

## OPINIONS 9

**Kobe Oscar win eclipses rape allegations (p. 9)**

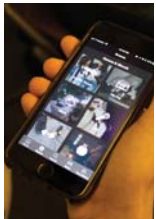


Kobe Bryant won an Oscar for best short animated film despite having been the subject of sexual assault allegations. The

Oscar's this year were held during the height of the Time's Up movement baffling many of the viewers.

## BUSINESS 12

**Spotify files paperwork for \$1 billion IPO (p. 12)**



Spotify, the popular music, podcast and video streaming service, filed paperwork in February for an initial public offering of \$1 billion. The

service has approximately 159 million monthly users, with 71 paying for premium service.

## ARTS & STYLE 14

**Black Panther builds world from African cultures (p. 16)**



Coogler's film resembled works of African art, showing a regal vision of the kingdom of Wakanda. The film contained positive mes-

sages of black pride and offered compelling perspectives from the hero and the villain.

## SCIENCE & TECH 19

**Daydreamers demonstrate higher intellect (p. 19)**



Daydreamers score higher in intellectual and creative ability, according to a Georgia Institute of Technology study. People

who have difficulty focusing on simple tasks and zone out during lectures have efficient brains, as they have more mental capacity.

## SPORTS 21

**Rangers' young talent shines in Canada (p. 22)**



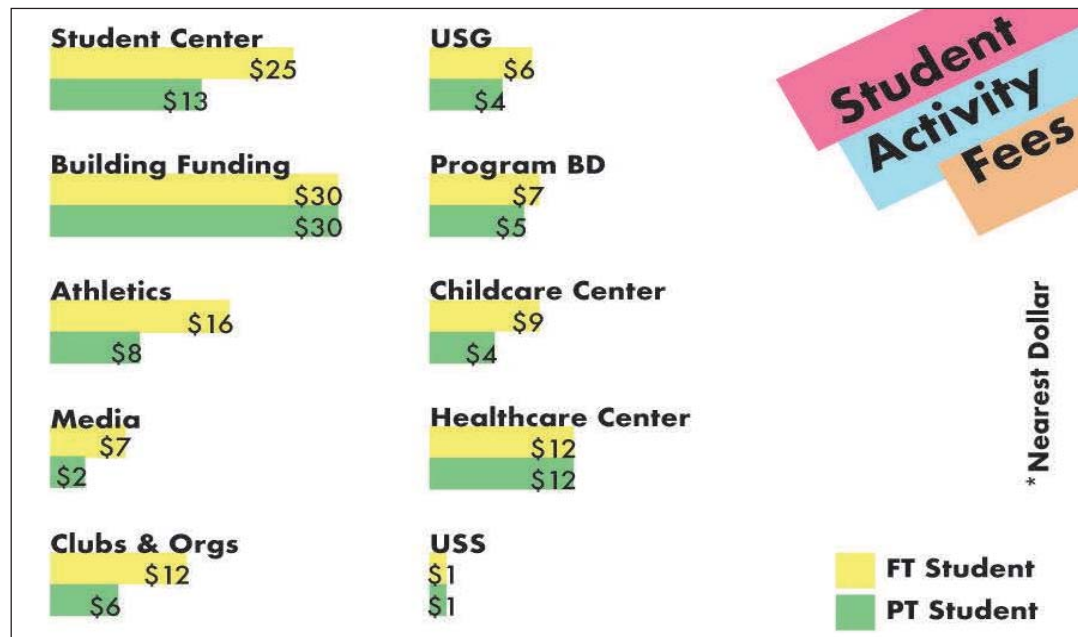
After the Rangers announced their rebuild, the team travelled to Western Canada, where they had a very successful road trip.

The new pieces they acquired through the trades, as well as prospects they recently called up played extremely well despite a rough season.

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## Student activity fees under scrutiny



DAPHNELLY DELACRUZ | THE TICKER

Full-time and part-time students pay into various student programs, with Baruch's breakdown of programs shown above.

BY VICTORIA MERLINO  
NEWS EDITOR

Following a tense CUNY Board of Trustees committee meeting about proposed new procedures regarding student activity fees, almost 80 CUNY students were threatened with arrest while

chanting and yelling about their displeasure with the proposal.

The proposed changes to the student activity fee include the increased importance of some CUNY college associations, and the elimination of certain earmarked activity fee funds. Currently, each CUNY college has a

set of local fee funds that pay for different student services on campus, such as child care centers, student governments, the CUNY University Student Senate and certain organizations like media clubs.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Professor's tweets cause stir on campus

BY BENJAMIN WALLIN  
ARTS & STYLE EDITOR

Baruch College students expressed concerns about the Twitter posts of Baruch communication studies professor Michael Bayer after one student shared a screenshot of Bayer's tweet regarding race in a Facebook group called "Baruch College Textbooks: BUY or SELL!!!"

Members of the group had a discussion about the professor's Twitter account in the comment section under the original post. His tweet evoked strong responses from students who were in support of and against him. Some students reported the account's content to Baruch administration.

On March 7, Ashley Zhang, a Baruch senior, came across an article about the Twitter account of absurdist comedian Owen Benjamin. The article, published on the website NextShark on March 2, offers screenshots of tweets as examples of what writer Heather Johnson Yu claims to be "a history of racially charged offensive rhetoric under the excuse that it's comedy."

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Laramie Project moves audience

BY REUVEN GLEZER  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It seems more than fitting that the one-night staged reading of *The Laramie Project*, a devised theater piece by Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project, was held within the specially-designed walls of the Engelman Recital Hall. After all, this is a work about the reverberations of voices and murmurs from behind one's back, so there seems to be no better place to have this profile of a small town microcosm in the wake of a tragedy than in a space built with its acoustics in mind.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## Smartphone use undermines face-to-face interactions

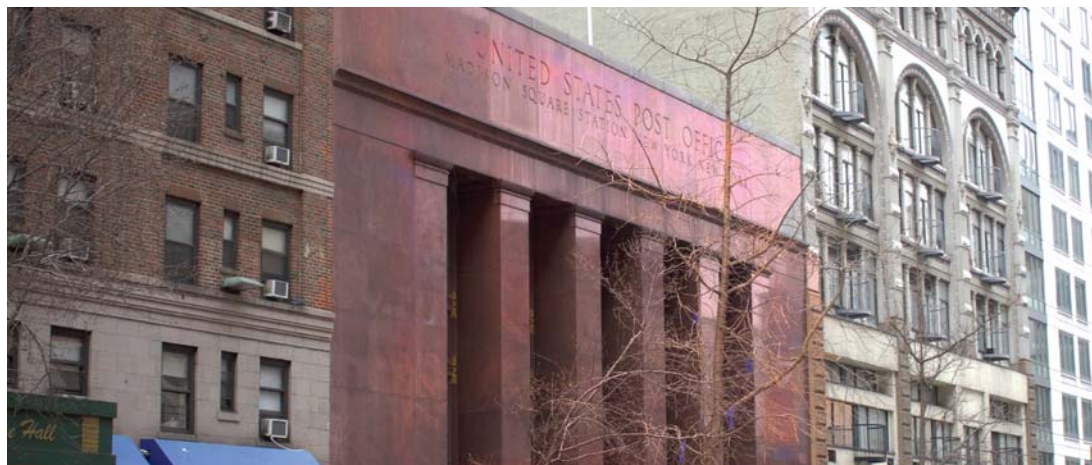
BY ALI HUSSAIN  
STAFF WRITER

Smartphones make those who are far away seem much closer with text messaging and video chatting. However, a new University of British Columbia study titled "Smartphone use undermines enjoyment of face-to-face social interactions" reveals that in a dinner setting, the exact opposite phenomenon takes place.

Prior research has been conducted on the emotional state of society over time, such as the 1995 study titled "The need to belong: Desire for interpersonal attachments as a fundamental human motivation."

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

## Baruch obtains post office space for students



SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

The post office has entrances located on 23rd Street and on 24th Street, though students would use the 24th Street entrance.

BY SAHAR ILYAS  
STAFF WRITER

Space has always been limited for an urban commuter school like Baruch College. In November 2010, a process was launched to rectify this issue when the Undergraduate Student Government that year decided to try and acquire a new student center.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## Men's basketball, volleyball teams see continued success



ATHLETICS.BARUCH.CUNY.EDU

The men's basketball and volleyball teams experienced successful seasons. To read about their performance, turn to page 21.



# USG supports Greek life

BY **BIANCA MONTEIRO**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Undergraduate Student Government senate officially passed a resolution in support of ending the moratorium on fraternity activities during its Feb. 27 meeting. The resolution came just prior to a March 2 deadline imposed by David Christy, provost and senior vice president of academic affairs. Christy, while asking for USG’s stance on the matter, is ultimately responsible in making the final decision for the moratorium. The provost’s final deadline for making the decision is on June 1 and he is free to decide on a course of action at any time beforehand.

Authored by Andrew Windsor, co-chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, the fraternity resolution was officially co-sponsored by 10 members of the senate: Suleman Aleem, David Barros, Arvis Chen, Alexander Dimcevski, Aaron D’Souza, Emma Jorgensen, Rachel Liang, Brandon Paillere, Nicole Taniguchi and Erica Yang. The senators signed their names to the document, which primarily urged the provost to end the ban on chartering, recruiting for or operating for social Greek life clubs on campus.

In a statement to *The Ticker*, Windsor said, “I do not believe it just for the administration to prohibit thousands of innocent undergraduates from joining a certain sect of student life because of the tragic actions of a separate group.”

The current senate table was officially informed of its upcoming March decision by the provost just prior to its Nov. 14 senate meeting. Since this time, USG hosted a Greek life forum on Dec. 5 in order to gauge how the student body felt, inviting current students as well as former members of Baruch Greek life to engage in discussion.

Chen, the chair of the Clubs and Organizations Committee, also circulated a survey starting Feb. 22, eight days before the deadline, via USG’s social media platforms.

While Chen had tabled for the first time on Feb. 27, according to him, he had problems securing tabling after creating the survey. He had unofficially asked a Student Life staff member to secure tabling for the week of Feb. 26 and discovered that USG had not been given tables.

Due to an empty booked table, USG was able to table on the second floor lobby on Feb. 27.

The survey was produced in conjunction with Baseline — an outside survey company — in order to create the most functional and least biased questionnaire. The survey, however, has not been approved by the CUNY legal office. As of press time, the survey garnered 345 responses.

Originally, Chen asked Christy for an extension on the deadline through March 9, but was denied because the provost did not want the fraternity issue to become a talking point in USG’s upcoming election season in March.

The survey was meant to officially gather an idea of what the student body felt about social Greek life and whether or not students believed it should come back to campus. The questions asked whether students supported lifting the moratorium, what their opinion on social Greeks were and if students were willing to pay more in their student activity fees for Greek life, among others.

As of Chen’s report during the senate meeting, responses were around 68 percent in support of bringing social Greek life on campus, 20 percent against and 12 percent unsure.

Chen concedes, however, that not every response included a stu-

dent’s EMPL ID number or other important identifying factors. Chen also explains that the ideal sample size should be between 1,200 and 1,500 responses, with the current sample size being disproportionate to those figures.

“I’m worried that this vote isn’t indicative of what the student body really thinks,” President Isabel Arias explained. She added that “just yesterday the survey result was fifty-fifty.”

Damali Smith, the director of Student Life, also explained during the meeting that “every single semester we have had a case of hazing.” Smith, however, declined to comment on either the meeting or the hazing to which she alluded.

Windsor, who read the document line by line in order to ensure that the wording was sufficient for the table and co-sponsors, argued that if USG was “truly concerned, they would actually regulate them than let this continue in an ‘underground club market.’”

The document primarily cited the declining Relay for Life funds following the moratorium, the provost’s mission to enrich students as leaders and other documents. The document ultimately argues to lift the moratorium and to prevent other moratoriums from occurring under similar circumstances, in which organizations of the same kind are banned because of an individual club’s actions.

While the voting majority of the table was in support of the resolution, Representative Sen. Tarak Chowdhury, as well as Treasurer Suzanna Egan and Arias expressed opposition.

As the senate meeting discussions proceeded, however, several senators expressed that the surveys, as well as the senators themselves, cannot always represent the majority of students accurately. Many members argued that it was their duty to not only represent the majority, but to support the niche groups of students and give those groups a voice.

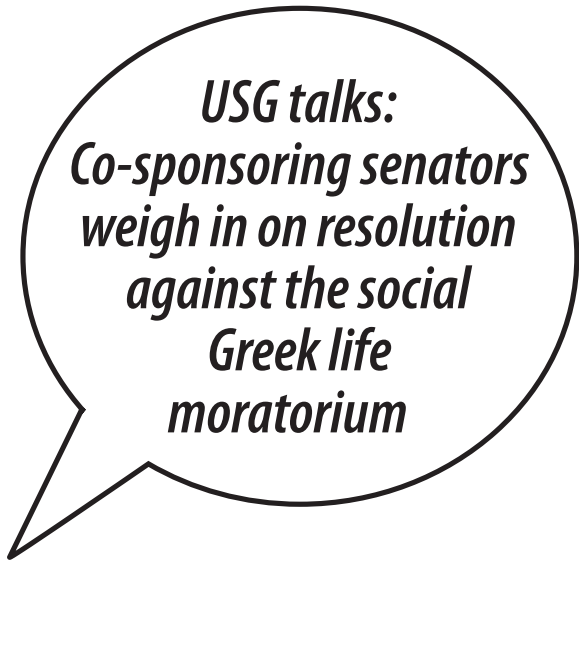
In an interview with *The Ticker*, Yang explained her standpoint: “As of this moment, we do not know what the majority of students feel about social Greek life and whether they would want it to be allowed back on campus. We may never know what the majority of students think. What we have seen is a sizable number of students who do want to see social Greek life back on campus. I believe that it is our responsibility to support these students.”

In discussion, Yang argued that by bringing fraternities into the spotlight, they could begin regulating them instead of allowing them to operate underground on their own, free from accountability and rules. Greek organizations would be subject to more scrutiny than other clubs — in addition to the hoops that clubs must jump through in order to get chartered and stay active on campus, fraternities would also need to correspond with the chair of clubs and organizations heavily.

Representative Sen. Brian Ronquillo, however, disagreed. “Hasn’t that system failed us already? When someone charters a social frat and has hazing — any degree of hazing — it could grow year by year. Measuring that is hard and, personally, I can’t oversee that.”

Referring to the death of Chun Hsien “Michael” Deng, a student who passed away because of hazing activities by the fraternity Pi Delta Psi, Arias also contested the sentiment, asking Yang, “Tell me how you regulate them so this never happens again. I don’t think an [Office of Student Life] advisor can make sure this will never happen again.”

Arias later argued against allowing fraternities to get chartered just so OSL can formally regulate them.



## Suleman Aleem

Our job is not to represent the majority, but to represent students of any niche group we can reach. So I believe that even if there are only 10 students on campus interested in forming a social Greek [fraternity], then as a student representative, I should help them accomplish that to the best of my ability.

Some members of the senate were not comfortable with supporting views that this table wanted to vote on. I was disappointed in the fact that personal discomfort of some senators got in the way of them doing their due diligence to the student body, and believe that if they can't make objective and fair choices for their constituents under these circumstances, or accept the outcome of this democracy, then they don't belong at this table.

## David Barros

David Barros declined to comment.

## Arvis Chen

On Feb. 22, I started a Baruch-wide survey to see how students felt about social Greek life. When I cosponsored the fraternity resolution on Feb 28th, the data I collected showed 68 percent of the students saying they were in support of ending the ban. This was out of 270 responses, most of which were active club members. It is my job to represent their voices, and I've addressed their opinions, both in support and against ending the ban, to the table.

Before the survey, there was a lot of speculation as to how many people wanted social Greek life to come back. If only 10 people wanted to join social Greek life, was this need worth the tens of thousands of dollars we had to spend? Now we can listen to what the student body — not special interest groups — has to say.

I've been requesting a table on the second floor for quite some time now. I've only been able to get one since another club happened to not be there. I'm trying hard to get the survey to the masses, but it's going to be an uphill battle.

## Alexander Dimcevski

Alexander Dimcevski declined to comment.

## Aaron D'Souza

I feel that all the frats have been punished by the moratorium, and I feel that deprives students access to a social frat that they may want to join, and I felt that the resolution was a good first step to hopefully hearing out any students who do want to start them up again. A key thing is that this doesn't bring them back. It only allows social frats the opportunity to go through the process of becoming a “club” and therefore be subjected to the approval of USG in the future.

I believe it is the right of students to be able to create that if they want to. Still being subject to approval.

## Emma Jorgensen

Emma Jorgensen declined to comment.

## Rachel Liang

I believe in giving the students a right to voice their opinions, which is why I agreed with the social Greek survey sent out by Arvis Chen, but I also believe that USG has to take a stand about the topic as well. I have my own biases in that I personally would love to see the social Greeks come back. Additionally, my fellow senators brought it to my attention that we, as USG, don't always support the majority. If 10 students want to form a club, we allow them to. I don't see a difference between that and a social Greek being given the opportunity to form again on campus if they so wish. The tragedy in 2013 was a tragedy, but those who weren't involved shouldn't be blamed for the action of others.

The resolution was eventually passed, but not without a long debate. I knew there would be conflicting opinions on the table, but I understand the opinions of those who did not vote for the resolution, which is why only a couple of us put our actual names on the resolution itself.

As Sen. Windsor said during the meeting, we listened and debated with those on the table in the minority who did not wish to support ending the moratorium, and we should give that same opportunity to listen to students if they wish to form a social Greek on campus. I want to make it clear that this resolution does not condone hazing, nor even support social Greeks on campus, but it allows students the opportunity to charter and join social Greeks if they wish to do so.

## Brandon Paillere

I support this resolution because both the college and students are well-aware that students are still being hurt in hazing incidents.

Banning Greek life on campus hasn't solved the issue of hazing. The moratorium has forced students into even more secrecy, allowing hazing on students to continue. Administrators are fully aware of this, as mentioned in this meeting and previous meetings, and I'd like to see them take responsibility for our students. Sweeping greek life under the rug isn't going to protect our students it just puts them in more danger. Ending the moratorium will give our students a chance at having these organizations in a healthy manner.

I was very frustrated at the meeting we had. There was too much of the discussion was about individuals being associated with this resolution. We even had people leave when it came time to vote. There will be hard decisions like this one but if our senators and administrators are more pre-occupied about how these decisions will make them look and not about the impact on students then our organizations need to grow a

backbone. We should be voting on what will benefit students the most and not what will benefit our image. Every single person in that meeting can acknowledge that this moratorium doesn't prevent students from being harmed. Our names and reputations are not more important than the safety of our students.

## Nicole Taniguchi

I believe my overall position and intention with this resolution is to let Provost Christy know that USG has a strong stance on this issue. We were, for the most part, unaware of the moratorium coming to end when we campaigned last Spring but have worked diligently to make sure we don't simply ignore this issue.

I believe at the very least the moratorium should not be extended to give the administration, future USG's, and students the opportunity to actively discuss and try to come to compromises on the topic of social Greeks on campus. I don't think burying social fraternities and sororities will solve all the intricacies of the situation.

## Erica Yang

When we were first approached by the provost concerning making a decision (as a USG table) about whether we would support extending the moratorium, I began my own research into the issue. From that point forward, I have been in support of ending the moratorium on social Greek life on campus. While I understand that an incredibly tragic event occurred within a social Greek organization, I do not believe that this toxic culture extends to all social Greek life. I do believe that there is a positive in social Greek life. This opinion is also shared among a number of students I have spoken to about the matter.

As of this moment, we do not know what the majority of students feel about social Greek life and whether they would want it to be allowed back on campus.

We may never know what the majority of students think. What we have seen is a sizeable number of students who do want to see social Greek life back on campus. I believe that it is our responsibility to support these students. By lifting the moratorium on social Greek life, we are not immediately [reinstating] every social Greek organization that was on campus before the moratorium. We are simply giving the opportunity for students to be able to gather and approach USG to go through the process of establishing an organization on campus.

I believe that it is wrong to not give students the chance to start a certain organization because of something that occurred before their time here at Baruch. The students who are interested in joining/starting a social Greek organization on campus have the same rights to do so as a student who wants to start a business club on campus.



# Baruch transforms post office space into new student center

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The 2010-2011 USG obtained 2,000 student signatures to bring a referendum to vote, and 1,200 students in the student population voted to increase the student activity fee, a part of every student's tuition, by \$20 in order to purchase the student center. A survey was then sent out to students asking them what they would like to see the space used for. Most students chose to have a space with minimal programming, one that can be used just to gather, study or do group work.

The project's goal was to raise about \$1 million every year, beginning during the Summer 2011 semester, until there was enough funding to start work on the student center. In 2017, a private donor gifted Baruch with enough money to finally begin.

