

The Ticker

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BARUCH COLLEGE'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

APRIL 30, 2018

OPINIONS 7

The United States should fund Paris agreement (p. 7)



Since the United States backed out of the Paris agreement, private citizens such as Michael Bloomberg and individual states have been paying what was previously America's obligation. Individuals, though privileged, should not have to fund the deal.

BUSINESS 10

The future of MoviePass seems bleak (p. 10)



The movie theater subscription company is still losing money as it continues to grow, with each subscriber costing it more and more money. If the company is to stay in business, it will have to start profiting.

ARTS & STYLE 12

J. Cole releases his fifth album, *KOD* (p. 12)



J. Cole's latest album addresses addictions of all kinds. Songs on the album, released on April 20, speak openly about casual drug use, love, social media and the pains of everyday life.

SCIENCE & TECH 14

Robot assembles chair, shows strength of AI (p. 14)



A set of robot arms managed to build a wooden chair in 20 minutes, highlighting the robot's perception, planning and control. Moving forward, the form of AI used here can be used to help older people become both independent and socially integrated.

SPORTS 16

NBA playoffs begin heating up (p. 19)



The NBA playoffs are officially underway, and no team is safe this year. Every team has its vulnerabilities, and multiple underdog teams have shocked their favored competition early in the postseason, proving that when it comes to the postseason, anything can happen.

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Project Now takes USG table with little opposition



VICTORIA MERLINO | THETICKER

Project Now swept the entire USG e-board as well as the 15 senator seats, beating out three independent senatorial candidates. A total of 742 students voted, with 565 students voting on the referendum to change the attendance policy for USG senate members during senate meetings, a number too low to pass. Read the story on page 3.

OPINIONS

OSL fails at advertising USG elections to regular students

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The 2018 elections for the Undergraduate Student Government revealed that there is room for improvement in future election operations. The Office of Student Life opened this year's election application on March 1 and closed on March 16. The mandatory orientation was held on March 22, leaving a month for campaigning until elections on April 24 to April 26.

Before March, Student Life did little to advertise applications for upcoming elections. The applications were announced earlier in the spring semester with a rolling board on the second-floor lobby. Merely two references to elections in weekly emails were sent to the student population.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Fee proposal leaves students vexed

BY VICTORIA MERLINO
NEWS EDITOR

Confusion reigns across CUNY as the proposed changes to student activity fees are revised, leaving unclear what the consequences of the changes will be to student organizations.

Even leaders at Baruch College are unsure what the proposed changes will bring in the coming semesters as the board of trustees attempts to pass the changes this year.

Across CUNY, each student pays student activity fees. The fee is different across the campuses, as each campus' students can vote

to increase or decrease it under the current guidelines. The fees go toward student services and activities such as the student government, athletic teams, the health and childcare centers, clubs and organizations and media.

The allocation amount toward each of these services was decided by a student referendum, where the general population of students voted to increase or decrease the funds for each student program or activity. When the funds are voted on and passed, it is called an earmark, or a yearly reservation of money for that particular activity.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

How much booze is too much? Probably less than you think

BY ALI HUSSIAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Guidelines previously set by reputable health organizations such as the American Heart Association and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have come under fire due to recent research pointing to what is and is not considered a reasonable amount to drink. The research isolated the many health risks presented by such consumptions.

This was found by an international team of researchers who looked at the data gathered from the lives of almost 600,000 people in 19 countries across the world.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Baruch softball and baseball gear up for the postseason



ATHLETICS.BARUCH.CUNY.EDU

The Baruch College softball and baseball teams believe they can make title runs for the CUNYAC Championship, with rough patches giving way to more promising starts in the postseason series. Read the article about the teams on page 16.

PSC, the CIA and Baruch: are we really dancing with the devil?

BY GABRIELLE HUEZO
STAFF WRITER

The Baruch chapter of the Professional Staff Congress-CUNY held a "teach-in" on April 24 during club hours. The event was open to all CUNY faculty, staff and students and was titled, "Dance with the Devil? Baruch, the CIA, and the Signature Relationship." The keynote speaker was David Price, professor of anthropology and sociology at St. Martin's University in Lacey, Washington. He is an expert on intelligence agencies' interactions with university campuses globally and has written several books about the CIA, FBI and the militarization of anthropology.

