

The Ticker

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BARUCH COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 26, 2018

OPINIONS 7

GOP responds to Florida school shooting (p. 7)

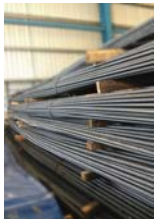


Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and Gov. Rick Scott tweeted their “thoughts and prayers” after the Florida School Shooting. Their

words have been undermined because of their A+ ratings from the NRA, as well as the many pro-gun laws Scott has passed.

BUSINESS 9

US may impose tariffs on metal imports (p. 9)



The U.S. Department of Commerce released its recommendation saying government should impose tariffs on imports of metals like

steel. Secretary Wilbur Ross stated that import of these materials may threaten national security.

ARTS & STYLE 12

The Ticker's staff picks its Oscar choices (p. 3-4)



Arts & Style Editor Benjamin Wallin, film critic Charles Tabasso and members of *The Ticker's* editorial board make their choices for Oscar wins.

Readers are encouraged to fill out their own ballot for the chance to win a prize.

SCIENCE & TECH 17

Alcohol affects brain, increases aggression (p. 17)



Drinking two glasses of vodka results in a decline in prefrontal cortex activity leading to a heightened level of aggression. The

prefrontal cortex is the front part of the brain linked to a person's level of aggression and decision-making abilities.

SPORTS 20

Mets look to improve in 2018 season (p. 20)



The New York Mets performed well below expectations set in 2017, as the team fell from a playoff contender to bottom feeder.

However, the team made multiple personnel changes in order to climb back into contention in the NL East.

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Doubts arise about Public Safety



JONATHAN SPERLING | THE TICKER

Public Safety officers are supposed to protect the Baruch student population from harm, guarding major entryways.

BY YELENA DZHANOVA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting that occurred on Feb. 14 in Parkland, Florida, school security has been at the forefront of

the public's consciousness. In an investigation by *The Ticker*, it was discovered that Baruch College's Public Safety, might not be able to adequately protect students in the event of major emergencies like school shootings.

A campus security agent said

that in these potentially life-threatening events, Public Safety would be unable to protect students and faculty members due to lack of weapons for protection.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

OPINIONS

Baruch students need options that cater to their choices of food and dietary restrictions

Students at Baruch College are lucky to be surrounded by numerous cafes and restaurants that serve different meal options at different times of the day. These, however, tend to come at different price points that may not appeal to every student.

To avoid paying high prices for food, students instead go for on-campus options. The Newman Vertical Campus is equipped with vending machines on every floor, and both the Undergraduate Student Government and individual student organizations usually offer some type of food at their meetings almost every week.

With the recent reopening of Avenue C, Baruch students do not need to leave the building if they just want to quickly grab coffee, sandwiches or snacks.

However, even with so many day-to-day options available, the college struggles to accommodate the numerous dietary restrictions that many of its students have.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Baruch men's and women's swimming and diving teams capture CUNYAC Championships once again

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Baruch College men's and women's swimming and diving teams both came in first place at the CUNY Athletic Conference finals.

The CUNYAC finals are made up of 40 different events. Baruch dominated by scoring a total of 572 points, which was over 200 points more than the second place College of Staten Island.

For the women, this was their first championship since 2014. They scored a total of 284 points to come in first place, with Hunter College coming in second at 240 points. Junior breaststroke, Yee

Chung Phang was named the CUNYAC Championship Performer of the meet. In the women's 200-yard breaststroke, Phang finished in first place with a time of 2:31:22, just under three seconds slower than the CUNY record.

The men's win is their first since 2012. They totaled a score of 288 points, with the College of Staten Island coming in second with 191 points.

Both teams' seasons are not over yet, as they will compete in the Metro Finals from Feb. 16-18 and the Eastern College Athletic Conference Open Championship from Feb. 23-25, hosted by Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Self-deprecating humor linked to happiness

BY DANIELLE KADE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

University of Granada researchers from the Mind, Brain, and Behaviour Research Centre in Spain reported that self-deprecating humor is indicative of stronger scores in psychological well-being scales, including happiness, satisfaction with life and hope.

The study had 1,068 participants, who ranged from 18 to 65 years old. Five different samples were drafted to create the Spanish version of the Humor Styles Questionnaire. Sample 1 consisted of 300 adults, 44 percent of which had a university degree; sample 2 consisted of 261 adults with 59.4 percent of people completing university; sample 3 consisted of 238 undergraduate students; sample 4 consisted of 105 undergraduate students and Sample 5 consisted of 164 adults with 52.6 percent completing university.

In Samples 1, 3 and 4, participants were evaluated in small groups located in various public places, such as bus stations and university centers.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

The Vagina Monologues explores female sexuality and hardships



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

Baruch's version of *The Vagina Monologues* was produced by Gaston, pictured above, a P.A.W.S. representative who also spoke within the production.

BY LIAM GIORDANO
STAFF WRITER

Ten Baruch College students commanded the stage in the Multipurpose Room and challenged many attitudes by exploring female sexuality and empowering the female identity on Feb. 22. The students performed the episodic play, *The Vagina Monologues*, made famous by playwright Eve Ensler in 1996: a play that is much more than a collection of anecdotes from different female speakers.

The free event drew a full crowd of Baruch students and some faculty.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Baruch College Delegates Take NYSABPRL

EXCLUSIVE BARUCH COVERAGE PROVIDED BY BIANCA MONTEIRO
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BIANCA MONTEIRO AND NICOLE PUNG



USG delegation lobbies for diversity in Albany, meets alumni

For over 10 years, Baruch College’s Undergraduate Student Government has sent a delegation of students to lobby in Albany for the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators’ “Annual Legislative Conference.” The NYSABPRL caucus, which also includes Asian representation, was the 47th of its kind. The weekend championed the slogan, “On This Journey, There is Still #HOPE,” touting it especially at its annual “Scholarship Gala.” The weekend was punctuated with a reception, workshops and meetings with Baruch alumni involved in the political sphere.

Heading the Baruch delegation this year was USG Vice President of Legislative Affairs Daniel Morote and USG Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs Hamed Doumbia. The two, in conjunction with Director of Government and Community Relations Eric Lugo, created a diverse itinerary for the delegation to not only lobby for CUNY and Baruch efforts, but to also engage in and relate to New York state politics. Morote and Doumbia chose the delegates based on diversity, hoping to incorporate new faces that had not previously attended the caucus. Baruch’s lobbying efforts included the following programs: Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge, also known as SEEK, the 25th Street Plaza renovation and funding needed to continue the 23rd Street building project.



The delegation spent the weekend attending conferences and meeting with legislators in order to lobby for Baruch interests.

VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DANIEL MOROTE

Morote headed the weekend along with Doumbia, with the purpose of making sure that all delegates could take something away from the experience. He explained that the delegation’s goal is usually to ensure CUNY is represented in legislation and to make sure that “we hold elected officials responsible for their actions.” Morote also stressed the delegation’s focus on advocating for SEEK funding and other opportunities, like single stop MetroCards.

“My best moment was seeing everything come together. From the amazing choice of restaurants to the bond that we all were able to grow throughout the weekend. It was great to see that all of the planning [Doumbia] and I did was worth something.”

VICE CHAIR OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS HAMED DOUMBIA

“My best moment of helping put together this weekend is giving an opportunity for Baruch students to broaden their worldly outlook. Being given a mission to advocate for the Baruch and the CUNY system empowers students to appreciate and implement their civil duties meanwhile holding their representatives accountable for their actions. I plan to further incorporate an element of empowerment through the events we hold.”

Doumbia emphasized the committee’s push for variety within the delegate pool this year. With 15 Baruch students from a variety of organizations and ethnic backgrounds, the committee sought to accurately portray the diversity that exists within Baruch. “USG’s selection process was much more inclusive. We have heard criticism about the lack of diversity in previous groups that attended the conferences. This year, we tried our best to accept individuals who present the ethnic variety that Baruch holds at its campus.”

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS ERIC LUGO

Lugo, who has been involved as the director of government and community relations since 2006, explained that the delegation has been traveling to Albany since the 35th Annual NYSABPRL Conference, where Baruch had hosted the opening reception. Since then, the delegation has been making yearly visits to the weekend with Lugo, who has been providing delegates with background information on CUNY’s priorities, as well as setting delegates up with meet-and-greets with legislators.

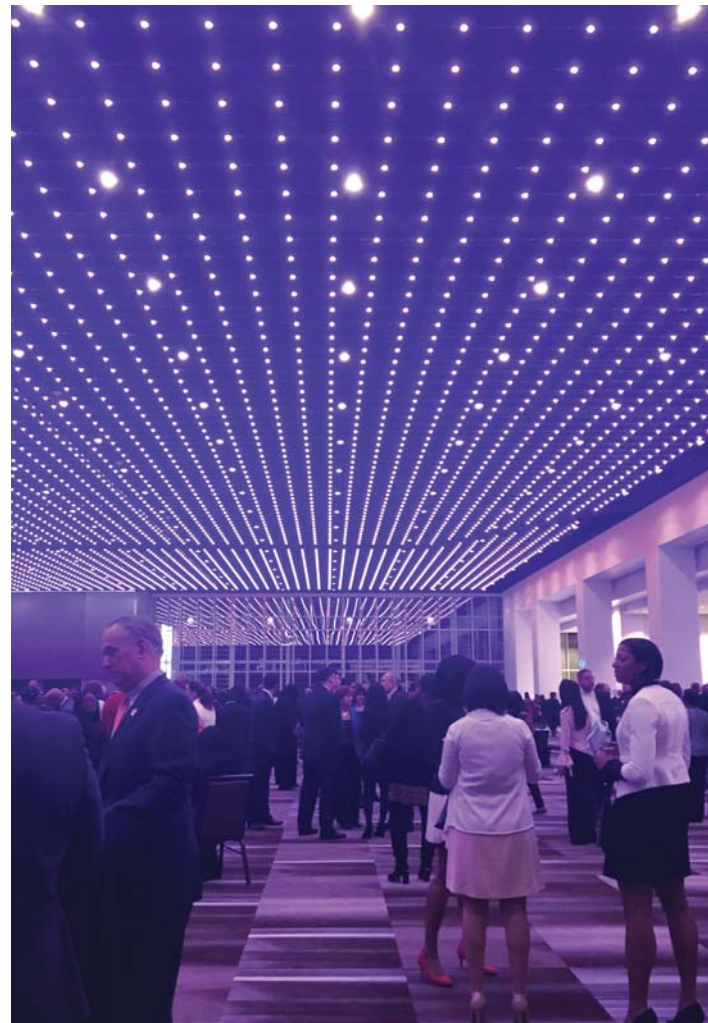
“I hope students come away with an understanding that legislators work for the people, are approachable and open to dialogue about key policies issues of the day. And more importantly, that students have a voice, can make a difference in government, and can aspire and become a legislative or government leader as well one day.”

Students who are interested in getting more involved politically can also look into the Somos Conference in March, which will feature an Assembly Model Senate Session Program that will be debating current legislation. Additionally, students can look into the Edward T. Rogowsky Internship Program for opportunities in legislation and public service.

FRIDAY, FEB. 16

Day 1: Opening Reception at Capital

This year’s NYSABPRL caucus began with a reception at the Albany Capital Center, where legislators and other caucus leaders gave their opening remarks for the weekend and hopes for the new year, as well as detailed past accomplishments. Speakers included Speaker of the House Carl Heastie, Chair of the Caucus and New York state Assembly Member Latrice Walker and First Vice Chair Sen. Leroy Comrie, among others. The night included many individuals diligently paying attention to the speakers, with others mingling in the colorfully lit room.



Legislators and officials gathered at the opening reception at the Capital Center.

Day 2: Workshops and meetings in the Empire State Plaza and Legislative Office Building

In between and after meetings, the Baruch delegation also attended several conferences, including “Keeping the Promise to End HIV/AIDS” and “Diversity and Opportunity in Higher Education.” The caucus, with nearly 50 years under its belt, hosted its annual workshops as a testament to the culmination of its hard work for African-American and Hispanic communities. The workshops exist as a way to not only address issues but to put faces to the politicians and people working hard to tackle them. Some events functioned like conferences, in which accomplishments and milestones were discussed, while others were workshop-based and encouraged the audience to engage in the discussion and have their questions resolved. Other workshops that were hosted during the caucus weekend include “Race in America,” “What is Real Criminal Justice Reform,” “Black Women and Political Power” and “Disability Awareness,” among just less than 50 others. The workshops stretched from 9:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. in staggered one-hour and 15-minute-long blocks.



Johnson, speaker of the New York City Council, speaks about experiences at "Keeping the Promise to End HIV/AIDS."

Baruch’s delegation, through Lugo’s work, makes an effort every year to meet with Baruch alumni who are involved in the legislature. This year, the delegation officially met with assembly members J. Gary Pretlow, Ron Kim and Yuh-Line Niou, all of whom made time to meet with the Baruch delegates in their offices, despite being in session.



Pretlow, an assembly member and the treasurer of NYSABPRL, addresses the Baruch delegates and answers questions.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER J. GARY PRETLOW

Pretlow, who has been meeting consistently with Baruch’s delegation for a few years, addressed the delegation briefly outside his office. He represents the 89th district, which includes Yonkers and Mount Vernon. He is also the treasurer of the NYSABPRL caucus. Pretlow discussed with delegates his career trajectory, explaining that he was initially involved with finance and accounting in the department store Bloomingdale’s and had no real desire to get involved with politics. It was not until later in his life that he became involved with New York City Council, continuing and expanding his involvement since. In his talk with the delegation, he stressed that students should advocate for what they love.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER RON KIM

Kim, who was the first Asian-American and Korean assembly member in New York state, represents the 40th district. In a meeting with the Baruch delegation, he stressed to everyone the importance of engaging in difficult conversations in order to continue producing necessary change. Kim also reflected on how powerful the caucus has become, saying, “Nothing is happening unless there is a consensus here.” Kim took an inspirational stance, pushing for delegates to take ownership of the issues affecting them now and at young ages, instead of leaving it to others. “One protest will never do it,” he said, stressing issues such as possible SEEK cuts and powerful people killing legislation. Consistency and discipline are also values he believes are key qualities in helping to produce change in communities and government, noting that people should be running for office at younger ages.

SUNDAY, FEB. 18

Day 3: Scholarship Gala at Egg Performing Arts Center

The NYSABPRL caucus weekend came to an end on Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Egg Performance Art Center with its 47th “Scholarship Gala.” The gala, which was opened by Sen. Kevin Parker and assembly woman Niou, highlighted both the accomplishments of the caucus, as well as issues currently concerning it, such as the recent shooting in Florida. Other speakers throughout the night included Keynote Speaker Bakari Sellers, Heastie and Sen. Chuck Schumer, among others. The recipient of the NYSABPRL’s Percy Sutton Award was Dr. Hazel Dukes.



Niou and Parker address the audience at the NYSABPRL’s 47th Scholarship Gala, opening the night up for other speakers.

ASSEMBLY MEMBER YUH-LINE NIOU

Niou, who represents the 65th district, broke into New York state politics after legislative work in Washington, D.C. After working under Kim, Niou joined the New York state assembly after former Speaker of the Assembly Sheldon Silver was removed due to his arrest on federal corruption charges in 2015. Niou initially lost in a special election for Silver’s seat in 2016, but he won later that year in the general elections with over 70 percent of the vote. Niou, who represents a district that is predominantly Asian, expressed her pull toward government in New York stemming from the lack of representation for both women and Asians within the assembly. She also stressed negative experiences she had across her government work, involving her age and mannerisms, while also emphasizing that some male counterparts are not always held to the same standards. Like Kim, she expressed the importance of remaining true to oneself and one’s constituents and remaining transparent when one makes mistakes.

KEEPING THE PROMISE TO END HIV/AIDS

Keeping the Promise to End HIV/AIDS,” sponsored by Assembly Member Inez Dickens and Assembly Member Walter Mosley, opened the discussion up for the progress on the fight to end the spread of HIV and bring down the number of cases. The workshop, which focused on highlighting how incident rates have recently fallen, acknowledged that the epidemic affects people of color disproportionately, with the highest rates occurring among African-Americans, Hispanics and Latinos. Corey Johnson, speaker of the New York City Council, also addressed the crowd in the hearing room, sharing his experience as the only openly HIV-positive elected official.

Public Safety questions ability to protect student population

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“We don’t have means to protect ourselves. We cannot act against an active shooter,” the source, who chose not to disclose their identity due to lack of authority to speak publicly on the subject, said. The Ticker has reserved the right to refer to the unnamed agent using plural pronouns wherever possible to grant total anonymity.

Since the safety agents do not carry guns, the source said, public safety can only call the New York Police Department to hopefully defuse the situation.

Peter Flores, a former campus security assistant at Baruch, confirmed that officers are unarmed, but attend mandatory active shooter trainings. “We try to simulate it as much as possible,” he said in an interview with *The Ticker*. In simulations, he said, the officers start to close off entrances and practice proper codes over the radio. Flores left Baruch in December 2017.

The 2017 Baruch Emergency Management Manual specifies what must be done during a possible shooting. “Once aware of an armed intruder, the Director of Public Safety will notify the NYPD immediately, then inform the Vice President for Administration and Finance. The Director will initiate an evacuation or stay in place protocol for designated areas, as judged safest based on available information,” it read. According to the manual, Baruch Public Safety attends mandatory training annually for handling workplace violence, which teaches how to react in active shooter situations.

Public Safety then “gathers information about the incident” by trying to identify the shooter’s location. This information is immediately passed on to armed law enforcement, and “Public Safety

personnel are there to support their efforts,” the document read.