Once the vote to increase the student activity fee was passed, the search for the ideal space began almost immediately. Katharine Cobb, the vice president of administration and finance at Baruch, said in an interview with *The Ticker* that when looking for a space to be the new student center, one of the main priorities was that it was close enough to Baruch so that it was included in the main campus.

Many places in Baruch's neighborhood were assessed, but for a long time none were chosen. During the Fall 2014 semester, Cobb started negotiations with the United States Post Office Madison Square Station, which is located across the street from the Newman Vertical Campus, taking up the entire block on 24th Street from Lexington Avenue to Third Avenue. She had assumed that the post office would have a large amount of empty and unused space, and her assumption was correct.

The floorplans for the new student center, pictured above, show a large space for student gatherings, gender-neutral bathrooms and areas for clubs to meet with each other.

There were difficulties moving forward, however. The post office was not only hesitant to give up the space, but since it is run by the government, the college had to persuade several levels of authority.

Approval was needed by officials in Washington D.C., who managed the real estate of the post office.

Eventually, the proposal to use a portion of the post office for Baruch's student center was accepted on all levels, and the lease was signed in Fall 2017. The lease

is good for 15 years, and, at its end, there is an option to renew the contract for another 15 years.

The entrance to the student center will be located on 24th Street and Lexington Avenue, right across from the main steps leading into the NVC. Baruch will have access to about 5,700 square feet of space in the post office. The entrance will lead into a 1,000-square-foot space that will be the lobby, and will lead into the student center that is located beneath the post office.

The center will be Americans

with Disabilities Act-accessible and will have a ramp and elevators as well as stairs.

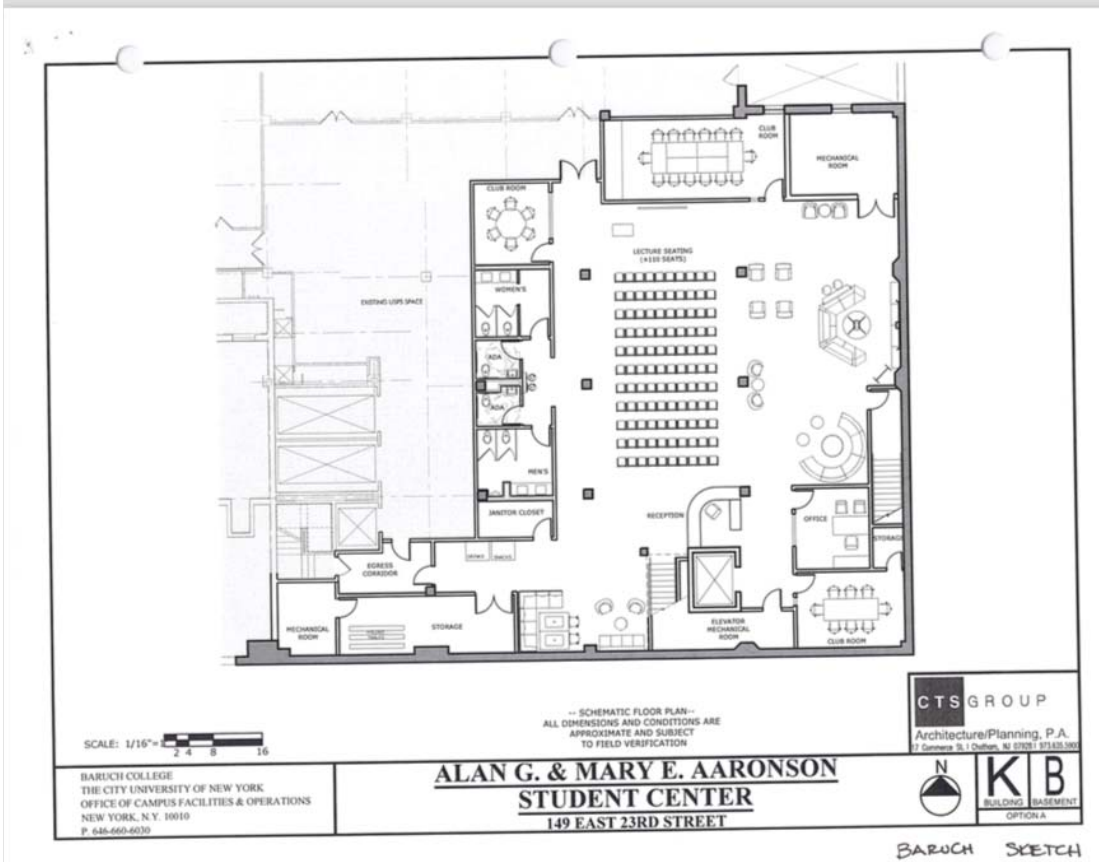
Currently, the space Baruch has leased is part of one large room that the post office uses for storage. Walls will be constructed to separate the student center from the rest of the post office's operations.

Although the floor plans are subject to change, the present layout of the center consists of an office for the Office of Student Life, three meeting and club rooms that can also be used for group study-

ing and an open lounge area with a large number of available seats. Student programming in the space is supposed to be minimal, explained Damali Smith, director of student life, in an email, as the primary purpose of the space is to be a student lounge.

The space is approximated to fit at most 200 people at any given time.

Construction is planned to take about 18 months to complete, with doors opening to the Baruch population in Fall 2019.



COURTESY OF BARUCH COLLEGE

## Chowdhury resigns as representative senator, 6th resignation this year

BY VICTORIA MERLINO  
NEWS EDITOR

For the sixth time this academic year, a member of the Undergraduate Student Government senate table has resigned. Tarak Chowdhury, a representative senator, left his position officially effective the time of the March 6 senate meeting.

"I didn't feel comfortable being at the table anymore and felt like I wasn't making a difference for the students I am representing, therefore I wanted to give a chance for someone who can represent the students better for the position," Chowdhury wrote via text message to *The Ticker*.

The resignation comes on the heels of the recent resolution passed by USG to support ending the moratorium on social Greek life recruitment at Baruch College, which Chowdhury was vocally opposed to passing.

Chowdhury however stated that the resolution was not the cause of his resignation.

"It wasn't related to that, but every meeting I just felt less and less comfortable at the table," wrote Chowdhury. "It was just unfortunate that my decision came during the same time as the resolution."

Of his time in USG, Chowdhury wrote that he was especially proud of the first semester of this academic year. He organized a book drive for students that was successful, with over 1,175 books donated by individuals and clubs. He also helped with "Baruch's Market," a "Welcome Week" event last semester that showcased vari-

"I didn't feel comfortable being at the table anymore and felt like I wasn't making a difference for the students I am representing, therefore I wanted to give a chance for someone who can represent the students better for the position."

- Tarak Chowdhury

ous food options located around the college.

"Also, proud of just fighting at the table for what I thought would represent the students," said Chowdhury.

Chowdhury will be focusing on work and school in the future, but he said he would still be involved in the Campus Affairs and Finance Committees within USG.

This resignation comes after those of senators Molly Bhuiyan, Josue Mendez, Zakari Abubakar and Michael Cherry, as well as former Treasurer Ehtasham Bhatti.

President Isabel Arias declined to comment.

USG has started accepting applications for the vacated senate seat, and will be doing so until March 20. Interviews for the position will occur during the March 27 senate meeting.

## Instagram account critiques Baruch art

BY JONATHAN SPERLING  
MARKETING DIRECTOR

Crooked frames, vandalized photographs, unlabeled prints and cracked glass—this describes the current condition of a noticeable portion of the artwork that adorns Baruch College's Newman Vertical Campus, according to one Baruch student.

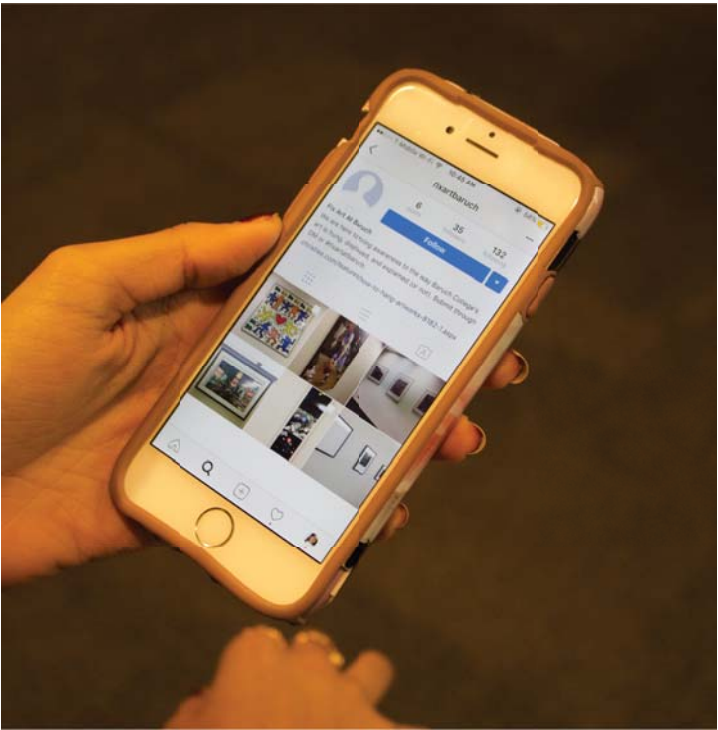
Last month, the student, a sophomore who wishes to remain anonymous, began the Instagram account @fixartbaruch in order to draw awareness to how "Baruch College's art is hung, displayed, and explained (or not)," according to the account's description. Each post features a photograph of the offending artwork, a description of the issue and the general location of the artwork.

"I mainly want explanatory text. I want to know the artist, I want to know the year pieces were made and I want to know a little bit about it and why it's in our school," they said. *The Ticker* has opted to refer to the student using plural pronouns wherever possible in order to preserve anonymity.

According to the student, some of the more egregious examples of poorly displayed artwork can be found on the third floor; the fourth floor, where there is at least one frame with cracked glass; and on the fifth floor, where a frame holding a Keith Haring work is scuffed and cracked, among other examples. Several of these issues are documented on the @fixartbaruch account.

However, the student also noted that they have yet to document what they feel to be the most glaring issue concerning Baruch's artwork.

"I want to emphasize that an overarching issue that I have not



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

The Instagram account was launched on Feb. 15 under the handle @fixartbaruch.

tackled on the Instagram account because I don't even know where to start: no labels on like three quarters of the work," they said in an interview with *The Ticker*. "We don't need three paragraphs on the piece. Look at any museum and at what they have. That's what we should be treating the art as."

The student also made clear that not all the artwork at Baruch is displayed poorly.

"Some work is hung really well. Some stuff looks really good. I think on the fourth or fifth floor, there's stuff with labels, it says the artist. It's beautiful, beautiful stuff," they said.

A spokesperson for Baruch's

Buildings and Grounds department stated that the department was responsible for hanging artwork within the NVC, but is not responsible for fixing or maintaining the artwork.

In the event of vandalism, Baruch's Public Safety is contacted to investigate.

"We don't adjust it. We don't touch that. I've never even heard of us adjusting or even opening up any picture frames. We hang stuff the way they are," the spokesperson said.

As of press time, Baruch's Facilities Planning, Design and Construction did not reply to a call for comment.



# Proposed student activity fee changes generate controversy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The budgeting of the fees is decided by the student-led Budget Committee of the College Association at certain CUNY colleges, as dictated by the CUNY Bylaws; Baruch College's equivalent to the College Association, called the Board of Directors, does not have this committee.

The proposed changes would eliminate this committee and give direct power to the student governments, with complete oversight from the college associations, which are comprised of students, college staff and administrators. Under the proposal, student government, the University Student Senate and money given to registered student organizations would be protected, but all other earmarked funds would be subject to review.

When presenting the proposal during the CUNY Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs meeting on Feb. 26, Loretta Martinez, CUNY's general counsel and vice chancellor for legal affairs, said that the changes would cause student activity fees to be used more flexibly.

"The College Association would have the flexibility over time to move money around to meet student needs, primarily in the programs and services side," Martinez said, continuing with the fact that students thought the current process was "cumbersome."

It is unknown how Baruch will be affected by the change. One of Baruch College's USS delegate Jasper Diaz said during the Baruch Undergraduate Student Government senate meeting on March 6 that Baruch would not as impacted as other CUNY colleges. "The proposal seeks to bring other campuses in line to what we do at Baruch,"

said Diaz.

Many of the students present at the committee meeting expressed anxiety over whether their organizations would be defunded, and if student voices would be eliminated in the student activity fee budgeting process.

"The proposal is a radical departure from CUNY's tradition of honoring our students' right to self-govern," said Kawthar Abdullah, a vice chair in USS and a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College, to the trustees during the CUNY Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs meeting. Abdullah is a member of the task force that was assembled to give input on the proposal and help develop it. She stated that students on the task force were "shocked" that they were given only two weeks to get feedback from students at all CUNY schools, and were told by CUNY legal counsel not to inform constituents of the proceedings to "not rile them up."

"My intentions were to let the members of the Student Affairs Committee know that our input as a task force — it was not taken into consideration. It's really a radical change they are considering," Abdullah said later, in an interview with *The Ticker*.

John Aderounmu, chairperson of USS and a student at Hunter College, said that anything other than required legal changes is an "over-extension" and called the redefinition of the student activity fees in the proposal "worrying."

The legal changes necessary to student activity fees come after a lawsuit filed two years ago in which a Queens College student's application to the student government to start an anti-abortion club was denied without justifiable reason. Legal changes to the fees are required to make their allocation



VICTORIA MERLINO | THE TICKER

Over 70 students were directed to an overflow room during the Feb. 26 committee meeting to watch it via a livestream.

more "neutral," said Martinez.

"We want to make sure we have adequate feedback from the students," Aderounmu said.

Most students who attended the meeting were led to an overflow room where they were able to watch the meeting through a livestream. After the meeting, students took to the hallway outside of CUNY's central office to chant and voice their displeasure, leaving only when threatened with arrest for trespassing.

Haris Khan, a student government senator and student at the City College of New York called the proposal "the worst attack on student rights and student governance in CUNY since the '70s," and said that "we can't let this go through without a fight."

"And they think we aren't paying attention but we are paying attention," Khan added.

Smitha Varghese, the statewide

chair of the New York Public Interest Research Group and student at Queens College, said that she is frustrated with the board of trustees and the proposal. NYPIRG is a political advocacy group active at some CUNY colleges — Baruch is not one of them — where students are elected as representatives in the group. NYPIRG activities at CUNY are currently funded by student activity fees, an earmark that would be under review and could potentially be eliminated in the current proposal.

Varghese spoke of how she has been emailing Martinez for months about the changes, to no response. "They don't want to hear what we have to say," Varghese said of the trustees. "Now is finally [the time] where okay, let's rally, because they don't want to hear what we have to say, they have their minds made up."

Shortly after students were

forced to leave the building, CUNY's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Christopher Rosa came to the street to speak with students and answer questions about the proposed changes, staying roughly for half an hour.

"There is no hidden agenda. I know it's hard for some people to grasp," Rosa said.

"We are proceeding, we feel, in good faith and in earnest. It's an ambitious timeline. And if we find that it all can be sufficiently resolved, then we will make the necessary adjustments. But right now, we're trying to work in good faith to make sure that the process is open and transparent and that it is open to student input on every step of the way," he added.

There will be a public hearing on March 12 at Brooklyn College, where the public can give its feedback to the board of trustees about the student activity fee proposal.

# Committee proposes amendments to USG constitution to senate

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Undergraduate Student Government's Constitutional Review Committee proposed two amendments to the USG constitution, one of which was partially approved by the senate during the March 6 meeting.

After revisions, USG unanimously passed an amendment that allows senators up to four meeting absences per semester. Once a senator reaches the fourth absence, they become eligible for impeachment.

"As soon as you hit that fourth absence, it doesn't mean that the Undergraduate Student Government member is going to be impeached," Andrew Windsor, co-chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, said in an interview. "It just means that in case that person is abusing their title, abusing their privileges and taking money and not showing up to do their job, you can impeach that person."

Originally, the Constitutional Review Committee, led by co-chairs Liam Giordano and Windsor, proposed two amendments to the USG constitution.

The first amendment, which was struck down through a soft vote by the senate, was meant to change how USG spends its budget. According to the committee's report, USG is constitutionally required to approve all spending, and the senate does so by approving its annual budget.

The amendment would have required the senate to vote on any spending above \$1,000 in addition to voting in the budget. As stated in the report, the reasons for this amendment were concerns of wasteful spending, transparency and accountability in paperwork.

However, some senate members said this would be difficult to apply during the Summer and Winter sessions when senators may either work or visit their hometowns, which would make them unable to attend the meetings and thus vote on spending.

Since USG does not allow for proxy votes, absent senators would also be unable to virtually attend the meeting.

Another concern, brought up by Representative Senator Emma Jorgensen, is that this voting procedure would not allow for emergency spending.

In response to Jorgensen, Windsor proposed that people can use their own money for emergency spending. However, some senators argued that spending one's own money and then getting reimbursed for it would create a loophole in the amendment.

In a soft vote, the senate cast five votes for the amendment and 11 against.

When asked about his opinion on the budget amendment being rejected, Giordano said that the committee was "a bit disappointed."

"[W]e went in with the best intentions, thinking the amendment would benefit the student body. But ultimately, genuine concerns were raised regarding an extra layer of bureaucratic red tape and regarding the possible need for emergency spending in the future," Giordano said.

The second amendment, which was partially passed by the senate, proposes an absence limit for senators.

According to the report, the absence amendment was brought to the senate table because of "concerns over excessive absences, lack of accountability and lack of con-



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The Constitutional Review Committee presented its proposed amendments to the USG senate during the March 6 meeting.

stitutional duty for representative senators."

The original amendment consisted of two parts. First, it established the limit of four absences for any USG member with voting power. Second, it stated that attending less than half of a meeting would count as an absence.

During the meeting, the senate agreed to remove the second part of the amendment as it might pose an issue for senators who may be late to a short meeting, or senators who have a 7:20 p.m. class and choose to leave a long meeting before it ends.

As such, the final amendment established: "Any Four (4) absences per semester from official meetings in which a U.S.G. member is eligible to cast a vote" as grounds for impeachment.

"The senate agreed [the amend-

ment] would be useful to have within the Constitution [and] it can genuinely encourage fair representation of Baruch students in the future," Giordano said in response to the amendment being passed.

"The revision isn't too shocking, being that the intention remains within the amendment, as it still provides a safety-net against negligent representation."

According to the USG constitution, in order for an amendment to be ratified, the senate must obtain signatures of at least 10 percent of students, it must follow rules established by the Bernard M. Baruch College Governance Charter regarding referendums and the amendment must be submitted before deadline as a referendum item to the Office of Student Affairs.

Once this is done, the referen-

dum for the amendment will be put on the election ballot.

The amendment will only be adapted if 10 percent of students vote in the referendum, of which a majority must support the amendment. If this condition is not met, the amendment can be approved by Baruch President Mitchel Wallerstein.

*Additional reporting by Victoria Merlino*

*Editor's Notes:*

*Liam Giordano is currently a Staff Writer for The Ticker's News section.*

*Andrew Windsor previously served as the USG Correspondent for The Ticker.*



# Baruch professor's tweets spur shock

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The comedian’s tweet, posted on Feb. 15, stated: “If blacks can mock whites but whites can’t mock blacks in mainstream comedy shit will get violent. I mock the blacks not because they stole my bike as a child, but because one sided racial humor will end with horror” Zhang noticed a response to Benjamin’s tweet in one of the screenshots because it was attributed to a Baruch professor whose class she had taken. The tweet came from @michaelbayer1, an account with no direct connection to Baruch, and said on the same day as the original tweet: “Can’t we all just unite in our mockery of Asians???” At 1:23 a.m., Zhang shared this tweet in “Baruch College Textbooks: BUY or SELL!!!” looking for “some exposure/possible answers.”

When reached for comment, Zhang said, “I think the fact that an esteemed educator such as Michael Bayer, whose course I’ve taken and enjoyed very much, making comments such as these on his personal social media is disappointing and hurtful and a sore reminder of how Asians are perceived in this country. It’s a reminder to myself, and I’m sure to many other students, that despite being born here, raised here and being just as American as anyone else here, we are still viewed as a trope.”

Bayer, an adjunct communication studies lecturer, has been at Baruch since 2012.

Some students brought their complaints to the college’s faculty later on March 7. Aldemaro Romero Jr., dean of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, noted that he received at least three complaints that included screenshots of the account’s tweets. He said that a number of other related complaints were brought to his office. According to some members of the Facebook group, the privacy settings of @michaelbayer1 were changed sometime around 1 p.m. on March 7. The change made all of @michaelbayer1’s tweets private, hidden from view of anybody not already following Bayer’s account.

