Musical.

The Phantom of the Opera celebrated its 30th year on Broadway, extending the show’s record as the longest-running Broadway musical in American history, an accolade it achieved in 2006.

A celebratory performance gala welcomed the legendary composer Andrew Lloyd Webber and some of the past cast members, including the original actress who played Christine, Sarah Brightman, and noted Phantom, Norm Lewis.

Drake earned his fourth No. 1 hit in the United States, as his newest single “God’s Plan” debuted at the top position after breaking records for most on-demand streams in its first week.

Drake also debuted in the top 10 with “Diplomatic Immunity” at No. 7, becoming the first act to debut two songs in the top 10 twice. Former chart-toppers “Perfect” by Ed Sheeran and “Havana” by Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug slid to the second and third positions respectively.

Director Steven Spielberg and playwright Tony Kushner have announced a call for open auditions for the upcoming remake of the 1961 musical film *West Side Story*. In an attempt to correct the original film’s whitewashing, the creators are aiming at a more diverse and accurate representation of the Puerto Rican characters featured in the musical.

Experimental theater company stages all-encompassing epic *A Room in India*

BY REUVEN GLEZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

For two weeks only, from Dec. 5 to 20, the Park Avenue Armory hosted the latest creation by the French experimental theater company Théâtre du Soleil, *A Room in India*. The theater production was collectively devised by the entire troupe into a sprawling, yet coherent epic of theater, religion, first-world identity and creative apparitions.

A Room in India is not the first such creation by the ensemble, led by the venerable Ariane Mnouchkine, but it is perhaps the most personal creation for the company. Mnouchkine launched the work by imagining a French theater company like itself, stranded in a foreign country with a mission to put on a piece of theater for the locals.

Inspired by the company’s visits to India, the work takes that premise and completely rearranges the questions it attempts to ask and often comes up with endearing answers.

The story takes place within a room in a hotel where Cornélia, played by Hélène Cinque, has been trapped after her boss, the famous director Constantin Lear, voiced by Vladimir Ant, goes completely mad and destroys his own travel documents.

Stuck in the Tamil Nadu region with no idea what to do, Cornélia is tasked by Lear to create a perfect piece of theater about women, using the local Terukkuttu style as the method of staging. Cornélia, however, has never directed anything in her life, let alone an entire production.

Now the task has fallen to her to complete Lear’s vision as he

goes off naked, speaking exclusively Japanese and praying to the legendary French dramatist Antonin Artaud as a deity. Suffice to say, Cornélia has a Herculean task ahead of her that no one would envy.

While the play does take place within the titular room, the world outside continuously creeps inward from a myriad of times, places and cultures as Cornélia searches through every inspiration to come up with a vision for the work. In the village beyond, the gangster S.S. Loganathan, played with a gleeful menace by Duccio Bellugi-Vannuccini, terrorizes Muslim villagers with his vitriolic blend of Hindu nationalism and outright sadism. A vision of William Shakespeare, brought to life by Maurice Durozier, casually enters the room, quoting his own work to inspire Cornélia. Scenes from the *Mahabharata*, one of the most important Sanskrit epics, play out in the corners of Cornélia’s mind and guide her to a greater idea. The hotel becomes a magnet for memory, love, justice and the power of art, channeled through an increasingly baffled assistant who could not direct a sloth if her life depended upon it.

Yet, Cornélia’s life, and indeed that of everyone else, do depend on Cornélia creating something. The visions she encounters take her all across the world, from a Syrian theater company that still performs Shakespeare under the ravages of the Syrian Civil War, to a group of Saudi princes attempting to improve their country’s reputation in the world.

To Cornélia, her mission grows from simply fulfilling the task Lear provided to creating a work of importance that reminds people why theaters should still be left stand-

ing and why the women behind those theaters and everywhere else, deserve to be seen and respected. All being said and done, there is plenty to fill in the performance’s nearly four-hour run time. The show is a worthy, heartfelt ode to trying one’s best in an increasingly depressing, violent world where hope seems to die every time a gun is fired.

However, for a theater company that has devoted itself to creating theater for the people, the decision to host this show at the Park Avenue Armory seems a tad baffling. The Armory, for all its merits as one of the city’s most important arts institutions, is not exactly an institution for the people.

Its audience is unfortunately one that has the financial means to see their grand, all-encompassing productions, which means the tickets are not cheap or easy to obtain. For a work that is most certainly devoted to the common person’s ability to change the world, the people who saw the show were likely not quite common.

Perhaps that was the point, though: to bring a work of the people’s theater to an audience somewhat out of touch with what so many people go through. After all, it would not be expected for the audience that came to see the New York premiere of this devised French epic to have experienced the horrors of war, fatal-yet-preventable illnesses and mass starvation. By sitting in that room in India, maybe they could experience all the terrible things that they only see on the news just for a moment, and empathize with the reality of the outside world. After all, the world encroaches on people when they least expect it, terror and all.

‘Second-best’ hangman leads McDonagh’s black comedy play

BY REUVEN GLEZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

There are few writers who can cross film and theater as seamlessly as Martin McDonagh, whose writing remains one of the tightest and best in British theater. The writer of award-winning films *In Bruges*, *Seven Psychopaths* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, is a veteran of the stage. His latest play, *Hangmen*, currently running through March 7, is a keen reminder of that fact.

It should be noted that McDonagh’s plays do not always resemble the films he created, taking on vitalities of their own that would be very difficult to reproduce on camera. McDonagh’s plays are less like the black comedies they are usually marketed as, and more like situations where awful things occur. These awful things just happen to be absolutely hilarious and satirical in a very British and human way.

Transferring from the Royal Court Theatre in London to the Atlantic Theater Company, *Hangmen* takes place in the pub of Harry Wade, the second-best hangman in England, on the day hanging is abolished in 1965.

It is best not to point out the “second-best” title, however, lest one wants to receive an earful from Harry about how his rival, Albert Pierrepont, only has a higher number because he hanged a bunch of Nazis at Nuremberg.

Harry, however, has not hanged anyone for a while and has happily retired to running his pub in Oldham.

He is a man who wants to be left alone with his pub, his beer, his friends, his strict code about how to treat the dead and his philosophy on execution. Hanging, after all, is the most respectable method of ex-

ecution in Harry’s eyes. The hangman is played by Mark Addy, who has enough personality to flood a room.

Filling the pub is Harry’s beleaguered and equally loud wife Alice, their “mopey” teenage daughter Shirley, police inspector George Fry and the pub regulars: Charlie, Bill and Arthur. Harry’s pub is a place where everyone knows each other and where strangers are a rarity.

Enter Mooney, played with delightful creep by Johnny Flynn, who puts the “strange” in stranger. Mooney’s presence is a debilitation in the world of Harry, and his taste for peanuts and distaste for Northern beer puts unpleasant crinkles in the pub owner’s life.



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Addy, right, plays a former hangman running a pub on the day hanging is abolished in England.

drinks what kind of alcohol.

Action in the show seems to be reset rather than deflated every time there is a segue to another long, but ultimately fulfilling, subplot of a subplot. The tension *Hangmen* has gives the play a vivacity modern drama truly needs right now.

The tension also makes the 135-minute run time feel like a breeze that begs for more. An extra joke from Harry as he fills another pint for his regulars would not be minded, nor would another sly, devilish remark from Flynn’s Mooney, whose presence made him one of the standout characters in this production.

Mooney strikes viewers as one of the most compelling villains on

stage, not for outright menace or for some kind of twisted plot — though he certainly has elements of both — but for the sheer Machiavellian skill he employs in manipulating everyone around him with the tiniest of phrases.

It becomes possible to empathize with Mooney when he has a final confrontation with Harry, who finally snaps in the only way the hangman truly can.

Yet, in classic McDonagh style, questions of responsibility, moral action and justice are raised through the intensely blackening humor of the script. One can joke about how the innocent may be robbed, but the situation is different for the one who does the robbing.

Hangmen alternates between subtle and more direct humor, the latter coming in such quick strokes that it did become a worry as to whether the darker story *Hangmen* tried to tell would be drowned in a myriad of one too many one-liners. Thankfully, McDonagh never overdoes it unless he absolutely feels like he can, which he does with masterful precision. Few writers can pull a laugh out of the gasp of shock, followed by even more laughter at an even darker joke.

The world that McDonagh’s characters occupy is no less dangerous or realistic than the real world, which is probably what makes it not only deeply enthralling in its sadism, but downright enjoyable. The play takes place in 1965, and is meant to be told in that framing.

Essentially, the time and place are what make everything gel so well without melting.

McDonagh’s world captures the essence of mid-20th century England in a raw but humorous way without being too cheesy, dark or overbearing.

Lovable thugs shine in otherwise forgettable film *Den of Thieves*

BY CHARLES TABASSO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Like most answers on a math test, *Den of Thieves*, directed by Christian Gudegast, looks good on paper. It is a new take on the cops and robbers formula with Gerard Butler playing Los Angeles’ ham-fisted deputy sheriff “Big Nick” O’Brien, whose group of elite killers, the Regulators, is trying to track down the most notorious heisters in the city.

But for all the high-octane action *Den of Thieves* has to offer, it overestimates the importance of its side stories, and falls short of establishing higher stakes.

Escalating from the well-choreographed opening shootout in which an armored truck robbery goes awry, Ray Merriman, played by Pablo Schreiber, and his crew of ex-military goons plan their biggest heist to date — hijacking \$120 million in un-serialized bills from the Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve — with the Regulators hot on their tails. The operation has all the complications of a film from the *Ocean’s* franchise, and is one of the few times *Den of Thieves* truly delivers.

But while Ray may be the undisputed mastermind of the crew, his tactics are often too over the top to be taken seriously. His plan to rob the “Fort Knox” of Los Angeles is in no way foolproof; however, it is mercifully taken at face value and all the holes in his logic are shrugged off because the crew trusts him.

This approach works far better for *Den of Thieves’* pacing than Gudegast’s heavy-handed exposition does, and suspends the audience’s disbelief in spite of how outlandish Ray’s scheme is.