The manual also said Baruch offers resources online to prepare both students and Public Safety agents on how to effectively respond in the midst of a shooting. The resources are on Baruch’s Public Safety website, and they include a range of videos and instructions from the Department of Homeland Security.

Baruch’s agents are armed in some circumstances, according to both the anonymous agent and Flores. CUNY authorizes campus peace officers to carry firearms to select CUNY Board of Trustees meetings on the 14th floor of the Newman Vertical Campus.

The officers do not conceal the weapons, and they stand near but do not go through the metal detectors. Flores and the unnamed agent said the guns are for protection in the event that protesters at the meetings escalate to a point of violence.

“In the past there have been incidents where protesters would get violent,” Flores said. “It’s one of those situations where it’s better to be over prepared than under prepared.” He also said that the officers who receive permission to bear firearms inside the building are trained yearly on proper firearm technique.

The campus security officers are organized by tier. Lower-level officers are called campus security associates and upper-level officers are called campus peace officers. CPOs wear the darker-colored blue shirts and bulletproof vests, carry batons and have the power to arrest.

They are also the ones permitted to have firearms if the college president grants them permission, according to Baruch’s 2016 security report, which details crime statis-



JONATHAN SPERLING | THE TICKER

A security agent claimed that Public Safety does not have a means of protecting themselves if an active shooter were on campus.

tics over the past four years.

The crime statistics for Baruch only go as far as 2016; the 2017 results have not yet been reported, according to Justino Rosado, assistant director of Public Safety at Baruch. In 2016 there was one reported burglary, three liquor law violations referrals, four drug abuse violations referrals and four instances of stalking. These statistics come from recorded data on all on-campus property, which includes the Baruch Residence Hall in addition to the buildings on campus.

The unnamed agent called the trainings that safety agents go through “useless,” because they “rely too much on common sense.” In scenarios where Baruch safety

agents would have to respond to instances of theft and alcohol or drugs use on campus, the agent said, “you don’t have to bang your head against the wall to become like us.”

The unnamed agent went through almost two decades of “on-and-off training.” The source said they trained at an external location since they began at CUNY. Training for CSAs lasts for eight hours — a single-day session once a year — according to the unnamed agent. CPOs receive three days of training to account for time spent learning proper pepper spray and baton technique, the source said.

To strengthen the training, the unnamed agent said, all agents

should be given bulletproof and knife-proof vests. The agent also said Baruch should invest in metal detectors placed near the turnstiles to better catch incidents of gun-carry into the building.

The source said they feel ill-prepared for the job and the emergency situations that can arise. In the event of a shooting, the source said they would call 911 and “run for it” because of lack of protection.

Baruch’s Public Safety website and supplemental resources do not specify the amount spent training but indicate that “mandatory updated training” on courses like substance abuse, arrest processing and communication techniques are given yearly to all CPOs.

The Vagina Monologues delves into female sexuality and struggles

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The 10 performers embodied Ensler’s original intention of “entering into a forbidden conversation” by charging each performance with emotion and authority.

One of the most notable performances featured student Risa Colander who presented, “The Vagina Workshop.”

Impassioned and sporting an English accent, Colander told the story of a woman lacking an understanding of her own sexuality. The woman attends a workshop and is instructed to physically explore herself. Upon doing so, she reflects on her own sexuality and the connection between her genitals and her mind. The story closes with the woman finally taking control of her own body, realizing the importance of self-love and the beauty of her own body.

Colander described preparing for the performance as empowering: “In the beginning, many of us were switching roles and getting comfortable with our characters. Personal connection definitely drew most of us to the roles that we finally stuck with.”

Another one of the many powerful performances featured almost all the performers in a group spoken word piece. “They Beat the Girl out of My Boy” was an audience favorite, resulting in a booming round of applause.

The story begins with the perspective of a young boy who longs to be female and grows up facing the consequences of his choices to not fit into a category of gender. “I was assigned a sex at random ... It has nothing to do with who you are,” read the performers.

The audience was captivated while the speakers detailed the struggles of a person to simply feel



The Vagina Monologues featured 10 performers who acted through monologues that explored female sexuality, gender and everyday struggles that women face.

at home with one’s body and with one’s sexuality, drawing attention and causing the audience to be conscious of gender under a new perspective.

Teamare Gaston, the mastermind behind the event, made sure to encourage those struggling with gender identity or simply seeking guidance to visit the Health and Wellness Center for support. Gaston is a representative of Peers Advocates for Wellness Services, which is a part of T.E.A.M. Baruch.

The evening featured more sensitive content as well. Some perfor-

mances detailed accounts of rape and genital mutilation.

“A lot of explicit material was discussed tonight, but I think that awareness of being able to contribute to aiding these issues is necessary. Exposure cures ignorance and can save lives,” said Alyssa Tantillo, a student who attended the show.

The Vagina Monologues in past years maintained themes of love and tolerance, but this year’s focus was even more practical. Gaston cited empathy and action as this year’s theme. “Ideally, we wanted to get a certain message across.

These are not simply monologues, they’re experiences. These are the experiences of women every day all around the world.”

The Vagina Monologues is much more than a performance to raise awareness. V-Day, the nonprofit organization that releases the royalty-free rights to the play every February, takes part in many global activist movements for women’s rights.

The Vagina Monologues and performances thereof contribute to these activist movements for women’s rights.

Funds collected from the sug-

gested donation boxes are directly donated to V-Day-sponsored charities, including rape crisis centers and shelters for women who were victims of domestic violence. Each year, tens of thousands of dollars are collected and help touch the lives of women facing adversity across the globe.

The Health and Wellness Center, in collaboration with all club sponsorships for the event, urge those who enjoyed the show and empathized with the issues discussed to donate to V-Day’s nonprofit organization.



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

Slavery museum educates students for Black History Month

BY ESTELLE SAAD
STAFF WRITER

The Lest We Forget Slavery Museum came to Baruch College to teach students about the history of slavery and its continued effects on contemporary America.

The traveling exhibit was brought to the school on Feb. 21 in honor of Black History Month.

As Gwen Ragsdale, co-curator of the museum, explained about the artifacts, “This is not black history, it is American history.”

Throughout the exhibit, she and her husband, Justin, wanted to convey to students that certain aspects of slavery continue to impact communities of color today, as well as inform people of color how important it is to know the history of their people.

Justin has been collecting artifacts related to slavery for the past 60 years. The Ragsdales’ museum features items from the times of slavery, including numerous slaver devices such as shackles, branding devices, yokes and ball-and-chains.

It also has items from after the times of slavery, including advertisements with racist characterizations of black people, “blacks seated in rear” signs and a robe belonging to a Ku Klux Klan member.

Chair of the Black History Month Committee Fatou Fifi Diaw hoped the event would educate students about Black History Month and “just give them an insight on why this month exists and why we have to go back to the past to help us deal with the present.”

Tables were set up with posters and explanations for each of the items displayed. There was also a documentary shown featuring the Ragsdales speaking about the history of slavery.

The Ragsdales gave a presentation on slavery as well. Justin



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

The Lest We Forget Slavery Museum visited Baruch in honor of Black History Month, educating students with artifacts from the time of slavery, such as shackles and yokes.

shared his story with the audience and explained how and why he got into learning about and teaching the history of slavery, as well as collecting slavery memorabilia. He told the students about how he got interested in the history after living and speaking with his uncle when he was young.

Inspired and intrigued, Justin began to look into black history and understand how his ancestors came to America.

Justin worked as a window cleaner at a local college and sat in African-American history classes

simply for the knowledge. Eventually, the professor encouraged him to visit Africa to find the information he was searching for. Justin went to Africa, and after being sent to a few different places, he found answers.

He discovered that the British were credited with turning slavery into the large-scale operation that it became, and that Africans were rounded up from their homes in the middle of the night like animals.

He learned of the “deplorable” sanitary conditions on the ships

coming to America. He detailed the gruesome conditions to the audience. Justin said the ships were commonly called “death ships” because many people would die on them. The stench of the dead bodies and feces on the ships could be smelled from five miles away.

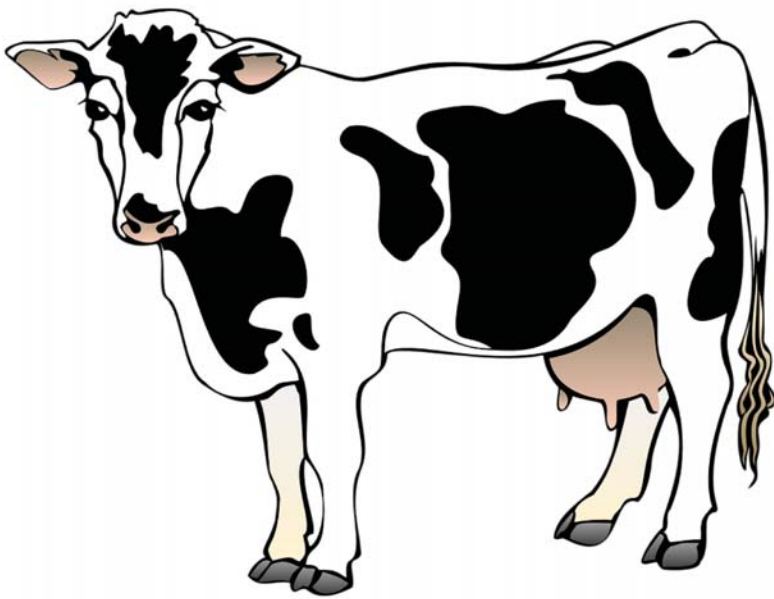
Gwen emphasized the importance of both remembering one’s culture and where one comes from and the importance of asking the elderly to share their stories, since they “won’t be around forever, and they take their stories with them to the grave.”

She also spoke of the importance of African Americans knowing and understanding their history and culture. She explained that African Americans must learn to stick together in order to break the cycle of racism present in U.S. society that has gone back for generations.

In previous years, Baruch took students to the museum from which the traveling exhibit came. The museum, which is located in Philadelphia, is currently relocating, so the curators brought a taste of the museum to Baruch.

Write for Opinions

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Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Baruch food options alienate students with restrictive diets

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

For example, many students keep kosher, but they struggle to find kosher meals around campus. Often, the only realistic option is Hillel, Baruch’s largest on-campus Jewish organization.

Avenue C used to offer kosher food choices before its renovation, but these foods have not been seen in the new section of the cafeteria. Other students might be vegetarian or vegan or have allergies to some common fast foods and snacks.

Students who have specific dietary restrictions are then faced with the struggle of either going out of their way and paying extra money to buy meals outside of Baruch, or starving for hours until they can go home and eat properly.

It is unreasonable to ask the Baruch administration to cater to individual wants and needs. But most clubs and events already serve popular variations of pizza, pasta and salad. These are tasty options, but they are neither the healthiest nor the most accommodating for a large portion of the student population.

It can be especially difficult considering that Baruch is a commuter school whose students do not have meal plans, which means they are on and off campus often. The accommodations can also be daunting considering low club budget allocations — who would likely struggle the most with paying for appropriate food for students with restrictive diets — but change needs to start from the inside.

Some student organizations, like the Baruch College Republicans, The Right Wings, have already started offering kosher options of popular foods like pizza. A small change following in this model is reasonable and affordable. It would make a difference if the entire school followed suit and embraced various food preferences or diets.

Additionally, the food items offered at Avenue C should be reassessed. Administration should strongly consider replacing least popular food items with quality sustenance that appeals more to students who have dietary restrictions.

Whether these changes are feasible, and whether they will be implemented, the administration and student population of Baruch should strive to be conscientious about individuals palates and work together to ensure that every student has viable food options to eat at school every day.

Scant playtime thwarts development

Little kids have always looked forward to one thing in school — recess. However, kids are nowadays giving up their playtime for test prep.

There is no time for tag or playing on the playground anymore, as kids have to sit at a desk and study. Replacing toys with test prep materials creates a vicious daily cycle that consists of studying at school, studying at home and sleeping.

Due to an increased emphasis on preparing for standardized testing at a younger age, there is less emphasis on creative expression. Studies say kids spend 20 to 25 hours a year just taking standardized tests. The hours cited do not include the time spent preparing for them.

This amount of testing severely reduces social interactions and expression of individuality and creates unnecessary stress for young children. Having free time allows children to explore and be curious. It also allows kids to mentally decompress and gives them the opportunity to moderate their own social interactions and refine social skills in a safe environment.

Without sufficient playtime, kids lose cognitive ability and are not developing important motor skills that are necessary for their future. Kids need more playtime and less focus on test preparation. Their early years are important for brain development because it is much harder to learn these skills later in life.



DAPHNELLY DELACRUZ | THE TICKER

NRA financial backing undermines GOP response to Florida shooting

In the immortal words of critic Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” After yet another tragic mass shooting that left 17 dead at Florida’s Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, the typical responses are pouring in from Republican lawmakers. They tweet some version of the cliché “thoughts and prayers” response before adamantly defending guns.

Florida Gov. Rick Scott and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio both appeared broken up by the event on social media, apparently forgetting their position in yet another massacre in the state they are supposed to be helping. As they make their rounds on cable television and deliver inauthentic speeches to their constituents, it is important to keep in mind their storied allegiance with the National Rifle Association over the years.

Both men “earned an A+ rating” from the NRA before their last election, which is the highest rating a politician can receive from the most prominent gun lobby. Last year, Rubio received over \$3 million from the lobby that champions the belief that “gun laws are ineffective.” Meanwhile, Scott has signed more pro-gun bills than any other Florida governor has in history, doing so before his first year in office had even finished.

The Florida Republicans’ cozy relationship with the NRA is very

well documented, it is clearly why in the midst of yet another blood-bath in their state, they refuse to seriously discuss the possibility of gun control. Both men have expressed that now is not the time to have an open dialogue about restricting firearms. Apparently, these public servants would rather allow for the loss of more citizens, more children and more lives in schools, concerts and night clubs before turning their backs on the NRA.

The gunman had a long history of hateful behavior, both online and in real life. He often denounced black and Muslim people on the internet with slurs, had ties to white supremacist groups and said on at least one occasion that his dream was to eventually become a school shooter.

The 19-year-old also wrote about his goals to “shoot people with his AR-15” and “kill law enforcement one day.”

All these facts were uncovered within the 24 hours after the horrific shooting that left 17 people dead. A simple background check could have prevented the tragedy before the gun was even purchased.

When a mentally disturbed teenager can legally buy a semi-automatic rifle without raising any red flags, there is a clear problem. Instead, Republicans like President Donald Trump would rather blame the victims on Twitter than suggest

any legislation to prevent this from happening as often as it does. Floridians and all U.S. citizens must demand change from Rubio, Scott, Trump and every other Republican who is in the NRA’s back pocket.

Conservatives love to claim that the only thing that can stop a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. In reality, all that does is help the NRA sell more guns and help pro-NRA politicians become even richer. Their “thoughts and prayers” are meaningless words meant to feign sympathy until the story blows over.

A month from now, Rubio and Scott will repeat the same empty phrases while pointing the blame at everyone except the people who allow unstable individuals to purchase these killing machines. Their refusal to point blame at their benefactors shows a clear disregard for their constituents’ lives and safety. They would rather collect checks than keep firearms out of the hands of the unhinged.

After the shooting, Rubio tweeted that this is a “terrible day that you pray never comes.” Rubio, with one tweet, just proved what millions of citizens have been saying for years: your prayers are not enough. Do something now, before even more blood is on your hands.

-Evan Lewis
Journalism and Political
Science ‘19

Teachers deserve better compensation

Teachers, military officials and other government workers should earn more than athletes. According to a poll taken on www.debate.org, 78 percent of people agree that teachers should be paid more than athletes.

Without teachers, athletes would not be in a position that would allow them to pursue their sport. For students who do not have any other role models in their lives, such as family or friends, teachers often fill that role.

Athletes learn just as much valuable lessons from teachers that can be used in the real world as they do in sports.

Without an education, one can miss out on valuable opportunities and may not attain self-actualization.

In a speech to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, former President Barack Obama said, “The relative decline of American education is untenable for our economy, unsustainable for our democracy,

and unacceptable for our children. We cannot afford to let it continue. What is at stake is nothing less than the American dream.”

Teachers serve as a paradigm for students. After gaining skills and experience in their profession, teachers utilize those same skills to help their students learn and grow.

Some athletes are naturally talented in their sports and may experience difficulty in teaching others. However, a teacher helps students learn social skills and provides them with opportunities to work with others. Not everyone is born to be an athlete, but everyone does have the capability to teach others.

Athletes have more disposable income than teachers do, meaning they have more income remaining after the deduction of taxes and other mandatory expenses.

Their multiyear, multimillion-dollar contracts allow them to get paid much more than teachers. Even if teachers worked extra hours, it would be impossible

for them to obtain an athlete’s salary.

Hiring quality teachers should be prioritized over investing in sports. It is hard to believe that more money is going into entertaining fans than educating the children of society. Today, educating the people has become less important.

Education is about gaining knowledge and applying it to the real world. Athletes may attend college because of the athletic scholarships offered to them, in hopes of playing professionally in the future.

Once they become professionals, athletes have a large influence while paid. They serve as role models to many young children, but not everyone can become a professional basketball, soccer or tennis player. Teachers should be more valued and regarded better because they are more accessible.

-Brandon Tingle
Accounting ‘21

The Ticker

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

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Fox News host slams LeBron James for political commentary

Ingraham's criticism of James' political opinion causes major controversy among athletes, causing other celebrities to refuse to appear as guests on Ingraham's show.

Fox News host Laura Ingraham made headlines last week for telling basketball superstar LeBron James to "shut up and dribble."

Her comments came after James and fellow NBA All-Star Kevin Durant appeared on an ESPN podcast in which the two players were highly critical of President Donald Trump's job performance thus far. Ingraham did not stop there; according to Ingraham, James is "barely intelligible," "ungrammatical" and "ignorant."