The college began an investigation through the Office of Diversity, Compliance and Equity Initiatives. Mona Jha, the college’s chief diversity officer, stated to *The Ticker* on March 7, “We were alerted today regarding some of Mr. Michael Bayer’s social media postings and are in the process of investigating the complaints that have been brought to our attention. Please be advised that Baruch College under its policy of equal opportunity and non-discrimination is committed to addressing discrimination complaints promptly, consistently and fairly while recognizing the due process rights that are accorded to all of our faculty, staff, and students.” When questioned about the investigation, Romero informed *The Ticker* that it was confidential.

Bayer responded with a statement that is presented here in full, unaltered: “I’m deeply sorry to anyone in the Baruch community who was offended by recently circulated tweets from my personal Twitter account. As the account was in no way affiliated with Baruch or my work as a teacher, I naively assumed my words would never reach beyond my few hundred followers. Unfortunately, given my penchant for dark humor, my overdeveloped sense of sarcasm, and the provocative nature of many Twitter accounts, I have often made absurd comments or sarcastic jokes that, in hindsight, were very insensitive.

“I love teaching at Baruch. I admire, respect and care for all my students, and I marvel at the diversity we have here. I have always believed that every human being holds equal worth, dignity and potential, and I sincerely regret if

some of my foolish, spontaneous tweets have conveyed otherwise.”

Dr. Michael Goodman, director of the Master of Arts in corporate communication at Baruch, stated that in the five or more years that Bayer spent in Baruch, Goodman had never heard a negative word about the professor from any student. Goodman sat in on at least two of Bayer’s classes and stated that the latter was “thoroughly professional, well-respected in the classroom by students.” Regarding the tweets, Goodman said that what professors do outside of school, short of breaking the law, is “pretty much their own business.”

Dvora Zomberg, a Baruch senior concerned about the content of Bayer’s Twitter account, pointed to the effect these posts could have on students. She said, “Bayer’s disregard for and mockery of some students’ identities is not only deeply offensive, but an impediment to learning. I can appreciate differences in opinion, but this was the type of opinion differences from which no constructive discourse could emerge — it’s callousness for the sake of shitposting, and as a professor in a diverse school, Bayer should have taken his students’ identities more seriously before making these opinions public.”

In Fall 2016, Baruch reported that 40.5 percent of its enrolled students were Asian or Pacific Islander.

Other tweets by @michaelbayer1 were found and saved via screenshots by students before the account became private. One was in response to a tweet by Sofie Whitney, a survivor of the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Whitney’s tweet said, “We’re gonna be in the air at 5:00, but everyone better be tweeting #MarchForOurLives!!!” and included a photo of other students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas onboard a plane. Bayer’s tweet in response said on Feb. 28, “It would be ironic if the plane crashed.” When asked to explain his words, Bayer called this tweet “...an absurd comment. Given the purpose of the flight, it would in fact be ironic. Obviously I wasn’t implying a crash would be humorous, but it was a very stupid tweet.”

He also commented to *The Ticker* on the tweet shared in the textbook group on Facebook, calling it “...a dumb joke I assumed could never be taken seriously.”

Bayer was informed of *The Ticker*’s coverage on March 7. On the following day, he came into Baruch to teach his COM 3102 and COM 4005 classes, Communication for Executives and Public Relations Writing, respectively. He informed his students about the coverage. Around 2:55 p.m., a group of his students came to *The Ticker*’s office of their own volition, leaving their class to speak with *The Ticker*’s editors about the coverage of this incident. A different group of students followed around 4:45 p.m. Between the two groups, there were around 35 students.

Joe Betesh, a senior and one of Bayer’s students, commented on his participation, “I’m here to make sure Professor Bayer isn’t harmed.”

Students who came to *The Ticker*’s office were concerned about the story that was in progress and its potential impact on Bayer. Betesh, speaking to Bayer’s role as a mentor, said, “This is not somebody who makes stupid jokes on Twitter. This is somebody who changes people’s lives.”

Both of the classes provided statements written as groups. They are presented here, in full, unaltered. The students of COM 4005 stated: “We, the students, have come to acknowledge the actions of Professor Michael Bayer. We are under the consensus that his tweets on his personal Twitter account do not reflect his character as a professor and as a human being.

ing. Professor Michael Bayer has consistently showed his students that he is passionate about his work on and off campus. The unparalleled enthusiasm he provides fosters an open learning environment where his students are eager to learn.

“Professor Bayer challenges his students every day in class and encourages creativity. The students of this class are a diverse group and we all agree that Professor Bayer all treats us fairly without any bias. We, as a student body, all stand with Professor Michael Bayer.”

The students of COM 3102 stated: “We, as students, would like to address the situation concerning Professor Michael Bayer. While we do not condone the statements that were made that are currently in question, we stand in solidarity as testaments to his good character. Professor Michael Bayer is an exceptional professor who has succeeded in creating a safe space and learning environment for all his students. He brings positive energy to his classes, and makes students genuinely excited to participate. Baruch College is unparalleled in the diversity of its student body, and Professor Bayer has always shown the utmost respect and support for students from all different cultural backgrounds in his classroom. We believe he is an asset not only to our individual educations, but to Baruch College as a whole.”

CUNY’s Policy on Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination states: “Diversity, inclusion, and an environment free from discrimination are central to the mission of the University.” The policy identifies discrimination as “treating an individual differently or less favorably because of his or her protected characteristics—such as race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, or any of the other bases prohibited by this Policy.” Actions and speech are viewed differently from the college’s perspective, and free speech tends to be protected, with certain exceptions.

Romero directed *The Ticker* to an article he wrote in 2016 for Illinois newspaper *The Edwardsville Intelligencer*, where he offers the illustration, “to generally say ‘Kill all the Jews,’ for example, is protected speech no matter how hateful it sounds, but to say ‘Kill that Jew who gave me an F’ is considered a crime.” In his article, he adds the caveat that, “The courts have ruled repeatedly that institutions of higher education can have stricter policies aimed at preventing certain speech or acts that create a hostile environment, allowing them to act based on their campus policies.” U.S. Supreme Court decisions have indicated that hate speech is protected when not directed at individuals, though colleges have the right to be stricter in their own policies.

When reached for further comment on the investigation into Bayer’s tweets, Jha responded on March 9, “We have reviewed the posts authored by adjunct professor Michael Bayer that were brought to our attention on March 7, 2018. Mr. Bayer’s posts have appeared on his own private social media accounts, and do not reflect the values and mission of our college. Baruch College has a longstanding commitment to diversity and equal opportunity, and we are dedicated to cultivating an inclusive community. At the same time, Mr. Bayer has the right to express his opinions, no matter how distasteful they may be perceived to be.”

Whether or not students have complaints about Bayer’s tweets, Bayer’s right to have posted them is protected by the college. Jha added that “comments made as private individuals do not reflect Baruch’s values.” Students defending Bayer have indicated that they do not believe the tweets reflect on Bayer as a professor or as a person.

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# Event celebrates Ecuadorian battle

BY GABRIELLE HUEZO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Ecuadorian Club at Baruch College held its annual "Battle of Ecuador" on March 8 to commemorate the Battle of Pichincha. The battle, fought in May of 1822, was part of Latin America's fight for independence from colonialists and a turning point for the South American rebels.

With this victory over Spanish royalists, the rebels were able to occupy the city of Quito in Ecuador the next day.

"It is kind of part of our history and our freedom. In the event it is mostly just kind of like a battle of the sexes, fear factor kind of thing," said Domenica Cotrina, vice president of the club.

Event attendees were divided into four teams that were named after cities in Ecuador: Quito, Cuenca, Guayaquil and Ambato. Together, the teams played five games.

During the first game, "Mystery Box," each person was blindfolded then instructed to reach into a box and guess what was inside. The second game, called "Aim and Feed," encouraged teams to don blindfolds, eat a bite of food and guess what they had just eaten. The third was "Junk in the Trunk," during which participants from each team tied tissue boxes filled small pieces of paper to their waists and had to move their hips to shake all the papers out.

The last games included a balloon blowing competition and tug of war.

Traditional Ecuadorian food was served during the event, including chicken, rice, pork and plantains.

Most members of the club, including the executive board, are first or second-generation im-



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The "Battle of Ecuador" event commemorated the real-life Battle of Pichincha.

migrants from Ecuador. All of the executive board members speak Spanish at home with it being their first language.

The club's goal is to educate people about the history and culture of Ecuador while offering leadership opportunities to its members. It welcomes students to

join of every race and ethnicity.

The Ecuadorian Club is in its fifth year operating at Baruch College.

Its next event, "Carnavalito" or "The Carnaval," is happening later this month in the Multipurpose Room. The club expects about 250 people to attend.

# Sexual violence talk helps educate students

BY COURTNEY GERVAIS  
STAFF WRITER

As a part of the Baruch College celebration of Women's History Month, students were invited to participate in a workshop discussing the ways they can stop sexual violence and the perpetuation of rape culture.

The event, held on March 6, was led by two consultants from the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, Jeenie Yoon and Amber Lust.

At the start of the workshop, Lust explained different forms sexual violence can take, such as rape, assault, exhibition, stalking and catcalling. The introduction of these terms allowed a working definition of sexual violence to use throughout the session.

Lust illuminated the many aspects of society that help perpetuate sexual violence, like advertisements in magazines that objectify women.

Many communities, Lust explained, continue to enforce stereotypes not only of women but also of LGBTQ-identifying individuals by making assumptions and treating them as objects that can be manipulated.

Yoon went on to identify many of the myths that allude to rape and sexual assault as something that is excused under the circumstances of "boys will be boys." Yoon asserted the fact that the reason behind sexual violence is always power and control with society being apathetic and accepting of violence against women.

Yoon explained that it is important to never blame the victim for a sexual assault, especially if close friends or family members claim

they have been the victim of sexual violence. Yoon cited that only 2 to 8 percent of sexual violence reports end up being false. According to the alliance's website, one in five women on college campuses have been sexually assaulted during their time there.

The presentation emphasized that the key to fighting these statistics is through healthy communication and education. Yoon discussed the different signs of consent with a sexual partner. She reiterated that an inebriated partner cannot consent to any kind of sexual act, and that forcing or coercing someone to have sex is not an actual yes.

Lust and Yoon both agreed that while understanding all of the different situations under which sexual violence occurs can be complex, it is necessary to recognize how society speaks about sexual violence and the treatment of its victims to make positive change.

"I think that one of the biggest takeaways especially for students was that it is never the victims fault—women and men both are victims and things aren't black and white, but sometimes in that gray area in between when it comes to sexual assault," said workshop organizer Crystal Tejada, the assistant director of student activities in the Office of Student Life.

Moving forward, Tejada discussed the ways this relates to how she speaks about sexual violence with students, saying, "You listen to people, stay open minded, you don't come from a judgmental place, you have to be mindful of the questions you ask, to make sure people can come to me with these issues and so I can help them."

# 'Students of Baruch' website offers online community to students

BY LIAM GIORDANO  
STAFF WRITER

Launched in the fall of 2017, the website and community Facebook page "Students of Baruch" has experienced enormous success, connecting Baruch College students across campus. It did this through its social marketplace to buy and sell calculators and textbooks, and it's easy access calendar of club events.

The website has facilitated over 100 affordable purchases of textbooks between students on campus, as well as contributed to greater student involvement in campus life by hosting advertisements for Baruch clubs and organizations on its platform. Furthermore, Students of Baruch will host almost any item that a student is looking to sell or donate amongst the Baruch community.

In an interview with *The Ticker*, site creator Warren Arthur said, "I encourage students to contribute whatever they can possibly imagine to other fellow Bearcats. Even a dollar's worth of discount can change the life of another student!"

The website began as a project to give back to Baruch. Arthur had just graduated from Baruch in the Spring semester of 2017 with a degree in computer information systems, and was working as an information technology specialist at the college.

Arthur performed so well academically and professionally that he was awarded a full scholarship early in his undergraduate career.

As a token of his appreciation, Arthur denied the myriad of employment offers from private technology companies he had received after graduation, and began drafting a project that he envisioned would improve the Baruch com-

munity.

During the interview, Arthur explained his decision to create Students of Baruch, "I was in my office, staring at a pile of textbooks and calculators that I had accumulated from classes and I was thinking of ways to donate them when the idea hit me. I could put my skills to use and create some kind of exchange program for Baruch students."

The process was certainly not easy though. Arthur explained that the site is constructed of three different coding formulas. He was able to apply skills that he had mastered in Baruch classrooms by implementing Cascading Style Sheets, Hypertext Markup Language and Personal Home Page into a WordPress platform.

Arthur also ascribed his success to the opportunities provided to him by Baruch's fine and performing arts department.

"Aside from all of the opportunities I was given as a student and as an employee, the chairwoman of the department, Anne Swartz has encouraged my project from the moment I shared it with her," Arthur said.

Previously, Arthur was a one-man team, working relentlessly on his Students of Baruch project in his free time. Only this semester did Arthur hire three project assistants to help him in various aspects of the project, like marketing and outreach to Baruch clubs and organizations.

According to Arthur, these Baruch students have the potential to assist him in making the project a much larger, more creative platform that can host the potential to benefit every CUNY student.

Despite investing his own money to pay his project assistants, to enable giveaways for Baruch clubs and organizations and to keep the



COURTESY OF "STUDENTS OF BARUCH"

"Students of Baruch" boasts event postings from clubs and a marketplace to sell textbooks, calculators and other goods.

site running, Arthur is only concerned with impacting the lives of Baruch students.

"I just want to make Baruch students happy. If I can change a student's life, by connecting them to their tools for success in college, then it will all be worth it," he said.

Students of Baruch also has a lively presence on its Facebook page, where Arthur and his assistants peruse through a range of

Baruch-related Facebook accounts to answer students' concerns and questions regarding a multitude of issues. Ranging from technology support, to directing students to calculus tutoring videos, Students of Baruch makes every attempt to guide Baruch students into an easier undergraduate experience.

Students of Baruch also prioritizes safety. Every posting and response, as well as the respective

email addresses of the two users, is forwarded to Arthur and his team. Arthur makes sure to include overt suggestions to users about remaining on campus when connecting in any capacity with another user of the site. "Safety of Baruch students is imperative, so I take every precaution that I can to ensure the success of the site," Arthur said.

Find Students of Baruch at [www.studentsofbaruch.com](http://www.studentsofbaruch.com).



# Himalayan Club hosts Tihar event

BY CARL ROBERTS JR.  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Himalayan Club at Baruch College hosted its first event of the semester, “Deusi-Bhailo,” on March 8. The event highlighted Tihar, the Hindu “Festival of Light,” an event that brings people together through song, food and dance.

Prasiddha Thakuri, president of the Himalayan Club, opened the event with information about the Tihar celebration. The religious festival is typically celebrated for five days around the end of October and beginning of November and is similar to American holidays like Halloween, Independence Day and Thanksgiving.

“Deusi and Bhailo represent traditional songs that are sung during the Tihar festival,” Thakuri explained. “The word ‘Deusi Re’ can be broken down into two words in Sanskrit, generally meaning to offer one’s head for a greater cause, or sacrifice oneself.”

Participants played games at the event, with some splitting into four teams to sing and dance. The teams were tasked with filling in the missing lyrics of randomly chosen songs.

They were also encouraged to dance in order to score additional points for showing off their dance moves while singing.

Students played the madal, a hand drum used in Nepal, after watching videos depicting how these drums are used during the festival.

Thakuri plans to further present the Baruch community with Himalayan culture. The club also plans on having this “Deusi-Bhailo” event during the next Fall semester around the time of the actual Tihar festival.

“You can rest assure that this was just a sneak peek, as we have



JONATHAN SPERLING | THE TICKER

Pictured above is the Himalayan Club at a general meeting held last year.

bigger and bolder plans for the next ‘Deusi-Bhailo’ and all of our future events,” Thakuri said.

The Himalayan Club was chartered by the Undergraduate Student Government in 2016 after operating unofficially for a couple of years.

Thakuri explained that the club was formed in Spring 2015 when Himalayan students at Baruch joined together to raise funds for Nepalese earthquake victims. The students raised \$9,500 in one week and made the decision to move forward as a group.

# Shkreli receives jail time

BY WEN XI CHEN AND  
SALVATORE GAGLIARDI  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER AND  
COPY EDITOR

Martin Shkreli, the former CEO of Turing Pharmaceuticals, was sentenced to 7 years in prison on March 9. Shkreli is a Baruch College alumni and a former business editor of *The Ticker*.

In 2015, Retrophin, a biotechnology firm Shkreli founded in 2011 and then was ousted from in 2014, accused him of creating and taking the company public solely to pay back investors from his failed hedge fund company, MSMB Capital Management. Two years later in August 2017, a jury found Shkreli guilty on three of eight counts of securities fraud in a Brooklyn Federal District Court.

On March 5, Judge Kiyo Matsumoto ruled that Shkreli owes the government \$7.36 million in losses directly related to his fraud. On March 9, Matsumoto sentenced Shkreli to seven years in federal prison, three years of probation following his release and a \$75,000 fine. He will receive a credit of six months of time served prior to his sentencing. The prosecution had been seeking a 15-year sentence, while his defense team, led by defense lawyer Benjamin Brafman, had argued for a 12-18 month sentence. Brafman though, following the sentencing, appeared pleased with the outcome, “When the guidelines are 25 years and the government is demanding 15 years one would think that a seven year sentence is good,” he said. “I thought the sentence should have been less than seven years, but Martin’s fine and obviously it could have been a lot worse.”

Shkreli earned a degree in business from Baruch in 2004 and worked his first internship at

Cramer Berkowitz & Co. before his career began in the financial and pharmaceutical industry. He came under heavy public scrutiny for raising the price of Daraprim, a 65-year-old “specialty” drug used to treat toxoplasmosis, a serious parasitic condition that commonly afflicts individuals with weak immune systems, like those diagnosed with AIDS. Shkreli raised the price of the drug in September 2015 from \$13.50 a tablet to \$750 overnight, in an attempt to exploit a small marketplace with restricted access and a lack of competition.

Four months after his price increase, Shkreli was subpoenaed to testify before the House Oversight Committee in regard to high drug prices in the United States. During his testimony he pleaded the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer any questions. During the public’s period of furor, his name was associated with terms such as “morally bankrupt sociopath,” “scumbag” or “the most hated man in America.” Shkreli, at first, defiantly responded to the public’s criticism when he tweeted, “And it seems like the media immediately points a finger at me. So I point one back at em, but not the index or pinkie.” Ultimately, he relented and said he would lower the price back to an affordable amount; in 2016, he lowered it to \$375 for some hospitals.

However, Shkreli’s decision to raise his drug’s price was only an extension of what other private drug companies had already been doing, including the company which Shkreli bought out, CorePharma, which first acquired the rights to Daraprim in 2010. CorePharma originally raised the price from \$1 to \$13.50, which made the drug less affordable to private insurers, Medicare recipients and hospitalized patients.

# UCLA entertains crowd of students with Lunar New Year celebration

BY ESTELLE SAAD  
STAFF WRITER

Baruch College’s United Chinese Language Association hosted its annual “Lunar New Year Festival” on March 6, as a celebration of the Lunar New Year.

The event consisted of numerous performances, some tied to the theme of the Lunar New Year, while others were more for entertainment. Additionally, a series of games were played, where members of the audience were called up to participate.

Alexandra Chan, co-vice president of UCLA, explained: “UCLA hosts a Lunar New Year Festival every year because is such a significant event for the Chinese community in Baruch. In China, Lunar New Year is the most important holiday of the year, and traditionally begins on the first day of the first month of the lunisolar calendar and ends with Lantern Festival on the 15th day.

The holiday is celebrated by bring together families and honoring ancestors. We hope that through the food that we serve, the performances, and the decorations at our festival, we will be able to spread awareness and appreciation of the Chinese culture.”

The festival started off with a dragon dance, in which two students danced around the stage holding up a figure of a dragon. This is a traditional part of Lunar New Year festivities, though the students modernized it with a more humorous approach. They made the audience laugh with their movements and delighted the crowd by throwing small gifts at it.

A duo of rappers known as TriKuza was up next, rapping a rhyme they created in honor of the event as well as two of their other songs.



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Performances during the celebration included a traditional lion dance, a duo of rappers known as TriKuza, an Asian Fusion dance group and a YouTube musician named Nix.

TriKuza employed the help of the audience for one of its songs, asking the crowd to sing along to the chorus.

The games played on stage included a water bottle flip, a game of rock paper scissors, in which losing players had to eat sushi with wasabi, a game where participants had to feed their partners a Cup Noodles and a game in which players must get an Oreo into their mouths from their foreheads. Also, UCLA prepared a few rounds of Family

Feud relating to the Chinese New Year.

There was a dance routine performed by the Asian Fusion Dance at New York University group, which showed students some of the elements of traditional Chinese dance. The final performance was by Nix, the YouTube known as uuuuuuukewithme, in which she performed three songs on her ukulele.

The Multipurpose Room was decorated in red for the event, with

traditional symbols and designs hung up on the walls.