Although Ray is running the show, O’Shea Jackson Jr.’s Don-

Even in Butler’s first scene, his character is undermined for his degenerate lifestyle, but Gudegast never explores Nick’s descent to this position. Nick’s only redeeming quality is that Butler plays him; he would otherwise be as unremarkable as the rest of the Regulators.

nie Wilson is the runaway star of the gang. Bartender by day and getaway driver by night, Donnie is a rookie caught in the middle of Gudegast’s game of cops and robbers. Apprehended early on and involuntarily thrust into the role of double agent by Big Nick, Jackson Jr. handles the role with surprising depth, especially during *Den of Thieves’* nail-biting grand heist. His character arc is what drives the plot home to the film’s final twist, and is one of the film’s few saving graces.

This case is also set up to be the all-redeeming break for Nick’s team, but as a unit they remain hapless, always one step behind Ray and his crew for reasons that escape common sense.

In several asinine scenes, Nick purposefully intrudes into the crew’s private lives, but these encounters serve no greater purpose, merely convoluting the plot when any other approach to tailing the gangsters would have been more



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Deputy sheriff “Big Nick” O’Brien, played by Butler, comes up against a charismatic group of heisters known as the Regulators.

effective.

To make matters worse, Nick’s personal life is overexposed throughout the course of the film. His shamble of a marriage only bogs down the plot, needlessly reminding the audience of what they pick up right off the bat — that he is a scumbag whose life seemingly depends on chain-smoking cigarettes. Even in Butler’s first scene, his character is undermined for his degenerate lifestyle, but Gudegast never explores Nick’s descent to this position. Nick’s only redeeming quality is that Butler plays him; he would otherwise be as unremarkable as the rest of the Regulators.

On the other hand, Ray’s crew has a more balanced and recognizable cast of characters. Their penchant for armed robbery speaks for itself, and Gudegast wastes very little time explaining the motivations of these thieves outside of acquiring mountains of cold, hard cash. What

can be said for the crew’s backstory is tacked to a wall in Nick’s office and quickly touched upon during Donnie’s interrogation. After that, their histories do not need to be brought up — the focus rests solely on their heists.

More so than with the Regulators, there is a strong dynamic between the gangsters, bordering on the romanticized fraternity of fictional crime syndicates seen in *The Sopranos* and *Goodfellas*. The few times the audience is keyed into the crew’s actual families are *Den of Thieves’* funnier moments, and are nice juxtapositions to the atrophy of Nick’s home life. These scenes cement the gang as a close-knit group, effectively winning the audience over to their side, while marginalizing Nick’s chance at a big break.

The only other redeeming quality in *Den of Thieves*, after its lovable cast of thugs, is its firefights. When everyone starts spraying bullets

like paintballs and reloading bottomless magazines, the film finally starts to hold its own.

These tense shootouts add some much-needed volatility to an otherwise predictable film, and are a pleasure to watch. Sadly, this is not enough to justify the price of admission.

What ultimately hurts *Den of Thieves*, beyond its needless exposition, is how clearly it imitates other, more successful crime thrillers to the point of being formulaic. Even the action scenes start to feel like missions straight out of the video game franchise *Grand Theft Auto*, coincidentally also set in a fictionalized Los Angeles.

There simply is not enough content to distinguish *Den of Thieves* from its inspirations, and so it reverts to a sort of bingo game where the audience tries to guess which film *Den of Thieves* is currently emulating, for lack of actual entertainment.

Paddington 2 delivers positive entertainment for all audiences



BENJAMIN WALLIN

It is tempting to frame *Paddington 2* within the context of its filmic references: subtle imagery resembling shots in *Pierrot le fou* and *The Third Man*, as well as an overall visual and musical resemblance to *The Grand Budapest Hotel*. Similarly, the movie could be centered within its time, being seen as a response to Brexit by British filmmakers. However, *Paddington 2* needs no external justifications to be enjoyed.

The story picks up where the original *Paddington* film — one which is pleasant, though watching it is not required for proper enjoyment of its sequel — left off, with the animated bear Paddington and his adoptive family, a live-action British bunch known as the Browns.

After leaving the jungles of Darkest Peru for the streets of England, Paddington wishes to send a birthday gift to another adoptive relative, a bear named Aunt Lucy, currently living in an old-age home for bears, a place that may have been expected to stand as a metaphor for death in the previous film, but is revealed to be otherwise.

Paddington finds a pop-up book of London that he thinks Aunt Lucy would love. While working to earn the money to buy it, the bear sees the book being stolen, only to be blamed for the crime when the



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Paddington, voiced by Whishaw, offers kindness to friends and strangers alike in the sequel to 2014's *Paddington*.

perpetrator gets away.

Paddington, voiced by Ben Whishaw, is a tender and kind bear. His actions, big and small, are aimed to help others. He is also polite, often citing the advice of Aunt Lucy to be well-mannered and pleasant to others. It is his infectious kindness that helps make the film so sweet.

The theme of *Paddington 2* is one of being nice to others, helping and supporting those in need — even if they do not ask for anything. Paddington's positive energy rubs off on his fellow characters, as he cures loneliness, melancholy and hard exteriors with his genuine attempts to reach out to others.

The villain of the film is a once-famous actor, Phoenix Buchanan, played by Hugh Grant. This character is but one of the many highlights

of this movie. Phoenix disguises himself as a homeless man, a knight and a nun, among others. Grant's acting is impeccable, and he slides in and out of character in Phoenix's studio, becoming Macbeth, Hamlet and Ebenezer Scrooge, plotting an evil treasure hunt. Grant has fun with the role, and this is carried out on the big screen.

Paddington is a clumsy bear and his mishaps are often used for great set pieces. Delightful sequences include a paced attempt at window washing and a mistaken red sock in a washing machine. There is a cringeworthy nature to these moments, difficult as it is to see every single mistake billow into disaster. Still, the bear's discomfort is funny due to the humor of the situations he got himself into.

In *Paddington 2*, there is a steady

flow of emotion across the spectrum. Joy and delight can be readily expected, yet it is the stretches of sorrow that truly touch the viewers' hearts. Paddington's sweet connection with his family is spoiled by the presumption of guilt, and the fear of being forgotten manifests in an empty spot on the other side of a prison phone booth. The bear's optimism is strong, and when the waves of despair finally reach the point during which they can break him down, the fall is disastrous.

Paddington 2 is structured around this character and his sense of hope. The music, like Paddington, is plucky and cheerful. The atmosphere is one where affection among strangers can exist. Advocating for kindness, the film is true family entertainment, and a story for people of any age.

Beyond its positive message, *Paddington 2* is an incredibly entertaining film. Richard Ayoade has a memorable cameo as a forensic marmalade expert. Big laughs come from characters entering the frame in just the right way, or from a misspelled tattoo on a prison chef's knuckles. Significant moments of humor are surrounded by the small bits that just keep coming, ready for each viewer to have their own favorite little part.

By its title and its marketing, *Paddington 2* seems like the type of film that would disappear into streaming libraries online, a blip in the cinematic radar. The plot hook of searching for a present sounds like it would fit into a cheesy straight-to-DVD sequel.

Paddington did not seem to have an extensive following, and the general quality of live-action family movies with animated woodland creatures is not high. Despite all this, *Paddington 2* manages to be excellent.

There are plenty of issues one may have with the film. There are contrivances and conveniences to serve the plot. Some serious questions could be leveled against the judicial system of Paddington's England, yet none of these problems matter. *Paddington 2* is an opportunity to be swept away into pleasure and kindness. It is sweeter than the marmalade its protagonist loves so much, and logical qualms are an unnecessary distraction.

There are plenty of movies that can be framed as stories the world needs right now. It is easy to find a message in a story that can tie it particularly to a time or political agenda, but *Paddington 2* works as a timeless film for people of all ages, no framing necessary. The movie asks people to be kind and polite in order to make the world a better place.

Kennedy's 45-minute play explores family histories

BY REUVEN GLEZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

All the little demons can be missed in a blink, scurrying about the corners of Adrienne Kennedy's newest work in almost a decade, *He Brought Her Heart Back in a Box*. The Theatre for a New Audience production, playing at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center, brings the playwright's latest work to life until Feb. 11. It might be easier to miss, considering the play only runs for 45 minutes, though that is all Kennedy needs to completely eviscerate one's complacency in the terrible things that happen when people are not looking.

Kennedy, whose works abstractly confront the horrors of racism, misogyny and ignorance, has written what appears to be her most straightforward play, though that is not saying much. Strange, otherworldly beings lurk in the corners of Christopher Barreca's set, but they are not so otherworldly once they are named, like so many spirits of ancient myths.

It will take more than names, however, to defeat such demonic forces as racism, rape and murder. Directed by Evan Yionoulis the play moves from the town of Montezuma, Georgia, to New York City with nothing but a Marlovian monologue and twin monologues that appear to be letters between the two main characters of the work, Chris and Kay.

Christopher Aherne, played by Tom Pecinka, is the son of Harrison Aherne, the architect of Montezuma's segregation policies, and Kay, played by Juliana Canfield in her New York debut, is a young, biracial woman with a complicated family past. The two are in love and

plan to meet in New York one day to escape the family shame and the ghosts that haunt Montezuma.

These ghosts, however, do not like to be left behind. In 1943, it is difficult to run away from one's past when the blood within is what they are trying to run away from.

As Chris and Kay both confront their families' twisted histories, the road between them and those pasts becomes shorter and shorter. Mysteries without answers abound, and the world of Jim Crow America is one filled to the brim with roots soaked in the blood of the innocent. With the play restored in unnerving detail by Yionoulis' direction and Donald Holder's lighting, the audience is surrounded by rings of bastard children singing, reproached by the harsh voices of terrified guardians.

It would be difficult to conjecture that Kennedy's plays are intentionally scary, but it is her approach to the subject matter that cannot help but creep under the skin. One may have the wish for the story to end with the lovers running away happily while the ghosts are laid to rest.