The clip goes on for over two cringeworthy minutes in which the rude host continues her rampage with racism, baseless claims and a complete lack of knowledge about James.

The controversy in this is that few people were familiar with Ingraham before this clip went viral.

She has been a Fox News host since Halloween of last year, meaning her show is younger than the current NBA season. Ingraham was only given this opportunity after Bill O'Reilly was unceremoniously shown the door.

Even James could not remember the host's name when asked about her comments a few days later.

Ingraham is a no-name conservative pundit who looks exactly like every other conservative pundit Fox News has produced for the past two decades.

Her comments were an attempt to get James, arguably the most recognizable athlete in the world, to stoop down to her level and become involved in a war of words that would inevitably drive up her ratings.

Still, it does not detract from the absurdity and overall discourtesy of her words. To somehow suggest

As much as Ingraham and Trump wish that the United States were part of Russia, it is not. Here in the United States, every citizen has a right to state their opinion, regardless of whether they are the best basketball player in the world or a narrow-minded ignoramus with their own television show. That is the beauty of the United States and something that Ingraham, despite her Ivy League education, clearly has never taken the time to learn.

that James, an American in all the same ways that Ingraham is, does not have the right to comment on his commander in chief just because he is a basketball player is foolish. The constitution affords James just as many votes that Ingraham is allotted. The United States is a democracy where citizens are allowed and are encouraged to speak their minds.

Furthermore, James has a platform that expands far beyond Ingraham's reach: he might be the most influential athlete in the country. His departure from the league would send waves of hysteria throughout all professional sports. Ingraham's departure from Fox News would not cause a ripple.

James is not just some forward for the Cleveland Cavaliers. He is much bigger than Ingraham and most other athletes on the planet, for that matter. He is a businessman, an icon, a role model, a movie star, a father and, most importantly, a U.S. citizen.

He is a citizen who has a fundamental right, and, arguably, an obligation to speak his mind. Millions of little boys and girls everywhere look up to James and pay attention to everything he says. If he believes there is an injustice at the highest level of our country, neglecting to call it out would be shameful.

The worst part of Ingraham's

tirade was when she incorrectly asserted, "This is what happens when you attempt to leave high school a year early" in response to James' criticism of her beloved president. The statement only solidifies her own ignorance.

James did not go to college for the same reason Steve Jobs and Mark Zuckerberg dropped out of college: to pursue better opportunities.

James could have gone to college to play basketball and get a degree. However, he was talented enough at 18 years old to compete with the best basketball players in the world. Going to college would have only delayed his inevitable dominance in the NBA.

Ingraham makes it sound like James did not go to college because he was not smart enough, when in reality the opportunities offered to him out of high school were way better than anything a college experience could have provided him.

Implying that James is not intelligent is plain irresponsible considering the overwhelming success he also had in his off-court business ventures.

Lastly, James is the embodiment of the "American Dream." He was born into poverty and worked his way up to become one of the wealthiest athletes in the world.

He never knew his father, and

the man he called "Dad" spent much of his childhood in prison. The would-be Olympic gold medalist usually slept on a couch in one of the half-dozen apartments he was forced to relocate to in Akron, Ohio, as his mother struggled to make ends meet.

Through hard work, James somehow defied all odds to become a basketball legend in the face of such extreme adversity.

Ingraham, on the other hand was raised by a conventional middle-class white family in Glastonbury, Connecticut, and attended Dartmouth College. She is representative of nearly every stereotypical, elitist conservative — a story the nation has heard a thousand times.

I am not interested in Ingraham's point of view, considering her credibility. While her journey has not been easy, it is nothing compared to James' journey.

The life of a pretty, blonde white woman in Connecticut is not equivalent to the life a young African-American boy in the slums of Ohio.

While Ingraham undoubtedly worked hard to achieve her dreams, she was born with opportunities that many do not have the privilege to experience.

James had to hustle every day to escape a situation that many others are never able to escape, perhaps

influencing his famous "Strive for Greatness" campaign.

Ingraham does not care about the truth of these facts. No matter what James has done or will continue to do for his businesses, his family, his community, his sport and his country, some people will always view him solely as a black man from the slums with a high school degree. Dartmouth alumna Ingraham is one of these people.

Fox News constantly brings on celebrities to discuss politics, but when a black man with a liberal opinion speaks out, apparently he just needs to "shut up and dribble." It is doubtful Ingraham would have been as harsh if James instead professed his love for Trump.

James gives the country a unique point of view, one from a group that is too often underrepresented. Ingraham gives us the same rhetoric that people can find on Fox News every hour of the day.

Just like those easily replaceable talking heads, Ingraham is too ignorant to see the world from someone else's point of view. This is who she has always been and who she always will be.

As much as Ingraham and Trump wish that the United States were part of Russia, it is not. Here in the United States, every citizen has a right to state their opinion, regardless of whether they are the best basketball player in the world or a narrow-minded ignoramus with their own television show.

That is the beauty of the United States and something that Ingraham, despite her Ivy League education, clearly has never taken the time to learn.

Evan Lewis
Journalism and Political
Science '19



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Business

WeWork, a New York-based startup, continues rapid growth

BY JAHVON MEADOWS
BUSINESS EDITOR

WeWork is a growing New York-based startup that provides shared workspaces and services for entrepreneurs, startups, small businesses and large enterprises. In recent years, it has expanded to over 20 countries and attracted over 200,000 members.

In only eight years, WeWork has built a network of 212 co-working spaces worldwide, but that is not the only goal of the company. Adam Neumann, WeWork's chief executive and co-founder, wants his company to fundamentally change people's working, living and playing habits.

"How do you change the world?" Neumann asked in a recent interview, according to *The New York Times*. "Bring people together. Where is the easiest big place to bring people together? In the work environment."

Currently, Dock 72, a large-scale project from WeWork, is the most prominent example of this idea. According to *The New York Times*, if the project is completed later this year, it will include "an enormous co-working space, a luxury spa and large offices, for other companies like IBM and Verizon, that are designed and run by WeWork."

In other words, it will be an all-encompassing space, one which workers will enjoy and will not have to leave until they need to go to sleep. But even that may change soon, as WeWork balloons out into other ventures. WeWork has WeLive, a residential offering in which



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WeWork is currently valued at \$20 billion, five times larger than co-work competitor IWG, which is larger and has more offices.

people can rent furnished apartments for months at a time. It has Rise by We, a gym open to both existing WeWork members and non-members. For those who are not already a member of the WeWork system, a Rise by We membership confers access to WeWork's digital member network and two credits per month to book conference rooms or workspaces in select WeWork locations, according to Business Insider.

The company recently acquired Meetup, a social network meant to help organize events centered around interests, such as technology or sports, and the Flatiron School, a coding academy. Soon, it plans to open WeGrow, a for-profit elementary school for kindergarteners. A company that started out

as a co-working, space-sharing gig now has yoga instructors, software engineers and teachers on its payroll. This is all part of WeWork's goal of unifying people. It seeks to be an ecosystem that can handle one's workspace, living space, gym space and child's early education space, among other things.

One could compare it to the Apple ecosystem, where consumers can purchase Apple smartphones, tablets, desktops, laptops, earbuds, portable music players, speakers, music, videos and ringtones, just to name a few. The only difference between the two is their scope; WeWork wants to be the ecosystem for one's entire life.

In addition to providing shared co-working spaces, WeWork is trying to position itself as the compa-

ny with the most valuable knowledge about these spaces. Since its founding, the company has collected data about how people work, where they are most productive, what they need to feel good and how much space they require, according to WIRED.

Besides applying this knowledge to its own locations, WeWork has experimented with ways to turn that data into new products for enterprise customers, including building custom office interiors, licensing software that companies can use to book conference rooms and analyzing data on how those people are using those conference rooms.

Large companies like JPMorgan Chase & Co and Siemens are signing on as WeWork's tenants, and

its revenues are growing, with an estimated figure of \$2.3 billion this year. SoftBank Group Corp., the Japanese technology group headed by the billionaire Masayoshi Son, invested \$4.4 billion into WeWork, which allowed the company to buy the Lord & Taylor building on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and renovate it as its new headquarters. The company has attained a valuation of \$20 billion, putting it among Palantir and SpaceX as the most highly valued private U.S. tech startup after Airbnb and Uber.

However, WeWork has received numerous questions regarding the sustainability of its business model and its potentially lofty valuation. Critics have argued that the company does not do much else other than corporate real estate arbitrage, where one leases a space, cleans it up and subleases it out to other tenants. Since the company owns few properties, it lacks hard assets.

Additionally, the company's growth projects seem unattainable to many, and it has failed to meet them before. The type of business that WeWork is involved in has a low barrier for entry, and it has other competitors as a result. There is also the potential that WeWork may not get paid for subleasing, since many of its tenants are startups that could easily fail.

International Workplace Group is the most noticeable of WeWork's competitors. It is a publicly traded co-working company that has both more members and more real estate than WeWork, yet IWG is only valued at \$2 billion — a 10th of WeWork's valuation.

US may impose tariffs on metal imports from China, other nations

BY JAHVON MEADOWS
BUSINESS EDITOR

The United States Department of Commerce recently released its recommendation that the federal government should impose tariffs or quotas on the importation of aluminum and steel.

The Commerce Department "found that the quantities and circumstances of steel and aluminum imports threaten to impair the national security," Secretary Wilbur Ross said Friday, Feb. 16, according to Bloomberg. Foreign-imported metals could pose a threat to the ability of U.S. born manufacturers to make armored vehicles, aircrafts and other such machinery for the military.

Ross proposed a global tariff of 24 percent on steel imports and 7.7 percent on aluminum imports for President Donald Trump to consider. Other options include a 53 percent tariff on steel imports from Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

Some other quota options included a by product quota on steel imports for all other countries equal to 100 percent of their 2017 exports, a quota up to 63 percent of their 2017 exports and an aluminum quota of 86.7 percent of 2017 exports, according to Bloomberg.

Trump has until mid-April to decide on a course of action. Any of these actions could assist domestic metal manufacturers in remaining competitive with foreign imports.

The announcement led to gains in metal prices, as well as in shares of Alcoa Corp., Century Aluminum Co. and United States Steel Corp.

Trump has spoken repeatedly about his desire to impose tariffs. During a meeting with Congress

members, the president stated that he was convinced imposing tariffs would "create a lot of jobs." He disregarded any notion that tariffs would hurt more than they would help by causing higher costs for companies, as others have warned.

"I want to keep prices down but I also want to make sure that we have a steel industry and an aluminum industry and we do need that for national defense," Trump said, according to the *Financial Times*. "If we ever have a conflict we don't want to be buying steel [from] a country we are fighting."

Trump is facing resistance from some Republicans, who fear that imposing steel tariffs could result in equal retribution from China and other countries. An increase in tariffs could also impact consumer prices of goods such as beer cans and cars.

As a result, beverage companies and carmakers have joined Republican lawmakers in opposing Trump's tariffs, claiming that they would threaten U.S. manufacturing jobs, cause prices to rise and profits to fall. Following the Commerce Department's recommendation, the stocks of Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co. dropped.

On the other hand, U.S. steel companies and steelworkers have pushed for Trump to keep his promise and protect their industry. "This is a step in the right direction, and hopefully the president responds sooner than later," said Todd Leebow, the chief executive of Majestic Steel USA, Inc., which buys U.S. steel from mills to sell to customers in construction, agriculture and other industries, according to *The New York Times*.

If the United States does impose tariffs on these universal commodities, China, the world's largest producer of steel and aluminum,



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Both Republicans and large firms have warned that a tariff on metal imports could result in retribution from other countries.

seems poised to retaliate.

China has claimed that the United States already has excessive protections on domestic iron and steel products and that it reserves the right to retaliate, according to Bloomberg.

"If the United States' final decision affects China's interests, we will take necessary measures to defend our rights," said Wang Hejun, a senior official at the Ministry of Commerce People's Republic of China, according to a report on Saturday, Feb. 17 by Xinhua News Agency according to the United Press International.

China has been accused of dumping cheaply produced steel

and aluminum at low prices. The high quantity of cheap steel imports depresses the price for steel in the United States, and as a result many U.S. steel and aluminum plants are struggling to compete in what is now an oversaturated market. They have had to scale back the production of metal and lay off workers.

However, the Ministry of Commerce People's Republic of China said that the reports claiming that the nation is threatening U.S. national security are baseless.

In January, Trump imposed 30 percent tariffs on imports of solar panels and washing machines, which heavily impacted China, as

China produces the largest number of solar panels worldwide.

When these tariffs became public knowledge, China announced it would investigate U.S. exports of sorghum, an agricultural product, and impose a tariff on styrene, a material used to make plastic products.

Imposing metal tariffs could also inflate manufacturing and consumer prices in the United States. This could create a rift between the United States and countries such as Japan, India, Germany and Canada. In the past, the G20, or Group of Twenty, have stood against steel tariffs, since such policies could instigate a trade war.

Amazon plans to launch delivery service to compete with UPS

BY ESTELLE SAAD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amazon.com Inc. recently reported that it will be launching its own delivery service, which will compete directly with United Parcel Service Inc. and FedEx Corp. as well as indirectly with the United States Postal Service and other delivery companies.

The shipping service is to be called “Shipping with Amazon,” or SWA, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. It is described to be an “end-to-end shipping solution.” Through the new system, Amazon will send its drivers to pick up products from businesses that sell goods through the retailer and from Amazon warehouses, which they will then deliver to customers. The new delivery service is intended to make products available for cheaper and quicker delivery, and to stop overcrowding in Amazon’s warehouses.

Amazon intends to launch the new shipping service in Los Angeles in coming weeks for a trial run with third-party merchants that sell goods through the website. If successful, the plan is to expand the system to other cities as soon as later this year.

The service will then expand to involve more sellers, including those who do not store their inventory in Amazon’s warehouses, allowing them to ship orders through this delivery network. In the future, Amazon also plans to extend the service to third-party merchants working on its e-commerce platform, practically undercutting both UPS and FedEx rates.

Since the news broke, shares of both UPS and FedEx dropped by 0.3 percent and 4 percent, respectively. However, according to JPMorgan Chase analyst Brian Osssenbeck, UPS and FedEx will not be



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Amazon’s new delivery service, titled “Shipping With Amazon,” will compete directly with shipping firms and the Postal Service.

hit as hard as the USPS. The USPS is one of Amazon’s largest carriers, and this new service will directly replace it. Eventually, Amazon plans to expand the service to serve other businesses as well, undercutting UPS and FedEx on pricing. Shipments outside the reach of the service will continue to be shipped via other shipping platforms.

Operating their own shipping services could allow Amazon to negotiate better prices with other

delivery companies, considering that shipping costs are such a major part of Amazon’s costs. Last year alone, Amazon spent around \$20 billion on shipping. With this new system, the company hopes to control shipping costs more effectively.

Additionally, the new service is expected to speed up delivery times and drive more people to become Prime members as a result. Besides all this, Amazon will most probably make a profit from the

service alone.

The company has also launched a logistics service called “FBA On-site,” through which third-party sellers on the Amazon website must ship their goods to an Amazon warehouse for “fulfillment by Amazon” to qualify them for Prime shipping. Amazon will decide the method of those shipments, but pickups and deliveries will continue to be handled by the same delivery services for the time being.

During the December 2013 holiday season, shipping companies faced problems trying to keep up with the amount of orders coming in.

As a result, shipments from many retailers, including Amazon, were delayed and in some cases, did not make it to customers in time for the holidays. Amazon’s new service aims at solving problems like these, easing the pressure off other shipment services to avoid a scenario like this from happening again.

“Shipping with Amazon” was tested and rolled out in London last year. Amazon also already delivers some of its own orders in a number of cities in the United States.

Analysts are skeptical as to whether Amazon can get this transportation network to succeed. The company does not yet have the capacity or equipment to handle shipments at this scale, and it will be expensive for them to do so.

Amazon will first need to develop infrastructure and personnel for their network, and it could take years for them to become an established force, while Amazon’s competitors have both infrastructure and experience.

This is not the only other area that the giant e-commerce company has expanded into this year. Amazon also recently announced that it is teaming up with JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. to form a new health care company to help reduce the health care costs of their employees.

Amazon’s new delivery service certainly stands to assist the company in terms of savings on shipping and more efficient delivery to customers. However, the logistics of this venture could prove troublesome. Whether Amazon’s entrance into this area will be successful or not remains to be seen.

Perdue shares tips for entrepreneurs

BY SHEIK FLORADEWAN
COPY EDITOR

The Lawrence N. Field Center for Entrepreneurship hosted businesswoman, author and speaker Mitzi Perdue for the “Be All You Can Be! Tips You Can Use from Highly Successful People” conference on Feb. 22, focusing on business strategies and leadership.

Descending from a family of well-known entrepreneurs, Perdue explained how she watched her father, Ernest Henderson, grow Sheraton Hotel into a chain company, and her late husband, Frank Perdue, expand his poultry company, Perdue Farms, to a household name.

Perdue outlined the principles she learned from observing both of these men and presented five success tips for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Perdue once asked her father why he was doing what he was doing. He answered, “One good idea can change your life,” which inspired her first tip for success — be an “informivore.” The same way a herbivore consumes plants or a carnivore consumes meat, an informivore consumes information. Perdue explained that the “wider the base of knowledge you have, the better chance you have of putting ideas together in creative ways to solve problems.”

Perdue described how her father was always looking for good ideas, engaging with others and going to conferences and lectures, but he was not “naturally gifted at socializing.” As a result, he made a concentrated effort to learn what it is that motivates people, which is one of the many reasons Henderson became successful.