The food served was chicken and rice with an egg roll, and for dessert a variety of puddings were offered.

Upon entering the event, students were handed a raffle ticket, a beverage of choice and a sponge cake. A raffle was drawn at the closing of the event, and as students left they were given red envelopes filled with Chinese candies. Red envelopes full of money are tradi-

tionally given during Lunar New Year to children by their parents and relatives.

“This event exceeded my expectations,” said sophomore David Gallir. “I had a great time and am now planning on getting involved with the UCLA in the future.”

The event was both enjoyable and informative for students, and taught people about the Lunar New Year, focusing on the ideas of honoring one’s ancestors, new beginnings and family.



# Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## USG's delayed fraternity survey accounts for few student voices

The ban on fraternities in Baruch College has now carried into its fourth year, and the ban now faces immense scrutiny. The Undergraduate Student Government has taken poor initiatives to gather student input on whether the ban should be lifted or remain.

USG members conducted a survey to gauge how students feel about the return of social Greek life, but the survey was only made available a few days before the Feb. 27 USG meeting during which the table voted to take a stance on the issue. To create a proper and representative sample, the survey should have been dispersed much sooner than the vote.

The official USG Facebook page posted the survey on Feb. 24 at 10:06 p.m. Many students might have missed the late-night post. Students who are not active on social media would not have been represented, unless they received the survey from the USG mailing list. During the meeting on Feb. 27, USG stated that only 2 percent of Baruch's student population responded to the survey, which is an insufficient sample size to accurately represent all students.

USG, however, did face issues getting the survey approved with the CUNY legal office, but the organization should have presented the survey earlier to have more time for approval. However, USG posted the survey without the office's approval anyway.

The survey asked if students were willing to pay an additional \$10 to \$20 more in student activity fees, yet the current division of student activity fees only gives \$12 out of the total fee to all clubs and organizations per student. Without clear disclosure on why or how the increase would support Greek life, it seems unsubstantiated and drastic.

USG also did a last-minute tabling on Feb. 27. Arvis Chen, the chair of the Clubs and Organizations Committee, said he had problems securing tabling after the survey was released. USG should have anticipated these issues. Securing a table, especially for student input on such an important issue to the student population, was essential in getting the word out to as many students as possible. All these issues compounded led to severe student under representation.

During the meeting, members of the senate argued that they cannot always represent the majority and that their voices should also be used to represent the minority opinion. While this is true, USG should seek greater student input if students are deeply divided on an issue like this. USG should represent what the students want even if the decision contradicts what USG members may personally believe in.

## Delta Airlines given unfair ultimatum

The recent school shooting at Florida's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School has led to a swift backlash against the National Rifle Association. Businesses and corporations, such as Delta Air Lines Inc., are discontinuing special discounts and offers for NRA members.

In response to its decision to join the boycott, the Georgia government has given Delta a choice to return these offers to NRA members or scratch a \$50 million tax exemption on jet fuel from the proposed state budget.

The company is the largest private employer in the state of Georgia and is the lifeblood of Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the busiest airport in the world. This decision will only harm Georgia; with decreased tax breaks, the company's growth could stall.

This retaliation by the Georgia state government is wrong. The government has no right to punish a private business. Rather, it should protect Delta's independent decisions and avoid attacking the airline. Delta has taken a stand to expressing concerns over the most recent school shooting and how lawmakers have failed to address it.

The NRA discount was a one-time group offer only used by 13 people. This policy should not require such a drastic overreaction by the state government that may cost Delta alone \$40 million. Corporations and their right to free expression, are protected by the U.S. Constitution. This right should not be violated.



JIAHUI HAN | THE TICKER

## Kobe Bryant's Oscar win highlights public apathy in his rape allegations

On Sunday, March 4, movie lovers around the world rejoiced as the 90th Academy Awards celebrated the year's best films. On a night filled with historic accomplishments, one of the most surprising moments happened when an Oscar was handed out to basketball legend Kobe Bryant. His short film *Dear Basketball* won the honor for best animated short. Sports fans and cinephiles cheered, but many other viewers were confused.

Observing the reaction to Bryant's Oscar win, it might be easy to forget he was arrested for sexual assault 14 years ago, after a 19-year-old hotel employee accused the superstar of rape. This case has been scrubbed from the memories of most diehard sports fans, who either willingly chose to forget the incident or did not care enough to remember.

In the current climate, where sexual predators are finally facing consequences for their actions, Bryant is still reaping the benefits of his success. Just a few months earlier, two of his jersey numbers were retired by the Los Angeles Lakers. Now, the Oscars showed that Bryant can walk into a room filled with celebrities who championed the "Time's Up" movement, only to be overwhelmed with applause after the Academy presented him with an award.

Even after the movement

against sexual harassment in Hollywood, Bryant is still untouchable. Barely anyone mentions the charges and the million-dollar settlement Bryant paid to avoid potentially going to prison. Instead, the basketball superstar is hailed as a hero despite the evidence against him, including DNA evidence and his confession of lying to the police.

The case against Bryant was ultimately dropped after the accuser refused to testify against him. This may have been due to the intense public scrutiny she was being forced to endure and the death threats she was getting from fans. Bryant then apologized to the victim without admitting any guilt, paid her a settlement and bought his wife a \$4 million apology ring.

Neither the Lakers nor the NBA felt it necessary to suspend Bryant for his actions. His fans, while vicious at first, eventually forgot all about the superstar's legal troubles. The basketball icon went on to make over \$680 million throughout his career.

Bryant's career never suffered for his alleged actions in that hotel room in 2003. He won three more championships, had 13 more All-Star appearances, won a league MVP award and finished with many more honors. He will, without question, be enshrined into the NBA Hall of Fame and be remembered by most not as an accused rapist, but as one of the greatest

basketball players of all time.

That is how most people will remember Bryant, but not all. Now is the time to hold professional athletes to the same standards as everyone else. While we may live in a time where sexual assault is being taken more seriously now more than ever before, the most male-dominated industry in the country is still unchanging.

It is hard not to notice the hypocrisy of moviemakers when they purposely ignore Ryan Seacrest on the red carpet and shame Casey Affleck into not presenting, but then hand an accused rapist a golden statue. Such behavior is not only irresponsible, but immoral. Praising men who have been accused of rape further perpetuates a rape culture that women are fighting so hard to tear down.

Al Franken, Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K and more have all been justly removed from their positions due to their history of sexual misconduct. Despite their talent, these men have deservedly suffered for their actions. The same standard is applied to the sports industry. However, when Hollywood refuses to enforce the standards that famous faces fought so hard to set in their own industry, it is difficult to imagine anyone else following suit.

-Evan Lewis  
Journalism and Political Science '19

## People younger than 18 should not vote

With the recent uprisings and movements led by teenagers in opposition to current policies and events, it is no surprise that many have voiced their opinion to lower the minimum voting age from 18 years old to 16 years old, allowing the younger generation to be heard.

Politicians are often either middle-aged or senior citizens, but they make legislative decisions that directly affect all individuals, especially the younger generations. However, it would be unwise and irresponsible to give teenagers the right to vote.

Voting is the most important civic duty. It is something that has a direct impact on individual lives, especially when it comes to local elections that affect neighborhoods and cities.

Local elections are important because officials who are elected hold greater sway over policy, which in turn has a considerable effect on the politicians' constitu-

ents. Teenagers may feel entitled to have a say in their government, especially since elected officials will have a direct impact on their lives. However, teenagers represent an age group that is more easily manipulated. Giving them the vote might cause more harm than good.

In the last few decades, there has been a significant rise in teenagers with social anxiety, making this generation much more impressionable.

Politicians could change their campaign strategies to target these impressionable teenagers, persuading the young people to vote for their ideas, even if the teenagers might not agree.

Adolf Hitler used a similar strategy in Nazi Germany to facilitate his rise to power. He targeted the youth, who were more easily manipulated.

There are reasons why certain civic responsibilities are delayed until a person turns 18. These regulations factor in maturity as well

as the ability to make rational decisions since these decisions can impact the lives of individuals, the people around them and in some cases the entire country.

For example, in New York parents are legally responsible for the financial support of their children until the age of 21, unless the children are emancipated by a court order, marriage or joining the military. Young adults who can currently vote are still under their parents' supervision.

Modern teenagers might think that because they have easy access to information, they can vote, but this skill comes with time and maturity. If current young adults are barely trusted with important decisions, they should also wait their turn to cast a vote in an election, until life experience provides them with further development and knowledge.

-Katarzyna Borkowska  
International Business '20

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# Newly passed Republican tax plan exacerbates wage inequality in US

After the worst financial downturn since the Great Depression, the job market has finally started to strengthen, which is good news for soon-to-be graduating Baruch College students and all U.S. citizens. Unfortunately, this growth has been overwhelmingly uneven. Many people felt left behind, which led some of them to vote for a confident man who promised to improve the economy.

“The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer,” said President Donald Trump. However, Trump’s tax plan does nothing to address the growing income inequality problem that society is currently facing.

William G. Gale, co-director of the Tax Policy Center told Vox, “It exacerbates preexisting and longstanding trends, rather than aiming to partially compensate for them.”

The biggest winners of the new tax plan will be the wealthy. The centerpiece of the tax plan is the drastic drop in the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent. This specifically benefits those who own corporations and top executives whose compensation is linked to the performance of the stock market.

These are not your average citizens by any stretch of the imagination. The overhaul to the individual tax code also disproportionately benefits those who are better off. A person in the bottom 10 percent gets a \$50 cut. On the other hand, a person in the top 1 percent would get a tax cut of \$34,000. This bill also removed the inheritance tax. This would only go into effect if the money or property inherited was over \$5 million.

Proponents of the tax plan sincerely believe that the lower tax rates will ignite exponential growth and investment in the economy. This same idea was tried in 2002 under President George W. Bush. The results were an inegalitarian period of economic growth and an increase in U.S. jobs being shipped overseas.

Americans in middle and lower classes will see small drops in their taxes, but most of these individual tax breaks will expire in 2026.

This was done to adhere to Senate rules so the bill could be passed under reconciliation. A bill passed under reconciliation must not add to deficit over the next 10 years and only needs a simple majority vote to pass. Unless the 2027 Congress extends the individual breaks, most citizens will see their taxes rise again.

If the Republican Party and Trump really wanted to put a stop to inequality, they would target the payroll tax, not the income tax.

The payroll tax funds Social Security and Medicare. It was only 2 percent after World War II. Since then it has ballooned to 15.3 percent.

According to the Tax Policy Center, the payroll tax is the largest tax a majority of families in the United States pay. These increases have offset any decreases in the income tax rate. In fact, most middle and lower-class families now face higher total tax rates than families in the 1960s.

A recent report came out showing that wages have in fact increased, especially among lower income workers. The pay gap between men and women even closed a little.

These trends have been occur-

ring since 2015. Twenty-one states also raised their minimum wage. The author of the report warned not to be too optimistic. “The recent pay raises for the poor and middle class don’t come close to erasing the inequality in pay increases of the 21st century,” the report in *The New York Times* read.

“High-income workers have still done much better since 2000 than middle-or low-income workers. And the Trump tax law will worsen the situation,” the article said. This is par for the course of the Trump presidency: broken promises and flawed policies that are doing more harm than good.

Take Trump’s planned 25 percent tariff on steel, withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and reported attempts to scrap the North American Free Trade Agreement. These are all moves that are supposed to protect the U.S. worker. Instead, they are leading to even more financial pain.

The European Union already has plans to retaliate against any U.S. tariffs, and China has unchecked trading influence in the Pacific. Even pulling out of the Paris climate accord has damaged the United States.

The world stage has been seceded to China and France. The U.S. is no longer the world leader. Other nations used to look to the United States for guidance, but now they do not know if Trump is being serious or “joking,” as White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders so eloquently put. Trump wants to win so badly that he does not care that the country is losing.

-Davon Singh  
Marketing ‘18

# US should not ban guns

Recently, there has been a wide-ranging discussion taking place concerning the Second Amendment in the wake of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. People are talking about school safety, gun control, mental health and the usage of AR-15s, just to name a few hot topics. There are a few solutions that could make mass shootings more preventable, but banning certain guns or taking them by force are not options. People may assume that by taking guns like the AR-15 away, the issue of mass shootings will be solved. However, throughout history, guns have provided a means of self-defense.

The government must protect, not interfere with, citizen rights listed in the U.S. Constitution and particularly defined by the Second Amendment.

Citizens need AR-15s because such weapons are the only means to counter a government that may become too domineering. The government has tanks, nuclear weapons and fighter jets. Even with this advanced technology, the U.S. military could not win in Vietnam and has not secured victory yet in Afghanistan. People with Kalashnikovs, a far inferior weapon to U.S. armory, were able to deter a more advanced military.

AR-15s are especially under scrutiny because they are frequently used in mass shootings. An AR-15 is constructed to inflict maximum damage on a mass scale, but people do not necessarily need an AR-15 for everyday use. If the United States bans AR-15s, there will still be a possibility of mass casualties.

The solution to prevent any future attacks on the students of the United States is through stringent background checks and regula-

tion. However, increased regulation may have an inverse effect, as criminals will then buy guns on the black market.

It is important to define what should be included in future background checks and proposed regulation to ensure maximum public safety. The Parkland shooting, despite being a tragedy, has sparked much-needed deliberation throughout the country.

Lawmakers must not rush to push through stringent regulations. Instead, more debate is needed to find an original idea that prevents mass shootings, rather than simply banning guns completely.

Gun-related violence in the United States is often compared with the violence in other countries, but unlike other nations, the United States is founded on a unique set of principles and amendments.

What may appear as a sensible compromise today may end up resulting in the ban of guns one day in the future. The sacrifices made by the men and women to protect and defend the liberties and rights of U.S. citizens cannot be forgotten when making amendment-altering decisions.

The U.S. Constitution must be protected at all costs. An offense against the Second Amendment is alarming, as it opens the door for increased alteration of fundamental rights for U.S. citizens. Stringent and frequent background checks will ensure that those with weapons are mentally stable. This is the first step to preventing further mass shootings. An incorrect solution would be to ban guns and demonize the NRA members as well as the mental health community.

-Ahsan Mushtaq  
Political Science ‘20

# Hicks’ departure surprises Washington

The majority of Americans are just beginning to figure their lives out in their 20s. Most people are just wrapping up college, trying to move out, searching for their first job or preparing the long climb up the corporate ladder. Former White House Communications Director Hope Hicks is not like most people.

The former child model worked for Ivanka Trump for a few months in her early 20s before capturing the attention of her boss’s father. This should come as no surprise, given President Donald Trump’s proclivity for models, such as his ex-wife Ivana, his current wife Melania, his daughter Ivanka and the eponymous modeling agency he founded.

The two bonded quickly and soon after, Hicks was employed full-time at the Trump Organization, working directly for its founder.

By 26, the young employee was designated by Trump as his campaign press secretary. At this point, Hicks had absolutely no prior experience in politics. Then again, neither did Trump.

Before long, Hicks was 29 years old and hard at work for the president of the United States. In an administration filled with constant reshuffling, Hicks had somehow managed to survive as Trump’s longest-serving political aide.

She had outlasted political lifers such as Reince Priebus and Sean Spicer, ultimately replacing Anthony Scaramucci to become the third communications director for the White House in less than a year.

Hicks’ meteoric rise has thrust her into the national spotlight and even earned her a spot on Forbes’ “30 Under 30” list. She would be looked at as quite the success story if she had not been on the verge of

getting indicted.

Hicks was the latest to join the long list of former Trump White House deserters on Wednesday, Feb. 28, after she unexpectedly resigned.

Interestingly enough, Hicks’ resignation comes a day after she testified for eight hours before the House intelligence committee, having admitted to telling “white lies” on occasion to protect the White House.

The admission of her dishonesty completely destroyed her credibility and drew the ire of Trump, who reportedly berated her for her words.

Now, after weeks of public scrutiny for dating domestic abuser and former White House aide Rob Porter as well as possibly obstructing justice, Hicks is ditching this grease fire before it is too late, leaving the president without one of his closest confidantes.

Over the last year, Trump has already said goodbye to Scaramucci, Spicer, Priebus and many more. He has seen former allies like Michael Flynn, Jeff Sessions, Steve Bannon and even his own wife turn on him. Now, someone he loves like a daughter is on her way out the door, essentially leaving Trump utterly alone in the Oval Office.

The president still has his real daughter and son-in-law on staff, but an alleged war with Chief of Staff John F. Kelly might soon spell the end of their tenures in the White House as well.

Hicks’ resignation is not even close to the true apex of Trump’s problems concerning her.

As FBI Director Robert Mueller continues to circle around Trump associates like a shark, his next target might be the former communications director who has already admitted to lying for Trump before,

and has been accused of obstructing justice by Trump’s former legal spokesman Mark Corallo.

Hicks is only 29 years old and already has a fairly incriminating amount of evidence compiled against her. The media is questioning whether or not Hicks will risk a prison sentence in order to protect her former boss.

With Corallo’s damaging testimony against her, Hicks and her attorney have to be discussing their options.

Every other former Trump associate who has been charged with a crime has already pleaded guilty in the Mueller inquiry — aside from 68-year-old Paul Manafort — and agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

Now that she is no longer obligated to cover up for the White House, it might behoove Hicks to preemptively follow suit before Mueller backs her into a corner.

In a time of tumultuous uncertainty, one thing is for sure: Hicks’ loose lips might just sink the Trump ship, a vessel that she has prudently abandoned.

When Trump first hired his daughter’s friend years ago, he clearly did not mind her youth and inexperience.

Now those two factors may contribute to his ultimate downfall. With nearly all of the original White House staff gone and the Trump children feuding with their father’s right-hand man, the president is traversing a difficult 2018.

Now that he has lost one of his dearest friends, who may turn on him to save her own skin in both a literal and metaphorical sense, Trump is very much without Hope.

-Evan Lewis  
Journalism and Political  
Science ‘19

# Majority opinions are overlooked in Hollywood

It is a common occurrence across the country that many people do not watch the Oscars due to the awards show’s length and controversies. Ratings for the 90th Academy Awards dropped a staggering 20 percent compared with the previous year, continuing on a downward trend that began almost a decade ago.

It is also important to note that overall television viewership ratings have declined due to an increase of streaming options available to the public.

These are the Academy Awards, however. The Oscars are an important event in the film industry, honoring all of the people involved in the making of a movie, not just the actors. It is not just an American event, but a noble celebration of art from around the world, which forces the public to reflect on modern issues.

The Oscars transcend simply representing film yet many people still have not seen the winner of this year’s best picture award, *The Shape of Water*. This fantastical film made only \$126.4 million worldwide and \$57.4 million domestically at the box office. Other popular movies this past year grossed much more.

*Black Panther* grossed over \$800 million worldwide and \$500 million domestically, while *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* brought in almost \$900 million worldwide and \$400 million in the box office domestically. *The Shape of Water*’s gross income is much less than other recent films.

*The Shape of Water*, however, was a much better production, as illustrated by its 13 Academy Award nominations. Moviegoers should be spending their money

on films with artistic sensibility like *The Shape of Water*.

Movies that are gushed over by the “Hollywood elite” are not for people seeking entertainment. Nowadays, the films that are produced and later nominated do not employ a didactic element. The purpose of every critically acclaimed film is for the elite to confirm their societal ideologies and ensure that in their minds, they are doing the right thing.

It is time for small, independent filmmakers, writers and artists to raise the entertainment industry from the moral beating it has taken over the previous decades and produce, once again, some reinvigorated material.

The current generation is living in an age of opportunity, where anyone can post their material to YouTube or other online media sources to be promoted until they have amassed a large following. Americans can probe for more entertaining material and then share it online. The overriding opinions and beliefs of the viewers should determine today’s artist productions.

Movies that all Americans love should not be used as paychecks for celebrities because those are exactly the movies that should be held up in society as a reflection of the time. Rather, movies reflect the values and opinions of our society; what makes us laugh, cry or question our ideals. The Academy should take the public seriously and realize that if Hollywood refuses to listen to the majority’s opinion, it will continue to lose viewership.

-Ada Gorodetskiy  
English ‘20



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# Business

## Proposed US metal tariffs may lead to international trade war

BY ESTELLE SAAD  
STAFF WRITER

President Donald Trump recently called for tariffs of 25 percent and 10 percent on imports of steel and aluminum, respectively. The announcement, which was made on Thursday, March 1, has been met with controversy, as investors fear the potential of a trade war. Canada, China and the EU are already reacting by threatening tariffs of their own on imported U.S. goods, which could result in billions of dollars lost.

Trump intends the proposed tariffs on steel and aluminum products to help U.S. companies, as well as ensure the national security of the country. Tariffs may be put into effect as early as next week and are expected to remain for some time. Trump responded to skeptics on Friday, March 2 with a tweet that claime, “Trade wars are good, and easy to win.”