Price gave a PowerPoint presentation to a crowd of over 100 people. A slide with the heading "Reasons why CIA on Campus is Problematic" listed issues Baruch College is already having with the program. His points included the following: the secrecy the CIA practices undermines academic values, lack of faculty input in key decision is at odds with shared governance and lack of transparency undermines principles of academic accountability and openness.

Price said he has interviewed people who have worked with the CIA and several of them said they felt uneasy when agents asked them what students said in the classroom.

They were concerned after being asked questions such as whether they thought any students had Marxist or communist views. These types of questions hinder free discussion in the classroom.

Additionally, Price discussed programs the CIA already has with universities, including the Pat Roberts Intelligence Scholars Program. Scholarship programs run by the CIA are secretive, giving up to

\$40,000 a year to students who in turn have to intern with them every summer. Universities are completely unaware of the money given by the CIA to any student. The CIA used to allow students to choose whether they wanted to join the agency after graduation, but this changed after 9/11. The fine print says students are liable to pay back all the money they were given at the maximum legal interest rate, multiplied by three if they do not join.

One of the big talking points in Price's presentation was that knowledge of CIA campus links endangers or limits students and faculty when abroad. Carla Bellamy, associate professor of South Asian Religion at Baruch, goes to different Asian countries every year to conduct research and said she is at high risk of not getting a visa this year because of this program.

Several posters — which had pictures and captions of the CIA's history, including the CIA's backing of the slaughter in Chile, its role in Nicaraguan death squads and drug trafficking, its funding and support for mass murder in Indonesia and the rape, torture and murder in Vietnam — were hung in the front of the classrooms.

Kaitlan Russell, freshman at Hunter College, said she is a member of the Internationalist Club at Hunter College, the group responsible for the posters.

This CIA affiliation "affects all CUNY students in its so called strive to increase diversity," Russell said. "To simply ignore the immoral acts the CIA has done to implement the program here for students to get a government job is a betrayal."

Dr. Johanna Fernández, professor of Black and Latino Studies at Baruch, followed Price. Fernández gave a stark and blunt speech about what the CIA has done in the past



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

"Invite the CIA to our campus, how are we going to defend academic integrity?" asked Johanna Fernández, a Baruch professor.

and why their presence at Baruch is dangerous.

"The university has to foster open inquiry, the free change of ideas and a diversity of perspectives ... Invite the CIA to our campus, how are we going to defend academic integrity?" Fernandez said. "It would be very hypocritical of us, given what the CIA stands for, to mandate our students stick by the rules."

Fernández went on to discuss CIA recruitment and why white supremacy plays a part. She said the CIA regularly recruits at Ivy League universities like Yale University.

"There are reasons they recruit at Yale, partly because of their class and also because of their race. And, partly because their parents rule the country," Fernández said.

She received several questions after her presentation from both

faculty members and students. One faculty member asked if there is a need for a top intelligence agency and what she would say to someone who wants to join in order to make the agency better.

Fernández said she thinks there should be an intelligence or government agency that focuses on helping economic issues around the world, not one that favors power and war.

She added that the notion of going into an agency like the CIA and leading them in a different direction is like believing in a fairy godmother.

A student asked Fernández about the students who want a government job including one with the CIA. She responded by saying, "We cannot leave here saying the CIA is a controversial government agency. The CIA is organized crime."

After several comments, Baruch student Edwin Dolfinger said he felt insulted by the faculty's remarks. Dolfinger said that students should be able to make their own decision to join the CIA and there was no middle ground discussed at the teach-in. Fernández responded by saying whenever the issue of white supremacy is brought up people get nervous, but it is the harsh reality of imperialism and the CIA.

Other faculty members noted the CIA has been part of the job fair on campus for several years. It is the specialized program and affiliation with the CIA the faculty oppose, and they are against not having a say in the president's decision.