In Kennedy's worlds, however, the ghosts have weapons that are very much physical and happy endings are for fairy tales. The surreal, unusual aesthetic employed by the production is not alienating, but it does ask for a lot of self-consideration. Oppression, and the hatred that comes with it, forces anyone to reconsider why they happen to be where they are, and how they got there.

One can run to a better future like Chris and Kay, or hatefully leer over their young joy like Harrison.



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NEW YORK JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

Written by Benjamin Wallin
Photos courtesy of NYJFF

About the Festival

The New York Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Film Society of Lincoln Center in partnership with The Jewish Museum, offered an opportunity to show the Jewish experience across the world in various forms. The 27th annual NYJFF played at Lincoln Center with supporters within the New York and Israel offices of cultural affairs. Over the course of 12 days, viewers got to see Jewish life through various eyes across the world and across time.

The film *Across the Waters* is visually and tonally dark. In the beginning, Arne and Miriam Itkin live peacefully in Copenhagen. The husband plays guitar in a jazz band while the wife attends prayer services. The first poignant moment strikes when Arne shrugs off Miriam's concerns regarding rumors of invading Nazis. Their later escape is inevitable to a viewer aware of Europe's past, but director Nicolo Donato successfully conveys the sense of not knowing that defined Jewish life during the horrific times of World War II. *Across the Waters* mainly innovates by telling its story as one of suspense, using music and drawn-out moments to express the concerns of its characters on screen. Viewers had no knowledge of the film's run time, and there was no brightly lit hallway to escape to for a breath of fresh air and a bucket of popcorn. The people who suffered were stuck in their own form of suspense, hoping there was some inkling of a happy ending.

The most powerful image in the film is that of Miriam and her son, silently hiding in a stairwell, as a Nazi soldier urinates above them. *Across the Waters* is full of this search for a lesser suffering — paying exorbitant fees to survive, staying visible so that a hiding spouse will not be revealed and staying united as a family while suffering through the trials and toils together.

There is not much new insight offered in this film over the countless other stories of Holocaust suffering. Instead, there is a chance to once again mourn the dead and celebrate those who managed to escape. In relating to the escaped survivors, the viewer could see the difficulties of reaching the point of safety, experiencing the characters' suspenseful and tenuous existence together.

Across the Waters



The Invisibles



Constructed as both a period piece Holocaust film and a testimonial documentary, *The Invisibles* feels somewhat confused, but comes together as a whole. The film is a story of four Jews who lived in Berlin during the time it was declared to be *judenfrei* — free of Jews. Even in hiding, there is little indication that the characters are Jewish, other than the fact that they are hiding.

The story is guided by two sets of voiceovers for each character: the survivors in the brightly lit present time and their filmic versions in the visually gray Berlin. It shows the scramble — the necessary utilization of skills and dependence on others — to survive. Questions of identity are raised through the false names and dyed hair of the characters hiding in plain sight.

Some of the best moments are those where Berlin feels like a single city. People attend movies in the same theater or see the same exhibit of film projectors outdoors and *The Invisibles* begins to feel a little less fractured. A pivotal scene in one character's life is made more meaningful with the knowledge of one woman's identity, revealed earlier in another story.

Emotions peak at a point where the war ends and Russians come to liberate the city of Berlin. Characters must prove they are the people they pretended not to be for years. A particularly poignant moment is one during which characters are challenged to express their Judaism through the “Shema Yisrael” prayer, the fundamental statement of Jewish faith. At times, the emotional moments of this pseudo-documentary can fall flat, but when they land, they land well, and it is difficult not to get swept up by them.

The phrase “Zionist pig” does not seem to be one of endearment, and yet, in Chen Shelach's *Praise the Lard*, these words describe a farm animal raised for profit and for an ideological statement. Shelach must be mentioned immediately because he dominates the documentary as an absent presence. He wonders why pork had been made illegal at one point in Israel's history and why it continues to be an issue of contention today.

The questioning nature of the documentary is essential. The biggest question it asks is why one side cannot understand the other. Often this is being posed by the side wanting to be understood, not trying to understand. Jews across the spectrum argue over what Judaism stands for and whether the state of Israel represents that stance. The pig is just a stand-in for this argument.

Anybody with a vague awareness of Jewish dietary restrictions would do well to see this film, as would any Jew with a strong conviction of what they are restricted from eating. Shelach is a recurring voice, but he allows everybody to speak their piece. The side he considers his own is where the questions become the toughest — the hardest questions to answer for others are those that one finds difficulty in answering for themselves. Shelach invokes the Holocaust and Jewish suffering, and wonders if believing in God is essential to being Jewish.

Praise the Lard might lack some of the humor its title and its soundtrack hint at, but the end film is one that gives nuanced perspective on the importance of symbols in a divided society. Contextualized within Israeli history, this documentary is an hour well-spent.

Praise the Lard



Let Yourself Go



Looking like an Italian Steven Spielberg and standing outside of a synagogue while waiting for his wife, Toni Servillo as the protagonist Elia declares that he has a place reserved for him in the “flames of the Gehenna.” Chipper music runs in the background and the film *Let Yourself Go* shows off its potential for light, playfully dark humor. The film would have been better served with a stronger application of this humor, as Elia addresses the realization that he has let himself go in fitness, even as his disconnect from Judaism remains constant. There are moments that stand out like Elia, a psychiatrist, falling asleep during a session, or expressing his snark toward a date on the phone in a theater. Even as the third act takes a turn toward the ridiculous, the film lacks substantive humor.

Let Yourself Go is not so much a Jewish story as it is one of general disenchantment. The genuine nature of Jewish storytelling is called into question by the notes of a stereotypically Jewish song playing in the background of a kosher restaurant. Elia's identity fits into a common representation of Jewish characters: Judaism by coincidence.

In its story of feeling disconnected, *Let Yourself Go* lets Elia build a bridge — not toward religion, but toward humanity. It is a story of accepting others and breaking down barriers, muddled by a too-light touch of comedy. Elia is a character who can be followed along, yet he does not quite elicit enough sympathy, due to his uncaring nature, even as he builds toward connection. *Let Yourself Go* does not go all the way in multiple areas, lacking as a result and missing out on a potential connection with the audience.

Science & Technology

General Motors announces plan to produce autonomous cars

BY KATARZYNA BORKOWSKA
COPY EDITOR

On Jan. 12, General Motors Co. announced its plan to produce a driverless car. The car will not have any manual controls, steering wheels or pedals, and it will not need a driver. The car will be the fourth generation of the Chevy Bolt-based electric driverless car, the Cruise AV. GM hopes the cars will go into production by 2019.

Currently, the company is petitioning the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to allow production to go forward, to which the agency replied that they will give the petition careful consideration.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Dan Ammann, GM's president, made a statement about self-driving technology, saying it "is only going to have a big impact if we can deploy it at large scale."

A challenge that GM will face is obtaining federal approval. A main factor in car safety regulations is human presence rather than the that of just a computer. The company is attempting to prove their technology will maintain the present safety standards without the need for a human driver or a steering wheel in the car.

After obtaining approval on the federal level, GM will face the same problem at state level. Currently, there are only seven states in which the Cruise AV would be able to deploy after getting passed at the federal level.

A major plan for these cars is to allow people to use them as cab



CARLOS AVILA|THE TICKER

If General Motors's plan for autonomous cars is approved, the company will test 2,500 electric Cruise AV cars on public roads. The cars will go into production by 2019.

services. It is rumored that GM will collaborate with Lyft to put its plan into action.

It is also a possibility that GM will have its own application, similar to Lyft or Uber, in which passengers can request a car. The cars would operate as a fleet and share data throughout a geo-fenced area, working together to provide the service.

The current cab service plan states that when a person enters the vehicle, they will be met with a touchscreen tablet displaying a map that shows the route's progress.

Before the car starts, every pas-

senger will need to have their seat belts buckled. The car will also need to have all of its doors closed before moving.

In the event that a passenger leaves the car and forgets to close the door, the car can do it by itself. The car will also be equipped with a button in case of unexpected events. If the rider leaves behind any personal items, support staff will contact the driver to arrange a return.

The vehicle will also offer an emergency button, which will have the car pull over to the nearest available spot and drop the customer off when pushed. In case of

an accident, the vehicle will assess the damage and send it to OnStar, a GM branch supplying emergency services, which will be immediately notified and will create a two-way response between the vehicle and help.

GM is not the first company to push the idea of a driverless car. Other companies such as Google and Tesla Inc. also plan to create cars of this caliber. However, GM would be the first to succeed, as the other companies do not plan to launch their models for another few years.

The project has received both praise and controversy. Many

people worry that computers have a heightened potential for problems and crash, which may raise concerns over the accidents in the middle of a drive. Others fear that the technology in the car could be hacked, having someone else take control of the car.

There is, however, praise toward this idea as well, with supporters stating that this is a major step forward. This progression might also lead to a shift in the decrease of privately owned vehicles.

Driverless cars are a big step forward for technological innovation, yet the consequences of this step may still remain.

Brains of jazz and classical pianists work differently, study finds

BY ALI HUSSAIN
STAFF WRITER

A recent study, titled "Decoding Musical Training from Dynamic Processing of Musical Features in the Brain," shows that the brains of jazz pianists differ from the brains of classical pianists, even while the musicians play the same piece.

The study, conducted by the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences in Leipzig, Germany, focused on how specifically brain activity differed between the two musician types.

It has been known that music affects the brain and induces sensorimotor plasticity, or permanent brain change throughout an individual's life. This change shows a clear divide between musicians and non-musicians.

The reason behind the divide between musicians and non-musicians is that composing and playing music requires the interplay of abilities found in areas of the brain related to high-level functioning.

Playing a musical instrument prompts multiple structural alterations in the brain. The alterations are linked with enhanced motor and auditory skills. Alterations occur in the hippocampus, a brain region linked to learning and memory. Pianists also have an increased amount of myelin, a white matter that boosts nerve impulse speeds.