The United States’ trading partners warned that Trump’s plan could likely lead to international boycotts of U.S. products and possibly set off a wave of protectionist policies across the globe. Some U.S. products EU officials have said they will put new tariffs on include Harley-Davidson motorbikes, bourbon whiskey, Levi’s jeans, orange juice, cranberries and rice. Furthermore, the EU has detailed a three-step plan to penalize an approximate \$3.5 billion of U.S. trade.

These tariffs could lead to billions of dollars in U.S. export losses, which many analysts claim will outweigh the benefits that Trump’s



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Both China and Trump’s own Republican party are criticizing his proposed tariffs, which may soon prove detrimental to U.S. trade.

steel and aluminum tariffs could provide the economy.

According to Bloomberg, Vice Chairman of the China Iron and Steel Association Li Xinchuang explained that “Trump’s decision does no good to everyone except a few American steel enterprises,” while harming other industries, including technology companies and agricultural producers. Additionally, the metal tariffs are expected to hurt U.S. manufacturers who use steel and aluminum because the cost for input of their products will rise. This may lead to the decrease of both corporate profits and job creation.

Republicans and conservative

groups have voiced their displeasure with Trump’s proposal, many of whom have urged him to change his mind. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, who is usually supportive of Trump, also disapproved of the proposed tariffs.

According to Bloomberg, a spokesperson for Ryan said on March 5, “We are extremely worried about the consequences of a trade war and are urging the White House to not advance with this plan. The new tax reform law has boosted the economy and we certainly don’t want to jeopardize those gains.”

Trump has only escalated the conflict, saying he would slap a

new tax on European cars if the EU retaliated against his proposed tariffs. In a tweet on March 3, he wrote that “If the E.U. wants to further increase their already massive tariffs and barriers on U.S. companies doing business there, we will simply apply a Tax on their Cars which freely pour into the U.S. They make it impossible for our cars (and more) to sell there.”

Trump has also put out the possibility of lifting the proposed tariffs, at least for Canada and Mexico, if NAFTA is renegotiated to become more favorable to the United States.

Trump’s announcement led to a dip in the U.S. stock market, with the Dow Jones industrial average

falling nearly 1.7 percent on March 1 and the Nasdaq composite and S&P 500 index both declining by 1.3 percent. The dive is due to concerns that many companies will now have to pay more for the steel and aluminum in their products, likely resulting in increased costs to consumers.

The tariff proposal could be challenged at the World Trade Organization. If the organization rules against the United States, the Trump administration’s willingness to follow global trade rules will be tested. Additionally, Congress could potentially stop the president from passing the tariffs, as Article I of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power to set tariffs. The president is only able to impose tariffs at his discretion because Congress has passed laws granting him that power. If Republicans in Congress disagree with the new tariff, they could pass laws that strip him of his powers.

In April 2017, Trump ordered an investigation into the implications foreign imports of U.S. steel could pose for national security. This past January, the Commerce Department concluded that cheap foreign steel is a threat to the United States.

According to Vox, the department stated that, “The continued rising levels of imports of foreign steel threaten to impair the national security by placing the U.S. steel industry at substantial risk of displacing the basic oxygen furnace and other steelmaking capacity, and the related supply chain needed to produce steel for critical infrastructure and national defense.”

## Spotify, highly valued in private trading, files for a \$1 billion IPO

BY JAHVON MEADOWS  
BUSINESS EDITOR

Spotify, the popular music, podcast and video streaming service, recently filed paperwork in February for an initial public offering of \$1 billion. The company will be traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol “SPOT.”

In an uncommon decision, the company’s shares will be listed directly on the exchange, without underwriters to help assess demand and set a price, according to CNN. As a result, the trading volume and price of ordinary shares may be more volatile. Spotify will also not issue new shares to raise money, but rather, it will give investors the opportunity to own existing shares of a company that used to be privately held.

According to the company’s prospectus, investors trading Spotify’s shares in private transactions have valued it at as much as \$23 billion. The company outlined its mission in its filing, stating that its purpose was “to unlock the potential of human creativity by giving a million creative artists the opportunity to live off their art and billions of fans the opportunity to enjoy and be inspired by these creators.”

Spotify currently boasts approximately 159 million monthly users, with 71 million users paying for the service’s premium subscription. Apple Music, its closest competitor in the streaming music business, has only 36 million subscribers and no free option. According to *Forbes*, the company generated \$5.04 billion in revenue last year, up 40 percent from \$3.57 billion in 2016 and 111 percent from \$2.34 billion in 2015.

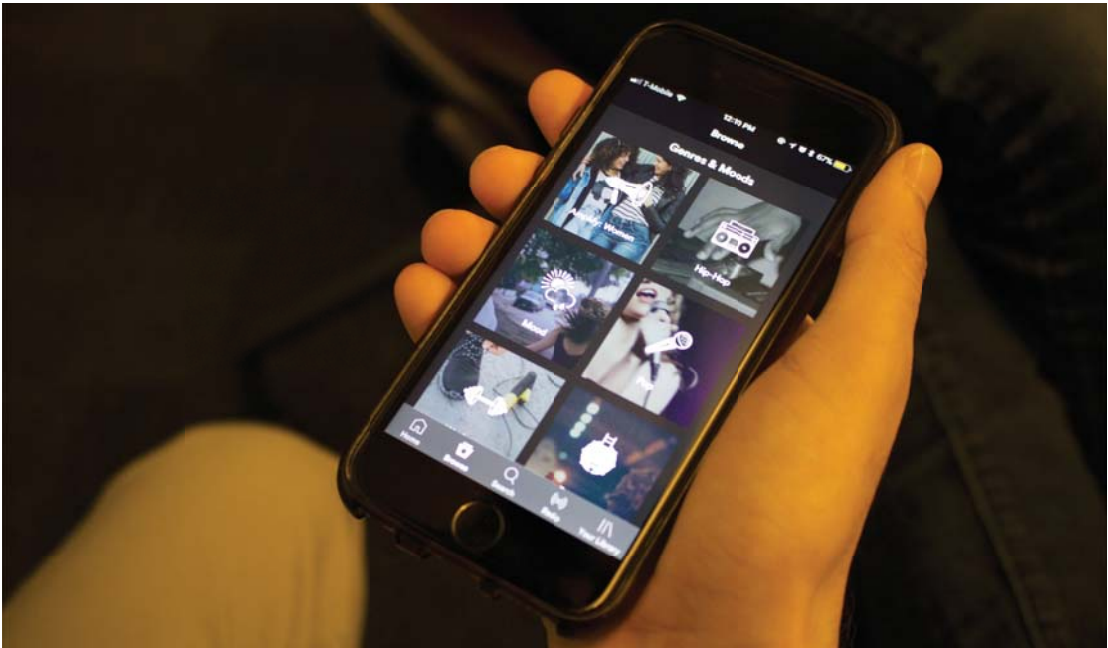
The service operates under a freemium business model. Basic

services, such as listening to music, creating playlists and letting friends know what songs one is listening to, are free. Free users of Spotify have to listen to advertisements, however. Additional services, such as listening to music offline, enhanced sound quality and mobile listening without shuffle mode enabled are available to those who purchase a subscription to the service.

However, Spotify appears to be hampered by its business model. Every time a song is streamed, Spotify has to pay royalties to record labels and music publishers. These royalties go to the big three rights holders in the music industry — Universal Music Group, Sony Music and Warner Music Group — as well as Merlin Network, a consortium of independent labels, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

As more users listen to music on Spotify and the company becomes more successful, it has to pay higher costs as a result. Compare this to Netflix’s business model, in which the video streaming company pays a flat fee to stream content for a set period of time. Although Spotify’s revenue increased from \$3.6 billion in 2016 to \$5 billion in 2017, its operating losses also increased from \$426 million to \$462 million in the same time period.

Additionally, Spotify has few options to decrease its future losses from royalties. If the company becomes large enough, it could possibly negotiate a better deal with music rights holders. However, this does not solve the problem of necessary content belonging to a few owners. The big three holders do not have to negotiate with Spotify. They could even increase the price of royalties, and Spotify would not be able to object or use an alternative. The big three and Merlin Network accounted for 87 percent of



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Unlike Netflix, Spotify has to pay royalties to music rights holders every time content is streamed, which cuts into their profits.

all songs streamed on Spotify last year. Netflix had a similar problem, where much of the content that users wanted to view were properties owned by other companies. To offer this content to its users, Netflix had to pay escalating content costs. To remedy this, the company decided to create its own exclusive content, such as the television show *House of Cards*. This effort proved so successful that Netflix is now investing billions into its own content production. In response to this, traditional media companies such as The Walt Disney Co. and Comcast Corp. are trying to acquire more content to increase their bargaining power, as well as create media streaming services of their own. But Spotify might not be able to do the same as Netflix, since a new

album created by a company does not have the same market pull as a new TV show.

Spotify has sustained criticism for its compensation model for artists. With physical sales or legal digital downloads, artists are paid a fixed price per song or album. Spotify pays its royalties by market share, calculated as the number of streams for an artist’s songs as a proportion to the total number of songs streamed on Spotify.

The company then pays 70 percent of its revenue to music rights holders, who pay artists based on their individual contracts. The problem with this model is that popular music and artists are rewarded, but obscure artists lose out.

As streaming music becomes

the dominant means by which users consume music today, lesser-known artists will be paid less by Spotify compared with how much they would be paid from CD sales or digital downloads. The service’s free tier is also a target of contempt, allowing users to listen to an artist’s music without the artist receiving any compensation.

Some artists, most notably Taylor Swift and Radiohead, have pulled their entire music collections from Spotify before having them eventually restored. Spotify claims that it is benefiting the entire music industry by steering users away from piracy and less monetized services over to its free service tier, where it then attempts to persuade users to pay for its



# Critics argue that technology companies should be broken up

BY JAHVON MEADOWS  
BUSINESS EDITOR

As technology becomes a more ubiquitous presence in our lives, and technology companies grow to enormous sizes, some have asked whether these giants of industry should be broken up.

According to *The Wall Street Journal* in particular, Apple, Facebook Inc., Alphabet Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. have become dominant in their respective areas, creating virtual monopolies and duopolies. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, in the United States, Alphabet's Google handles 89 percent of all searches conducted on the internet. Ninety-five percent of young adults on the internet use a Facebook product, such as Instagram or WhatsApp.

Amazon handles 75 percent of all electronic book sales. Google and Facebook together received 63 percent of online advertisement spending on their platforms last year. Google and Apple provide 99 percent of mobile phone operating systems. Apple and Microsoft Corporation supply 95 percent of desktop operating systems.

As a result of this, Apple, Google, Facebook and Amazon are among the world's most valuable companies. Despite these successes, they have also been accused of stifling competition, avoiding taxes and invading privacy.

Their hold is so vast that Russian operatives used Facebook and other U.S. social media companies to sow dissension among citizens during the 2016 presidential election. According to Bloomberg, "Executives of Facebook, Google, and Twitter Inc. told Congress on Oct. 31 that they can't even measure the extent of Russia's manipulation of the U.S. presidential election and don't yet have the tools to



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

Compared with their peers, Facebook, Apple, Google and Amazon dominate in their number of users, resources and financing.

stop it the next time."

Their precedents are AT&T Corporation and Standard Oil, that both commanded 80 percent of their specific markets until they were broken up by the U.S. government. Critics are wondering if these tech companies could be split the same way, under an antitrust case.

However, antitrust regulators have to estimate whether the massive size of Apple and these other companies leave consumers worse off. Right now, they do not operate as a conventional monopoly would. In a traditional monopoly or duopoly, a company would seek to set its own exorbitant prices or collude with another to keep prices in their market high, leaving

consumers with little to no alternatives.

Companies with this favorable market position might also offer poor quality products or services, with few improvements or updates. In contrast, big tech has only driven down prices, as well as rolled out new and improved goods and services at a rapid pace.

Most Google products are free to consumers, including access to an advanced internet search engine, email, calendar, notes, photo storage service, file storage service and an office suite hosted on the web.

Market dominance could mean fewer competitors and less innovation, however. With fewer choices available to consumers, they will be worse off as a result. Fiona

M. Scott Morton in an antitrust case stated, "The impact on innovation can be the most important competitive effect," according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Companies such as Facebook are a prime example of how market dominance hampers competition. With more than 2 billion users, the company is the most popular and prominent social media network around. Consequently, this makes it difficult for users to switch away from it and for other companies to compete.

Even if a competitor offers a better service, users will not want to switch to it without their friends. Through the network effect, a platform becomes more useful to an individual user the more users it

has. Facebook has leveraged its massive user base into other areas. Instagram and WhatsApp became the world's largest photo-sharing site and instant-messaging provider, respectively. This was because Facebook users signed up for these services in much greater numbers once they were acquired by the company.

Additionally, companies that want to compete with Facebook may struggle to draw users to their platform or to acquire funding from investors. Even if they cater to a niche, there is no law preventing certain forms of copying. Snap Inc.'s Snapchat, a disappearing photo- and video-sharing mobile app popular among teenagers and young adults, was once seen as a direct competitor to Facebook.

When Snapchat denied Facebook's offer to buy it outright in 2013, Facebook retaliated by copying key features of the phone application.

In 2016, the company introduced Stories, a Snapchat-like feature, on Instagram, which today has both more users and advertisers than Snapchat, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. This decision by Facebook not only undercut Snap's growth and profits, reducing the number of users who would want to try the app out, but also brought new users to Instagram and further locked in Facebook product users into its ecosystem.

Antitrust laws and federal regulations may need to change to keep pace with the rapid innovation and unorthodox practices of these tech giants. However, compared to decades ago, users have more choices than ever. If a superior search engine or online store were created, making the switch would be easier compared with the times of infamous monopolies in the past.

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# Arts & Style

## Baruch students adapt *The Laramie Project* for staged reading

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

That is not to say that the 14-person cast helmed by first-time director Maxim Ibadov needed any special arrangements.

Docudrama is a difficult genre to master, but if the years have proven anything, it is that Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project mastered the form a long time ago with their first piece, *Gross Indecency*, a recollection of the trials of Oscar Wilde.

Their rigorous approach to text, consisting of splicing and re-telling actual sections of human speech rather than creating their own, has long proven to be a boon to the theater world that changed the face of what drama can offer. There is a reason the genre is called verbatim theater, and Kaufman's work proves that spoken word can be just as powerful as conceived performance.

If "all the world's a stage," then the Tectonic Theater Project made sure that it was the world one saw on that stage. Over the years they have devised several pieces with similar methods, many of which tested the bounds of human experience and, just as often, its frailty. *The Laramie Project* stands as yet another one of the jewels in a crown of masterpieces.

In 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay student from the University of Wyoming, was discovered nearly beaten to death and tied to a fence, abandoned by his attackers. The small town of Laramie, Wyoming — a place where everyone seems to know one another that is usually

blessed with an unusual tranquility — faced the reckoning of such an event.

Media poured into the town, much to the chagrin of the townsfolk who felt that their privacy was suddenly under attack.

The national spotlight shined right onto the place where an innocent young man had died from his injuries. Laramie was no longer just another small town in the middle of nowhere; it was the sight of a man-made tragedy.

The relevance of this piece would be easy to overlook if not for the wellspring of emotion carved out by Ibadov and his cast. The power of a docudrama like *The Laramie Project* is in showcasing the instances of the real and the painful, every slur and every act of love that the widest range of human experience can conjure.

The intimate reading was quite the conjuration, with the incredibly simple lighting grid of the Engelman Recital Hall used to create loneliness, community, recognition and despair.

Threadbare costumes allowed the actors to shed skins and put those layers back on again in an ever-shifting chorus of interviews, transcripts and testimonials flowing and ebbing like a melting river. It is an effective narrative technique in recreating the memory of a character one does not meet in the play itself: the victim, Matthew.

The beauty is the memory it forges with word and voice, slowly putting the colors together to make a portrait of Matthew in a way many writers of fiction might learn a thing



LAURA RUSSO | SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

Fourteen students gathered in BPAC's Engelman Recital Hall to perform the docudrama play *The Laramie Project*.

or two from.

This, for many productions, would have been an impossible feat if not for the wonderful cast and crew Ibadov cultivated. Tomas Anderson, with a vitality that many seasoned veterans of the stage should envy, carefully yet smoothly transplants himself from the voices of those like the playwright Kaufman himself to one of Matthew's killers, Aaron McKinney. During one particularly harrowing moment, McKinney's confession regarding his motivation and his reaction toward his arraignment becomes something of a consistent pump of energy that only Anderson is capable of.

Similarly, ensemble member Conor Murray's steady drum of a voice makes his representations of the likes of the infamous Fred Phelps beat like a familiar, if un-

comfortable, rhythm. Peysakh Shalumov bears the performing chops to bend smoothly between characters like Jedediah Schultz, the kindhearted theater student at the University of Wyoming and the author of a particularly vicious anonymous letter that lambasts the university's president, played with a charming yet appropriate sense of being beleaguered by Andy Marcillo, for his apparent inaction.

Other particular highlights include Stephanie Venetsky, whose portrayal of the boy who found Matthew likely sent a collective chill up the audience's spine as audience members contemplated someone so innocent discovering something so gruesome.

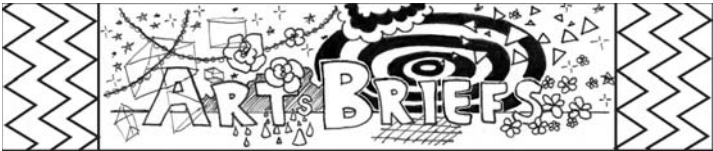
Her sudden pleas for an unconscious Matthew to respond felt like a bolt of lightning in a storm, providing one of the much-needed

narrative buckets of ice water in the comparatively warm production. Aziza Zaitova's seamless shifts between a progressive Muslim woman constantly harangued about her hijab and a newcomer lesbian university professor show the hallmarks of someone with a talent for crisp transitions.

A director's ultimate goal, above all else, is to reveal the unseen in the invisibility of language. For a first-time director, Ibadov managed to mine something valuable from the repository of talent that is this cast.

Of special note is Jessica Horowitz's dramaturgical rigor, no doubt invaluable in the creation of the play's world.

Aside from a few unintentionally quiet moments and some superfluous projections, *The Laramie Project* shines like the brightest star.



COMPILED BY MAXIM IBADOV

The 90th annual Academy Awards continued going down the rough road, as its ratings plummeted into an all-time low. The Oscars were hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. Only 25.6 million people tuned in to watch this year's show, down 18 percent from last year's 32.9 million and almost 50 percent from 44 million people in 2014, indicating the television program's loss of significance.

Lin-Manuel Miranda's smash musical *Hamilton* conquered Britain by breaking the record at the Olivier Awards for most nominations for any production ever. The Olivier Awards, comparative to the Tony Awards and named after great actor Laurence Olivier, have previously honored *Hairspray* and *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* with 11 nominations each. History was shattered when *Hamilton* received an astounding 13 nominations. Usually resistant to U.S. theater works, this year's Olivier Awards were dominated by productions such as *Angels in America*, *42nd Street*, *On the Town*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*. *Follies* came in second this year with 10 nominations.

Oscar winners Viola Davis and Lupita Nyong'o signed up to star in the upcoming film *The Woman King*. Inspired by the success of *Black Panther*, which stars Nyong'o, Davis decided to co-produce a film with her husband Julius Tennon that will tell a story of Dahomey, an African

kingdom that existed from around 1600 to 1894. Davis and Nyong'o will portray mother and daughter, who lead an all-women military of Amazons and fight against the French, before being defeated and sent into historical oblivion.

Tony-, Oscar- and Golden Globe-winning writing duo Benj Pasek and Justin Paul have announced that they will be writing new songs for the upcoming *Aladdin* live-action film. Based on the 1992 Disney classic animated film, Pasek and Paul, the writers of *La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *The Greatest Showman*, will be collaborating with *Aladdin*'s original composer Alan Menken, who is known for writing music for other Walt Disney Co. films such as *The Little Mermaid* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

Streaming giant Netflix continues to dive into the world of talk shows by signing Comedy Central's *Daily Show* correspondent Hasan Minhaj to headline his own show. Minhaj has been working for Comedy Central since 2014, rising to national prominence in 2017 after hosting the White House Correspondents' Dinner and debuting his first comedy special *Hasan Minhaj: Homecoming King* last May on Netflix. The streaming service has ordered 32 weekly episodes, making Minhaj the first Indian-American to have his own talk show. This foray into talk shows follows two seasons of *Chelsea*, hosted by comedienne Chelsea Handler, which was canceled in late 2017.

## At Home at the Zoo synthesizes Albee's works into play on unhappy home life

BY REUVEN GLEZER  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

*Edward Albee's At Home at the Zoo: Homelife & The Zoo Story*, monstrously long title aside, is something of an odd duck in the canon of American drama and in the work of Edward Albee himself. While Albee is, by all means, deservedly placed alongside names such as Eugene O'Neill, Tennessee Williams and Arthur Miller, it would be incredibly difficult to argue that his plays fit into the form of American realism.