Perdue’s second tip for success

was to learn to excel at motivating others. She explained that the first thing her father would do when he bought a hotel is gather all the employees and tell them, “Nobody knows this hotel better than you do, nobody can make it a success better than you can.”

If a hotel went bankrupt, he would invest in refurbishing places the public would never see but the employees used frequently, such as the employee dining room and lockers. In doing so, Henderson motivated his employees by providing for them and boosting morale.

Perdue also shared her personal favorite tip: redefine failure. In a story of failure she said, “one thing that guarantees to create failure is not trying in the first place.” While trying does not guarantee success, the knowledge and experience one gains from trying makes future success more likely.

Her third success tip was to surround oneself with positive and uplifting people. Perdue, being a businesswoman, spoke about her female counterparts at the Business and Professional Women’s Club who encouraged her to go through with her CBS interview when she thought she could not do it. While she was still terrified about her interview, her negative thoughts were overridden by the supportive voices of the women around her, telling her she could succeed. “By surrounding yourself with those who build you up,” Perdue said, “you can make a huge difference to your life and to the extent that you can, tune out those who lower your self-confidence.”

Like her father, Perdue’s husband, Frank, had a similar ability to motivate those who worked with him to stay with his company

“By surrounding yourself with those who build you up, you can make a huge difference to your life and to the extent that you can, tune out those who lower your self-confidence.”

- Mitzi Perdue

for years. However, Frank had no tolerance for “yes” people, or those who would agree with anything he said. He would rather have someone stand up to him and make him consider their side.

Actively encouraging dissent was Perdue’s tip for success. Frank believed that he could make more effective business decisions if he absorbed everyone’s input first, especially from those who disagreed with him. Perdue explained that “when a person knows that the boss is going to value him or her for doing the right thing than for agreeing with the boss, it goes a long way.” Frank encouraged dissent so much that, when he was retiring, he promoted the man with whom he fought most frequently to the president of his company.

Perdue observed both her father and her husband follow an important set of principles in dealing with people that helped make them successful entrepreneurs. While she took her examples from men, she has become a successful businesswoman in her own right.

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Arts & Style

Game Night entertains without achieving higher aspirations



BENJAMIN WALLIN

First and foremost, *Game Night* is a fun movie. As an action and comedy film, it takes its premise — a game night gone wrong — and brings it to enjoyable places, though there are cracks that repeatedly make their way into the concoction. There are plenty of hints throughout the 100-minute showtime that indicate the creators were aiming for something a little deeper, but putting that aside, *Game Night* is not a waste of time.

The story tells of three couples — Annie and Max, Michelle and Kevin, and Sarah and Ryan — who gather for a game night. The two stable couples, along with Ryan and whichever girl he picks up for the evening, regularly join together for games driven by competitive spirit, such as charades and Pictionary.

Annie and Max trace their relationship through their competitiveness, shown in a title sequence montage transitioning from game to game. When Max's brother, Brooks, invites the three couples over for a murder-mystery edition of game night, acts of real vio-



COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES

The couples' regular game night gets taken up a notch with a murder mystery more realistic than expected.

lence are mistaken as being part of the game.

The film plays with the boundaries of mundanity and absurdity, bouncing quickly between these extremes to create contrast and humor. As somebody gets thrown onto a glass table by a masked man, everybody else picks up their plates to not spill any food. Snide remarks are dropped constantly, pointing to the ridiculousness of the situation or undercutting big moments. It is a style of humor that works well, but one which can get repetitive.

In addition to repetitiveness, *Game Night* has an issue with obvious plot revelations. If a moment was not obviously revealed through the movie's trailers, as many big scenes were, then the plot often returns to its earlier moments, following what the screenplay of Mark

Perez does repeatedly.

Characters discuss an internet story that has no basis in fact, only to witness an example of this story itself later on. A doctor mentions interest in dating a character's brother at the beginning, and by the end, she shows up to reveal that the two are together. There are a lot of these echoes throughout the story, as moments repeat and reveal in ways that deviate little from the language that prompted them.

Visually, there are little tricks and gimmicks employed. The title montage uses a kinetic style of shifting from scene to scene, while maintaining movement across time changes. Elsewhere, the camera matches the swerve of a car, the turn of a key and the opening of a door, moving in unison with them. Even shots of a suburban

cul-de-sac have the added effect of tilt-shifts, camera tricks that make life-size items and locations look miniature.

There is no clear reason for these little bits of style, nor is there an overall sense of visual unity. There are bursts of creativity or attempts at unique movement, yet these serve no distinct purpose. Significantly, the stylistic moments are contrasted by desaturated shots throughout the film, where scenes look like they are missing some of their lifeblood.

Game Night is built on pop culture references. Different actors are named and referenced, with people being confused about the names or faces for Marlon Wayans, Morgan Freeman and Denzel Washington. Annie quotes *Pulp Fiction* while wielding a gun. Max loses a round

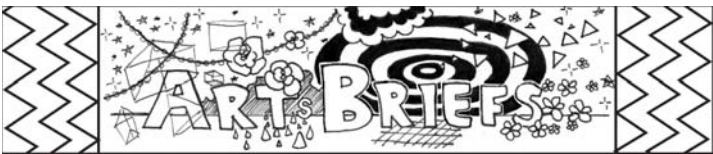
of a guessing game because his hint of *The Incredible Hulk* leads the players to only guess the other actors who played the Hulk. Moments such as these are fun, but superficial.

Superficiality extends to the relationship between the characters. There is something cursory at work in the friendships established by the film. At one point, it is implied that the value of a significant other is in their ability to win game night. Max is put through a series of jokes at his expense that feel more like cruelty than ribbing among friends. Michelle and Kevin are limited in their relationship, spending all of their screen time hovering around the same question of which celebrity Michelle once bedded. These are awkward gaps in the flow of the movie, and all the awkwardness adds up to create something incomplete in the film's enjoyment.

Game Night feels like it was written according to a handbook for screenwriters, with easily identifiable conflicts and motivations, set-ups and later realizations.

Still, there are moments where the film is able to excel. Gary, a neighbor who used to being part of the friend group, is characterized through horror tropes, and his creepy presentation is delightful. There is a long take late in the story, showing a chase full of humor and tension without cutting to a different shot.

There is plenty of fun to be had, but in the formulas, repetitions and missed aspirations, *Game Night* feels like an entertaining movie just short of being memorable.



COMPILED BY MAXIM IBADOV

In the spirit of celebrating Black History Month, the highly anticipated superhero movie *Black Panther*, starring a mesmerizing all-black cast led by Chadwick Boseman, broke records by gathering an astronomical \$427 million worldwide at the box office during a four-day weekend. *Black Panther* had the fifth-highest opening in history, as well as the highest opening ever in February, single-handedly destroying a Hollywood myth that black-led films do not attract audiences.

Black Panther: The Album rose to the top of the charts, ruling Billboard's Top 200 albums chart with 154,000 equivalent units. The album collected two top-10 singles, featuring Kendrick Lamar and The Weeknd's duet "Pray For Me," which debuted at No. 7 last week and Lamar's and SZA's "All The Stars," which reached No. 9 this week.

Ahead of the Oscars, Britain crowned its picks for best film performances of the year during the 71st British Academy Film Awards. *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* triumphed with five awards: for Best Film and Best British Film, Best Actress for Frances McDormand, Best Supporting Actor for Sam Rockwell and Best Original Screenplay. Gary Oldman collected his BAFTA for portraying Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour* and Allison Janney won hers for playing Tonya Harding's mother in *I, Tonya*.

After a tumultuous year plagued with inner conflicts and financial problems, The Metropolitan Museum of Art clinched a victory after it was announced that "Michelangelo: The Divine Craftsman and Designer" made its way into the top 10 most visited exhibitions in the museum's history. Over its three-month residency, the show that was penned as the largest display of the master's works in North America attracted 702,516 visitors from all over the world.

Britney Spears will be recognized by GLAAD, the world's leading LGBTQ+ advocacy group, with a lifetime achievement honor at the organization's 29th annual Media Awards on April 12. Spears has been an active ally of the community throughout her entire career, partaking in various charity singles, anti-bullying campaigns and several open letters that varied from opposing anti-trans youth legislation to supporting the DREAM Act and calling for Congress to protect minorities and children.

Following its critically and commercially acclaimed run off-Broadway, Harvey Fierstein's magnum opus, *The Torch Song*, will return to Broadway almost 30 years after its debut.

The show will star its original off-Broadway duo of actors, Michael Urie and Mercedes Ruehl, and will tell a story about a gay, Jewish drag queen artist trying to make his way in New York.

Harrison's *The Amateurs* unexpectedly lets down fans after anticipated success

BY REUVEN GLEZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On paper, *The Amateurs* sounds like a fairly straightforward piece of drama: the story of a group of pageant players traveling around 14th-century Europe as the Black Death gives chase. They seek food, comfort and safety from disease and some semblance of peace on Earth.

However, the show is also a 90-minute masterclass in how to present fascinating, riveting ideas about art, isolation, community and prejudice, and then promptly throwing all of that out of the window.

Directed by Oliver Butler, this new play by Jordan Harrison — running at the Vineyard Theatre through March 18 — is the surprisingly disappointing product of a writer with the ability to completely undo the expectations of any audience with crisp, fascinating thoughts on mortality. For no apparent reason, Harrison chose to forgo his usual style in favor of a somewhat condescending, meta-theatrical examination of Renaissance art and drama that is more fit for a doctoral thesis than a stage.

When Hollis, oddly underperformed here by Quincy Tyler Bernstine, loses her brother Henry to the bubonic plague, the traveling troupe of actors she is a part of is badly in need of a new player, lest their chances to be given patronage and safety from the plague dwindle.

Of course, these players are not quite stable in such a dark, unforgiving landscape. Their kind-hearted scenic designer Gregory, played with charm by Michael Cyril Creighton, is left to the verbal

abuses of their egotistical director Larking, brought about with gusto and frustration by Thomas Jay Ryan. Rounding out their unusual ensemble is Rona, Larking's harsh, poorly communicative mistress presented here by Jennifer Kim, and Brom, the closeted innocent "from the North," played by Kyle Beltran.

At first, it is enthralling and entertaining to observe such imperfect people attempt to put on medieval morality plays or works concerning the Christian morals laid out by the Bible. Larking, who thinks of himself as the smartest of the bunch, naturally plays God.

Brom tries his hardest to play Noah well, boarding his ark in readiness for the great flood. Hollis, however, cannot push away the feeling that her characterization of Noah's wife is somehow wrong and beneath her ability to create something meaningful out of her acting. This seems especially true in the aftermath of her brother's death, which seems meaningless. The point only seems hammered home when, following a chilly night, the players meet The Physic, a medieval doctor with a mysterious past, played with unnecessarily constant surprise by Greg Keller.

His mysterious past, however, is pretty much brushed under the table as if its repercussions within medieval society could be so easily overlooked in the recreated atmosphere.

That same atmosphere is one of the production's few redeeming aspects, with a simple dirt mound set created by David Zinn, surrounded by appropriately creepy music from Bray Poor and enrobed by Jessica Pabst. When the play reaches what grows to be a fasci-

nating midpoint, it is immediately cut short by a bizarre, fourth-wall-smashing detour. Its ostensible attempts to elucidate some of the parallels between the bubonic plague and a much more modern, recent epidemic, only serve to cut short both the runtime and deflate some of the ideas presented in the play.

It almost feels as if Harrison was unsure where to lead the themes he introduced and just decided to completely derail all the momentum temporarily, even if the information presented was both emotionally endearing and dramatically fascinating.

Shoehorning such a long, pointless writer's note should have been a decision made by the creative team early on, without second thought. Second thoughts, however, were abundantly clear and the body of work presented was much weaker as a result.

The Amateurs bears the seeds of something much more powerful, but the fruit was collected too early. Little moments such as an allegedly magic nail being hammered into a wall, the revelation of The Physic's true name and the end result of one character's pregnancy all turn into footnotes that are easily skippable or even emotionally redundant.

This potentially comedic yet poignant work seems far too impressed with itself, and in bad need of the same kind of divine interference that Rona, Brom and Larking ask for when their lives begin to go down the drain. The over-worked jokes and slipshod writing bring this sinking ship deeper into the water, bringing all the animals in Noah's ark down along with it. At least some of them swim.

Early Man brings moviegoers joyful energy to claymation style

BY CHARLES TABASSO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Early Man, directed by Nick Park, is a wonderful return in both style and form that reinstalls the childhood joy of watching *Wallace and Gromit* in the hearts of its audience.

The animation studio Aardman Animations Ltd. returns with a fresh new look and a rib-splittingly funny story, with special effects that merit the painstaking process of manipulating dozens of clay puppets for a single scene. There are certainly no dull moments in the hour-and-40-minute flick, with its extravaganza of colors, sights and sounds.

The most surprising quality of *Early Man*'s cast is the amount of recognizable faces behind characters' voices. With Tom Hiddleston, Maisie Williams and Timothy Spall, to name a few, the voice acting is top-notch and always enthusiastically done. It often feels like the voice actors are having just as much fun as the audience throughout the film.

Set in the prehistoric valleys of Manchester, England, around lunchtime, where dinosaurs are locked in fierce combat and saber-toothed mallards — the true apex predator of their time — haunt the skies, a ragtag community of cave-men live their simple lives.

Their layman concepts of hunting and gathering have transmuted into a deeply rooted tradition; like Elmer Fudd, their raison d'être is purely to hunt. But the runt of the litter, Dug, voiced by Eddie Redmayne, is already imagining his tribe's ascendance.

Today, they hunt rabbits, tomorrow, the world, in the form of wooly mammoths.

Before this is able to take place, their world shifts, and it is out

with the Stone Age and in with the Bronze Age, before the hapless indigenous people can even blink.

Dug's way of life is bamboozled by the arrival of Lord Nooth, voiced by Hiddleston, who has an insatiable desire for bronze coins and power. After successfully annexing the fertile valley, Nooth resolves to pillage its resources and turn the tribe's beloved home into a mineshaft.

Desperate to reclaim the valley and stop the nefarious capitalist, Dug fights back the only way he knows how: challenging the imperialist's all-star soccer team to a game. And so, the first conflict of the Bronze Age begins.

True to form, the tribe is woefully unprepared for the matchup and Dug must teach them the old sport with the help of another oppressed youth, Goona, voiced by Williams. She is a natural with an undiscovered and unappreciated skill, and would give anything for her moment in the spotlight.

Together, they subject the tribe

Park's characters suffer all sorts of physical abuse that only clay has the power to withstand, and crack self-deprecating puns like seasoned comedians. Even Mr. Rock, who represents a true pillar of stability in the tribe's early scenes, and is also just a rock, proves himself an enjoyable character.

to the most rigorous training montage since Disney's *Mulan* and whip the clan into "spiffing shape." But, even with all this motivation and potential, not everyone is convinced this match will prove anything.

Chief Bobnar, voiced by Spall, is the mouthpiece for the "good old days." Lackadaisical at best about learning the new sport, Bobnar is a leader that remembers the past he lost all too clearly.

He shelters this indulgent wistfulness and drags his heels in kind. However, stick-in-the-mud though he may be, Bobnar is a worthy foil to Dug, a youth fighting for better days to come.

Their struggle to reconcile the past and future is emblematic of the human spirit, which is why *Early Man*'s best moments are often ingrained with a sense of nostalgia these cavemen have only just begun to understand.

The story is in many ways a kid-friendly version of Jared Diamond's documentary *Guns, Germs,*

and Steel. Instead of bloodshed and crusades, there is soccer — albeit crudely appropriated from Dug's ancient ancestors, since the kingdom has adopted it as a tournament-style game.

All the while the head of state profits and the aborigine suffer, imperiled by a warmongering empire that would rather exterminate than coexist.

Although, maybe life really was better when it was simpler and humanity's pursuit of higher pleasures was unjustified for the greater pains they introduced. Perhaps the wheel itself represents humankind's fate as it tumbles like a stone forever downward and the soccer ball is a spiritual means of redemption.

For a PG-rated claymation film, *Early Man*'s implications are not for the faint of heart. Once the historians and philosophers have been removed from the audience for heckling, the flick resumes its light-hearted tone.

Older audiences will find *Early*

Man's jokes childish but never juvenile. Park found a refreshing balance between comical one-liners and the Rube Goldberg effect of slapstick comedy.

Park's characters suffer all sorts of physical abuse that only clay has the power to withstand, cracking self-deprecating puns like seasoned comedians. Even Mr. Rock, who represents a true pillar of stability in the tribe's early scenes, and is also just a rock, proves himself an enjoyable character. While others are similarly defined by a single trait, like punctuating each line with "champion," or being an embarrassing mum, the humor never grows stale.

By the end, the audience will remember exactly why they fell in love with Aardman Animations' silly antics in the first place. The charm has stayed strong through the years and does not seem to be letting up. Park's latest film, like its medium, has taken shape, becoming yet another fantastic family film.



COURTESY OF AARDMAN

Dug, centered above, is surprised by an introduction to the Bronze Age, leading to a crucial soccer game over a land claim.

Lamar links past themes to *Black Panther* album

BY AMY FORD
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The latest Marvel movie, *Black Panther*, features the quote "In times of crisis, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build barriers." It is unsurprising, with language like this, that *Black Panther: The Album* — a collection of music based on and inspired by the Marvel film — would fit as well as it does into a sense of modern cultural awareness.

The album was produced by Kendrick Lamar, a very significant person when it comes to black social movements, having made statements throughout his music performances in events as big as the Grammys.

Black Panther: The Album embodies many themes Lamar frequently uses in his work: spirituality and cultural awareness, the Black Lives Matter movement and the racism still relevant in modern society. The album addresses these issues with less filter than *Black Panther*, which is still essentially a family film. *Black Panther: The Album* was allowed to be as loud as its producers wanted, purposefully delivering a message.