The faculty ended the teach-in by handing out petitions and telling the crowd to sign and return them if they are against the program.

Dimcevski's departure leads to 'unconstitutional' executive decision

BY MARIA MARKOWICZ
MANAGING EDITOR

Following the resignation of Representative Sen. Alexander Dimcevski, the Undergraduate Student Government made an executive decision to shorten the public notice period for the newly opened representative senator seat from two weeks to one week.

This, however, was deemed unconstitutional by three members of the senate.

In a soft vote, Andrew Windsor, co-chair of the Constitutional Review Committee, Emma Jorgensen and Erica Yang voted against shortening the public notice period, which is when candidates can apply for the open seat. The three believed the decision would break the rules written in the USG Constitution. Based on the 10-3-0 result of the soft vote — as the senate never motioned to vote on the issue — the USG e-board made an executive decision to shorten the public notice period to a week.

According to Article VIII, Section 4 of the USG Constitution, "Prior to any vacancy being filled, there must be at least two (2) weeks public notice made and addressed to the Undergraduate Student Body."

If the senate were to follow the constitution, the two-week notice period would end on May 8, and a new senator would not join the table for a senate meeting until May 15 — the last senate meeting scheduled for this academic year.

"I find it abhorrent that our Executive Board would request a soft vote from our Senate to violate our Constitution. Worse is the fact that ten people knew they were agreeing to violate the Constitution and still soft-voted to do so, 10-3," Windsor said in a statement. "I am disappointed in everyone except

the three of us, as we stood up for the rule of law."

When reached out for comment about the decision, USG President Isabel Arias justified why the senate decided to provide a week's notice for the vacancy.

"The constitution isn't a perfect document and in this particular instance it did not make logistical sense to wait two weeks and therefore elect a candidate after finals are over and students have left campus or graduated.

If this had happened, many students who can apply now, would no longer be able to apply, and we felt this offered the greatest opportunity to our constituents whom we are always looking to serve," Arias wrote.

Executive Vice President Derny Fleurima did not respond to a request for comment.

Dimcevski announced his decision to step down in a group chat with other senate members on April 24 at around 5:30 p.m. "right before the senate meeting was supposed to begin," Windsor said in a phone interview.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., when the senate was still discussing unfinished business, Windsor brought up Dimcevski's resignation to the senate.

At first, Arias brought up the idea of leaving the senate seat vacant. After that idea was rejected, she suggested electing two senators on May 1. "The other representative senator would fill the position left vacant following the resignation of former Vice President of Academic Affairs Suleman Aleem," Windsor said.

In response to the senators' protests about the decision being unconstitutional, Fleurima said that the senators could talk about the issue before making a final decision.

The main arguments in sup-

port of the one-week notice period were that the voting of two senators during one meeting instead of two would be more convenient. The two picks would then be able to sit in for at least two senate meetings.

On the other hand, the arguments for the two-week period were that the decision would follow the constitution, respect the constituents and ensure transparency. Furthermore, the person would still be in their position until June 30, when the administration is set to make a decision about social Greek Life.

The three senators who voted against having a one-week notice period said that the soft vote was only carried out to explore the support for the idea. No motion was made for an official vote. Therefore, the decision to shorten the notice period to a week was an executive decision made by the e-board.

As of press time, USG did not post on its Facebook page that a senator position was open, nor was the application link posted for students to apply. The last vacant position notice was posted on April 12, in reference to the seat left vacant by Aleem.

In a joint interview with Jorgensen and Yang, the two explained that USG does not intend to post a new form for the newly vacated senator position. Instead, two candidates will be picked from those who applied for the seat through the form posted on April 12, which is still open.

However, the USG Facebook page neither reposted the form since April 12, nor announced that prospective applicants should use the form posted on April 12. USG also did not announce that the senate would pick two senators from the April 12 form.