Albee's carefully chosen language juxtaposed against absurdist elements and deeply humorous bits of minutiae are all part of telling true stories quite unnaturally. If there was something the late playwright understood, it was that having everything could very well be a cover-up for having nothing at all.

Smooth in its pacing, but jagged where it needs to be, this Signature Theatre Company production is helmed by Lila Neugebauer, who makes use of the company's Irene Diamond Stage like she owns it. The set, an off-white room covered in childlike scrawls, was designed by Andrew Lieberman, a veteran of the acclaimed minimalist Dutch theatre company Toneelgroep Amsterdam.

It is easy to imagine the bored housewife Ann, played by the incomparable Katie Finneran, taking a thin graphite pencil and making directionless scribbles on the wall after some perfunctory love-making with Robert Sean Leonard's character, Peter.

Neugebauer, thankfully, is not after some kind of reconceptualized abstraction of Albee's work,

but tries to get down to the bones of what Albee is trying to say — and there is quite a bit of that to go around.

The first act, *Homelife*, is one of Albee's later, and strangely calmer, plays. It does not carry the passive-aggressive vitriol of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* or the bizarre, bestiality-infused existential dread of *The Goat or Who is Sylvia?*

There are beasts aplenty, though, and there are two members of that strange tribe of creatures known as the American upper-middle class. Peter is a publisher of textbooks and Ann, by all accounts, is his satisfied yet completely bored wife. She is also ready to quit "love-making" with her all-too-content husband and get on with a physical relationship more resembling that of two strangers who will never see each other again.

Ann is not a woman who dreams about leaving her husband, children, cats and parakeets. Instead, she is someone who wants a little more excitement in a drab, completely stable marriage.

Peter, by all accounts, is someone who does not see a point in indulging in chaotic desires, though he is someone who wants to keep his wife happy, as unsure as he is on how to do that. So when he reveals the story of a college sexual escapade gone awry, it is no wonder the audience laughs at Ann's gleeful, excited shock by its ending.

That little anecdote from Peter seems to encapsulate just what Albee appears to think about the American middle class. Excitement is a foreign, scary concept when one's life is perfectly fine just as it is, especially when the one

time there is excitement, there is also a fair amount of blood.

The second act, *The Zoo Story*, is Albee's first work and one that was seen as confusing and disjointed, despite frequent revivals and later critical favor.

Albee's dramaturgical stitching is what brought the two works together as *At Home at the Zoo*, mostly out of the playwright's personal itching that Peter was not as developed a character as he could possibly be.

The new production seems to prove Albee right, as the audience develops a better understanding of Peter following the events of *Homelife*.

*The Zoo Story*, featuring the wonderfully mongrel-like Paul Sparks as Jerry, takes place in Central Park where Peter is trying to read on his usual bench, peaceful and content, until Jerry walks in and declares that he has been to the zoo.

It is never quite mentioned what happened at the zoo because the zoo that matters is the one that Peter and Jerry are in, whether they like it or not.

Jerry comes as some sort of cosmic test for Peter, testing boundaries and breaking open the fault lines of his timid existence.

Of course, this is an Albee play, so even Peter's tough love is not as innocent as it seems. Most importantly, Peter is not ready for his world to be exciting, not in the least.

He quite likes his cage, albeit a fancy one on East 74th Street with parakeets, a wife and children, but a cage nonetheless. All it takes is someone like Jerry, who looks like he belongs inside a cage, to rattle it.



# The Shape of Water takes home top film awards at 90th Oscars

BY MAXIM IBADOV  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

On March 4, the crème de la crème of Hollywood put on their best Sunday dresses and got together to honor the worthiest achievements in the cinematic arts. Hosted by comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel for the second consecutive year, this ceremony was a special one: it was the 90th annual ceremony.

A lot of actions were taken in order to make this event truly spectacular, yet no champagne in the world could have helped liven up the party.

The stakes were high this year; this was the first Oscars ceremony of the #MeToo, Time's Up and Never Again era, so an uncomfortable sense of expectation was palpable. The films nominated this year were filled with powerful feminist and inclusive sentiments: *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*; *Call Me by Your Name*; *Get Out*; *Lady Bird* and *The Post* all reflect trends of activism and awareness similar to those the country is focusing on right now.

To Kimmel's credit, in his opening monologue he balanced the somber tones of the social change and his usual savvy zingers. As the night continued, Kimmel's jokes plummeted into clichés, ending in an absolutely redundant appearance of Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway as presenters for best picture in order to redeem them from last year's infamous envelope mix-up.

Yet a little mix-up would have been exciting as the night lacked any notable surprises. The biggest award-snatcher was Guillermo del Toro's love-child *The Shape of Water*, which was nominated for 13 awards and won four: best picture, best director, best origi-



COURTESY OF DISNEY ABC TELEVISION GROUP

Del Toro, left, won best director and best picture for his film, *The Shape of Water*, at the 90th annual ceremony.

nal music score and best production design. Christopher Nolan's cinematic spectacle *Dunkirk* collected three golden statuettes for best sound mixing, best sound editing and best film editing. *Blade Runner 2049*, a sequel to Ridley Scott's 1982 magnum opus, took home best visual effects and best cinematography.

Comedy Central alumnus Jordan Peele won best original screenplay for the culturally charged film *Get Out*. James Ivory became the oldest Oscar winner at 89 years old after collecting best adapted screenplay for the romantic drama *Call Me by Your Name*.

The most striking victory of the night went to basketball-legend Kobe Bryant, who won best animated short film for *Dear Basketball* — a love letter to Bryant's

favorite sport that the athlete produced and narrated. Disney's *Coco* grabbed best animated feature, and after a touching performance of "Remember Me" by Miguel Lafourcade, Gael García Bernal and Natalia Lafourcade, the Mexican fairytale also won best original song.

The acting categories this year also left little room for surprise. Last year's winner Viola Davis presented the first award of the night for best supporting actor to Sam Rockwell for *Three Billboard Outside Ebbing, Missouri* for his portrayal of a troubled police officer handling a rape crime. Allison Janney's terrifying portrayal of Tonya Harding's borderline-psychopathic mother in the biopic *I, Tonya* won her an Oscar for best supporting actress, breaking Janney's per-

ceived curse as a result of her work as a TV actress.

British powerhouse Gary Oldman collected his Oscar for portraying Winston Churchill in historical drama *Darkest Hour*. In the film, Oldman was barely recognizable under the bulldog-like face prosthetics — for which the film also won best makeup and hairstyling — resulting in an Oscar win that some perceived as an award for Oldman's career as well as a competitive success. Best actress triumphantly went to Frances McDormand for *Three Billboards* where she played a matriarch on a journey to avenge her daughter's death.

Twenty-two years after she won her first Oscar for *Fargo*, McDormand fiercely stepped on stage like a hurricane, using her speech

to acknowledge all of the talented women who were nominated this year by asking them to stand up and applaud for themselves.

This year's ceremony was a significantly feminist event. Women took center stage, standing strong and proud.

There were more female presenters than male this year, including powerful and politically active actresses Jane Fonda, Jennifer Lawrence, Jodie Foster and Gal Gadot.

Latina trailblazer Rita Moreno surprised the audience by wearing the same dress she wore to the 1962 ceremony, when she won her Oscar for *West Side Story*.

Moreno presented the award for best foreign film, which went to *A Fantastic Woman*, the Chilean masterpiece about a transsexual woman.

The entire audience leaped to their feet when 93-year-old Eva Marie Saint, who won an Oscar in 1954 for *On The Waterfront*, appeared from the curtains. Saint shared the stories of working with some of the greatest actors in history before presenting an award to *Phantom Thread* for best costume design. One of the night's most significant moments was when Salma Hayek, Ashley Judd and Annabella Sciorra introduced a short film highlighting the diversity in cinema and the Time's Up movement.

Still, the overall atmosphere of the ceremony felt less empowering than it was condescending and, for the first time, the Oscars were less politically sharp and prominent than even its younger sibling, the Golden Globes.

Not only did the Academy fail to convey the national energy into a focused message, but it also produced a rather lackluster gathering that was not worthy of the most reputable prize in the industry on its significant anniversary.

# Garland's *Annihilation* just misses mark of cinematic excellence

BY CHARLES TABASSO  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Within the negative space of ambiguity is a potential to be as expressive as utter silence. Science fiction has been perfecting such "show, don't tell" techniques since time immemorial. Harnessing the power of subtlety and its implications, those unanswered questions worm their way into an audience's psyche after the end credits and resonate suspension of disbelief that begs one to question, "What if?" With *Annihilation*, written and directed by Alex Garland and adapted from the *Southern Reach* book trilogy written by Jeff VanderMeer, this has become dogma.

An extraterrestrial life form has crash-landed on Earth. Within the dominion of its "Shimmer," as the expanding area it occupies is coined, life is mutating at an exponential rate.

Genes are rearticulated, organisms scrambled and all of carbon-based life is at stake. Those who enter this lucid realm of creation never return: exposure leads to immediate transmutation; minds denature into sheer lunacy; bodies are recycled into the alternate, blasphemous design of this new engineer. *Annihilation* looms like a shadow over life as a whole.

Lena, played by Natalie Portman, is a biologist teaching at Johns Hopkins University. She has considered herself widowed for 12 months. Her husband, Kane, played by Oscar Isaac, has been missing in action since a Spec Ops mission gone awry within this Shimmer.

Inexplicably, he returns, but he is not the man Lena remembers. He is now a husk and the catalyst for Lena's integration into the top-secret government operations along the fringe of the Shimmer's borders.

Lena is abducted by its agents and driven by a need for answers to follow in her husband's footsteps and explore the area beyond the shimmering border, tagging along with an all-female group of scientists and military personnel on the 12th expedition so far within this mysterious region.

While there is an immediate rapport between the fivesome, *Annihilation's* decision to reveal who lives and dies from the start with a framing device wastes the characterization necessary to establish high stakes during this explicitly ill-fated mission.

Dr. Ventress, played by Jennifer Jason Leigh, who was responsible for profiling the crew, is graciously given all the lackluster lines so she has something to say.

Overtly stoic and jaded, she

would otherwise have been an arbitrary character within the confines of the film. She is neither arbiter nor commander of this motley crew. Although Ventress shares Lena's reasons for joining the mission, the script fails to give her any dimension outside the role of another expendable extra.

Ventress is, however, the mouthpiece for *Annihilation's* larger philosophical quandaries: namely, whether the intent of this new life form is malignant or not. While guarding a watchtower surrendered to the Shimmer, Ventress questions the nature of suicide and self-destruction on a cellular level. Having come to believe that the cell is a fatalist expression of life, she gives credence to the possibly benign nature of the Shimmer. She does not see an ex-

terminating angel in it, changing the DNA of the world it surrounds. She sees instead a means of spiritual and physical renaissance. But her musings fall short of selling this cataclysmic event as rapture.

These moments of humanizing *Annihilation's* MacGuffin are also guilty of their expository shoehorning. The special effects that primarily define this extraterrestrial are dazzling and aesthetically pleasing, but the methods of rationalizing the life form's existence hardly complement its phenomena.

The film devolves at times into a sightseeing tour, grinding the plot to a halt so a character can briefly explain what is in plain view, usually in layman terms what any Biology 1001 student can grasp. This does not constitute meaningful

epiphanies — the audience nods impatiently and waits, instead, for the show to go on.

Justifying the make-believe is a common problem within the science fiction genre. While the suspension of disbelief is paramount, it can prove devilishly difficult when cosmic beings are supposed to be taken seriously. Exposition becomes the bane of a film's narrative if overdone, but this is where subtlety tips the scales, motivating the viewer to reconsider each scene for vindication.

Sadly, *Annihilation* is too ambiguous for its own good. The penchant on Garland's part for acoustic guitar cannot save this film from further criticism.

Reverting to weary cords whenever all hope is lost contributes nothing when this is a pre-established tone. The soundtrack otherwise suits *Annihilation* wonderfully: tension is well orchestrated and heart stopping, although the buildup to the alien's reveal is in equal parts anticlimactic and essential to the stakes *Annihilation* seeks to establish.

But the script's preference for juggling its scientific reasoning and philosophical dilemmas leaves too many questions suspended without actual suspense. While the means of defeating this alien menace echo H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds*, it is a wholly underwhelming victory on humanity's part.

Portman certainly sells her character. Her interactions with Isaac are probably the most honest scenes in a film struggling to humanize itself. Except, similar to its alien, *Annihilation* mistakes mirrors for windows.

Imitators cast no shadows and while *Annihilation* pantomimes the criteria for a stellar film, it never breaks the surface of its own universe.



PETER MOUNTAIN | PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Lena, second from left, joins an all-female group of scientists and military personnel exploring the land within the Shimmer.





COURTESY OF MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT

T'Challa, far left, and Killmonger, far right, oppose each other in ideologies, born out of their differing origins. One was born a prince in Wakanda, the other a boy abandoned in the United States.

# Coogler channels African history into Marvel's *Black Panther*

BY FANNIE HODGES  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The temporary rumblings of cultural revolution were visible during Beyoncé’s performance of “Formation” at the 2016 Super Bowl. However, the subtle cultural renaissance that took place during the premiere of Marvel’s blockbuster film *Black Panther* introduced a transformation of the mind that will continue to linger on.

The writer Julius Lester stated in an *Ebony* magazine article, “The idea of a black nation seems so far-fetched as to be ludicrous, but if you entertain it for a minute, even as an impossible dream, it should give you a feeling of wholeness and belonging you’ve never had and can never have as long as blacks have to live in a country where they are despised.”

The film’s regal depiction of African culture is not Disney’s enchanting and animalistic *The Lion King* or the satirical, but iconic *Coming to America*. *Black Panther*, co-written by Ryan Coogler and Joe Robert Cole, and directed by Coogler, gives its audience a realistic manifestation of the African diaspora. The film takes viewers on an adventure that stays imprinted within their psyches.

The artistry used to create the mythical country of Wakanda is as breathtaking as the inspiration behind it: the continent of Africa. The setting of the film is heavily influenced by the design of many present-day African metropolitan cities. The continent also could have served as the visualization of Derrick Bell’s science fiction short story, “The Afrofantasy Awakening” — in which Africa meets Atlantis.

Wakanda’s realistically rustic look recalls the colorful paintings of Harlem Renaissance artists Aaron Douglas and Jacob Lawrence. The costume design of *Black Panther* introduces nuances in African couture and displays elevated African style from head-to-toe, where the influential stylings of the Zulu and Maasai people can be seen. From hairstyles to jewelry, the costumes are just as innovative and vibrant as the film itself.

From its conception, the storyline of *Black Panther*’s creation has been unique. In their encyclopedia of comic culture, *The Superhero Book*, Gina Misiroglu and David A. Roach give a clear picture of how this legend was born: “Superhero comic books have mirrored societal trends since their inception,

and when the medium originated in the late 1930s, African-Americans cast no reflection: Segregation made blacks invisible to most whites.” Misiroglu and Roach reference the way black characters were portrayed in early comics, writing how “they were abhorrently stereotyped with wide eyes and exaggerated pink lips, portrayed as easily frightened to elicit a chuckle from the white reader, and characterized as utterly dependent upon their Caucasian benefactors.” One such instance is in the cover of “The Spirit #1,” released in 1944, promising “action, thrills, and laughs,” and offering the latter with black sidekick Ebony White, nervously sticking to the side of the white Spirit. Other than being sidekicks or servants, black characters were not generally integrated during what is known as the “Golden Age” of comic books, from 1938 to 1954.

Marvel introduced the character of Black Panther in 1966 with its “Fantastic Four #52.” Misiroglu and Roach note that it is unclear whether or not Stan Lee, the writer, meant to name the character after the militant civil rights group the Black Panthers. The authors note, “The Panther — actually Prince T’Challa of the affluent, industrialized African nation of Wakanda — was highly educated, extremely noble, and amazingly lithe. ... The Black Panther broke the color barrier for African Americans in the world of superheroes and was portrayed as an admirable role model for readers of any race.” It is important to credit Marvel for its creation of such a character — the first black superhero — in 1966.

The film *Black Panther* is especially relevant for its internal realism. Its imaginary world is incredibly relevant to the modern world community, especially the African-American community. Universal themes and social issues are expertly laced within the plot and characters of this film. Jonathan Blenman, comic book fan and connoisseur, says that *Black Panther* is, “A Marvel movie ... that didn’t feel like a Marvel movie. It had its own identity and breathed life into a universe that is successful, but follows a status quo.” Blenman emphasizes the presence of “strong female leads” within the film. His commentary continues, explaining that *Black Panther* “builds on that with real consequences and strong character development. It’s an unconventional introductory story that gives ample time to its lead and

supporting characters.”

The oral traditions of folklore and fairy tales have always been used to teach morality. Comics have become urban folklore and fairy tales of their own. They carry the oral tradition of history, and they reflect the society of the reader. Most folklore includes warnings — do not go into the forest alone or do not talk to strangers, among other things. For example, the “X-Men” comic series was a metaphor for the struggles of the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Similar to *Aesop’s Fables*, *Black Panther* is used as a medium to teach the viewer several lessons and to open a window to the African and African-American experience. This film acts as a vehicle to bring understanding and to shed light on the internal struggles of black people.

*Black Panther* displays the dynamics of the black family via the matrilineal depiction of Wakanda. The country is protected mostly by women — which the African-American community has often shamed itself for — while trying to assimilate into a very patriarchal American society.

Women in Wakanda are in positions of influence but they do not threaten the positions of power that the men hold. They work as a team in government affairs. Wakanda is a limited monarchy, with democratic characteristics. The elders of the African community have always been their senate, protectors of traditional law, spiritual guides and council of wisdom.

Because of the heavy use of the special effects of technology, *Black Panther* has the feel of Marvel’s *Iron Man*, but the sacredness of a Jedi’s journey. The characters have depth and face difficult choices. T’Challa — the king and titular hero played by Chadwick Boseman — and his peers are charismatic and humorous, as they poke fun at their inferiors. However, this does not come across as arrogance, but rather pride.

The characters of Wakanda are relatable and incredibly beautiful, to the point of evoking tears during the film’s final confrontation, where Wakanda goes from being a harmonious and rapidly advancing African nation to one of covetous jealousy, hatred, disunity and unforgiveness. Even when there are earlier allusions to conflict, reason prevails when T’Challa tells M’Baku, leader of one of Wakanda’s tribes, “Your people need you.” Wakanda begins with a sense of

order and community even when there is disagreement.

The overarching theme of *Black Panther*’s plot is that nothing comes from a family fighting among itself. Revenge does not heal. Audiences can empathize with the main villain, Erik Killmonger. Killmonger symbolizes the state of the African-American male or female in the world who has no sense of belonging. His violent nature seems to come from a place of abandonment and rejection. He was “left behind,” and felt no real connection to the cultural heritage of Wakanda. Wakanda is not willing to accept him either; he is considered an outsider and unrecognizable. But that is the heart of the matter: Killmonger did not accept himself because he did not know where he belonged. His actions are, therefore, the frustrating results of being rejected by both African and American society. It leaves a somber tone during the finale when T’Challa says to the fatally wounded Killmonger, “Maybe we could heal you,” and Killmonger bitterly responds by saying death is better than the bondage of being locked up. This is a character who could have been saved, misguided as he was, and *Black Panther* asks viewers to consider how.

Killmonger’s character was born out of rage, despair and fear. He alludes to many of the social justice issues currently debated in the United States. This movie’s call for change and social justice is not a violent one. The revolution *Black Panther* calls for is one of perspective and healing. African culture and its diaspora should no longer be seen a threat or as inferior to other cultures. The first step of social, cultural and racial healing is to love oneself and then to love, help and appreciate others.

Black power and pride does not or should not promote the hatred of other races, groups or ethnicities. It celebrates the uniqueness and resilience of its people. It is real and tangible. The black nation is carried within its people. Then there are days when something like *Black Panther* comes along, with a promise of survival and better days. It calls out for people to defend what is true, fighting back against traders whose self-hatred gives way to selfishness. The people of this nation should not fight against one another.

There is no brick-for-brick Wakanda in the modern world, but that does not mean that this nation

cannot exist. Some parents posted online about their experiences of telling their children that Wakanda does not exist. It has no physical place, but it is carried within its people. This is the innovative African culture that creates, grows and helps wherever it is planted. The technology of Wakanda is the same technology that invented gospel, jazz, hip-hop and other such innovations. It has a beating and living heart, as tangible as the African drum.

With the release of *Black Panther*, the celebration of black history does not have to be limited to a single month. *Black Panther* is a movie that not only celebrates the optics of the African diaspora, but the resilience and creativity of its people. There is such a thing as a mental slavery, and the film offers a perspective of what could have been without its physical manifestation. *Black Panther* calls for a reclamation and unification for the culture, heritage and birthright it celebrates.