Firstly, Lamar purposely put various African artists on the album, giving them the chance to define its sound. The album also contained many artists speaking Zulu, the official language of South Africa. In the song "King's Dead," Lamar seems to take the side of Killmonger, the antagonist of *Black Panther* when he states "Who am I? ... not your equal/ Not the title y'all want me under/ All hail King Killmonger." This parallels the scene in the movie where Killmonger seemingly kills

T'Challa, the king and titular hero, in a duel and takes the throne of the fictional kingdom Wakanda for himself. This was one of the few songs that correlated directly with the movie, along with "Pray For Me" by Lamar and The Weeknd in which they sing "Rapture is coming/ It's all prophecy and if I gotta be sacrificed for the greater good/ Then that's what it gotta be."

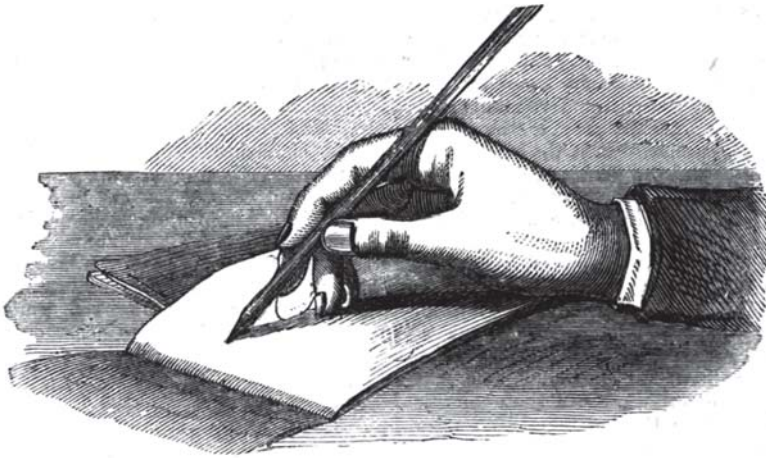
This line especially shows the struggle of Killmonger, who wants to take the throne to share Wakanda's technology with oppressed people around the world. He wants to use technology to provide weapons of revenge, in contrast to an alternative view of providing aid for black people around the world. This sets up a conflict similar to that between Martin Luther King Jr.'s and Malcolm X's methods of protest.

Another point of view is provided in "Seasons" by Mozzy, Sjava and Reason: "They tryna tell us that we all equal/ We get no justice so it ain't peaceful ... Trapped in the system, traffickin' drugs/ Modern-day slavery, African thugs/ We go to war for this African blood."

These lyrics speak to both the problems Killmonger wants to get rid of, as well as to claims of systemic racism enforced by the American government through problems with drugs, gun violence and the jail system.

Many of the songs on *Black Panther: The Album* visualize the struggle against racism and stereotypes. The album is a culturally timeless project that mixes rap, R&B and reggae, while simultaneously making listeners proud of their roots and saying much about the black experience in modern times.

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90th Annual Academy Awards Ballot

Best Picture

- ☐ Call Me By Your Name
- ☐ Darkest Hour
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ Get Out
- ☐ Lady Bird
- ☐ Phantom Thread
- ☐ The Post
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Directing

- ☐ Christopher Nolan (Dunkirk)
- ☐ Jordan Peele (Get Out)
- ☐ Greta Gerwig (Lady Bird)
- ☐ Paul Thomas Anderson (Phantom Thread)
- ☐ Guillermo del Toro (The Shape of Water)

Actor in a Leading Role

- ☐ Timothée Chalamet (Call Me By Your Name)
- ☐ Daniel Day-Lewis (Phantom Thread)
- ☐ Daniel Kaluuya (Get Out)
- ☐ Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour)
- ☐ Denzel Washington (Roman J. Israel, Esq.)

Actress in a Leading Role

- ☐ Sally Hawkins (The Shape of Water)
- ☐ Frances McDormand (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- ☐ Margot Robbie (I, Tonya)
- ☐ Saoirse Ronan (Lady Bird)
- ☐ Meryl Streep (The Post)

Adapted Screenplay

- ☐ Call Me By Your Name
- ☐ The Disaster Artist
- ☐ Logan
- ☐ Molly’s Game
- ☐ Mudbound

Original Screenplay

- ☐ The Big Sick
- ☐ Get Out
- ☐ Lady Bird
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Animated Feature Film

- ☐ The Boss Baby
- ☐ The Breadwinner
- ☐ Coco
- ☐ Ferdinand
- ☐ Loving Vincent

Actor in a Supporting Role

- ☐ Willem Dafoe (The Florida Project)
- ☐ Woody Harrelson (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)
- ☐ Richard Jenkins (The Shape of Water)
- ☐ Christopher Plummer (All the Money in the World)
- ☐ Sam Rockwell (Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri)

Actress in a Supporting Role

- ☐ Mary J. Blige (Mudbound)
- ☐ Allison Janney (I, Tonya)
- ☐ Lesley Manville (Phantom Thread)
- ☐ Laurie Metcalf (Lady Bird)
- ☐ Octavia Spencer (The Shape of Water)

Original Score

- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ Phantom Thread
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Star Wars: The Last Jedi
- ☐ Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Original Song

- ☐ Mighty River (Mudbound)
- ☐ Mystery of Love (Call Me By Your Name)
- ☐ Remember Me (Coco)
- ☐ Stand Up for Something (Marshall)
- ☐ This is Me (The Greatest Showman)

Visual Effects

- ☐ Blade Runner 2049
- ☐ Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2
- ☐ Kong: Skull Island
- ☐ Star Wars: The Last Jedi
- ☐ War for the Planet of the Apes

Documentary Feature

- ☐ Abacus: Small Enough to Jail
- ☐ Faces Places
- ☐ Icarus
- ☐ Last Men in Aleppo
- ☐ Strong Island

Foreign Language Film

- ☐ A Fantastic Woman (Chile)
- ☐ The Insult (Lebanon)
- ☐ Loveless (Russia)
- ☐ On Body and Soul (Hungary)
- ☐ The Square (Sweden)

Cinematography

- ☐ Blade Runner 2049
- ☐ Darkest Hour
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ Mudbound
- ☐ The Shape of Water

Production Design

- ☐ Beauty and the Beast
- ☐ Blade Runner 2049
- ☐ Darkest Hour
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ The Shape of Water

Costume Design

- ☐ Beauty and the Beast
- ☐ Darkest Hour
- ☐ Phantom Thread
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Victoria & Abdul

Makeup and Hairstyling

- ☐ Darkest Hour
- ☐ Victoria & Abdul
- ☐ Wonder

Film Editing

- ☐ Baby Driver
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ I, Tonya
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

Documentary Short Subject

- ☐ Edith+Eddie
- ☐ Heaven is a Traffic Jam on the 405
- ☐ Heroin(e)
- ☐ Knife Skills
- ☐ Traffic Stop

Animated Short Film

- ☐ Dear Basketball
- ☐ Garden Party
- ☐ Lou
- ☐ Negative Space
- ☐ Revolting Rhymes

Live Action Short Film

- ☐ DeKalb Elementary
- ☐ The Eleven O’Clock
- ☐ My Nephew Emmett
- ☐ The Silent Child
- ☐ Watu Wote/All of Us

Sound Editing

- ☐ Baby Driver
- ☐ Blade Runner 2049
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Sound Mixing

- ☐ Baby Driver
- ☐ Blade Runner 2049
- ☐ Dunkirk
- ☐ The Shape of Water
- ☐ Star Wars: The Last Jedi

Ticker Oscar Contest

Fill out this ballot with your guesses and predictions and send a photo of it to *The Ticker* via email to arts@theticker.org with the subject line "Ticker Oscar Ballot" before the start of the Oscars ceremony on March 4 at 8 p.m. The submission with the most correct answers will win two vouchers to an off-Broadway show. In the event of a tie, the winner will be selected randomly from those with the most correct answers. Ticker staff are not eligible for this promotion. Refer to the next page for *The Ticker’s* staff picks.



Faces Places - Courtesy of Cohen Media Group



Call Me By Your Name - Photo by Sayombhu Mukdeeprom, Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics



The Shape of Water - Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures



Baby Driver - Courtesy of TriStar Pictures, Inc.



The Big Sick - Courtesy of StudioCanal



Star Wars: The Last Jedi - Courtesy of Walt Disney Studios

The Ticker's Oscar Picks

The Voters



Benjamin Wallin

Arts & Style Editor



The Editorial Board

Majority opinion of
10 surveyed editorial board members



Charles Tabasso

Film Critic

The Picks

Best Picture

BW: Get Out
EB: Dunkirk, The Post
CT: Lady Bird
“Entertaining, terrifying and highly relevant, *Get Out* is the perfect mix of skillful filmmaking and racial commentary.” - BW

Directing

BW: Greta Gerwig
EB: Christopher Nolan
CT: Jordan Peele
“I was in awe of how IMAX and 65 mm cameras captured the desperateness of the British soldiers when they were evacuating and how the action was divided into three separate time lines: land, air and sea.” - Maya Yegorova, Science & Technology Editor

Actor in a Leading Role

BW: Timothée Chalamet
EB: Denzel Washington, Daniel Kaluuya, Daniel Day-Lewis
CT: Daniel Day-Lewis
"The final shot of *Call Me By Your Name* alone would be enough to award Chalamet. The credits roll over a deep expression of pure longing." - BW

Actress in a Leading Role

BW: Saoirse Ronan
EB: Margot Robbie, Meryl Streep
CT: Saoirse Ronan
"What Ronan did better than any other actor or actress was carry a role that was both vulnerable and independent, well characterizing the spectrum of responsibilities that either side of one's individuality incur." - CT

Adapted Screenplay

BW: Call Me By Your Name
EB: The Disaster Artist, Logan
CT: The Disaster Artist
"*The Disaster Artist* succeeds in every way that its inspiration fails and illustrates the true price of going out for one's dreams. The film acts as a fantastic lens to re-view the original." - CT

Original Screenplay

BW: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
EB: The Shape of Water, The Big Sick
CT: Get Out
"*Three Billboards* is full of complex characters, all flawed in some way, to the point where a severe racist has a sympathetic moment and the revolutionary hero is often difficult to go along with. Writer Martin McDonagh's language shines." - BW

Animated Feature Film

BW: Coco
EB: Coco
CT: Coco
"Culturally away and tearfully poignant, Pixar's *Coco* is gorgeous and packs a severe emotional punch." - BW

Actor in a Supporting Role

BW: Willem Dafoe
EB: Richard Jenkins, Willem Dafoe
CT: Willem Dafoe
"*The Florida Project* is seen from the children's perspectives, but it is the adult viewer who can appreciate the kindness Dafoe evokes in his performance, putting on a rough exterior and then shedding the pretense when trying to help a tenant in need." - BW

Actress in a Supporting Role

BW: Laurie Metcalf
EB: Allison Janney
CT: Laurie Metcalf
"It is remarkable the way that Metcalf plays Marion McPherson. Marion had an uncanny ability to bend over backward and still manage to be the backbone of her family. If anyone were to be the fulcrum of Lady Bird's future it would be her; she is the mouthpiece of poverty, voicing a reality her daughter is youthfully blinded by." - CT

Original Score

BW: Phantom Thread
EB: The Shape of Water, Star Wars: The Last Jedi
CT: Dunkirk
"*Star Wars: The Last Jedi* is a good movie. The haters are just upset that their theories are wrong. Also, the soundtrack is better than anything ever." - Andrew Marzullo, Sports Editor

Original Song

BW: Remember Me
EB: This is Me
CT: Remember Me
"The anthem of *Coco* and its emotional roundhouse kick, 'Remember Me' is sweet and layered in the multiple interpretations the song has as a ballad, an overdone pop song and a love song from father to daughter." - BW

Visual Effects

BW: Star Wars: The Last Jedi
EB: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2
CT: Blade Runner 2049
"*Blade Runner 2049* was the best science fiction movie of the year, the most aesthetically pleasing movie of the year and the most existentially depressing movie since *Children of Men*." - CT

Documentary Feature

BW: Faces Places
CT: Last Men in Aleppo
"Roaming and tangential, humanist and artistic, *Faces Places* is an utter joy and a valuable consideration of the ephemerality of recording human images." - BW

Foreign Language Film

BW: A Fantastic Woman
EB: A Fantastic Woman
CT: Loveless

Cinematography

BW: Blade Runner 2049
EB: Dunkirk
CT: Blade Runner 2049
"The film may have third act problems and significant sexist issues, but Deakins still shot a visual masterpiece with *Blade Runner 2049*." - BW

Production Design

BW: Blade Runner 2049
EB: Blade Runner 2049, Beauty and the Beast
CT: Blade Runner 2049
"*Blade Runner 2049* was visually stunning to the point where imagery would be able to pull in the audience, realistic as it was." - Angel Torres, Copy Chief

Costume Design

BW: Phantom Thread
EB: Beauty and the Beast, Phantom Thread
CT: Phantom Thread

Makeup and Hairstyling

BW: Darkest Hour
EB: Darkest Hour, Wonder
CT: Darkest Hour
"If there is one thing for which *Darkest Hour* should be celebrated – and compared to the other nominees, there may be just one – it is the makeup that transformed Oldman into Churchill." - BW

Film Editing

BW: Baby Driver
EB: Baby Driver; Dunkirk; I, Tonya
CT: Baby Driver
"*Baby Driver* deserved better." - Victoria Merlino, News Editor

Sound Editing/Mixing


BW: Baby Driver
EB: Baby Driver
CT: Blade Runner 2049
"Wright's *Baby Driver* created a world where everything happens to the beat of the music around it, including the little beeps, whirs and clicks of the everyday world. Immersive can barely describe the feeling." - BW



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Science & Technology

Study confirms alcohol consumption increases aggression

BY RIA MEHANDRU
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

People drink alcohol on various occasions in their lives. They may drink to celebrate their birthdays or to release a long week’s stress on a Friday night. However, scientists have become more aware that drinking alcohol is linked to aggression. Half of all violent crimes are the result of alcoholic intoxication, according to the study “The neural correlates of alcohol-related aggression” published in the journal “Cognitive, Affective, & Behavioral Neuroscience.”

Studies such as “Evidence for a different role of the ventral and dorsal medial prefrontal cortex for social reactive aggression: An interactive fMRI study” and “Tit-for-tat: The neural basis of reactive aggression” have conducted fMRI scans of the brain and found an increase in aggression and violence after drinking alcohol. The brain scans show that people get aggressive after only a drink or two. This is because there are changes in the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain directly related to a person’s aggression. The study, published in the journal “Cognitive, Affective and Behavioral Neuroscience” is further confirmation that drinking alcohol affects the brain and increases aggression.

The prefrontal cortex is the front part of the brain, making up roughly 8 percent of the entire brain. It is directly linked to a person’s personality, decision-making abilities and moderation of social behavior. For this study, it is important



PAULINE POKORADI | THE TICKER

People often become violent and aggressive after drinking alcohol because it affects the prefrontal cortex, a brain region that regulates level of aggression.

to note that the prefrontal cortex moderates the levels of aggression in people.

To conduct the research, 50 healthy, young men were given either two drinks containing vodka or placebo drinks that did not contain any alcohol. The men were also given \$75 in exchange for participating in the study. They were screened to make sure they did not have any mental or physical health ailments, or life-threatening reactions to alcohol. All the selected men were also screened to make sure they only drank three times or less each month.

This experiment is used to understand the effect of alcohol con-

sumption on aggression and has been used for the past 50 years. Participants were asked to complete a task in which they competed against other participants. While repeatedly pressing a button on a screen, participants were given the opportunity to send noise blasts that were either low or high to their opponent.

The hypothesis being tested was that aggression would increase under the highly provocative situation of the opponent sending louder noise blasts to the participant. fMRI scans were taken while conducting this experiment. The results showed that, despite the provocative situations, it was alcohol

that played a greater role in more aggressive decision-making.

The fMRI scans focused on six different regions of interest: the hippocampus, caudate, thalamus, ventral striatum and amygdala. Participants who drank alcohol had an increase in blood oxygen level-dependent responses in their hippocampus, the brain region associated with memory, emotions and learning. There was also a decrease in BOLD responses in the prefrontal cortex, caudate, a brain structure linked to inhibitory control of action, and ventral striatum, a brain structure linked to reward processes and motivation.

In simpler words, those who

consumed alcohol were more aggressive regardless of how provocative the situation was.

A crucial fact that the study may have left out is one that Zach Sapolsky — a psychology professor at Baruch College and clinical psychologist — noted: the prefrontal cortex is not fully developed until one is 25 years old, which means that drinking alcohol at any age under 25 is damaging a crucial part of one’s brain. That is why Sapolsky said that people should wait until they are 25 to drink alcohol because they could mess up their personalities, adding, “Many of you are probably thinking, ‘too late for that!’”

Use of self-defeating humor linked to greater satisfaction with life

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Statistics from Samples 2 and 5 were obtained from an online questionnaire. Analysts explained to people in all sample groups how much time is needed to fill out the questionnaire.

The Humor Styles Questionnaire, which was used in the study, was created to assess the relationships of humor styles with other traits. The questionnaire creators, which include esteemed psychologist and professor Rod Martin, said there are four different types of humor. Affiliative humor focuses on creating joy among everyone by uniting people through everyday situations. Aggressive humor, a controversial style, insults individuals. Self-enhancing humor is the ability to laugh at oneself in a light manner.

Finally, there is self-defeating humor, the act of belittling oneself through comedy, which is considered the most dangerous form due to the “negative psychological implications.” A 2006 study titled “The psychology of humor: An integrative approach” found that self-defeating humor can lead to isolation and depression. However, Jorge Torres Marín’s team at the University of Granada contested this study’s results.