With the new decision in place, two candidates for senator will be



BIANCA MONTEIRO | THE TICKER

Alexander Dimcevski was the eighth senator to resign from the Undergraduate Student Government. Two representative senator seats are currently open and up for election.

voted in during the May 1 meeting, allowing them to sit in on two senate meetings. They will hold their positions until the 2017-18 USG's end of term on June 30.

"It's unconstitutional," Yang said. "Who are we to break the laws that we have set for ourselves? So what's to say that we can't go just breaking any other ones whenever we feel like it?"

"Yeah, same thing. If we break one, who's to say that we can't break them all," Jorgensen added. "It brings up a bunch of questions. It's like, okay, if we let it slide once, USG has let it slide, so who's to say we can't let it slide again."

Article IX Section 1 of the USG constitution states that "Willful

violation of the provisions of this constitution" could be considered grounds for impeachment. However, all three senators said they do not think the decision will lead to anyone's impeachment, and do not believe there will be any repercussions for violating the constitution.

"I don't think there will be any repercussions," Jorgensen said. "People could bring it up, but I don't feel like the senate is super motivated to shuffle things around anymore than already has been done this year."

"We were in the minority, so there's not much that the senate as a whole can do about it," Yang said.

Dimcevski did not respond to *The Ticker's* request for comment.

Kalani and Project Now sweep a largely uncontested election

BY SHEIK FLORADEWAN
COPY EDITOR

The sole party running, Project Now, won the 2018 Undergraduate Student Government elections, along with their presidential candidate Radhika Kalani. The Student Election Review Committee announced in their official results that a total of 742 ballots were cast in this year’s election, which is significantly lower than in previous years.

The referendum to change the USG constitution, as proposed by USG’s Constitutional Review Committee, had 522 votes to pass it. The referendum needed 10 percent of the student population to vote for it to pass, so will require President Mitchel Wallerstein to sign off on it for it to go into effect.

Kalani will be joined at the table by all of Project Now’s candidates from the e-board, including all of Project Now’s candidates for vice presidential positions and all 15 of the party’s candidates for representative senator positions.

The winners include Emma Jorgensen for executive vice president, Raul Cruz for treasurer and Andrea Soto for executive secretary. Vice presidential winners were Aaron D’Souza, Kendra Lojano, Carlton Maddix and Mark Vilik. Winning Project Now representative senators were Liz Barzman, Justin Broomfield, Joshua Castillo, Blossom Chen, Ray Colon, Dakshatha Daggala, Lewis Diep, Julie Guzman, Nicole Pung, Kayla Rivera, Aziz Sanogo, Mohammad Shahid, Erick Ventura, Jerick Venturina and Ryan Zhang.

“I was kind of scared a few of our senators wouldn’t get a position because that was the only competition we did have, but they all campaigned hard and the whole team got in,” said Kalani in an interview.

Independent candidate Hao

Fang also won a seat on the Student Center Board, which had three spots and three candidates running.

Following tradition, the candidates waited outside of the Office of Student Life until 9:12 p.m., cheering until Kalani was called into the office to read the election results. However, spirits were subdued as this current year’s e-board was not present to offer the newly elected candidates their congratulations and guidance, and only 14 of Project Now’s team members were there.

After Kalani announced the team’s victory, the team went to the USG Conference Room, where she made a statement about going forward with their elected positions and their goals for the following year.