In the allusion to the Black Panther movement, there is a sense of protection, community, education and self-help. The members of the movement especially fought against self-harm and promoted health and wellness.

The artistic and moralistic beauty of this movie will not only be heralded during Black History Month, but during every month of the year, and for all time.

There is no need for African-Americans to migrate to Haiti or Liberia or other parts of Africa, as previously suggested. Wakanda resides inside its people. Just as Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller’s bronze sculpture “Ethiopia Awakening,” *Black Panther* calls for black viewers to wake up.

The singer Solange Knowles, in her “Interlude: Tina Taught Me,” speaks toward the importance of celebrating black culture, as music plays in the background. She says, “It really saddens me when we’re not allowed to express that pride in being Black. And that if you do then it’s considered ‘Anti-White.’ No. You are just ‘Pro-Black.’ And that’s okay.” Her argument holds that the only purpose of the “reverse racism” claim is in the suppression of pride. Just like Solange, *Black Panther* calls for black pride in its costumes, characters, humor and heroes. And it expresses a kingdom that lives within the people who are given a chance to celebrate themselves.



# Mute tells unmotivated story that bores for dragging runtime



BENJAMIN WALLIN

There sometimes comes along a film that grips viewers and stays behind in the mind long after the lights come back on. These are the stories that are visually arresting, earth-shaking or emotionally destructive. For these and other reasons, viewers cannot help but think about the plot of the film, looking for the next opportunity to revisit and reconsider it. Then there are the disappointments.

Netflix's film *Mute* is a science fiction story directed by Duncan Jones, a director known for *Moon* and *Source Code*. The plot is noir-like, as a man searches for a woman in an unforgiving city. The world exists in a cyberpunk future like that of *Blade Runner*, full of advanced technology that feels old and worn out.

Alexander Skarsgård plays Leo, an Amish mute trying to find his missing girlfriend, Naadirah, played by Seyneb Saleh. Leo's storyline is crossed with that of Cactus Bill, a U.S. army surgeon gone AWOL, played by Paul Rudd. Bill is trying to leave Berlin, the setting of the story, with his young daughter.

Because Leo is Amish, he prefers to stay away from technology. The film reflects this by following a prologue with an introduction of the world from a sealed-off inside. There is impressive restraint shown as the camera stays inside Leo's



KEITH BERNSTEIN | NETFLIX

Jones' *Mute* aims to create a beautiful cyberpunk world, as in the above photo, but the visuals fail to support this goal.

apartment and only little hints of the outside world come trickling in: beams of light, sounds of vehicles. The reveal of the world afterward makes the case to stay inside.

*Mute's* world is dull and feels done to death. This type of future has been seen before and in much better quality. Looking at last year's *Blade Runner 2049* and its ability to squeeze beauty out of Roger Deakins' photography from all angles of the city, it almost seems futile to attempt any similar future reality afterward.

*Mute* tries and provides a production design that feels extremely lacking in the guise of an unmemorable cityscape.

The easily forgettable nature of this film is what stands out most. At one point, Naadirah asks a co-

worker about Leo: "Why wouldn't I love him?" The real struggle is in understanding why Leo would love her or why their relationship matters. The emotional storylines are not compelling and when after over a half-hour, the story finds its footing in the search for a missing lover, it is hard to feel that the search was warranted. A premise built on the faulty foundation of a weak relationship cannot stand.

Jones tosses a couple of cameo moments into his film. These come in the way of TV clips where multiple people, all played by Sam Rockwell, are seen arguing in court. This is in reference to the director's film *Moon*, which involves a plot of Rockwell's character, Sam Bell, being cloned repeatedly on a space station.

In *Mute*, the clones appear briefly, arguing over each other during a court proceeding. These inserts are far more intriguing than the surrounding story and distract from the film with the possibility of a story that should be significantly better.

Leo's quest is what bores the audience members, but it is Bill's storyline that confounds them. Bill is made to be a sympathetic character, caring for his daughter and doing whatever he can to escape Berlin. He also has a wise-cracking sense of humor, a ridiculous mustache and the scoffing charm of Rudd's characters from works such as *Wet Hot American Summer* and its various spinoffs. Bill's relationship with a fellow surgeon, Duck, is what raises eyebrows

and questions. There are hints throughout the movie that build up toward the revelation that Duck is a pedophile. When Bill realizes this, he attacks his friend and threatens him, but then continues with their friendship, supporting Duck and protecting him from any repercussions. There is an imbalance in the characterization of Bill, as he goes from being sympathetic to being willing to accept a deceiving and predatory man. Bill does reproach his friend, but they are still close afterward.

The story itself lacks a sense of motivation, even beyond the dull relationship that anchors it like a constant dead weight. The story goes from location to location as Leo follows clues, and yet, often there is no sense that the clues are directly connected.

As Leo makes new discoveries, his next steps do not feel related to what he has just found out. Instead, it becomes a small pleasure to have the story center on Bill, but the pleasure is still small.

*Mute* is a boring film. Its 126-minute run drags on for longer than it should, taking too much time getting started and even more time ending.

The conclusions drawn by the characters in their working through clues and trails are unreasonably exacting, with little clear reason for them to be so. The film centers on a mystery that waits for an extended time to be solved. When it is resolved, viewers are unclear about how it happened.

The characters fall into place because they must, but not because of any clear motivations. The most enjoyable moments are oddly spliced in, as Rockwell's cameos indicate the quality of the surrounding film: inexplicable, strange and not telling the story it really should be telling.

# The Low Road utilizes Norris' cynicism in well-intentioned epic

BY REUVEN GLEZER  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

If cynicism were a resource, Bruce Norris would be its greatest exporter. As a writer, the man has remarkably little hope in the rare human phenomena known as kindness and empathy, let alone foresight. Norris won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 2011 for his *A Raisin in the Sun* spinoff, *Clybourne Park*, and as far as one can tell, he seems to have only become more embittered with humanity since then.

*The Low Road*, currently running at the Public Theater, originally opened in 2013 at the Royal Court Theatre in London, and it is clear to see why it has taken five years for this well-intentioned, if imbalanced, epic to make the swim across the Atlantic. Clocking at a heavy two hours and 45 minutes, this is an artillery tank of a drama but one that burns through its fuel far too quickly.

Produced by the Public Theater, *The Low Road* was staged in the Anspacher Theater, which serves as an extremely comfortable vehicle for it. The show is directed by Michael Greif, of *RENT* and *Next to Normal*. While Greif is a director whose use of movement might strike some as unnecessary, the stunning fluidity of the staging here is a testament to Greif's early days as a director of plays, before he turned his eye to musical theatre. Indeed, no member of the 16-person ensemble feels wasted or misplaced, no matter how eccentric or brutal the scenario Norris has chosen to place his characters in.

Norris is not someone who is kind to his characters in the slightest. If anything, he might be a little too good at throwing them in the meat grinder, as one or two of such casual knives in the back come off

not quite as intended.

In one particularly misfired moment, one character accuses another of molestation, but it originally comes off as a ploy for the latter's release. It most certainly was not a ploy to get Jim Trewitt — played by Chris Perfetti — out of bondage.

Jim, as we learn, is the very first laissez-faire capitalist after a chance discovery of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations*. Jim is the hero of Norris's "anti-*Candide*," as artistic director Oskar Eustis describes the work, but calling him a hero is the equivalent of referring

to Hannibal Lecter as a vegetarian who charitably donates to anti-cannibalism initiatives.

Jim is easy to hate and he should be, even though what he preaches is taken as gospel by many today, albeit in a much kinder-sounding package.

In one scene, his descendant comes off as a modern-day Ronald Reagan, espousing the virtue of the free market and the ingenuity of the individual, all the while making life difficult for massive hordes of innocent people.

Jim's life is changed, however, by

an encounter with John Blanke — wonderfully played by the talented Chukwudi Iwujii — an educated slave fallen from grace by treachery and misfortune. John is clearly the intellectual superior, if economically deprived, of the duo, and their dynamic is as funny as it is biting.

If there is any expectation that Jim's journey with John will change the former for the better, that would be a colossal mistake. Jim is too human to change, disgustingly so. John, unfortunately, is also human in his kindness and optimism, one that earns him a harsh laugh from

a group of Hessian mercenaries in the second act of the play. When John tells his story, from imprisonment to falling in love and finally the injustices done to him, it would be remiss to hope that he ever earns his due.

Describing this play as an "epic" is definitely no understatement. The story crosses time and space, framed as a university lecture by Smith himself, who tells the audience the story of Jim and his adventures. It seems only appropriate that the world's first laissez-faire capitalist undergoes trials and tribulations that are resolved by his own selfishness or by the misuse of others' kindnesses.

He quickly goes from the bookkeeper for his adoptive family's brothel, scamming the prostitutes out of their wages, to slave owner, to British prisoner, to the architect of his own destruction. At the very least, Norris provides some level of comeuppance when the law finally tries to catch up with him, but the results are as one might expect of a writer who has taken everyone on a journey of such angry, frustrated proportions.

That just might be the issue, however. There are some segments of the work that feel oddly-patched together, including the final fate of John and the framing device of Smith delivering this story as a university lecture.


The story most definitely benefits from a sumptuous design, with lovely atmospheric lighting from Ben Stanton and clever set and costumes from David Korins and Emily Rebholz, respectively. The text, however, is in need of a fine-tuning that could turn this attempt at a work of epic theatre into something much closer to the attempted vision. It is not that *The Low Road* is a bad play, it just needs to avoid its own low roads.




JOAN MARCUS | PUBLIC THEATER

Stanton's lighting and Korins' set design create an environment more fine-tuned than the language that inhabits it.





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# Science & Technology

## Daydreaming linked to increased intelligence and creativity

BY DANIELLE KADE  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A study conducted by the Georgia Institute of Technology reported that daydreaming is an indicator of increased intelligence and creativity.

The psychology department at Georgia Tech suggested that people who catch themselves daydreaming in class or zoning out during a conversation are smarter than their more focused counterparts.

Eric Schumacher, a Georgia Tech associate psychology professor, conducted a study titled “Functional connectivity within and between intrinsic brain network correlates with trait mind wandering,” in which he tested 109 college-educated individuals aged 20 to 50. These individuals were from Georgia Tech, the University of New Mexico and other surrounding regions. Participants were tested on their intelligence, as well as the rate at which their minds wandered.

First, participants had to complete a “Mind Wandering Questionnaire,” which included five statements intended to assess absent-mindedness. Some of the statements were, “I mind-wander during lectures or presentations,” “I find myself listening with one ear, thinking about something else at the same time” and “While reading, I find I haven’t been thinking about the text and must therefore read it again.”

Participants had to rank their level of agreement with the five statements, with 1 indicating almost never and 6 indicating almost



CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

always. They were then tested on their intelligence through multiple tests measuring their memory, creativity and arithmetic.

At the end of the study, each participant was asked to enter an MRI machine and stare at a single point for five minutes, which was intended to be a boring task to allow for the participant's mind to wander. The researchers were then able to record based on brain patterns from the MRI.

Schumacher, along with his students and colleagues, found those who had increased intellectual and creative skills also had more efficient brain systems. This led to a high correlation between mind-

wandering scores and intelligence levels.

Schumacher said, “People with efficient brains may have too much brain capacity to stop their minds from wandering.” In other words, those with increased intelligence cannot stop themselves from daydreaming when they feel their minds are underutilized.

People with increased brain efficiency can complete tasks in less time and contemplate more advanced subjects. These people were also proven to have higher IQ levels.

“Our findings remind me of the absent-minded professor — someone who’s brilliant, but off in his or her own world, sometimes

oblivious to their own surroundings or school children who are too intellectually advanced for their classes. While it may take five minutes for their friends to learn something new, they figure it out in a minute, then check out and start daydreaming,” Schumacher said.

This raises the question of whether daydreaming is a sign of intelligence, and if it actually contributes to improving an individual's state of mind. Michael Kane, a psychology professor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, conducted a similar study in 2016, determining that “daydreaming strategically” can improve focus and solve problems.

Dr. Srinil Pillay, an assistant professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, wrote a book on how to properly daydream, titled *Tinker Dabble Doodle Try: Unlock the Power of the Unfocused Mind*.

Schumacher emphasized, “People tend to think of mind wandering as something that is bad. You try to pay attention and you can’t. Our data are consistent with the idea that this isn’t always true. Some people have more efficient brains.”

All in all, the study confirmed that people who daydream in class or in the office display their genius and are considered brighter than their more focused counterparts.

## Smartphone use during meals affects social interaction, study finds

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

One of the central conclusions researchers reached in this study is that engaging in positive social interactions is critical for human well-being. However, the technological revolution that humanity is currently undergoing has upended this system of interaction.

The University of British Columbia researchers conducted their study in two parts.

The first part of the study recruited over 300 people to each share a meal at a restaurant with family and friends.

Of these 300 people, participants were randomly chosen to either keep their phones on the table during the meal or put their phones away.

During this part of the study, participants were invited to complete a “study investigating people's experience dining out with friends.” Groups of three to five friends or family members participated in the study at a local café. Participants who were asked to keep their phone out were told that a resident assistant would text them during the meal to answer a survey question after ordering their food.

To ensure that they were made aware of the survey, the participants were told to set their phone on the table with the ringer or vibration mode on.

Under the phone-less condition, participants were also told that they would answer a survey question, but this question would be handed to them on paper. These participants were then instructed to turn their phones on silent and place them in a container on the table.

“To support our cover story, we asked participants to rate how they were feeling that day on a scale from 0 to 100 via text (phone condition) or paper (phone-less



NICOLE PUNG | THE TICKER

People who use their smartphones while eating dinner at a restaurant enjoyed a get-together less, according to a study from the University of British Columbia.

condition).” Participants then ate their meal together without further interruption by the experimenter.

When phones were present, participants felt more distracted, which reduced how much they enjoyed spending time with friends and family. The phone condition group scored about half a point less on a seven-point scale, the researchers found.

In the second study, people were surveyed five times a day for one week. They were asked to report how they felt and what they had done over the past 15 minutes.

The researchers saw the same pattern, with participants reporting

that they enjoyed their in-person social interactions less if they had been using their phones.

These findings are not surprising, the study wrote. “As useful as smartphones can be, our findings confirm what many of us likely already suspected,” said Ryan Dwyer, the study's lead author and Ph.D. student in the department of psychology. “When we use our phones while we are spending time with people we care about — apart from offending them — we enjoy the experience less than we would if we put our devices away.”

Baruch College students expressed similar sentiments.

Hugh Shioski, a freshman with an undecided major, said that “Social interaction entails certain ‘expectations’ depending on the medium in which the communication and interaction takes place. When I send a text, my expectations are mostly reduced to if the person responds or not.”

Shioski continued, “When I meet someone in person, I expect a more sincere and complex interaction (accentuated by facial and hand gestures, vocal pitch use, etc.). Going to meet someone in person and substituting the sincere interaction that ought to take place with a different medium of com-

munication (like texting) sets up a disappointing scenario where you expect something that you eliminate the possibility of doing by having your eyes glued to a screen rather than the person in front of you.”

Smartphones can improve communication with video chat, texting, calls and social media apps and increase the connectedness of the world.

This is not applicable to every situation, as this study demonstrated. Technology negatively affects one's dinner experience and hinders genuine in-person social interactions.



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# Sports



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Zahavi's hat trick in the high-scoring game led to R&F's triumph over Evergrande.

## Evergrande falls to R&F 5-4 in a thrilling match

BY WEN XI CHEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On a humid night during the Lantern Festival in Guangzhou, a prosperous city in southern China, Guangzhou R&F F.C. — also known as the Blue Lions — and Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao F.C. entertained the town.

Nine goals in total were registered on the scorecard.

Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao F.C. — also known as Guangzhou Derby — has rarely ceased to entertain.

There have been 25 goals scored in the four encounters of the two local teams in 2017, and the rivalry is unusually balanced.

Guangzhou Derby, despite winning seven Chinese Super League titles and two AFC Champions League titles, has only won one more time than its local rival in the league.

Seconds into the match, Eran Zahavi started the “goalfest” by smashing the flick-on by Zhi Xiao, lobbing the ball past Dianzuo Liu, the Evergrande goalkeeper.

The header by Zhi exploited the pockets of space between the opponent’s back line and midfield, creating space for the league’s top goal-scorer of last season to run on.

Just as Evergrande started putting pressure on R&F, the Blue Lions managed to counterattack in style. It all started with an interception by Tixiang Li. The ball then went to Chen Zhizhao.

Chen then flicked to Zahavi, who laid off for Renato Ribeiro Calixto, most commonly known as Renatinho, in the horizontal position and returned the ball to release Zahavi.

Zahavi pushed back Evergrande’s back four, Zhi and Júnior Urso on both sides of him to distract the retreating defenders, and kicked the ball past Liu.

Liu bore a certain level of responsibility for being unable to save an inaccurate shot.

R&F already had three shots on the board in the first 10 minutes. However, Evergrande got one back when Haifeng Ding’s back-pass turned into an assist for the opposition’s striker Alan Carvalho, who got around the goalkeeper and scored.

Chances kept on coming and

Evergrande seemed to wake up.

Carvalho’s header went way above the goal. Seconds later, Hanchao Yu’s long-range effort from 30 yards out was tipped out of bounds by a stretching Yuelei Cheng.

He later stopped Ricardo Goulart’s shot to the far corner from about 12 yards out.

A few minutes before the interval, Evergrande leveled against R&F with Carvalho scoring off a ball tipped by Cheng.

Just as the two teams were about to head into the dressing rooms, Carvalho, connecting with Yang Liyu, headed Evergrande into the lead.

Evergrande has a chance to further extend their lead as Yu Hanchao blasted the ball off the crossbar, enraging Dragan Stojkovic, manager of Guangzhou R&F, about his team’s seemingly distracted defense on the sidelines.

Three minutes into the second half, after delicate exchanges with Renatinho, Zahavi achieved his hat trick by putting his effort on the edge of the box at the far corner.

Liu’s blunder gave away the lead, letting a ball roll past the goal line. Goulart’s emphatic penalty restored the balance, changing the score to 4-4.

The decisive blow came at the 74th minute, when Xiao, receiving a pass from the adventurous right-back Tang Miao, scored a diving header.

An individual effort traversing through four defenders from Renatinho almost grabbed a two-goal lead for R&F, only for the ball to go agonizingly wide.

“This is the first time we’ve won away at Evergrande,” Stojkovic said after the match. “Both teams played in a top match tonight, and let us make Chinese football better.”

Fabio Cannavaro, Evergrande’s manager, faces a daunting challenge in 2018 as the team is getting older, and the pressure is on to get as many wins as possible.

He is still tasked with leading the team to winning as many as three championships this season.

The first game in the domestic season did not bode well for Cannavaro’s second tenure at the Southern China Tigers.

## Ekekeugbor reaches 2,000 points, men's volleyball starts season strong

BY MATTEO FLAMIO  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Baruch College men’s basketball team suffered a tough 10-point loss on Feb. 20 to the College of Staten Island in the CUNY Athletic Conference Tournament. The team was hoping that despite the loss, it would be able to be placed into the Eastern College Athletic Conference postseason tournament.

The team’s wish was eventually granted. On Feb. 28, the Bearcats traveled to face their opponents, the William Paterson University Pioneers, in Wayne, New Jersey.

Going into the game, senior forward and 2017-18 CUNYAC MVP, Chimaechi “Chima” Ekekeugbor, needed 37 points to eclipse 2,000 total career points.

After the first half ended, William Paterson held a close two-point lead, despite Chima’s 17 points. But in the second half, the Bearcats turned on the jets and took control of the game.

This spark included a stretch of great shooting, as the Bearcats shot 53 percent from the field in the second half. On top of this, Chima was able to score 20 more points in the half, which landed him at exactly 37 points. Baruch was able to

come away with the 64-57 victory on the road and advanced to the next round of the ECAC Tournament, where the team would play Widener University.

Chima became the first player for Baruch and second CUNYAC player to reach the 2,000-point mark.

Hoping to ride their win into their game against Widener, the Bearcats unfortunately had to forfeit the game because they were not able to reach the game’s destination in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. The Bearcats were stuck in the snow on their coach bus on the highway for nearly 20 hours before they had to turn around and come back to campus. Widener then went on to win the 2018 ECAC Championship.

The Baruch College men’s volleyball team has gotten off to a hot start against its conference rivals this season. In their three matchups against CUNY Athletic Conference teams this season, the Bearcats have been able to win sweep their opponents every single time.

Baruch’s first CUNYAC matchup came against Medgar Evers College, during which the Bearcats swept the Cougars with scores of 25-15, 25-10 and 25-16. Opposite

Stephen Roach, a junior, led the team with 10 kills, eight digs, three aces and two blocks.

Rookie setter Edward Grinberg led with 17 assists and accounted for eight digs.