Marín’s study found that people who use self-defeating humor are happier. People who use aggressive humor control their anger poorly.

Nonetheless, researchers emphasized that self-deprecating humor is linked to a greater inclination of concealing anger.

The results of Marín’s team were groundbreaking, contradicting prior research that associated self-defeating humor with negative psychological traits such as low self-esteem.

Marín defended his study by claiming that the field of psycholo-

gy has failed to address the cultural differences of humor, which vary in every country. He argued, “Consequently, we believe it is necessary to conduct new studies aimed at analysing potential cultural differences in the use of this kind of humour.”

Marín continued to explain that the sheer amount of behaviors considered humorous has overwhelmed psychologists. The researcher and his team overcame this hurdle by discerning between styles of humor using their model.

“This should enable us to discern the different behavioral tendencies related to the everyday use of humor, which can be classified in even greater depth by focusing on their adaptive, as opposed to their harmful, natures,” Marín explained.

Their research has opened a new question of analyzing humor, an area that has been undisputed since Martin’s study in 2003.

Johnny Azari, a legendary blues musician turned comedian, explained that perhaps self-defeating humor may be the most intricate form due to one’s ability to master their psychological emotions.

“Self-deprecating humor teaches humility. Humility teaches forgiveness. Forgiveness teaches love. If we cannot laugh at ourselves, how can we laugh at others?” said Azari in an interview.

Azari further explained that from a comedian’s perspective, self-deprecating humor demonstrates one’s ability to balance social situations by selecting themselves as the target.

“In general, comedy is an art form laden with humanity. Because every joke has a victim, the comic has to be caring and careful about who they are injuring,” added Azari.

In fact, self-deprecating humor has gained a solid following for



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While people who mock themselves during difficult situations are happier, they also have a tendency to suppress anger.

Brian Regan, a famed comedian known for his two Netflix stand-up specials in 2017. Regan is currently touring the nation.

Lone Bird Comedy, a comedy club located in Gramercy Park, also revealed its thoughts on the study. The club enthusiastically agreed and almost seemed relieved that psychologists finally understood humor in a way that was disregarded in the past.

“I think a lot of comedians believe that stand up allows people to process hardship more quickly because good comedy addresses negativity in a positive/humorous way,” a statement from the comedy club mentioned.

To comedians, comedy is a healing process that is not the cause of negativity. Instead, comedy uses humor in a rewarding manner.

Some Baruch College students, however, disagree with the comedians. Krystle Kettle, a marketing major, viewed self-defeating humor as a harmful way for the comedians punish themselves.

“I think that it is a way for the person to make fun of themselves before someone else does it,” said Kettle. Furthermore, aggressive humor has some negative undertones. However, Kettle was quick to clarify that “I don’t know if I can say it is linked to anger issues.”

A student who wishes to remain anonymous said, “In terms of self-defeating humor, I think the new study’s result is too simple. Self-defeating humor can be beneficial. I think it allows the person to express their weaknesses and fears that won’t lead to an awkward silence.”

“By expressing these negative

thoughts, students will feel better. At the same time, self-defeating humor can be harmful. If the person uses self-defeating humor to get accepted into a group, the group will constantly remind that person of his or her faults. Thus, self-defeating humor can be harmful in this instance. For humor reflecting the characteristics of a person, I disagree with it. People who use aggressive jokes may not be aggressive. They may be just pretending to be aggressive or it may only be one part of their personalities.”

Marín acknowledges his study is just one in the huge field of psychology.

The University of Granada hopes its disruptive results encourage research teams across the world to conduct their own tests in their respective countries.

New form of blood test detects brain injury

BY ALI HUSSAIN
STAFF WRITER

A new form of blood test, the Banyan Brain Trauma Indicator, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration on Feb. 14, allowing for the detection of concussions in the course of only a few hours.

This new blood test was approved after six months of deliberation, a relatively short period of time, because the FDA designated it as a “breakthrough” product. This was due to the test’s ability to reduce the number of CT scans performed, reducing both patient costs and patients’ exposure to radiation, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

CT scans, formerly known as CAT scans, are special X-rays that produce cross-sectional images of the body. They pinpoint the locations for surgeons to operate on. However, there is a slight risk associated with CT scans in the form of radiation exposure. This risk is eliminated through the administration of the newly approved blood test.

The Brain Trauma Indicator recognizes the triggering of activity for two brain-specific proteins in the blood within 12 hours of a brain injury. The amount of the two proteins — Ubiquitin Carboxy-terminal Hydrolase-L1 and Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein — in the blood can assist in recognizing brain lesions in patients. These brain lesions are visible in CT scans.

Traumatic brain injuries affect an estimated 10 million people per year globally, according to ABC News. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention es-

timated there were 2.8 million emergency department visits, hospitalizations and deaths related to traumatic brain injuries in 2013. Fifty thousand people out of these 2.8 million visits have died.

Currently, the test results are available within three to four hours, but Henry L. Nordhoff, an executive chairman and the CEO of Banyan Biomarkers, said that his company is working on shortening the time to under an hour.

The Brain Trauma Indicator was given revolutionary status. Accordingly, it is seen as only the beginning.

The company is bringing in two other companies to produce a smaller, faster blood-testing instrument within the next two years that could be used in ambulances, emergency departments and athletic training rooms.

ABC News wrote, “Dr. Jeffrey Bazarian, a University of Rochester emergency medicine professor involved in Banyan’s research ... called the test ‘a huge step’ toward devising a blood test that can detect brain injuries including concussions” and said, “Dr. Walter Koroshetz, director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and other brain injury experts say the test is [not] sensitive enough to rule out concussions.”

Koroshetz warned this test is only the beginning. A successful test would uncover and evaluate treatment for concussions and traumatic brain injuries. This test would be like the blood test used to assess suspected heart attacks.

“This may be a beginning. It’s not the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow,” Koroshetz told ABC News.



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THE SCIENCE BEHIND OLYMPIC BIG AIR SNOWBOARDING AND FIGURE SKATING

The 2018 Winter Olympics came to an end on Sunday, Feb. 25. The Games introduced, for the first time, big air snowboarding and featured the timeless event of figure skating. The remarkable achievements of athletes involved in these two sports are surprisingly rooted in science. Olympic big air snowboarders pulled in their arms while in the air to rotate faster, and the usual flat area where they performed tricks was replaced with a downward slope to reduce the risk of injury. Meanwhile, with constant practice, figure skaters' brains changed to suppress reflexes, saving them from falls and stopping dizziness."

Written by Maya Yegorova

Graphic by Daphnelly Delacruz

Big Air Snowboarding

As big air snowboarding premiered in the 2018 Winter Olympics, the athletes of this sport demonstrated how they excelled at angular momentum and jumps.

Big air was introduced to the Olympic Games this year after freestyle snowboarding received acclaim during the halfpipe events in the 1998 Winter Olympics in Japan and the slopestyle events in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. The majority of slopestyle snowboarders take part in big air. Slopestyle highlights the skills of landing a complete run from the peak of a hill to the base, rotating in various directions off the jumps and performing technical stunts on rails and during jumps. Big air presents athletes a chance to highlight their skill set in one single jump. Athletes are not assessed on their distance; instead, they utilize their air time to carry out their most enticing stunts.

Snowboarders control their body movements so they can rotate while in midair. Athletes start their run and advance to the park jumps using angular momentum, a characteristic they cannot adjust once they are in the air, for their benefit.

Angular momentum is the result of inertia and the angular velocity of a revolving structure. An object revolving around an axis remains revolving at the same rate until something inhibits the object's route or the object alters its form. If a snowboarder sticks their arm out while in the air, they will revolve slower. Pulling in one's arms while in the air has the reverse effect.

The form of the jump also impacts momentum. A jump that piercingly bends skyward causes backward rotation. A snowboarder can suffer a poor performance if there are fluctuating qualities in the snow. An unanticipated angle at takeoff can be a result of uneven snow levels, as previous athletes wear out the smooth surface with their snowboards. Uneven surfaces affect a snowboarder's ability to execute tricks, and they are more vulnerable to injuries.

Many snowboard jumps include a takeoff location. Once the snowboarder leaves the takeoff location and begins their run, they traverse a flat area where they can then execute tricks. Later, the athlete reaches a landing location that slants downward at a maximum angle of 40 degrees. Most injuries previously occurred when snowboarders would slip on the flat area. However, this flat area was abandoned in Pyeongchang. Snowboarders now have a downward slope to land safely on. A snowboarder who falls 160 feet onto the flat area would most likely be injured. Landing on a sharp downward angle after slipping reduces this injury risk. As the snowboarder moves down a slope after landing, the repercussion of losing their grip and momentum is the equivalent of falling from a significantly lower height. The gravitational energy, or the movement of an object precipitated by the pull of gravity, is converted to forward-moving energy.

Weather was a factor the International Ski Federation, the Pyeongchang Organizing Committee for the Olympics and the Korean Ski Association could not regulate. If there

were heavy snow, strong winds or thick fog in these games, snowboarders could have had weak performances. Fortunately, this was not the case.

Figure Skating

A sport that has been part of the games since the 1924 Winter Olympics in France, figure skating challenges the neuroscience of an athlete's brain.

If a figure skater inclines their head backward, their body's reflexes will activate. This incline activates neurons responsible for discharging when the brain recognizes that the body is unsteady. Neurons travel from the inner ear to the brain stem. They then travel to the spinal cord and reach the muscles that instruct the body to swerve forward. This action precipitated by neurons saves figure skaters from stumbling after performing certain jumps.

The evidence that a figure skater's brain is revamped to overcome their reflexes and save the athlete from falling is seen in practice. When figure skaters train before competition, changes in brain activity occur. Training results in new outlines of neurons in the cerebellum, a brain region that manages muscular activity. When a figure skater advances into a move foreseen by the cerebellum, it launches neurons to invalidate reflex signals that restrict the figure skater's desired move. This improves a figure skater's performance.

Figure skaters overcome dizziness because their brains suppress a reflex in their eyes. The eyes of a non-skater instinctively move to counterbalance minor head gestures. When non-figure skaters go on a spinning ride where they can control the speed of their spin, and the ride suddenly stops, it still feels like they are moving. This sensation is caused by fluid in the inner ear responsible for identifying motion. The fluid proceeds to whirl around and the brain mistakenly believes it is still in motion. The eyes continue moving to amend their view, triggering dizziness. A figure skater's brain is wired differently. The brain adapts to skating moves by disregarding the incorrect sensation of movement at the end of a spin and drastically minimizes the eye reflex.

Physics is also included in figure skating. The point of support refers to where the skates touch the ice during a spin. The figure skater's center of gravity must remain straight above this point of support to ensure good balance.

Figure skating also demonstrates the important physics concept of how an object's vertical and horizontal velocities function separately. This is evident when a figure skater prepares to do a Salchow, a jump where the skater jumps from the back inner edge of one skate and comes down on the back outer edge of the other skate, and the Axel, a forward takeoff jump. In pair skating, this physics concept is evident when the male skater performs the twist lift, a move where he skates backwards, lifts his partner over his head and tosses her in the air. The female twists in the air, and the male skater then catches her.



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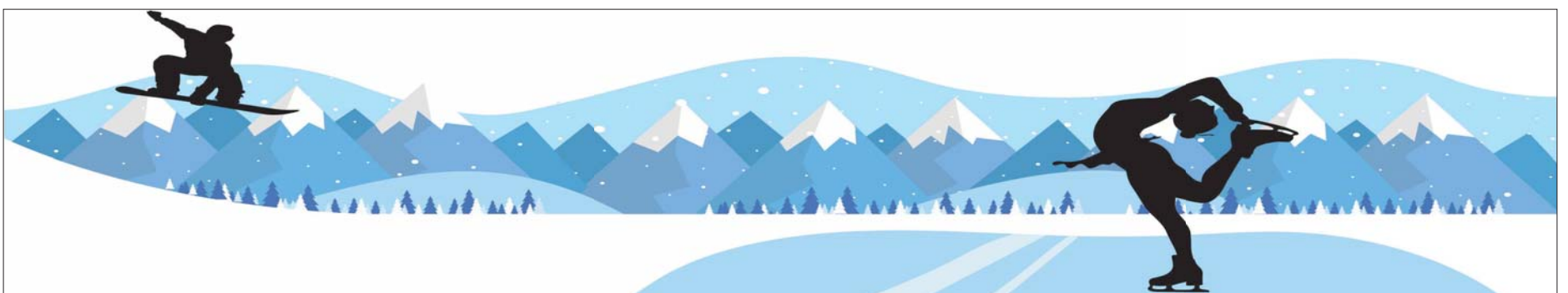
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THE NEW YORK TIMES



Sports

Mets look for renewed success under new skipper Callaway

BY SAM GAGLIARDI
COPY EDITOR

For fans of the New York Mets, last baseball season was a painful reminder of the cruel and unpredictable nature of the sport. After reaching the World Series in 2015 and the wildcard playoff game two years ago, the Mets seemed destined to keep producing wins at a high volume. The baseball gods had other ideas.

The Mets suffered a whole rash of injuries — specifically and most glaringly to their pitchers. Starting pitchers Matt Harvey, Noah Syndergaard and Steven Matz all suffered injuries that sidelined them for most of the year.

As one would expect, losses soon followed. The Mets pitching staff ranked in the bottom third of the league's team-pitching statistics and in the bottom half for all hitting statistics.

However, this year's Mets team is destined to rebound from such a disastrous season. It will not be because of an offseason player acquisition. Renewed health will be important, but the greatest difference from last year's team to this year's will be the team's new manager.

Mickey Callaway, hired as the new skipper last fall, will be taking over for Terry Collins. Callaway will become the youngest coach in the majors after Collins, who at 68 was the oldest in league last year. He arrives from the Cleveland Indians after crafting an impressive resume as the pitching coach of the most successful staff in the Major

Leagues over the last five years.

Prior to Callaway's hiring in Cleveland, the Indians pitching staff ranked dead last in the American League with a 4.79 earned run average. Over the next five years, the Indians won the most games in the AL, as well as led the league in ERA and strikeouts.

Last year the Indians staff — led by Cy Young winner Corey Kluber — set Major League records for strikeouts, strikeouts per nine innings and wins above replacement. The Indians' staff also led MLB in ERA, fielding independent pitching and strikeout percentage.

Callaway will be the first to acknowledge that he is not the one throwing the baseballs. He was never actually a great pitcher in his own right, winning only four games in his MLB career. He always knew though that coaching suit him best.

"I always felt when I was playing that I'd probably make a better coach than pitcher, but I still wanted to play long enough to get the experience," Callaway said.

As his old boss and Indians manager Terry Francona will attest, Callaway always exudes confidence and is very methodical in his approach. His previous players loved his hands-off coaching style. As Callaway was never one to force pitchers to do something they were not comfortable doing. He stressed communication and knowing what his pitchers were feeling, possibly tweaking only small pitching mechanics that best conform to their own styles of pitching. Callaway has already started working with his new pitchers in New York, even be-

fore spring training began last week.

Over the offseason, he and his staff took a much more hands-on approach to the pitching staff, monitoring their routines, after the Mets pitching staff was heavily criticized for last year's offseason approach. For Example, Syndergaard changed his offseason workouts this winter by lifting less, instead emphasizing flexibility and athleticism.

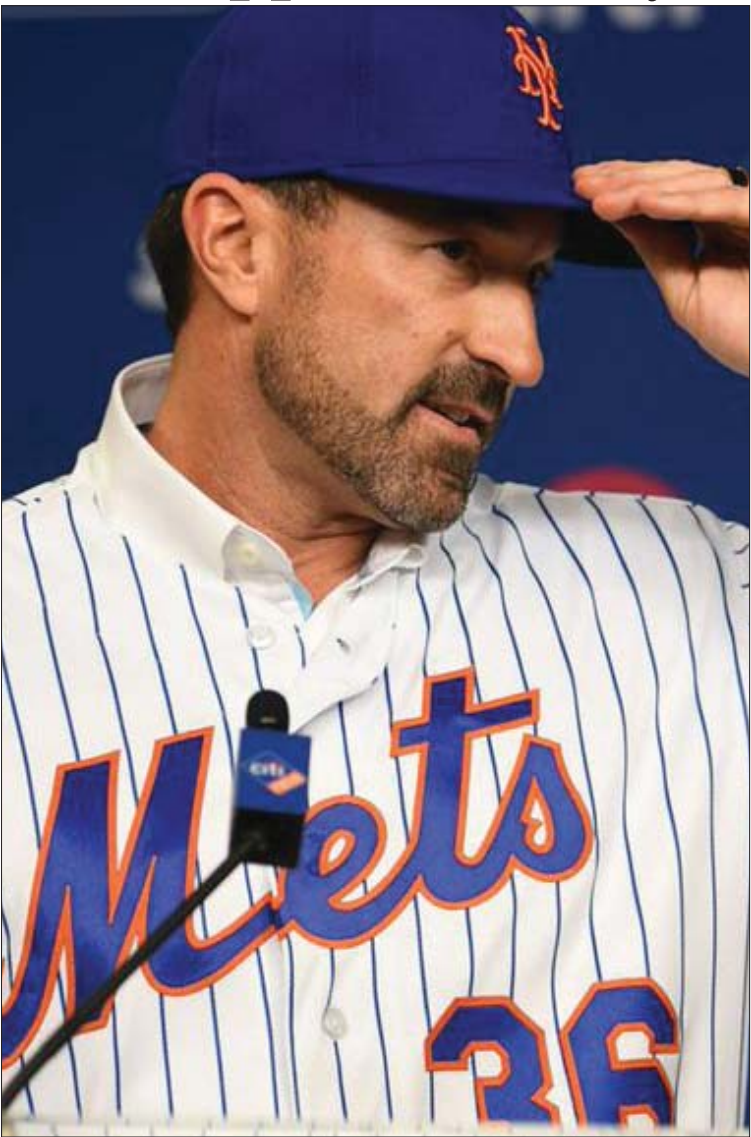
Even if the rotation can have a bounce-back year and be as dominant on the field as it appears on paper, other areas of concern remain. The bullpen, and specifically the closer role will be by committee, after the Mets lost Addison Reed, their most effective bullpen arm, to the free agency.