The difference in brain activity between musicians and non-musicians is obvious. However, the extent to which these capabilities were embedded within the brain of the individual musicians was severely underestimated.

Researchers discovered that musicians who further specialize in specific styles have differences in brain activity.

The differences between the two were brought to light when the

scientists in charge of the study requested 30 pianists. Half were classically trained, and the other half specialized in jazz for at least two years.

They were instructed to play a harmonically unexpected chord within a standard chord progression. This meant that in a pattern that might follow "A B C D E F" the musician was told to play "A B C D A F" instead. This revealed that the brain of the jazz pianist began to re-plan its actions faster than the brain of the classical pianist.

Re-planning speed between the brains of the two types of musicians was measured using electroencephalography sensors. These sensors were fitted onto the back of the each musician's head. Electroencephalography, or EEG, is a method of measuring brain waves by attaching electrodes to the head on top of a gel layer.

These electrodes then measure the fluctuations of the current within the neurons underneath.

These EEG sensors measured the brain activity of different regions of the brain, thus revealing that the difference between the jazz and the classical musicians lay in the area of the brain responsible for action planning.

Brain activity differences in musicians can be traced to the different manners in which a musician goes about composing and playing the different genres. There is a need to skillfully interpret a classical piece.

Meanwhile, a jazz piece requires more creative improvisation. This suggests different enduring markers when a musician practices either jazz or classical music.

Music has been a known inducer of neuroplasticity. Research points to its stimulation of the frontal and temporal lobes, regions linked to behavior and language



CARLOS AVILA|THE TICKER

EEG sensors measured brain activity and discovered jazz pianists found it easier than classical pianists to re-plan quickly.

use, the parietal lobe, a region linked to sensations of touch and the limbic system, a region responsible for emotions such as fear and anger.

This indicates music is related to perceptual, action-stimulation, emotional and attentional processes.

This study revealed there are significant differences in the way the brain processes music. Brain activity varies within different music genres.

As of now, the only differences

analyzed between musical genres were between that of jazz and classical music.

According to Daniela Sammler, head organizer and neuroscientist at the MPI CBS, "To obtain a bigger picture, we have to search for the smallest common denominator of several genres. Similar to research in language: To recognise [sic] the universal mechanisms of processing language we also cannot limit our research to German."

Using this information, musicians can now isolate what they

need to work on for their desired effect. For young people looking for people to form a band with, the answer lies in the results of this study. Musicians looking for people who find it easy to re-plan quickly should be more attentive to those who were specifically trained in jazz.

On the other hand, musicians looking for a more traditional team of people who can analyze a piece critically will benefit from playing with classically trained musicians.

January brings record-breaking temperatures, heavy snowfall

The United States experienced severe weather in January, as the country endured rigid temperatures. Abnormal weather also occurred in regions outside of the United States.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Snow fell at a rate of three inches per hour. This surpassed Erie’s prior 24-hour snowfall record. Erie then received another 24 inches between midnight and 5 p.m. on Dec. 26, and another 5 to 10 inches on Dec. 27. The snow accumulation exceeded Pennsylvania’s former all-time, two-day snowfall record, when snow accumulation in Morgantown, West Virginia, in 1958 totaled 44 inches.

By Dec. 27, Erie received 97 total inches of snow for that month. This figure made December the snowiest month in Erie’s history. The city usually receives 100 inches of snow in one season.

Erie is situated along Lake Erie and is located between Cleveland and Buffalo, New York. Its 99,000 inhabitants are accustomed to cold weather. Starting in late fall, cold air flows over the lake, where the water temperatures are generally mild. The cold air picks up the moisture and then precipitates it as snow.

The heaviest snowfall typically occurs far from the lake since higher altitudes drive out the moisture. This was defied during the snow accumulation in Erie. A snow band remained near the lake, affecting Erie with heavy snowfall. Snow bands are defined as a congregation of falling snow over a period of time between three and six hours. Snow bands have radii of 20 to 50 miles, so it is unusual for them to linger in one location.

The snow in Erie impacted travelers and left drivers stranded. Interstate 90 runs parallel to Lake Erie in Pennsylvania, and the highway is in a raised area vulnerable to periodic gusts of snow due to heavy winds.

The United States further experienced a cold snap in the period between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. Cold weather already gripped the northern part of the country, and an arctic air that first appeared over the central part moved east.

Temperatures in International Falls, Minnesota, informally known as the “Icebox of the Nation,” shattered the 1924 record of minus 32 degrees. Hibbing, Minnesota, dropped to minus 27 degrees.

States located in the Northern Plains and Great Lakes regions experienced highs in the teens, and lows in the negatives. Wind chill advisories were created for most regions in New England, northern Pennsylvania and New York. Residents were urged to take precaution against hypothermia and frostbite, as wind chills on Dec. 28 made them feel like the temperature was well below zero.

That day, Boston set a new record for lowest high temperature. Redfield and Boylston, two towns located near Lake Ontario in New York, experienced 5 feet of snow.

The cold weather continued to the end of December, affecting New Year’s celebrations across the country. The temperature in Times Square on New Year’s Eve was 11 degrees, but the actual feel was zero degrees. These temperatures were the same in 1962. The coldest New Year’s Eve in Times Square was observed in 1917, when it was 1 degree at midnight.

The annual New Year’s Eve fireworks show in Springfield, Illinois, was canceled because it was only 9 degrees. In Ohio’s Miami Township, outdoor events were rescheduled to take place inside, and the New Year’s Eve ball drop in New Carlisle, Indiana, was only an hour-long activity.

Orchard Park, a village near Buffalo canceled its New Year’s Eve festivities because of the cold weather. The annual Lobster Dip at Old Orchard Beach in Maine was postponed for the first time in 30 years and Penguin Plunge direc-

tors in Narragansett, Rhode Island, urged participants to “use their good judgment.”

The New Year’s Day Mummers Parade, a parade featuring performers in vivid attire, was still held in Philadelphia.

The cold weather continued during the first week of January 2018. Earlier that week, it was announced that a bomb cyclone would hit the eastern United States.

Officially known as explosive bombogenesis, this phenomenon is a winter storm that mostly affects the East Coast.

This winter storm was caused by cold air from Canada, prompting freezing temperatures in the Northeast. The cold air diverged with the warm, damp air near the Southern Coast.

This divergence triggered a substantial collapse in air pressure, a defining characteristic of a bomb cyclone.

A bomb cyclone drops 24 millibars in 24 hours. Forecasters anticipated that this particular bomb cyclone would have a 50 millibar drop in 24 hours. A storm’s intensity depends on its air pressure — as the pressure lowers, the storm intensifies. Air pressure is defined as the weight of the atmosphere. Since the air rises in a storm, the pressure decreases.

The anticipation that the 2018 bomb cyclone had a 50 millibar drop in 24 hours revealed how the storm rapidly escalated.

This is an indication of how much air is involved with the storm’s advancement. The air moves toward the center, soars and leaves at the top. If more air abandons the storm’s center than entering air, the pressure continues to grow. This prompts the bomb cyclone to increase in magnitude.

Heavy snow, coastal surges and hurricane-style wind gusts characterize bomb cyclones once they amplify.

This bomb cyclone was similar to Superstorm Sandy. Sandy, however, started as a developed hurricane and was more destructive than this bomb cyclone because it had more time to bolster its power after it moved past the Caribbean.

Forecasters anticipated the bomb cyclone would hit Florida and the Carolinas on Wednesday, Jan. 3. The storm was anticipated to move north and go up to Maine. It was anticipated that the area between Virginia Beach and Boston would be hit with 6 to 12 inches of snow. Northern New England was anticipated to get 12 to 18 inches. It was possible for eastern Long Island and northern New England to face blizzard conditions.

In particular, residents along the New England coast were warned that coastal surges could damage waterfront homes and trigger beach erosion.

Massachusetts and Maine were expected to lose power.

Bomb cyclone Grayson hit Florida on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Tallahassee, the state capital, received 0.1 inches of snow and sleet, the city’s first snow in 28 years. Cold temperatures in southern Florida caused iguanas to fall from trees. The reptiles turn motionless when the temperature drops below 40 degrees.

In Georgia, the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport closed after the region received an inch of snow. Freezing temperatures in Atlanta plummeted into the teens when nightfall hit. The number of hospital patients in the city increased that day, as patients in the emergency room had ailments caused by the weather. Several patients’ body temperatures dropped to the low 80s, compared with the normal human body temperature of approximately 98.6 degrees.

Charleston, South Carolina’s largest city, experienced its third snowiest day ever when it was hit



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The bomb cyclone affected the New York City region with snow and bitter cold.

with 5 inches of snow.

The South Carolina coast was placed under an unusual warning for “heavy freezing rain.”

It was 9 degrees in the Raleigh-Durham region of North Carolina, a temperature that was last experienced in 1897. The District of Columbia government prolonged its cold emergency plan initiated on Dec. 27 due to the bomb cyclone.

The bomb cyclone hit the New York City region on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 4. Snow accumulated at the rate of 2 inches per hour. Nine inches of snow fell in Central Park and over 11 inches of snow fell in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Thirteen inches of snow fell in Queens’ Rego Park and 10 inches of snow fell in Staten Island’s Great Kills.

Some regions of Queens experienced wind gusts of nearly 50 mph, while over 60 mph were experienced on Long Island. Over 2,000 flights at the region’s three chief airports were canceled.

Once the bomb cyclone hit New England, it created chaos in Massachusetts, as Boston suffered destructive flooding and coastal communities experienced high tides. Boston had flooded streets, and drivers were in cars that looked as if they were floating. Wind gusts of 40 mph were reported. Six and one-half inches of snow fell in Boston by 1 p.m., and Taunton, a city south of Boston, had 14.6 inches.

Water advanced over a barrier island and came to a condo

community while cars “floated” through the streets in Chatham, a town on the elbow of Cape Cod. Over 5,500 homes in Cape Cod had no power and Nantucket, Massachusetts, experienced 70 mph winds. In Scituate, Massachusetts, the ocean waters broke through barriers and flooded the streets.