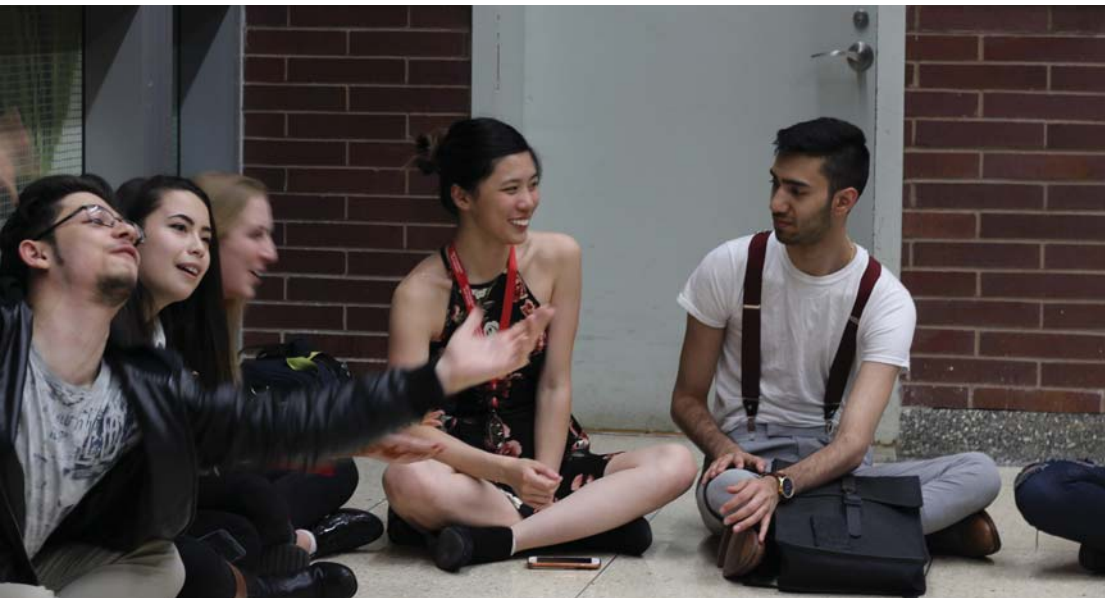
“We all have some great goals, great initiatives, great plans, great ideas, and this whole team is going to be fantastic. Each one of you was hand-picked for a reason,” Kalani said. “We’re gonna make USG great again.”

Arvis Chen, current chair of Clubs and Organizations, then imparted his knowledge to the new team.

“You’ve seen us, you’ve seen what we do,” Chen said. “We made a lot of mistakes, we learned from it. But I think the biggest advice I can give you is that the people who are most willing to communicate and work together, that’s what makes the difference.”

Representative Sen. Andrew Windsor also offered the new team advice, emphasizing what Chen said about communicating with each other and keeping their differences in check and at the table.

“You saw a lot of resignations this year, some for personal reasons, some for difference of opinion,” Windsor said. “If you want to resign for classes and whatnot, of



VICTORIA MERLINO | THE TICKER

Before the results were announced, Project Now members gathered in front of the Office of Student Life to hear the news.

course that’s allowable — you have to be a student first — but at the same time if you have personal differences with people, always try to communicate and leave your beef at the table. Keep it professional.”

Windsor also advised the team to do their homework. “Read the minutes, read the budgets and make sure you are voting correctly for your students and constituents,” he said.

“Make sure you understand the constitution, you guys cannot make your own rules for something and you are governed by something else that is higher than you on a piece of paper.”

Following Windsor’s point, Chen added, “You guys will be voicing a lot of your opinions, if you guys wanna know the best way to argue and best way to get your opinion out there, do your homework like Andrew said and do your

research. No one else on the table will be able to refute what you said is wrong because you can’t argue with the facts.”

After the current USG members offered their knowledge to the new team, they briefly discussed their plans to continue meeting with their team and start their USG training during the summer, including working on their first project, the “Baruch Undergrad Student Survival Guide,” given to incoming students on convocation.

Windsor and Liam Giordano, the co-chairs of the Constitutional Review Committee, wrote in a joint statement to *The Ticker* that they are in communication with Wallerstein about incorporating their amendment into the constitution. The amendment would open representative senators and USG e-board members to potential impeachment after missing four USG

senate meetings.

“We planned for voter turnout to be low, considering both the recent history of election turnout and the lack of opposition in this year’s election,” they wrote.

“We are disappointed that our committee never saw what the ballot would look like beforehand, despite the amendment questions being templates.

“Had there been a more explicit title or explanation, it could have changed the outcome slightly,” they also wrote, referring to how the ballot did not explicitly explain what the amendment was for or the context.

Windsor and Giordano, both former writers for *The Ticker*, thanked all of those who helped put the referendum on the ballot by filling a petition with roughly 12 percent of the undergraduate student population’s signatures.