Their biggest on-field off-season acquisition, Jay Bruce, played most of last year for them before being traded — a year in which they won only 70 games.

The team did add Todd Frazier at third base to replace David Wright, who is still sidelined with a shoulder injury. The team also added 18-game winner Jason Vargas to the starting rotation, which will strengthen its depth, in case more injuries occur.

As long as the hitting, bullpen and defense can be middle-of-the-pack in terms of team statistics and the Mets starting pitching staff can stay healthy, this year's team has the potential to return to the playoffs.

As Callaway recently said, "The front office has gotten us the players. ... If we do not do something special with the group we have in place, it's going to be on the leadership. That's going to be on me."



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The Mets hope Callaway will have the same success he had in Cleveland.

New York Mets sign multiple playmakers ahead of spring training

BY EVAN LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

In the midst of a relatively idle MLB offseason, few would have guessed that the normally frugal New York Mets would be one of this winter's most active teams. The Mets knew they needed to make upgrades both on and off the field after a dismal 2017 season, but the options were thin.

Dabbling in the trade market would have cost them too many of their budding prospects, not to mention the fact that most of the players available are already well past their prime, such as Evan Longoria and Andrew McCutchen. Without much of a choice, General Manager Sandy Alderson decided to whip out the checkbook and dive headfirst into the free agent market.

Many premier players are expected to hit the market next year, but this winter still saw quite a few serviceable veterans looking for new teams. While the majority of the league engaged in a stare down with All-Stars like J.D. Martinez and Jake Arrieta, the Mets quietly swooped in and nabbed cheaper options before they could be outbid. Todd Frazier, Anthony Swarzak and Adrián González are three promising new players who will now spend most of their summer in Flushing, Queens.

None of these signings are exactly jaw-dropping, but they all help fill serious roster holes that plagued the Mets last year. As much as it will pain the team's fans to admit, the David Wright era is coming to an end.

Frazier comes in on an inexpensive short-term deal that will allow Asdrúbal Cabrera to move to second base, a position he much prefers. Despite his low batting average the past couple of seasons, the



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Bruce's return to the Mets on a bargain deal, along with the signings of González and Frazier, is a significant lineup boost.

two-time All-Star has a history of being a powerful lineup presence.

Frazier mashed 40 homeruns for the White Sox just two seasons ago, after winning the Homerun Derby the year before.

If he has anywhere near that level of production over the next two years, this signing will look brilliant. His substantial leadership skills and infectious personality will also do wonders for the clubhouse.

González is another former All-Star whose stock has dropped due to injuries and age. His extremely affordable contract could end up being the steal of the offseason if he can also manage to replicate the stats he put up two years ago. Even if he loses the starting job to Domi-

nic Smith, the Mets took a minimal risk on an experienced slugger with a proven track record.

Swarzak is probably the least recognizable name to the casual baseball fan, but not for long. The right-handed reliever had a breakout year last season with the White Sox and Milwaukee Brewers, boasting career bests in nearly every pitching statistic.

His presence bolsters an already solid bullpen and reunites Swarzak with new manager Mickey Callaway. Swarzak attributes his revamped career to Callaway, referencing the time the two spent together as part of the Cleveland Indians organization two years earlier.

The biggest move for the Mets,

however, may have been bringing back a familiar face. Jay Bruce agreed to return to New York on a multiyear deal after being traded to the Indians last summer. While Bruce struggled during his time with the Mets last season, he rediscovered his swing while in Cleveland and helped propel the team to the playoffs. Bruce provides a much-needed power surge to an otherwise lackluster lineup.

The All-Star slugger is not the only player returning to Queens, as longtime Met José Reyes chose to return to New York to serve as a utility infielder and provide necessary depth for a team that was tormented by injuries last years.

All these players, old and new, will be playing under the direction

of rookie manager Callaway.

Despite the many improvements to the offense, the Mets still remain a team that relies on pitching, something Callaway knows plenty about. The 42-year-old former pitcher has been the Indians' pitching coach for the last five seasons, guiding the team's staff to the lowest ERA and most strikeouts in all of baseball.

His wisdom has helped pitchers like Corey Kluber, Trevor Bauer and Carlos Carrasco all emerge into stars. The Mets are hoping Callaway's knowledge can help Matt Harvey, Noah Syndergaard, Jacob deGrom and the rest of the staff regain the dominance they all have displayed at one time or another during their careers.

While his inexperience might worry some, his track record speaks for itself. Learning under future Hall of Famer Terry Francona over the years puts Callaway in a perfect position to thrive at the helm of this franchise.

All in all, the Mets have made plenty of moves this offseason without spending a ghastly amount of money. They improved the team for the short term without falling into any expensive traps that could cripple the team down the road. Unfortunately, much of this team's success will depend on whether the injury bug bites as hard as it did last year.

Under new management, a healthy Mets team might be able to surprise many in the National League. For long-suffering fans of the organization, watching the Mets be active in the offseason while making smart deals is refreshing.

It remains to be seen whether these moves will translate to wins on the field, but New Yorkers have a reason to feel hopeful.



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After an embarrassing 7-4 loss to the Flyers, it is looking as if the Rangers' era of success is winding down. Players like Nash and McDonagh have increased trade value with strong play, despite the team's slump.

Rangers' horrific stretch continues with trade deadline nearing

BY FELIX MALAMUD
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As the calendar hit Feb. 8, the Blueshirt fans were to face a harsh reality that they have not witnessed in over 15 years. The New York Rangers were on the verge of selling every top player they had in preparation for a new era in the team's storied nine-decade history.

Just the day before, the Rangers were beat down by their longtime rival, the Boston Bruins, by a score of 6-1, their fourth consecutive regulation loss. It did not help that the game was in Madison Square Garden, as frustrated Rangers fans watched their team put up one of the most atrocious and lackluster performances of the season.

The very next day, President Glen Sather and General Manager Jeff Gorton addressed the fans with a letter that indicated what the team's direction will be moving forward. Every Rangers fan's fears came true, as the letter explicitly stated that the team was looking toward the future. At that point, it was pretty obvious that players like Rick Nash, Ryan McDonagh, Mats Zuccarello and Michael Grabner were not going to be wearing Rangers uniforms for much longer.

The Rangers players took this message as motivation, at least for two games. They responded by winning back-to-back games against two of the Western Conference's best teams, the Calgary Flames and the Winnipeg Jets. Suddenly, the Rangers were only a game or two away from playoff contention.

However, just two days after the Rangers defeated the Jets on Sunday, Feb. 11, reality came back to haunt them. They had a very busy schedule the following week, as they faced the Minnesota Wild, the New York Islanders, the Ottawa Senators and the Philadelphia Flyers, most of which are in postseason contention.

Looking to carry their so-called "momentum" into these crucial games, the Rangers laid a massive egg that week, as they lost all four games in regulation, their second four-game regulation losing streak in a span of just 18 days. They have

sunk deeper than the Titanic, if that is even possible. Breaking down each of these matches will give a glimpse as to why the Rangers have sunk so low.

The Rangers began the week with a tough road test against the Wild, one of the league's best home teams. To say the Rangers came out a step slow would be a huge understatement. They did not look even the slightest bit prepared when they came out onto the ice.

It took the Wild just six minutes and 17 seconds to expose the Rangers' horrific defense and poor puck management to jump out to a commanding 3-0 lead. Eric Staal, Zach Parise and Marcus Foligno each tallied a goal for Minnesota. That is when Rangers head coach Alain Vigneault took a timeout and addressed his team.

Normally a mild-mannered and calm-headed coach, Vigneault was visibly frustrated with his team's constant careless mistakes leading to continued poor starts to games and he expressed this frustration in the timeout. That seemed to give the Rangers a little bit of a jolt to their game, as they quickly responded with a power-play goal at 8:50, courtesy of recent call-up John Gilmour. It was the young defenseman's first NHL goal, which cut the deficit to 3-1.

The Rangers played much better in the second period, outshooting the Wild 19-8 and adding another goal thanks to Kevin Hayes. Down 3-2, the Rangers could not capitalize on any more opportunities, mainly due to the superb play of Wild goaltender Devan Dubnyk in the second period and the Wild's stingy defense in the third period. Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist finished strong after giving up those three early goals, but it was not enough as his team fell to the Wild 3-2.

Two nights later on Feb. 15, the Rangers faced their crosstown rivals, the Islanders, at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The Rangers had not beaten the Islanders since last season's opening game, a 5-3 victory at the Garden in October of 2016. That losing streak continued, as the Islanders, despite having the

league's worst defense, shut out the Rangers 3-0. Lundqvist made 32 saves, putting up a solid performance, but that did not compare to what Islanders goaltender Jaroslav Halák did. Halák made an astounding 50 saves that night.

It was his second consecutive start facing 50 or more shots, as he faced 51 shots in his previous start, a 4-1 loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Josh Bailey, Jordan Eberle and Thomas Hickey all scored for the Islanders and rookie sensation Mathew Barzal registered three assists. The Rangers definitely exposed the Islanders defense with the 50 shots on goal. What they did not do is put the puck in the net, legally that is.

The Rangers had a goal called back midway through the third period after the officials reviewed whether David Desharnais distinctly kicked the puck in with his skate. Unfortunately, that was the case, and the Rangers left Brooklyn with a 3-0 shutout loss.

They are winless in five trips to the Barclays Center, with a record of 0-4-1. The two teams will meet again at the Barclays Center on April 5, the Rangers second-to-last game of the season.

The Rangers concluded their short road trip with a match against the Senators on Saturday Feb. 17. The Senators were one of the league's biggest disappointments, as they went from being one shot away from the Stanley Cup Finals last season, after defeating the Rangers in the semifinals, to being a complete train wreck on the ice this season.

Rangers forward Pavel Buchnevich returned to the lineup after missing nine games with a concussion. Having a top-six forward back in the lineup and facing a struggling team should have all but guaranteed a Rangers victory. This is the Rangers and irony quickly kicked in.

Once again, the Rangers came out unprepared and made countless defensive errors, turnovers and mental mistakes. They made the Senators team look like the team from last season, as the Rangers suffered a terrible 6-3 defeat to one

of the league's worst teams.

Five Senators recorded at least two points, with former Ranger Derick Brassard leading the way with a goal and two assists. Grabner scored twice for the Rangers and Mika Zibanejad added a power-play goal. Lundqvist was pulled after allowing five goals on 22 shots, replaced by newcomer Brandon Halverson in the third period. This was the third time in eight games that Lundqvist was yanked, raising serious questions about his play and his ability to be a No. 1 goaltender.

Less than 24 hours later, the Rangers were back home for a noon game against their half-century rival, the Philadelphia Flyers.

The game started off with both teams scoring three times in the first period, with the Rangers having a 14-11 edge in shots on goal. Hayes, Nash and Zuccarello scored for the Rangers in that period. Flyers goaltender Michal Neuvirth left the game after the first period with an apparent injury and was replaced by Alex Lyon. Lyon played masterfully the rest of the way, stopping 25 of 26 shots in relief. The Flyers grabbed a 4-3 lead early in the second period thanks to Nolan Patrick, this past draft's second overall pick behind Nico Hischier of the New Jersey Devils.

The Rangers responded with a goal from Peter Holland, his first in a Rangers uniform, to tie the game at 4. But with less than five minutes to go in the frame, the Flyers regained the lead, courtesy of Travis Konecny. The Flyers put the game away in the third period with goals from Claude Giroux and Jori Lehterä en route to a 7-4 thumping of the Rangers. Lundqvist allowed all seven goals, while Lyon earned the victory in relief.

Just 11 days after the Rangers came out of the All-Star break with a four-game regulation losing streak, they did the very same thing, dropping their record to 27-28-5. They now have a losing record this season for the first time since Nov. 4.

This is also the first time since the 2009-2010 season that the Rangers have a losing record

through 60 games. They narrowly missed the playoffs that season, after losing a shootout to the Flyers in the final game. Everything that could possibly go wrong has gone wrong for the Rangers, as the defense continued to fall apart, the offense became stagnant and the goaltending became shockingly unreliable.

As hard as it is to say, age and attrition has kicked in for Lundqvist, whose recent performances make him look like a shell of his former self. He started all four games this past week and gave up 18 goals in those games. Since Jan. 21, he has posted an abysmal 4.32 goal-against average and .875 save percentage, dropping his season stats to a 2.89 goals against average and a .914 save percentage.

The Rangers have lost eight of 10 since the end of the all-star break and 15 of 22 games since the start of 2018. They have officially hit rock bottom and it appears that they have no other option than to sell every player worth something to acquire more young players for the future.

It does not appear that Vigneault will be back behind the Rangers bench next season, as he clearly deserves some blame for the team's struggles. His reluctance to utilize young players and continuing to use his washed-up veterans has clearly slowed this team down and has given the Rangers no direct path for the next few seasons.

They have fallen out of playoff contention, and it appears that their consecutive postseason streak will end at seven, especially if they are the major sellers that fans expect them to be at the trade deadline. Every time they try to rebound, they find new ways to fall even farther.

Now, it is too late and all the injuries, underachievers and inept performances have added up to a season marred by pathetic effort and lack of leadership, character and identity. They have dug themselves into a hole the size of a canyon and it appears that they will not be getting out anytime soon. Fans can now look toward the future as this season is all but finished.

Exciting All-Star Weekend highlights busy week of NBA action

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With All-Star Weekend having just been pasted on the NBA calendar, some teams are hoping to ride hot streaks following the break, while others are hoping to make a final push toward the playoffs. This edition will be focusing on teams that are trying to make a push into the playoffs.

On Monday, Feb. 12, the New Orleans Pelicans went on the road to play the Detroit Pistons. Since the DeMarcus Cousins injury, All-Star Anthony Davis has put the team on his back and he is beginning to dominate his opponents. In his matchup with Blake Griffin, Davis dominated, putting up 38 points and 10 rebounds. His performance led to a 118-103 win. Going into the all-star break, the Pelicans are 31-26 and the eighth seed in the Western Conference.

The Los Angeles Clippers are trying to stay in the mix as well, for the eighth seed in the West, even after losing star Griffin. In their game against the Brooklyn Nets, seven of their players scored double-digit points, leading them to a 114-101 victory. They were led by their center DeAndre Jordan, who scored 16 points and had 17 rebounds. At 30-26, they are just one game out of the eighth seed.

The following day, the new-look Cleveland Cavaliers played the Oklahoma City Thunder. The Cavs are looking to win four games in a row. LeBron James continues to dominate his opponents and is making sure that the Cavs will make another run to the Finals.

This game was close, but the Cavs were able to hold out in the end and win 120-112. LeBron finished with 37 points, eight rebounds and eight assists. The top four of the five starters for the Thun-



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Mitchell's incredible dunk contest performance included creativity, as well as an homage to the legendary Vince Carter.

der finished with over 20 points. At the break, the Cavs are 34-22 and are currently third in the Eastern Conference, while the Thunder are 33-26 and fifth in the West. However, both teams are not living up to their expectations.

The Miami Heat are currently in the eighth seed in the East. On Tuesday, the Heat matched up against the first seed in the conference, the Toronto Raptors.

The Raptors led by as much as 17 points in the fourth quarter, but the Heat were able to cut the lead all the way down to two, although the Heat's Josh Richardson was unable to hit the game-tying three-pointer with the clock hitting zero. The Raptors won 115-112. Goran Dragic led the Heat with 28 points, and Raptors' DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 27 points in their win.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, the Philadelphia 76ers were looking for

their fifth consecutive win against the Heat. With Joel Embiid resting with a sore right ankle, Ben Simmons stepped up and recorded a triple-double, but even with his performance, the Sixers were only able to win 104-102. The Sixers are going into the break at 30-25 and sit in the seventh seed in the East.

The Utah Jazz have been rolling through their competition recently, as they have won 10 games in a row. In their game against the Phoenix Suns, rookie Donovan Mitchell continues to make his case for Rookie of the Year as he finished with 24 points.

He led the team to its 11th win in a row by a score of 107-97. They currently sit as the 10th seed in the West and are hoping that they can continue this current hot streak after the break.

In the night cap of the day, the Golden State Warriors traveled to play the Portland Trail Blazers in

what would be a great game. Both Blazers' Damian Lillard and Warriors' Kevin Durant went off in the game, with Lillard finishing at 44 points and Durant finishing at 50 points. Although Durant won the points battle, Lillard got the last laugh as the Blazers beat the Warriors 123-117. Following the loss, the Warriors fell out of the first seed in the West to the second seed, behind the Houston Rockets. The Trail Blazers are sitting in the seventh seed in the conference.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, the final day before the break began, only two games were played. The Denver Nuggets went on the road to play the Milwaukee Bucks, hoping they could come out with a win. Nuggets' star center Nikola Jokic finished the first half with an impressive triple-double, and ended with an amazing 30-point, 15-rebound and 17-assist game. Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo also fin-

ished the game with a triple-double, but Joki's effort was not in vain as the Nuggets came out with the 134-123 win. Both the Nuggets and Bucks are sixth in the West and East respectively.