Providence, Rhode Island’s capital, received around 8 to 10 inches after it snowed for seven hours.

The Canadian province of Nova Scotia saw waves that were five stories high.

The cold weather continued after the bomb cyclone and stayed through the weekend. Temperatures were 20 to 40 degrees below average.

On Saturday, Jan. 6, the high for New York City was 14 degrees and the low was approximately 5 degrees.

Subzero temperatures were reported for nearly all of New England. Temperatures fell to minus 11 degrees in Boston that night, and between minus 16 and 19 degrees in Portland, Maine, and Burlington, Vermont. Thirty mph winds made the actual feel 10 to 20 degrees colder.

On the Western coast of the United States, the Thomas Fire in California officially subdued after it caused a month’s worth of damage. The Thomas Fire sparked on Dec. 4 and destroyed 281,900 acres of forest, a magnitude that is larger than Dallas and Miami merged together.

Powerful Santa Ana winds and precipitation deficit in California triggered the fire. Required evacuation orders were created for parts of the California counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara.

The Thomas Fire demolished 1,063 buildings and ruined an additional 280, according to the U.S. Forest Service. It caused \$10 billion in devastation.

The fire caused a new danger for Southern Californians. Heavy rain fell between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 8. The rain fell more than 1.5 inches per hour in certain regions. Deadly mudslides can appear when a half-inch of rain falls per hour.

The heavy rain fell on slopes scorched by the Thomas Fire. The fire ruined vegetation that made the land more averse to mudslides.

Montecito, a community in Santa Barbara County, and Carpinteria, a coastal city in southeastern Santa Barbara County, were particularly vulnerable to mudslides because there was a drastic change in topography within a few miles.

The topography ranges from thousands of feet above sea level to sea level. Regions below the ruined slopes are susceptible to mudflow risk for the next few years.

There is little vegetation that consumed the rain once it hit the ground, as the fire burned multiple bushes and shrubs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Slopes no longer had a defensive shield.

Rivers of mud crashed through Montecito, and mandatory evacuation zones were extended. Rescuers looked through accumulations of mud, furniture and fallen trees for trapped residents.

Twenty-one people were killed and 28 people were injured. Sixty-five homes and 462 additional lodgings were destroyed in Santa Barbara County.

Portions of U.S. Route 101, the longest highway in California, were closed until Monday, Jan. 15. Drivers used Interstate 5, while others took boats between Ventura and Santa Barbara. Several companies provided ferries that ran four times a day, transporting 400 passengers daily.

Extreme weather was also seen in multiple countries all over the world.

While the United States endured cold temperatures after the bomb cyclone, Sydney, the state capital of New South Wales in Aus-

tralia, experienced intense heat. It was 117.14 degrees in Sydney on Sunday, Jan. 7.

The hottest temperature ever recorded was only slightly higher, at 118.04 degrees in 1939. Police urged students to stay hydrated, stay out of the sun and be cautious while swimming.

They emphasized that it was illegal to leave children or pets alone in a car, an environment that can become fatal in extreme heat.

Ambulance employees were vigilant by beaches, fire was outlawed in the Sydney area and the adjacent Hunter Region and the fire danger rank was characterized as "severe."

A portion of highway linking Sydney and Melbourne melted and bats fell dead from trees. Green sea turtles, a species whose sex is dictated by temperature, gave birth to 99 percent female newborns.

The temperature in Sydney on Monday, Jan. 8, was 91.4 degrees, which was considered a relief for the city's residents.

On the other side of the world,

thermometers froze and burst in Yakutsk, a Russian city that is the capital of the Sakha Republic and is 280 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the temperature was a staggering minus 88.6 degrees.

Schools are open in minus 40-degree weather, but classes were canceled, and children were to remain inside.

A selfie posted by Anastasia Gruzdeva on Sunday, Jan. 14, drew attention to the bitter weather. It was so cold that her eyelashes froze.

That weekend, two men froze to death when walking to a farm after their car broke down.

Three remaining men survived simply because they were wearing warmer clothes.

All houses and businesses in the Sakha Republic have effective central heating and access to extra power generators, the governor reassured.

The Magadan Oblast, Russia's least-populated oblast, experienced minus 67 degrees.

In Krasnoyarsk, a Siberian city with 1 million people, it was mi-

nus 40 degrees. While the wind chill made the actual feel minus 58 degrees, this temperature was considered mild.

Storm Fionn, hit Ireland on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Shannon Airport, one of Ireland's three principal airports, reported wind speeds of 72.7 mph.

Atlantic coastal counties, such as Galway, Mayo, Sligo and Waterford, had wind gusts of up to 74.6 mph. There were flooding risks and temperatures were around freezing.

The effects of Storm Fionn were predominantly seen in the United Kingdom. A multitude of schools were closed in Northern Ireland. Over a foot of snow accumulated in the Scottish village Eskdalemuir and Scottish Highlands city Inverness received 8 inches of snow.

As a result of the weather, highways in Lanarkshire, a county in the central Lowlands of Scotland, temporarily closed for number of hours.

By Wednesday, Jan. 17, winds reached 70 mph in northern England and Wales. Drivers in West

Yorkshire, a county in England, said they were stuck in their cars for hours. Snow fell that Thursday.

On Thursday, Jan. 18, the Netherlands experienced abnormal winds, reaching up to 87 mph. Trucks were overturned on highways and roofs were blown off homes.

Pedestrians were swept off their feet and clung onto street posts to avoid being flown away.

Amsterdam Airport Schiphol momentarily disbanded flights and closed two of its three departure halls.

This decision was reached after the airport's roof panels were blown away. KLM, the flag carrier airline of the Netherlands, either postponed or canceled various flights to and from Amsterdam.

While the United States experienced abnormal temperatures in the beginning of January, milder temperatures of 50 degrees in the Northeast were seen during the month's third week.

However, temperatures are plummeting, and the region will be cold again once February starts.



Clockwise from top left, the seven scenes highlighted show some of the climate phenomena that took place during the 2017-2018 winter season:

DAPHNELLY DELACRUZ | THE TICKER

1. In Ireland, Storm Fionn brought wind speeds that reached up to 74.6 mph, which caused meteorologists to issue flood warnings. Temperatures hovered at around freezing conditions.
2. Storm Fionn hit the United Kingdom with 70 mph winds, forcing schools to close. Highways in Lanarkshire in Scotland also closed for hours, and some drivers were stuck in their cars, unable to get out for help.
3. Yakutsk in Russia saw temperatures as low as minus 83.6 degrees, which also forced schools to close and led to the death of some men who were walking to a farm after their car broke down.
4. Sydney endured intense heat waves that reached up to 117.14 degrees on Jan. 7, causing a highway to melt and the population of male green seaturtles to fall. Children were encouraged to stay hydrated.
5. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol disbanded flights because some of the airport roof panels were blown away. Roofs were also blown off some houses in the Netherlands due to 87 mph winds.
6. The bomb cyclone hit New York City on Jan. 4, during which the highest temperature was 14 degrees and the low was 5 degrees. Queens received 13 inches of snow, and Staten Island received 10 inches.
7. A strong combination of winds and droughts in Santa Ana, California, brought about the Thomas Fire on Dec. 4. The blaze consumed nearly 300,000 forest acres.

SpaceX prepares for rocket launch on Feb.6

BY JUAN CARLOS VERGARA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

SpaceX will debut the most powerful launcher in the world for a test flight into earth's orbit next month.

Tesla Inc. and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk expected Falcon Heavy to be ready by the end of 2014, but the project proved to be more complex than expected.

According to Musk, Falcon Heavy will be ready for liftoff on Feb. 6. If everything goes as planned, it will be capable of generating almost 23,000 kilone-wtons, or over 5 million pounds of thrust.

The launcher is essentially three falcon rockets attached together. Falcon Heavy, which weighs over 3 million pounds and is around 70 meters tall was designed to put up to a maximum of 64 tons into earth's orbit.

In a conference, Musk said, "We were pretty naïve about that. At first, it sounds really easy. Just stick two first stages as strap-on boosters. How hard can that be? But then everything changes. All the loads change. Aerodynamics totally change. You've tripled the vibration and acoustics."

The increase in the vibra-tion and acoustics represents a problem to all electronics in the launcher. The shaking can also affect both the hardware and hu-mans on board. If the systems in the rocket are unable to handle the waves and stress created dur-ing the first stage by the rocket, the main engine will shut down, resulting in a failed mission. To combat the effect the noise and vibration have on the launcher's hardware, extra steel structure

needed to be added. As a result, it took three more years for Falcon Heavy to be ready. SpaceX engi-neers had to redesign the central core of the rocket. This was done so the hardware and other elec-tronics could handle the vibration waves and stress.

Musk announced that liftoff is expected to occur on Feb. 6 at Kennedy Space Center, one of the 10 NASA field centers and NASA's main launch center for human spaceflight, in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Falcon Heavy will have the ability to lift over 119,000 pounds — twice as much as other rockets — into Earth's orbit. This reinforces how Falcon Heavy will be the most powerful operational rocket in the world. Only the Sat-urn V moon rocket, which de-livered Apollo 11 to the moon in 1973, delivered as much payload.

If the flight proves to be suc-cessful and if the Tesla Roadster, one of Musk's cars, is able to reach Mars' orbit, it would mean Falcon Heavy is ready to send satellites into space. The rocket has already signed contracts with three tele-communications companies to send satellites into orbit. In ad-dition, the U.S. Air Force seems interested in using Falcon Heavy.

SpaceX's plans for Falcon Heavy are not only to send sat-ellites into orbit. The aerospace manufacturer also plans to take humans to the moon and to Mars. Two civilians already put a depos-it for the \$90 million trip around the moon on Falcon Heavy.

If the flight scheduled on Feb. 6 is successful, space tourism might become more realistic.

Interested viewers can watch the launch on the official SpaceX website.

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Sports



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Harden has made a serious case for MVP this season as he is averaging 31.6 PPG.