Baruch’s second matchup was against York College, where the Bearcats were able to sweep again with scores of 25-11, 25-18 and 25-14. Outside hitter Nicholas Godino, junior, had a dominating 17 kills and seven digs, while Roach added seven kills. Grinberg contributed with 23 assists.

In their third game match against a CUNYAC opponent, Baruch faced the City College of New York Beavers, where the Bearcats swept with scores of 25-16, 25-15 and 25-21.

The Beavers hit an abysmal .085 percent totaling only 20 kills, while Baruch finished with 37 kills, hitting .247 percent. Roach led the team again with 10 kills and freshman middle blocker and outside hitter Evan Takos finished with a career-high eight kills. Grinberg had an impressive 25 assists in the win.

Baruch’s season record is 6-8 overall and 3-0 in the conference. The team hopes that it can ride this confidence into its other matchups with CUNYAC squads.

## Giants and Jets look to retool in draft

BY DONALD SOUDEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Jets and Giants are both looking to secure franchise quarterbacks in this year’s NFL draft.

The New York Giants are in a very unique position this year. Despite having enough talent to be a perennial playoff team, they find themselves with the second overall pick in the draft due to a disappointing 3-13 season.

The Giants still have problems that need to be addressed, one of which is finding a successor to Eli Manning. Manning is 37 years old, and fans are unsure of how much faith the new Giants staff will have in backup quarterback Davis Webb moving forward. The Giants must consider taking a QB with the second overall pick. Top prospects Josh Rosen from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Baker Mayfield from the University of Oklahoma are players whom the Giants could look to in order to secure their future.

If the team does take a QB in the first round, this would delay the Giants from choosing a running back until the second round. Running backs such as Derrius Guice from Louisiana State University and Sony Michel and Nick Chubb from the University of Georgia could all be potential players the Giants may draft in the second round.

On the other hand, Saquon Barkley, running back from Penn State, could also be looked at as a worthy second overall pick in this year’s draft. Barkley had a terrific performance at the NFL combine and is considered, by some, the best player in this year’s draft.

If the Giants are trying to win a Super Bowl in the short term, Barkley could be the guy they decide on in the first round. Another area the Giants need to address is their offensive line.

The Giants will surely be looking at prospects Connor Williams from the University of Texas, Orlando Brown from Oklahoma and Quenton Nelson from the Univer-



WWW.TWITTER.COM

Barkley's strong combin raised the possibility that he will be drafted early.

sity of Notre Dame, among others, to help bolster an offensive line that received a lot of criticism last season. Unfortunately, most of these predictions will depend on what the Cleveland Browns do with the first overall pick in the 2018 draft.

The New York Jets also have a lot of work to do in this upcoming draft. After going 5-11 last season, the Jets have found themselves with the sixth overall pick in this year’s draft. The Jets also need to address the quarterback position, so it would be difficult to imagine them taking any other player than a quarterback prospect with this pick.

Because the Browns and Giants both pick ahead of the Jets, quarterbacks such as Sam Darnold from the University of Southern California and Rosen could already be off the board by the time the sixth pick rolls around. There-

fore, players such as Mayfield, Josh Allen from the University of Wyoming and Lamar Jackson from the University of Louisville are all prospects who could be playing for Gang Green come next season.

This pick also relies on what the Jets do in free agency. If free agent QB Kirk Cousins decides to come to East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Jets will be faced with a much different reality on their hands come the draft.

They might then decide to take a wide receiver such as Calvin Ridley from the University of Alabama, Equanimeous St. Brown from the University of Notre Dame or Christian Kirk from Texas A&M University.

One thing is for certain, though. The Jets must secure a franchise quarterback through the draft or free agency, and must then place the right players around the next quarterback.





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Following their announcement to rebuild the team, the Rangers traveled to Western Canada, where their young talent such as Namestnikov, Gilmour and Pionk played well. The Rangers' future looks bright.

# Rangers' new acquisitions shine in Western Canada road trip

BY FELIX MALAMUD  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

By 3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, the New York Rangers looked like a brand-new team. In the week leading up to that point, General Manager Jeff Gorton made several bold, noteworthy moves that significantly altered the roster and emphasized the team's focus toward the future.

They injected plenty of young and proven NHL players, several outstanding prospects and a plethora of high draft picks. The Rangers ended up trading Nick Holden and Rick Nash to the Boston Bruins, Michael Grabner to the New Jersey Devils and Ryan McDonagh and J.T. Miller to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The Rangers acquired Rob O'Gara, Matt Beleskey, Ryan Spooner and Ryan Lindgren from Boston, Yegor Rykov from New Jersey and Vladislav Namestnikov, Brett Howden and Libor Hajek from Tampa Bay, as well as two 2018 first-round picks from Boston and Tampa Bay, a 2018 second-round pick from New Jersey, a 2018 third-round pick from Boston, a conditional 2019 second-round pick from Tampa Bay and a 2019 seventh-round pick from Boston.

The Rangers acquired a very hefty group in just five days, especially given the fact that some of these players are more valuable than many believe. Namestnikov came to the Rangers from the Lightning in the midst of a career season, with 20 goals and 44 points.

Spooner is a versatile center with six years of NHL experience. Rykov, Howden, Hajek and Lindgren are all excellent and highly touted prospects. The 2019 conditional second-round pick acquired from the Lightning becomes a first-round pick if the Lightning win the Stanley Cup in 2018 or 2019.

At this point in the season, a postseason berth is highly unlikely, but there is still plenty of upside. There is reason to be excited about the Rangers' future due to these tremendous acquisitions, as well as several young players already getting experience playing with the team.

Those players include defensemen John Gilmour and Neal Pionk, and goaltender Alexandar Georgiev.

These new-generation Rangers got to know each other a little bit better this past week during a three-game, Western Canada road trip. Several of the aforementioned players, both new and old, made quite the impression.

The Rangers began their road trip with a matchup against the Vancouver Canucks on Wednesday, Feb. 28. Neither of the teams had much to play for, except for evaluating their youth and competing at a high level.

Both the Rangers and Canucks boasted plenty of young and exciting talent and their skills were on display in this game. Both teams also had several veteran Swedish legends, with Henrik Lundqvist starting in goal for the Rangers and twin brothers Henrik and Daniel Sedin playing big roles for the Canucks.

The Rangers opened up the game with fire, taking an early 3-0 lead in the first period. Kevin Hayes scored twice and Jimmy Vesey added a goal. The Canucks made a goaltending change after Hayes scored the third Ranger goal, replacing starter Jacob Markström with Anders Nilsson. They quickly responded with a goal from rookie phenom Brock Boeser and a power-play goal from Bo Horvat.

The Rangers led 3-2 at the end of the first period, but the Canucks had a 17 to seven shot advantage. Midway through the second period, the Rangers' early three-goal lead evaporated, when Daniel Sedin tied the game at 3 against his fellow countryman Lundqvist.

But with five minutes remaining in the period, Namestnikov scored his first goal as a Ranger to give them a 4-3 lead. Namestnikov stole the puck from Henrik Sedin at the Rangers' blue line and blazed down the ice before beating Nilsson with a quick shot glove side.

The second period ended with the Rangers leading 4-3, but the Canucks once again outshot the Rangers, this time 18-10.

The Canucks tied the game at 4 with eight minutes remaining in the third period, courtesy of Nikolay Goldobin.

But the Rangers answered just two and a half minutes later thanks to Mika Zibanejad. That 5-4 lead, however, would not hold up. With 46 seconds to go and the Canucks'

net empty, Boeser ripped a shot shortside past Lundqvist for his second goal of the contest to tie the game at 5. Boeser's two goals gave him 29 on the year, leading all rookies in that department. The game would go to overtime, where the aforementioned Gilmour had his biggest moment in the NHL up to this point.

Gilmour scored the game-winning goal 82 seconds into overtime to help the Rangers snap their seven-game losing streak. Despite being badly outshot 55-27, the Rangers escaped Vancouver with a 6-5 victory.

Several unexpected contributors played a big role in the win. Gilmour scored the game-winner, Pionk had two assists, Spooner had three, Namestnikov tallied a goal and an assist, Hayes scored twice and Lundqvist made an astonishing 50 saves.

Two nights later, on March 2, the Rangers went on the road to take on the Calgary Flames. The Flames' situation was much different than the Canucks, in the sense that they were still in the mix for playoff contention.

However, the Rangers were up to the task, as they got off to another fast start. Hayes got the Rangers on the board four minutes into the first period with his career-high 18th goal of the season and his seventh goal in his last 11 games. Spooner assisted on the goal, continuing to rack up points with his new team.

But the Flames tied the game at 1-1 with just over four minutes remaining, courtesy of Brett Kulak. Kulak had two career NHL goals, both coming this season against the Rangers. The first period ended 1-1, with the Flames outshooting the Rangers 19-9.

Later on, Rangers moved the puck up the ice and Spooner found Pavel Buchnevich all alone in the offensive zone. Buchnevich made a move to his forehand and lost the puck momentarily, but was able to stay with the play and aggressively slam the puck through Flames goaltender John Gillies' pads and just across the goal line to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead.

Midway through the period, the Rangers increased their lead to 3-1, as Spooner scored his first in a Ranger uniform. The Flames continued to pour in shots, registering

13 in the second period. Lundqvist made more terrific saves to keep the Rangers ahead, facing 32 shots by the end of two periods.

The third period saw the Rangers generate more quality chances, with Buchnevich and Namestnikov nearly tallying additional goals on shots that hit the posts.

Lundqvist made 19 more saves in the third period, once again finishing with 50, as the Rangers won their second consecutive game on this Western Canada trip, this time with a score of 3-1.

Once again, the Rangers' defense allowed for over 50 Calgary shots, but they were extremely fortunate that Lundqvist was on his game.

The Rangers concluded their road trip on Saturday, March 3, against the Edmonton Oilers. The Oilers were preseason favorites to contend for the Stanley Cup with their 20-year-old captain and MVP Connor McDavid leading the way. Unfortunately, the team's performance this season has not paralleled the enormous hype and expectations that fans had.

Despite all this futility, McDavid has been racking up points, entering the contest third in the league with 77 points in 64 games and a plus-12 rating.

He was a player the Rangers had to keep an eye on while taking advantage of the Oilers' mile-long list of weaknesses. Lundqvist got a rest, as he was quite busy the past two games and the Rangers were playing a back-to-back. Georgiev got the start in goal in this game.

For the third consecutive game, the Rangers opened the scoring, taking just 54 seconds to do so. After the Oilers failed to clear the puck out of their zone, Gilmour chipped the puck to Chris Kreider at the right boards. Kreider quickly passed the puck to Zibanejad, while making his way to the front of the net. Zibanejad delivered a perfect pass to Kreider, who wasted no time firing a shot past Talbot.

The first period ended 1-0 in favor of the Rangers, who also had an 8-6 edge in shots. The second period was much more exciting, with both teams scoring twice and firing a combined 38 shots on goal, 22 of which were taken by Rangers.

Less than six minutes into the period, the Oilers got on the board,

when McDavid skated down the ice on the left side and fired a short-side shot that slid underneath Georgiev's pads to tie the game at one.

The Rangers would regain the lead not too long afterward, as they took advantage of a boneheaded mistake by Talbot, who fired the puck over the glass for a delay of game penalty just 17 seconds after McDavid's goal.

On the ensuing power play, Zibanejad found the puck after several rebounds and tucked it past Talbot to give the Rangers a 2-1 lead. Just over a minute after Zibanejad's goal, the Rangers added another one, thanks to their fourth line.

After the Oilers once again failed to clear the puck out of their zone, Paul Carey softly deflected the puck through Talbot's legs to give the Rangers a 3-1 lead. However, the Oilers had a response. With three minutes remaining in the period, McDavid skated through the Rangers' defense and found Ryan Nugent-Hopkins in front of the net.

The Rangers had 30-22 shot advantage at the end of two periods, but they would have to rely on Georgiev to stave off the Oilers' attack in the third.

Despite being outshot 15-4 in the third period, Georgiev stood tall and stopped all of these shots. He finished with 35 saves and earned his first NHL victory, helping the Rangers defeat the Oilers 3-2.

The Rangers swept the Western Canada trip and put together their first three-game winning streak since mid-December. Their last five wins have come against Canadian teams, four of which were road games.

If the Rangers are focused on anything right now, it is preparing for one game at a time and continuing to develop their young core. The playoffs are the furthest thing from the team members' heads, even though there is still a chance to sneak in.

The Rangers got their record back to .500 at 30-30-6. With this in mind, New York will look to take its momentum into the following week.

The team will need all hands on deck, as it will face the Lightning, Winnipeg Jets and Florida Panthers, who are all postseason or Stanley Cup contenders.



# Arsenal fans call for Wenger's job after loss

BY DONALD SOUDEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Arsène Wenger continues to damage his legacy as Manchester City F.C. inches even closer to Premier League glory.

The weekend kicked off with Everton F.C. traveling to the Turf Moor to take on Burnley F.C.

Goals from Ashley Barnes and Chris Wood meant that Burnley would walk away with three points for their win.

Leicester City F.C. faced A.F.C. Bournemouth in what was a frantic game.

Bournemouth scored a penalty early on, but a last-minute goal from Riyad Mahrez meant the game would end at 1-1.

Tottenham Hotspur F.C. beat Huddersfield Town A.F.C. 2-0, courtesy of two goals from Son Heung-min.

Newcastle United F.C. traveled to Anfield to take on the Liverpool F.C. team that clearly had too much quality for them to handle.

Goals from Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mané meant that the Reds walked away with a 2-0 win.

Chelsea F.C. went over to the Etihad to take on league leaders Manchester City F.C.

Man City showed us a beautiful brand of football, setting the Premier League record for successful passes in a game with 902.

Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gündogan also set the record for passes made by an individual player in a single game with 174 completed passes.

A single goal from Bernardo Silva would mean that Pep Guardiola would add another 1-0 win to his résumé, as Man City now put one hand on the Premier League

trophy.

The Citizens are now 18 points clear of second place with only nine games left.

The “Wenger out” brigade was in full effect this weekend, as Arsenal F.C. lost to Brighton & Hove Albion F.C. 2-1.

Arsenal is now 13 points behind North London rivals the Spurs, who sit in fourth place.

Yet another disappointing performance from The Gunners means that finishing in the top four is practically out of reach.

Many fans and pundits are calling for longtime manager Wenger to be fired immediately.

It was a big week for La Liga, as second place Atlético Madrid traveled to the Camp Nou to take on first place FC Barcelona.

Another Lionel Messi goal gave Barcelona the win, as they continue their unbeaten run this season.

Real Madrid C.F. beat Getafe CF 3-1, with goals from Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo leading Los Blancos to the three points.

In the top flight of the Italian league, S.S.C. Napoli lost a huge game to A.S. Roma.

Goals from Edin Džeko, Cengiz Ünder and Diego Perotti meant that Roma would win 4-2.

To add to Napoli's defeat, Juventus F.C. defeated SS Lazio thanks to a 93rd-minute goal from Paulo Dybala.

The race for the title is extremely close in Italy, as Napoli still lead Juventus, but only by a single point.

The Serie A postponed all of Sunday's games due to the death of ACF Fiorentina captain Davide Astori, who died yesterday due to a “sudden illness.” He was 31 years old.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Baruch	William Paterson University
64	57

### MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Baruch	College of Staten Island	Baruch	Springfield College	Baruch	City College of New York
3	0	0	3	3	0

### MEN'S BASEBALL

Baruch	The College of Old Westbury	Baruch	The College of Old Westbury
10	10	0	8

Baruch	William Paterson University
2	13

### MEN'S TENNIS

Baruch	Purchase College	Baruch	Yeshiva College
9	0	1	8

STEPHANIE MESQUITA | THE TICKER

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## NYS TAP Code: 1409

## Financial Aid Services

\*international, undocumented, non-degree, and visiting students do not need to complete the FAFSA



# Baruch Weekly

## MARCH 2018

<b>MON</b> <b>12</b>	<b>NYC HONG KONG CLUB PROMOTION</b> 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.   NVC 2nd Floor Lobby   Free
<b>TUES</b> <b>13</b>	<b>20 MINUTE MONDAY</b> 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.   NVC 3-215   Free
<b>TUES</b> <b>13</b>	<b>EISEN AMPER</b> 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.   NVC 2-125   Free
<b>TUES</b> <b>13</b>	<b>FINANCIAL LITERACY WITH NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL &amp; GOLDEN KEY</b> 12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.   NVC 4-211   Free
<b>WED</b> <b>14</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE MS IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SESSION</b> 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.   NVC 14-270   Free
<b>THURS</b> <b>15</b>	<b>ALPHA KAPPA PSI: BROTHERHOOD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES</b> 12:40 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.   NVC 11-135   Free
<b>FRI</b> <b>16</b>	<b>ODC MID-YEAR MEETING</b> 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.   NVC 14-270   Free
<b>FRI</b> <b>16</b>	<b>MENTORSHIP PROGRAM NETWORKING</b> 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.   NVC 2-125   Free
<b>SAT</b> <b>17</b>	<b>BEGINNER RACQUETBALL</b> 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.   NVC B3 Racquetball Court   \$169
<b>SAT</b> <b>17</b>	<b>INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RACQUETBALL</b> 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.   NVC B3 Racquetball Court   \$169
<b>SUN</b> <b>18</b>	<b>NEW YORK FLUTE CLUB: ANNUAL COMPETITION WINNERS WORKSHOP</b> 5:30 p.m.   BPAC Engelman Recital Hall   \$15 for students

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

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE 4

4	6	5	8	7	9	1	3	2
9	1	8	6	2	3	5	7	4
7	3	2	1	4	5	6	9	8
3	5	1	4	9	6	2	8	7
6	8	9	7	1	2	3	4	5
2	4	7	5	3	8	9	6	1
8	7	6	3	5	1	4	2	9
5	9	3	2	8	4	7	1	6
1	2	4	9	6	7	8	5	3



CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

## Starr Career Development Center

# Career Spotlight

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

## SAVE THE DATE

- Mastering the Job Interview: Advanced**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 2-190**  
*Juniors & Seniors: Come if you attended the basic workshop and desire more intensive training!*
- On-Campus Recruiting Workshop**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190**  
*Get a jumpstart on your career by learning about the on-campus recruiting program!*
- Writing Winning Resumes**  
**Wednesday, March 14, 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!*
- Setting Boundaries in the Workplace**  
**Thursday, March 15, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., NVC 3-160**  
*Come to this workshop and learn about identifying and addressing unwelcome behavior in the workplace!*

## PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

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

*Do not forget to dress your best! Not only is it important to have the credentials necessary, but it is just as important to look the part. Employers love to see formal attire — suited up with simple colors. Most importantly, a friendly and warm smile can drive you up the ladder before you can button your blazer!*

– Shaimaa Abdelrahman, Peer for Careers

## INTERNSHIP UPDATE

### The Vilcek Foundation Administrative Intern

The Vilcek Foundation Intern will provide administrative and logistical support to Foundation staff and senior management. Interns will be responsible for assisting staff with various prize programs and arts initiatives and should have a passion for the arts and interest in nonprofit operations. Duties include providing administrative support to CEO, President and Vice Chairman as needed, preparing presentations, printed materials and conduct research for meetings with affiliates, assisting with writing,

research and correspondence related to human resources, prize programs and information technology, researching and verifying information pertaining to potential grantees and non-profits related to the foundation's programs, and assisting with drafting correspondence and copy-editing.

The intern will assist with document retention including personnel files and human resources correspondence, provide administrative support with human resources functions in-

cluding organizational policies and processes, maintain contact and organizational records in Salesforce, maintain help desk system and provide support to log calls, tickets, email requests and take appropriate action, assist in maintaining spreadsheets and equipment inventories as needed, as well as other supplies and computer-related materials, and assist in digitizing correspondence related to insurance, human resources and invoices.

**Starr Search ID: 112983**

### JETBLUE AIRWAYS JET Intern - Corporate Communications

The JetBlue Emerging Talent internship program provides skill and professional development through participation in the developing real-world business solutions that support the delivery of strategic business initiatives. Throughout the program, interns will participate in a robust programming including professional development activities, cross-functional projects, senior leader exposure, networking, and community service. The JET Program provides interns the opportunity to immerse them-

selves into the aviation industry while developing specific career interest or areas of study.

JetBlue is looking for an intern eager to join the fast-moving world of communications at an airline. This position reports to the Manager of Corporate Communications and will help support internal and external communications. This hands-on role performs important foundational work for a highly visible team in a very busy work environment. Duties include composing media materials, internal and external

editorial content, news releases, blog entries, etc. Interns will help administer intranet and internal social media sites, research issues and topics affecting the aviation industry or JetBlue, monitor traditional and social media, analyze coverage and compile reports, create and develop templates for key reports and research, conduct editorial calendar research and media list development, and assist team with special event preparation and execution.

**Starr Search ID: 113223**