Friday, Feb. 16, was the beginning of the All-Star Weekend festivities, kicking off with the Celebrity All-Star Game. Team Clippers beat Team Lakers 75-66. The MVP of the game was rap star Quavo, who is part of the hip-hop trio known as Migos. He finished with 19 points.

This game was directly followed by the Rising Stars Challenge, played by Team USA and Team World. In this game, Team World dominated 155-124. Sacramento Kings' rookie Bogdan Bogdanovic received the MVP award by finishing with 26 points on 7-13 shooting from three and six assists.

Saturday, Feb. 17, hosted all the fan-favorite festivities. Spencer Dinwiddie won the Taco Bell Skills Challenge, Devin Booker won the JBL Three-Point Contest and Donovan Mitchell won the Verizon Slam Dunk Contest.

The All-Star Game between Team LeBron James and Team Stephen Curry took place on Sunday, Feb. 18. In this game, the teams swapped out the traditional East versus West format and went with a draft led by two captains. The captains — LeBron and Curry — were chosen after receiving the highest vote total from the fans.

LeBron's team came out on top by a score of 148-145, with the team captain fittingly hitting the game-winning layup with just 34 seconds left in the game. LeBron also took home the MVP award after finishing with 29 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Curry only finished with 11 points. Each member of the winning team received \$100,000, while the losers received \$25,000.

Kitchee SC falls to Quanjian 3-0, Forlán debut renews interest for team's fans

BY WEN XI CHEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Jan. 14, Diego Forlán, the top scorer of the 2010 World Cup, made his debut for his new club, Kitchee SC. There were 3,200 fans in Mong Kok Stadium. The average attendance for Kitchee in the 2017-2018 season was 2,170. Forlán was only on the field for three minutes.

It was clear from the beginning that the purpose of luring the two-time Pichichi Trophy winner, including one win in the era of duopoly between Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, was to fare better against the Asian giants in the Asian Champions League. However, the boys in blue did not meet the expectation in Tianjin.

Kitchee wanted to do better than Eastern S.C. did last season — one draw, five defeats, one goal scored and 24 conceded. Eastern S.C. was the first club to ever participate in the ACL and has a campaign shadowed by political controversies.

"Tianjin Quanjian, playing in the Chinese Super League, definitely has a better quality than that of the teams in Hong Kong," Kitchee head coach Chu Chi Kwong said in an interview with Tianjin local media ahead of the game. "So we will prepare more and see if we can perform better."

Kitchee left Hong Kong on Saturday, Feb. 10, in an attempt to acclimate to the blistering cold weather, showing the dedication to a decent campaign, but lost 3-0 nonetheless on Tuesday, Feb. 13, to Quanjian.

In addition to the cold weather, Kwong also conceded that Kitchee would be reactive in the game. He was right, as his team, with 36 per-



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Despite the presence of the legendary Forlán, Kitchee proved they still have to work.

cent of the possession, was broadly responding to whatever moves Quanjian initiated.

Quanjian, scoring three goals in seven minutes, essentially finished the game before the halftime whistle. With Alexandre Pato dropping off from his forward position to take up a role of schemer, his passing techniques often destabilized the Kitchee defense. Manager Paulo Sousa, using tactics different from those employed in the play-off against Ceres-Negros F.C., instructed players to use the width of the pitch, delivering the balls from both wings to exploit Kitchee's weakness in defending in the air.

Anthony Modeste, bagging two goals in the previous game, was the main benefactor of the tactic. He headed one goal to the bottom corner, leaving Kitchee goalkeeper Wang Zhenpeng, who had already made an impressive save from Modeste just five minutes earlier, stretching but getting nowhere near the ball.

Four minutes later, while Zheng Dalun was running into the box from the defense-splitting pass from Pato, Modeste dropped off

to the penalty spot. Paulinho deflected the shot from Modeste into the goal. Sun Ke scored a diving header with an assist from Wang Yongpo in the ensuing minutes.

Nearing the end of the game, Tong Kin Man fired above the goal after Alessandro Leonardo's layoff from an accurate pass by Fernando Comi, Hong Kong Premier League's best player last season. Kitchee was not a challenge to Quanjian.

Tianjin did not, however, further capitalize on the increasingly tired Kitchee side to score more goals in the second half.

That could prove to be the deciding factor in a competitive group consisting of K-league champion Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors FC and ACL regular from Japan, Kashiwa Reysol.

Kitchee, after one game, can already be dismissed as a mere bystander of the competition. Hong Kong, a storied region that pioneered Asian soccer and the place where the first soccer team consisting of Chinese players was born, seemed to be unable to stop the decline in the beautiful game.

Ronaldo nets 101st Champions League goal

BY DONALD SOUDEN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Champions League action kicked off this week in soccer, and featured four matches to enjoy as European competition came back to the forefront. Manchester City F.C. faced FC Basel who was no match for them. Manchester City won 4-0 with goals from Ilkay Gündogan, Bernardo Silva and a screamer from outside the box by Sergio Agüero. Leroy Sané also played for the first time since his injury back in January against Everton F.C.

Tottenham Hotspur F.C. went over to Italy and faced Juventus F.C. in what was a thrilling game to watch. Tottenham went down 2-0 within the first 10 minutes, with two goals from Gonzalo Higuaín. Despite this, the Spurs fought back with a Harry Kane goal in the 35th minute, showing once again why he is one of Europe's brightest stars. Higuaín missed a penalty just before halftime that would have put the game away for Juventus.

A goal from Christian Eriksen brought Tottenham back into the game and ended the match with a 2-2 draw, something Spurs fans will be delighted about as the team plays the second leg back in London. Liverpool F.C. went to Portugal to face FC Porto, with the former destroying the latter.

Beating Porto 5-0, the Reds put an absolutely beautiful brand of football on display. Goals from Roberto Firmino, breakout star Mohamed Salah and a hat-trick for Sadio Mané showed that the Merseyside squad has one of the best attacking forces in the world.

The players of Paris Saint-

Germain F.C. went over to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium with their work cut out for them. They took the lead early on with a goal from Adrien Rabiot — with a beautiful backheel assist from Neymar — but it was to no avail. PSG gave away a penalty just before halftime, and Cristiano Ronaldo scored it. Ronaldo then went on to score in the 83rd minute completing his brace and a goal shortly after from Marcelo Vieira meant Real Madrid would walk away with a 3-1 win.

The weekend continued with the magic of the FA Cup. Chelsea F.C. destroyed Hull City 4-0, with goals from Pedro Ledesma, new signing Olivier Giroud and a brace from Willian Silva. Manchester United F.C. faced Huddersfield Town A.F.C. and showed why the club is one of the favorites to win the competition. Tottenham played Rochdale A.F.C. to an exciting 2-2 draw. Kane has now scored 34 goals this season. In the Bundesliga, FC Bayern Munich continues to dominate with a 2-1 win over VfL Wolfsburg, the goods coming from Sandro Wagner and Robert Lewandowski.

Borussia Dortmund also came home with a win, 1-0 against Borussia Mönchengladbach thanks to an amazing goal from Marco Reus on his return from injury. In La Liga, FC Barcelona still runs the show, defeating SD Eibar 2-0 courtesy of goals from Luis Suárez and Jordi Alba. Real Madrid C.F. won an eight-goal thriller against Real Betis. Goals from Sergio Ramos, Ronaldo, Karim Benzema and a brace from young star Marco Asensio meant that Los Blancos would walk away with a 5-3 win.

Baruch roller hockey team looks to playoffs

BY PETER LAMBROU
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The roller hockey club at Baruch College finished its regular season on Feb. 18 with a record of 7-5-1. The performance was good enough for a fourth place seed in the Division 4 of the Eastern Collegiate Roller Hockey Association.

There were many high points for the team this year. Contributions up and down the lineup led the team to its first winning season in five years and a chance to play for the ECRHA Conference Championship in Feasterville, PA on March 2 and 3.

Senior Forward and Assistant Captain Kevin Spillane and senior defenseman Captain Peter Lambrou led the team in goals, points and assists respectively. Spillane finished the season with 23 points, a combined 17 goals and six assists in 11 games, while Lambrou led the team in points with 32, a combined 14 goals and 18 assists in 12 games. Both players were selected for the ECRHA All-Star Game on Feb. 17.

The Lambrou-Spillane connection has been running strong for the past three years. Spillane has perhaps one of the best snap shots in the ECRHA and a great sense for the back of the net. His skills were shown firsthand when he won the shootout challenge, while Lambrou plays a responsible two-way game with elite playmaking, skating and passing abilities. Lambrou's 18 assists were tied for most in the league.

Junior forward Daniel Glattman Glattman put up a very respectable 23 points, with a combined 16 goals and seven assists during the season. Junior forward

and Assistant Captain Joseph Spaeth proved his worth on the defensive side of the rink, getting big minutes on the penalty kill and taking a lot of faceoffs for the Bearcats.

Senior defenseman Ryan Coakley brings a much-needed veteran presence to the team. Coakley is the only player on the squad remaining from the 2012-2013 Division 3 ECRHA championship team. Graduate student Taylor Bellina, burst onto the scene following the squad's first regular season tournament in November.

Bellina has been a huge part of the offensive attack since joining the club. In the eight games he has played, he posted very respectable 15 points, scoring 11 goals with four assists.

Freshmen Jake Berger, Joseph Ambler, Ezra Kushner and Gabriel Kerstein have all added a youthful energy to the team. Providing formidable energy and contributing on both ends of the rink.

Lambrou was nominated as a candidate for Player of the Year by the ECRHA, while Glattman and Bellina were nominated as Rookie of the Year candidates. The results will be released at the ECRHA's award banquet in Feasterville during the playoff weekend.

The top eight out of nine teams made the playoffs this season with two bracket pools. Seeds one, four, five and eight will all play each other once. While seeds two, three, six and seven will all play each other once with the best three teams from each pool advancing to the next bracket of the playoffs. Baruch's schedule is as follows: Friday at 5 p.m. vs University of Vermont, Friday 10 p.m. vs Niagara University, and Saturday at 10 a.m.

BARUCH
ATHLETICS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Baruch	College of Staten Island
67	77

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Baruch	Lehman
69	91

MEN'S SWIMMING

Baruch vs Metro Day 3

14th Place

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Baruch vs Metro Day 3

14th Place

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Baruch	Medgar Evers College	Baruch	York College
3	0	3	0

STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER

Teams to beat are revealed as MLB Spring Training, Opening Day close in

BY RAY MAURER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Now that the Super Bowl excitement has diminished, the MLB spring training season is coming up. The painfully slow offseason is coming to an end and all 30 clubs are looking forward to an exciting 2018 season. For many teams, there could still be some more acquisitions on the way. J.D. Martinez and Eric Hosmer finally signed with new teams, and with the free agent pool being rich, many talented players are still looking for new homes.

The defending champions The Houston Astros were not quiet this offseason, making a trade for former Pittsburgh Pirates ace Gerrit Cole, in an attempt to bolster the staff. Adding Cole to a rotation with Dallas Keuchel, Justin Verlander and Lance McCullers Jr. gives them a great shot to have the best rotation in the American League, and possibly repeat as champs.

The Astros did not lose a beat offensively either, bringing back the reigning AL MVP José Altuve, along with the rest of their young core hitters in Carlos Correa and Alex Bregman. The Astros are arguably better than they were in 2017 and will be tough to beat.

The team in the AL with the best shot of beating the Astros is the New York Yankees. The Yankees shook the hierarchy of the MLB with the biggest acquisition in the league. They completed a deal with the Miami Marlins to add 2017 National League MVP Giancarlo Stanton in exchange for second baseman Starlin Castro and other assets. Adding Stanton immediately gives the Yankees the most feared lineup in the MLB, with the



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The Astros and Yankees are the AL favorites, while the Dodgers are the NL favorites.

potential for four hitters to have 30 plus HRs, and 100 plus RBIs. As all the teams sit now, the AL looks like a two-team race, with teams like the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox on the outside looking in. But as any MLB fan knows, what the result should be on paper is never a guarantee.

On the other side of the league, the National League is wide open for the taking, with a much more level playing field. The Los Angeles Dodgers lost Yu Darvish, who signed a big deal with the Chicago Cubs. The Milwaukee Brewers bolstered their lineup, signing Lorenzo Cain, and trading for Christian Yelich, looking to compete with the Cubs in the NL Central.

In the NL East, it is shaping up to be a two-horse race between the Washington Nationals and the New York Mets. Both teams were injury-riddled last year, especially the Mets, who had seemingly their entire pitching staff and lineup on the disabled list for the majority of the year. In an attempt to change that, the Mets hired Mikey Callaway to manage the team, and fired incompetent trainer Ray Ramirez, who could possibly be the worst

trainer in MLB history.

Seemingly everything Ramirez did, turned every MLB player into an injury-prone player as soon as the trainer touched them. Hopefully with all the changes, the Mets can stay healthy this upcoming season.

The Nationals are getting help from the disabled list in the form of Adam Eaton and Stephen Strasburg, both key contributors looking for a long campaign this year. With Bryce Harper and Daniel Murphy in contract years, this might be the last shot for the Nationals to finally get past the first round.

The Mets were anything but quiet over the winter. They started off by taking a flyer on Adrián González, who might have something left in the tank. Gonzalez will be a key part of showing Dominic Smith the ropes, as the Mets hope Smith can eventually take over the first base role for the long term. The team then brought back Jay Bruce on a three-year deal and signed veterans Todd Frazier and Jason Vargas to bring experience and depth to the squad. The Mets are a dark horse to make the playoffs in 2018.

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HAVE ESP(N).



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Baruch Weekly

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

MON 26	IVCF TABLING - OUTREACH/BUZZ EVENT 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. NVC 2nd Floor Lobby Free
TUES 27	EXCEL WITH ALUMNI: BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. NVC 2-125 Free
WED 28	ZUTS & RSM TAX CASE COMPETITION INFORMATION SESSION 12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. NVC 10-175 Free
THURS 1	MEN'S VOLLEYBALL: BARUCH VS. THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK 7 p.m. NVC B2 Main Gym Free
FRI 2	LINKEDIN WORKSHOP 12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m. NVC 2-125 Free
SAT 3	AKPSI PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. NVC 3-210 Free
SUN 4	CIRCLE K DIVISION 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. NVC 3-215 Free
	THE LARAMIE PROJECT 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. BPAC Engelman Recital Hall Reservation Required
	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
	WILLIAM HOBBS & KATE MANGIAMELI: FROM THE BALTIC TO THE DANUBE: FINLAND & HUNGARY - MUSICAL NEIGHBORS? 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Rosalyn and Irwin Engelman Recital Hall \$16 - \$36

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

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SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE 3								
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DAYS FOR THIS WEEK:



CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

Starr Career Development Center

Career Spotlight

baruch.cuny.edu/careers
blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/starrlights/
blogs.baruch.cuny.edu/scdc/
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Baruch College Starr Career Development Center

SAVE THE DATE

- Baruch & Beyond Roundtable: International Business**
Tuesday, Feb. 27, 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., NVC 14-250
Come to this workshop to find out more about careers in the international business sector!

Job Search Strategies
Tuesday, Feb. 27, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 2-190
Come and attend this workshop to learn how to develop an effective job search plan!

Writing Winning Resumes
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 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!

Mastering the Job Interview: Advanced
Wednesday, Feb. 28, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
Juniors and seniors: Come if you attended the basic workshop and desire more intensive training!

PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

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

Applying for internships just isn't enough. Informational interviews are a great way to learn about a specific company, industry, or role that you are interested in. In addition to reaching out to set up a meeting, it's important that you conduct research, prepare questions, and follow up with recruiters.

- Nyuma Gumaneh, Peer for Careers

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

IgnitionOne/Netmining Client Services Intern

IgnitionOne offers technology and services that help marketers win. This company focuses on intelligent audience creation, real-time cross-channel scoring, and robust optimization, providing a layer for smarter marketing decisions and deeper insights. With a global footprint of hundreds of employees in 10 countries, IgnitionOne is one of the largest independent marketing technology companies in the world, currently scoring over 300 million users monthly in 75 countries and powering more than

\$60 billion in revenue each year for leading brands, including General Motors, CenturyLink, La Quinta and Acer, as well as advertising agencies such as 360i, GroupM and ZenithOptimedia. They are currently seeking a Client Services Intern, who will work in a dynamic, entrepreneurial environment alongside some of the smartest thought leaders in advertising technology. They will collaborate on ground-breaking, challenging assignments where the interns' opinion matters and grow pro-

fessionally. High performers are recognized and rewarded. Duties of the Client Services Intern position include creating revenue and performance reports for specific clients, assisting with marketing campaign set-up, assisting in the coordination of deliverables with the team, preparing screenshots and other materials for client presentations, participating in the Client Services meetings and supporting the Client Services team with ad-hoc requests and projects.

Starr Search ID: 112152

DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS/MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) Desk Intern

The New York Cell is part of the Operational Centre Paris, an operational partnership under the responsibility of the Operations Director in Paris. The New York Cell has been operational since January 2004 and currently manages programs in Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Sudan and South Sudan. The New York Desk manages operations in three countries: Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia. The Desk is comprised of a nine-person team that oversees and directs all field operations in those

countries. The Desk Intern will assist the NY Desk with administrative responsibilities related to travel, visas and work permits for the expatriate staff traveling to and from the field projects. The main objective of the Desk Intern position is to assist in the preparation of all departure and return procedures to ensure successful movements to and from the field projects of the NY Desk, while gaining knowledge and exposure to specific MSF operations.

The Desk Intern will be expected to perform research on work permit and visa procedures, complete accurate visa application packages for expatriates, courier visa applications to consulates, assist with research and travel arrangements, hotels and vaccination appointments, update employee files, and attend BBLs, public education events and department meetings scheduled frequently.

Starr Search ID: 109690