Rockets continue 2017 domination this week

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On Monday, Jan. 22, the Houston Rockets continued to dominate the league in their matchup with the Miami Heat. The Rockets came out on top 99-90 in their home victory.

James Harden started off the game slow, but he finished strong with 28 points, and Chris Paul continued to prove his worth to the team. Hassan Whiteside had a big 22 points and 13 rebounds, but his seven turnovers did not help the Heat.

The Minnesota Timberwolves have also emerged as solid contenders in the West. They traveled to Los Angeles to play the Clippers. Andrew Wiggins exploded for 40 points and Jeff Teague added 30 points in the Timberwolves' 126-118 win over the Clippers. Blake Griffin finished the game with a triple-double.

The next day, Jan. 23, the Cleveland Cavaliers went to San Antonio to play with the Spurs, where LeBron James was about to become the seventh player to reach 30,000 points. James reached this milestone, but his 28-point effort was not able to help his team beat the Spurs as they lost 114-102. LaMarcus Aldridge finished with 30 points in the win.

The Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers faced off in the Staples Center as they continued their rivalry. Rookie Kyle Kuzma went off 17 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter. This was just enough for the Lakers to pull out a 108-107 win over the Celtics at home.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, had the New Orleans Pelicans face off against the Charlotte Hornets. The combination of Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins was too much to handle for the Hornets, as the Pels came out on top 101-96. Dwight Howard continued to impress with 22 points and 16 rebounds.

The Philadelphia 76ers tried to get over the hump as a contender in the East with their game against the Chicago Bulls at home. 76ers' Ben Simmons led the charge as he finished with his fifth triple-double of the year in their 115-101 win over the struggling Bulls.

Thursday night, Jan. 25, had the Denver Nuggets host the New York Knicks. The Knicks continued to struggle on the road as they lost 130-118 to the Nuggets. Nikola Jokic put up an impressive double-double for the home team.

The Washington Wizards visited Oklahoma City, where the Thunder is beginning to surge into the team that they were projected to be. Both Russell Westbrook and Bradley Beal put up over 40 points, but it was Westbrook's effort that was greater as his team won 121-112. This is the Thunder's sixth straight win.

Friday night, Jan. 26, had the Utah Jazz and rookie sensation, Donovan Mitchell, travel north of the border to Toronto to play the Raptors.

Mitchell finished with a team high of 26 points as he and Ricky Rubio clutched a win over the Raptors. Jonas Valanciunas finished with 28 points and a 14 rebound double-double.

The Milwaukee Bucks faced the Brooklyn Nets, where Giannis Antetokounmpo erupted for 41 points as the Bucks dominated the Nets 116-91.

The struggling Dallas Mavericks hosted the Portland Trail Blazers, where the Blazers made easy work of the Mavs. Portland won 107-93 and Damian Lillard finished the game with 29 points.

Saturday, Jan. 27, presented the Oklahoma City Thunder on the road with the Detroit Pistons, a game in which Carmelo Anthony reached 25,000 career points. Westbrook finished with another triple-double on the season.

Andre Drummond impressed the Pistons with 12 points and 13 rebounds. The night game had a great matchup between the Golden State Warriors and the Celtics.

The key matchup in this was Stephen Curry versus Kyrie Irving. Curry's dominance in this game was too much for the Celtics to handle, as the Warriors won 109-105.

Curry went crazy for 49 points, which included 8 three-point field goals. Kyrie Irving also impressed with 37 points for the Celtics.

Sunday night, the Cavaliers hosted the Pistons in a matchup game where both teams were trying to end losing streaks. LeBron James narrowly missed a triple-double as he led his team to a dominating 121-104 win over the Pistons.

The Spurs continued to be a very quiet but successful team in the West as they played the Sacramento Kings. Although De'Aaron Fox led all of the game's scorers with 26 points, the Kings were no match for the Spurs as they were defeated 113-98.

Swim teams finish seasons strong, basketball looks ahead to playoffs

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Baruch Bearcats' swimming and diving regular seasons have come to an end for both the men and the women, with an impressive season for both squads.

The men's team was able to finish atop the CUNY Athletic Conference standings with an overall record of 6-3 and an undefeated 4-0 record against other CUNYAC teams.

These four matches all had the team dominating its opponents by an average of 38 points. The Bearcats will now look ahead to the CUNYAC finals, where they hope to take home first place for Baruch.

The women's team finished the season second in the CUNYAC standings behind Hunter College.

The Bearcats finished the season with an overall record of 6-5 and 5-1 within the CUNYAC, the one loss being against Hunter.

Just like the men's team, the women are hoping to finish first in the CUNYAC finals, which take place at Lehman College from Feb. 2 to 4.

The Baruch men's basketball team hopes to finish this season off strong as the Bearcats have only



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The Bearcats will be in good playoff position with a win over the Hawks at home.

have six games left on their schedule, including the always thrilling "Battle of Lexington" game against the Hunter College Hawks.

At this point in the season, the men are 11-8 with a record of 8-3 in the CUNYAC standings, putting them in third place behind Lehman College and College of Staten Island.

These remaining six games are crucial for the Bearcats, as they will play important matches against Lehman College, Rosemont College and the rivaling Hawks. Baruch will face Rosemont in the CUNYAC/CSAC Challenge, which is where teams from each conference play each other based on their overall records as of Jan. 15.

The Challenge lets both conferences add tough non-conference games to their schedules and the conference that wins the most out of nine games will take home the inaugural trophy.

Arguably, the biggest game of the season will be Baruch's annual "Battle of Lexington" game against the Hawks, which will be held on Thursday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. This game is a way to get student life and athletics more associated with each other. The match includes a contest between the other athletic teams for best costumes. The Bearcats will look to defeat the Hawks in a crucial game that will most likely determine where they will enter the playoffs.

McMahon announces 2020 XFL reboot

BY TALHA NADEEM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The founder and chairman of World Wrestling Entertainment, Vince McMahon, announced at a press conference on Jan. 25 that he is reviving his professional football league, the XFL, for another go. Held as a joint venture between NBC and the WWF — now known as the WWE — the XFL was first introduced in 2001, lasting only one season before poor ratings and mismanagement led to the league's cancellation.

It relied heavily on scantily clad cheerleaders, and a more "extreme" approach to the sport that was an amalgam of both football and '90s-style wrestling. The XFL boasted strong ratings in its first few weeks, but fan interest peaked in the early stages.

Ratings showed a sharp decline in the following weeks as XFL's lack of explanation for new rules frustrated fans. They became dissatisfied with the lack of any top-tier talents and low-quality football. The failure of the league led to WWE and NBC losing tens of millions of dollars, officially closing shop in 2002.

Now, 16 years later, McMahon intends to resurrect the league and "reimagine" it to compete with the NFL. This time, however, he is solely funding the project with no partners and has had no talks with any media outlets. McMahon is not seeking any investors to partner with and said that the league is already fully funded.

Launching a new company called Alpha Entertainment, the chairman claimed that there would be no crossover with the WWE and that he was working on a solo venture.

When asked about the structure of the league, McMahon confirmed that it would be a shorter format with only two hours of game time in a 10-game season, and four teams making it to the playoffs. This time around, the league will not rely on gimmicks and other an-



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McMahon, who is polling people, promises the XFL will be tailored "for the fans."

tics that contributed to the original XFL's demise. Games will also be much shorter with simpler rules.

McMahon has also stated that he did not want his new league to be a platform for social or political issues. He would not tolerate any sort of personal stances being made, as he wants the fans and players to simply focus on the game.

"People don't want social and political issues coming into play when they are trying to be entertained," McMahon explained in an exclusive interview with ESPN. "We want someone who wants to take a knee to do their version of that on their personal time."

Players with criminal records would be excluded from being selected into the league. Even a DUI infraction was enough cause to disqualify a player from being able to join. When asked by *Sports Illustrated* about several football stars such as Colin Kaepernick,

Tim Tebow and Johnny Manziel being allowed to play, McMahon responded by saying that he would "probably eliminate some of them. Not all of them. If Tim Tebow wants to play, he could very well play."

The XFL is already shaping up and moving forward with full force and measures are already being placed to ensure that past mistakes will not be repeated. This time around, the XFL will not have to rely too heavily on TV ratings as they have multiple platforms and streaming services to choose from.

The original XFL was announced in 2000 and launched a year later, and in hindsight many feel that perhaps the masterminds behind the league rushed to create an unfinished product.

Now that they have two years until its launch, there is more than enough time to ensure that the XFL can succeed and perhaps even be seen as a competitor to the NFL in the future.

Lundqvist, Blueshirts look to surge in second half of season

BY FELIX MALAMUD
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With the 2018 NHL All-Star Game officially in the books, it is time for the New York Rangers to step up their game, pick up the pace and fight for a postseason spot. In a highly competitive Metropolitan Division, the margin for error is tantalizingly small, because every point can determine who sneaks into the postseason and who will be on the outside looking in. The Rangers hope they will be one of 16 teams that get to play for the Stanley Cup, which would be their eighth consecutive trip to the Stanley Cup Playoffs.

The Rangers have had flaws all season, stemming from their defense, injuries and lack of depth. Those problems were exposed this past week, as they closed out the first half of the season on a four-game West Coast road trip. After two consecutive home wins against the Philadelphia Flyers on Jan. 16, with a score of 5-1, and Buffalo Sabres on Jan. 18, with a score of 4-3, the Rangers had every reason to feel confident heading into their road trip. Rick Nash seemed to get his scoring touch back, tallying two goals in each of those two games, which was a great sign.

Henrik Lundqvist continued to play at an all-star level, stopping 59 of 63 shots in those two games. The power play started to get back to form and the penalty kill was getting even stronger, ranking in the top five. Even without speedy scoring forward Chris Kreider, who is still out indefinitely with a blood clot in his right arm, the offense was still very sharp and balanced. It seemed like the Rangers were turning the corner and making a statement.

Then, the Rangers got some very devastating news. Defenseman

and prized free-agency acquisition Kevin Shattenkirk suffered a torn meniscus against the Sabres and required surgery, which sidelined him indefinitely. This was a huge loss for the Rangers, as Shattenkirk elevated the team's power play and offensive tempo. He has been a liability on defense, which is a cause for concern considering that his primary role is a defenseman position.

The team called up a young defenseman, Anthony DeAngelo, from the team's American Hockey League affiliate, Hartford Wolf Pack. DeAngelo, along with the seventh overall pick in this past draft, Lias Andersson, was acquired from the Arizona Coyotes this summer in exchange for top center Derek Stepan and reliable backup goaltender Antti Raanta. The Rangers were still missing top center Kevin Hayes and defenseman Marc Staal with lower body injuries.

The Blueshirts began their West Coast swing on Saturday, Jan. 20 against the suddenly red-hot Colorado Avalanche, who entered the contest on an eight-game winning streak. They were led by MVP candidate Nathan MacKinnon and a solid core that excelled in all three phases. To add insult to injury, the Rangers were also missing their leading goal scorer, Michael Grabner. Without Hayes, Grabner and Shattenkirk, the offense was stagnant. The Avalanche came away with a 3-1 victory, with Pavel Buchnevich scoring the Rangers' lone goal on the power play. Lundqvist played another terrific game, making 34 saves on 36 shots. MacKinnon continued to make his case as the league's best player, scoring the game-winning goal and leading the Avalanche to their ninth straight victory.

The Rangers headed to Los Angeles to play the Kings the very next

night. They started the game off well, grabbing a quick 2-0 lead in the first period, thanks to a power play goal by David Desharnais and a goal by Jimmy Vesey. But at the end of the period, defenseman Brendan Smith got a fighting major after exchanging blows with Kings rookie Adrian Kempe and also took a minor penalty for roughing. That would prove very costly, as the Kings scored 30 seconds into the second period to cut the lead to 2-1. The Rangers committed two more bad penalties in the period, and it came back to bite them. The Kings converted on all three power-play opportunities in the game and the Rangers' lead quickly evaporated. The Kings held on for a 4-2 victory, and the Rangers were left with a bad taste in their mouth, clearly letting the game slip away from their hands. Lundqvist made 26 saves on 29 shots, marking the first time in 17 starts that he did not stop 90 percent of shots faced.

Two nights later the Rangers were in Anaheim to take on the Ducks, a team that was getting healthier and moving up the Western Conference standings. The game did not start off well for the Rangers, as they found themselves down 4-2 at the end of the first period. Nash scored two goals, one on the power play, but Lundqvist gave up three goals on just seven shots, forcing coach Alain Vigneault to pull him from the game and bring in backup Ondrej Pavelec. Pavelec played well for the remainder of the game, stopping 21 of 23 shots. Grabner scored a shorthanded goal in his return to the lineup, his 21st of the season, to cut the deficit to 4-3 in the second period.

The Ducks pulled away with two goals in the third period and goaltender John Gibson made 41 saves to help lead the Ducks past the Rangers 6-3. Top forward J.T.

Miller had a few very costly turnovers for the Rangers early in the game and did not play another shift afterwards. The Ducks special teams were the ultimate difference, scoring twice on the power play and once shorthanded. With the Rangers struggling mightily on defense and the injuries taking a toll, the team found themselves with the same problems from earlier this season. Perhaps the Miller benching sent a strong message to the team, one that they need to take with them every game.

The Rangers concluded their road trip and first half of the season on Thursday, Jan. 25, in San Jose against the Sharks. Hayes and Staal were back in the lineup, which really made a difference. Pavelec was back in net for the Rangers after playing well in backup duty against the Ducks. This was a game that the Rangers needed to salvage, and they certainly played that way. The game was an offensive onslaught, as both teams went back-and-forth with great chances. The game was tied at 2 at the end of the first period, with Hayes and Jesper Fast scoring for the Rangers. In the second period, Sharks forward Logan Couture gave his team a 3-2 lead with his second goal of the game, but the Rangers were not fazed. In fact, they got big contributions from an unlikely scorer.

Defenseman Ryan McDonagh scored his first two goals of the season in the second period, the latter on the power play, to give the Rangers a 4-3 lead. The Rangers would get another goal in that frame, a shorthanded goal by Brady Skjei, to take a 5-3 lead into the third period. The Sharks were difficult to stave off, as they fought back valiantly.

Defenseman Marc-Édouard Vlasic cut the Rangers lead to 5-4 early on, but with less than two minutes left in the game, the Rang-

ers got a big insurance goal from Miller, who redeemed himself after being benched against Anaheim. The Sharks were not done, however, as forward Tomas Hertl scored with 50 seconds left to cut the lead to 6-5.

The Rangers fended off one last push from the Sharks and escaped with a 6-5 victory to end the first half on a high note. Miller had an excellent bounce-back game with a goal and two assists, while Hayes, McDonagh, Skjei and Mats Zuccarello each had two points. Pavelec did not play particularly well, but made big saves when it mattered most to help the Rangers get a much-needed victory.

The Rangers finished the first half of the season with a 25-20-5 record, good for 55 points. They sit in sixth place in the Metropolitan Division, but just one point behind the Flyers and New Jersey Devils for a wild card spot, and two points behind the Pittsburgh Penguins and Columbus Blue Jackets for a top-three division spot.

Every game and every point is so crucial and the Rangers have dropped some very winnable games. But there were a lot of positives so far, and that has kept the Rangers afloat in this intense play-off race.

Lundqvist was the Rangers' lone All-Star, and that came to no one's surprise with the way he has carried the team on his back. His stats are outstanding, considering his very poor start. He has a 21-13-4 record, a 2.61 goals-against-average and a .922 save percentage. Lundqvist also became the first goaltender in NHL history to win 20 games in his first 13 seasons, adding another milestone to his illustrious career. The Rangers open the second half at home on Thursday, Feb. 1, against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Giants hire GM Gettleman, head coach Shurmur in wake of disasterous season

BY GEORGES HUBERT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The New York Giants hired Dave Gettleman as their new general manager on Dec. 28. Gettleman is an experienced general manager who served the Carolina Panthers, successfully accumulating a record of 40-23-1 the year they went to the Super Bowl.

One of the key strengths of Gettleman is his ability to evaluate talent and find veterans who can contribute to a game. He discovered undrafted free agents like cornerback Josh Norman and middle linebacker Luke Kuechly, both premier talents at their positions.

Gettleman also signed cheap veterans who regained their star form for the Panthers, such as wide receiver Ted Ginn Jr. and defensive end Julius Peppers, who were heavy contributors to the team.

Perhaps the strongest attribute for the new general manager was his previous history with the team as an assistant manager and personnel director.

The Giants love hiring from within and Gettleman fit the bill. He worked under legendary Giants manager Ernie Accorsi, and his familiarity with ownership and the organizational philosophy of the Giants made him a no-brainer for the position. The only factor really worrying fans about with this hiring is Gettleman's notorious stinginess with contracts and extensions.

In 2016, as general manger of the Panthers, he let go of superstar cornerback Josh Norman after a tumultuous negotiation with Norman's agent, leading to that agent's firing. But even after Norman fired his agent and tried to accept Gettleman's previous of-



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Shurmur served as head coach of the Browns from 2011-2012, finishing 9-23.

fer, he was sent away. Gettleman was furious with the way things were handled and let the best corner in the league leave because of stubbornness and spite.

Players around the league have a certain love-hate relationship with Gettleman as a manager. Some players praise his attitude and leadership, while others have negative feelings about his negotiation practices and overall stubbornness.

The most pressing concern with this is star wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who is due for an extension soon and has already expressed his expectation to become the highest-paid player in the NFL. The problem is that Gettleman is known for negotiating and is not looking to make anyone the highest-paid player.

Gettleman's first big hire and perhaps his most important was head coach Pat Shur-

mur. The former offensive coordinator for the Vikings is now the head coach of the Giants, in a move that at first seemed out of nowhere, but upon further review is clearly a great hire. Shurmur is cut from the same cloth as Gettleman in that they both have the same philosophy. They have a strong no-nonsense approach to football and team management, and that is exactly what the Giants need now more than ever.

The Giants' worst issues this year were on offense, and they just hired the coach that turned journeyman Case Keenum into a playoff-caliber quarterback.

Beckham expressed his positivity on the hire, saying that he is "inspired" by this addition and that he cannot wait to meet Shurmur.

Hopefully, the Giants are heading in the right direction after what was without a doubt the worst season in the team's history.

First half of 2017 NHL year filled with surprises

BY PETER LAMBROU
STAFF WRITER

The first half of NHL action has been full of surprises. Through the all-star break, fans have seen some preseason contenders turn to bottom-tier teams, while teams projected to be weak before the start of the season exceeded all expectations.

The most surprising of all teams this year has been the Vegas Golden Knights. This is the inaugural season for the NHL's newest franchise, and the team has been too good to even describe. Through 48 games, the Golden Knights amassed 68 points and currently sit in first place in the Western Conference.

The team was built through the NHL expansion draft, consisting of a new franchise selecting certain players from different teams. There were limitations for who the team could choose, but the Golden Knights have surprisingly built a very competitive team. Youngsters Jonathan Marchessault and William Karlsson have led the team offensively with 46 and 42 points, respectively, while established players Marc-Andre Fleury and James Neal have brought their veteran presence to the team. Both Fleury and Neal were selected for the NHL All-Star Game in Tampa Bay.

Among the other surprising teams are the Boston Bruins, led by superb goaltending from Tuukka Rask, the New York Islanders with rookie phenom Mathew Barzal and the emerging Colorado Avalanche led by a core of great young players.

The most disappointing team so far has been the Edmonton Oilers. The Oilers were supposed to

take this season by storm after a very good season last year, which saw the Oilers reach the semifinals of the playoffs in the Western Conference.

This year has been nothing like the last, with Edmonton's season turning into a pure disaster. Besides the consistent play of the dynamic Connor McDavid, the team has struggled to find form since the start of the season. The defensive core, led by the likes of Oscar Klefbom, Adam Larsson and Darnell Nurse, is subpar, while the goaltending of Cam Talbot has been horrific. The Oilers have an uphill mountain to climb if they would like to make a run at the playoffs this year.

The Montreal Canadiens have been another disappointing team. Montreal has yet to do anything right this season. Goaltender Carey Price has turned around his relatively slow start, but the rest of the team has remained stagnant for the most part. With 46 points in 49 games, the Canadiens will need a huge second-half recovery to get back into contention.

The Tampa Bay Lightning will look to keep up its strong play in the second half. The team currently sits first in the league and power rankings with 71 points.

The team is complete up and down the roster, bolstering some of the league's premier players, such as Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos, while goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy's strong play has helped the Lightning even more with consistent nightly play.

The second half of the season seems to always bring a different style of hockey to the league. Now is the time to see which teams can break out and which teams will sink heavy.

Tumultuous postseason leads to Patriots-Eagles Super Bowl

BY RAY MAURER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The 2018 NFL playoffs have been wild, but even that could be considered an understatement. From the Tennessee Titans’ comeback after being down 21-3, to the New England Patriots’ comeback in the AFC championship game, NFL fans were treated to many exciting games. The Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles both earned Super Bowl appearances, and it looks like we are in store for another classic.

On wild card weekend, the Titans started by getting embarrassed in the first half by the Kansas City Chiefs.

Marcus Mariota could not get anything going, and Alex Smith was nearly perfect passing the ball.

Up 21-3 at halftime, the Chiefs appeared for their first home play-off win in 24 years. However, Mariota put the entire offense on his back. In one of the wildest plays of the season, Mariota threw a touchdown pass to himself, putting the Titans back in the game.

The pass was deflected by Darrelle Revis, and hauled in by Mariota en route to the end zone. The Titans defense pitched a shutout in the second half, and Tennessee went on to win 22-21, possibly ending Smith’s career as a Chief.

The New Orleans Saints hosted Cam Newton and the Carolina Panthers in a divisional rivalry playoff matchup. The Saints were tasked with beating the Panthers for a third time this season, but it would not be easy. Newton played a flawless game, but a few key drops put them in a hole early.

Graham Gano missed a 26-yard field goal, which contributed to the 21-9 halftime deficit. The Panthers would fight back, as Newton fought through a head injury, making it a



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Tom Brady has led the Patriots to the Super Bowl for the eighth time, and looks to cement his status as the greatest of all time.

five-point deficit in the fourth.

The Saints’ Drew Brees threw an interception on a controversial fourth down call late in the game, but the Panthers’ game-winning drive came up short, and the Saints moved on to the divisional round 31-26.

The Jacksonville Jaguars edged out the Buffalo Bills 10-3 in a very defensive matchup between struggling quarterbacks. The Jaguars would move on to Pittsburgh to play the Steelers, and the Bills ended their long playoff drought with a loss in their first playoff game.

The Atlanta Falcons’ defense stifled the Los Angeles Rams’ high-flying offense. The Falcons were less than impressive, but the Rams

folded in the first round at home, losing 26-13 after a phenomenal regular season.

The divisional round offered three more games. There was a snoozer in Philadelphia, as the Falcons laid an egg against the Eagles.

Julio Jones dropped a touchdown pass at the goal line to end the Falcons Super Bowl redemption dream.

The Titans started off hot against the Patriots, up 7-0 after one quarter, but the Patriots hung 21 unanswered in the second quarter to go up by 14 points at halftime. Mariota played his heart out, persevering through a calf injury, but it was not enough as the Patriots piled it on 35-14.

The Saints found themselves in a 17-0 deficit at halftime in Minnesota against the Vikings, but that did not get to them. They were able to get 17 fourth-quarter points, and a one point lead with only 30 seconds left. Case Keenum had one last prayer, and that prayer would be answered.

Stefon Diggs found space down the sideline for a Hail Mary-like reception, and scored as time expired to complete the “Miracle in Minnesota,” defeating the Vikings 29-24.

The Jaguars came out firing on all cylinders against the Steelers in the divisional round.

A 50-yard fumble return for a touchdown by Telvin Smith gave the Jaguars a 28-7 lead right

before half. However, the game was far from over. Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers’ offense scored 14 unanswered points to cut the score down to 28-21 entering the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars refused to let the Steelers complete the comeback, answering every score with a score of their own. The Steelers scored a touchdown as time expired, but it would not be enough, as the Jags held on to win 45-42.

In the NFC Championship game, the Eagles scored 38 unanswered points after giving up a touchdown to the Vikings on their opening drive.

The Vikings were absolutely embarrassed, and their hopes of home field advantage in the Super Bowl were ended at Lincoln Financial Field, as they lost 38-7.

The Patriots were tested by the vaunted Jaguars defense, and would have to climb out of a 20-10 deficit in the fourth. However, an injured Tom Brady completed the comeback with ease, winning 24-20 and advancing to his eighth Super Bowl.

The Eagles will face the Patriots eyeing redemption from their loss in the big game back in 2005.

As for the Patriots, Brady is looking for a ring for his other hand and to cement his legacy as the greatest quarterback of all time.

This may be the final time we see Bill Belichick and Brady together, and it would only be right for them to break up after one final victory.

The Eagles have been underdogs ever since Carson Wentz was lost for the season with a torn ACL. However, Nick Foles has been nearly perfect this postseason in his place.

After their dismantling of the Vikings, the Eagles are confident they can bring home their first ever Lombardi trophy.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Baruch	College of Staten Island
78	71

Baruch	The City College of New York
86	53

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Baruch	College of Staten Island
32	76

Baruch	The City College of New York
58	65

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Baruch	Endicott College
0	3

Baruch	Johnson & Wales University
0	3

Baruch	Rivier College
0	3

STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER

Write for Opinions

C'mon, you must have beef with something.

Visit *The Ticker* in VC 3-290 to get started
Email: editor@theticker.org

Baruch Weekly

FEBRUARY 2018

MON 5	BLOOMBERG I 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Subotnick Center Free
TUES 6	BETA ALPHA PSI TABLING 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. NVC 2nd Floor Lobby Free
WED 7	HILLEL AT BARUCH TABLING 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. NVC 2nd Floor Lobby Free
	PAPER CRANE MAKING 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. NVC 2-125 Free
THURS 8	AKPSI GAME DAY 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. NVC 2-125 Free
	BATTLE OF LEXINGTON 2018 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. Main Gym Free
FRI 9	HONOUR: CONFESSIONS OF A MUMBAI COURTESAN 7 p.m. Rose Nagelberg Theatre \$16 for students
	YOTAM SILBERSTEIN QUARTET 8 p.m. Engelman Recital Hall \$16 for students
SAT 10	HONOUR: CONFESSIONS OF A MUMBAI COURTESAN 8 p.m. Rose Nagelberg Theatre \$16 for students
	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: BARUCH VS. MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE 2 p.m. ARC Arena (Senior Day) Free
SUN 11	BEGINNER RACQUETBALL 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. NVC B3 Racquetball Court \$169
	INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RACQUETBALL 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. NVC B3 Racquetball Court \$169

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

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CROSSWORD SOLUTION: ISSUE 12

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CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

**Starr
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Career Spotlight

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SAVE THE DATE

- Interview Preparation Workshop with Target**
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 2-190
Come and learn how to effectively prepare for an interview! Featuring guest representatives from Target.
- Networking 101: Making Connections**
Tuesday, Feb. 6, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
Come to this workshop to learn the tools to develop a network of professional contacts.
- Writing Winning Resumes**
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 2-190
Learn how to develop and design a professional, marketable resume that will be well received.
- On-Campus Recruiting Workshop**
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
Get a jumpstart on your career by learning about the on-campus recruiting program!

PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

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

Job fairs are great opportunities to network, but are often hectic. Be sure to be organized before you get to the fair! Bring copies of your resume, practice your personal pitch and check out which companies will be present at the fair beforehand so that you can pick your favorites!

- Victoria Merlino, Peer for Careers

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Cora Group, Inc.

Administrative/Project Intern

The internship is an entry-level position for individuals interested in small business bookkeeping and operations. The candidate will also be considered for a part-time or full-time administrative and/or project assistant position in Cora Group.

The intern would support all aspects of Cora Group's work to promote efficient delivery of quality client services. Working cooperatively with the principal and other members of the firm, the intern will demonstrate effective communication and information flow while performing specific activities necessary to support the smooth functioning of the company.

The intern will enhance the overall effectiveness of project teams that serve clients while contributing to the continuous maintenance and improvement of the office administrative systems and facilities. Interns will have the opportunity to take responsibility for bookkeeping for the company. Finally, interns will be encouraged to actively pursue professional development

through inquiry, knowledge sharing, skill-building practice and collaborative project activities with colleagues.

Interns will be expected to receive callers and visitors with courtesy, kindness and enthusiasm, maintain resource and activity tracking systems (such as contact databases and inventory), perform entry-level bookkeeping, compile information for projects and the company, and edit and format important documents.

Starr Search ID: 112255

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS/MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF)

Editorial and Multimedia Intern

The Communications Department of Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) works to expand awareness of humanitarian crises and endemic health problems that medical teams address around the world. Public awareness is built through: active and reactive presswork; publications produced in-house, including a quarterly newsletter, website, and weekly podcast; pushing multimedia through social networking sites; and public education activities such as interactive exhibits, speaking events, screenings, and the creation and distribution of teaching tools and curriculums.

The intern will assist in all phases of the prep of MSF's print and online publications. This is a hands-on position, offering the opportunity to actively improve tools through which MSF communicates its message to the U.S. general public. The ideal candidate will contribute creatively to new and ongoing projects. An undergraduate or graduate student with an interest in journalism, multimedia, publishing, non-

profit communications, and/or international affairs would be best suited for this position.

The primary objective of the Editioal and Multimedia intern is to support Doctors Without Borders editorial team while providing a practical learning experience, including the potential to publish writing and multimedia in print and online publications, to an individual interested in communications and publications for an international non-profit organization.

Starr Search ID: 109692