APAHM committee hosts a panel led by Asian Pacific professionals

MAY KHIN
STAFF WRITER

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Planning Committee hosted “Being AAPI in the Workforce” on April 24 for a panel discussion about the experiences of being an Asian Pacific professional in 2018.

Jessalin Lam from 4A’s — the American Association of Advertising Agencies — Shahed Islam from SJ Innovation LLC and Imtiaz R. Chowdhury from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shared their professional experiences in what happened to be an intimate discussion.

Both Lam and Chowdhury are Baruch College graduates and they were happy and honored to have the opportunity to share their experiences with current Baruch students.

Lam was a marketing major at Baruch and shared how she was torn between two internships during her time here at Baruch. She decided to go with the unpaid internship but did not regret it after learning so much from the experience.

She encouraged everyone to follow their hearts if they ever face difficult decisions. Lam believes that at the end of the day, one should choose what makes them happy, since they will be the one doing the work.

Islam shared his story and told the audience to follow their dreams. He was a pre-med major in college, but he decided to switch his major to computer science although his parents were unsupportive of his decision. He

said he was happy with where he was now said he and became successful by following his passion.

Some advice given by the professionals include having a morning routine, developing good habits, communicating properly and being proactive among other things.

Michelle Kim, vice president of Filipinos Uniting Students In Other Nations, or F.U.S.I.O.N, addressed the lack of Asian representation and hopes that through this event, students will find a role model that looks like them.

“We are very underrepresented in media, politics, workplaces and there is a stigma on us called the model minority,” Kim said. “There is already a disadvantage set up for us.”

Islam said he experienced discrimination due to his skin color and background especially after 9/11, but he chose to ignore it and stay positive.

“I am a Muslim also and because of 9/11 and after that, I have seen it many, many times where because of race and cultural reasons, I’ve been treated unfairly,” Islam said. “But it doesn’t bother me anymore.”

Chowdhury emphasized the importance of diversity and how it is much needed in workplaces.

“Diversity can be in a lot of forms like race, religion, sex but the most important diversity to me is the diversity of thought,” Chowdhury said.

“The key impact of diversity and inclusion is the thought process. That is something college campuses should embrace more,” he said.

Brigit co-founder and CRO leads workshop focused on financial literacy

BY ESTELLE SAAD
STAFF WRITER

Financial tech startup Brigit, an app that gives economic advice to users, came to Baruch College to give a class on making good economic choices and planning for the future.

Brigit is a year-old financial tech startup, and its mission, according to the company’s website, is to help people with their financial problems.

Brigit’s money protection service aims to put cash into peoples’ overdrawn accounts to stop them from getting overdraft fees.

Vsevolod Filippov, a current Brigit intern and a senior at Baruch, planned the event. When asked what he hoped students would learn from the presentation, he said that a lot of students have problems budgeting their money and he wanted this presentation to help students better plan for their futures.

The financial literacy workshop focused on budgeting money, managing cash and investing money for the future. Brigit’s co-founder and Chief Risk Officer Len Kunin led the workshop.

Kunin spoke about what students can do now to start saving for retirement. He spoke of the importance of saving for retirement early on, particularly for people currently in their 20s or younger. He also explained that one-third of senior citizens are living entirely off of their social security checks and the social security program will most probably be over by the time today’s young people retire.

Kunin recommended that for every dollar of income that people plan to live off of during their retirement, they should save \$15.

Kunin told students that by paying their credit card bills on time and getting a low utilization ratio, they can easily increase their credit scores, which will benefit them when they apply for loans in the future.

When spending money, Kunin advised that students should think of the short term and the long term benefits that they would get out of their purchases.

Kunin explained the importance of setting financial goals as early as possible to achieve them in the long run. He recommended Brigit’s website myhiddenfees.com as a way of checking possible fees a person might have in order to avoid them in the future and to track where their money is going.

Kunin also spoke about building credit scores. He advised students to get credit cards as soon as they can, to make small purchases on the credit cards and to pay them off on time to increase their scores.

Kunin explained the issues with having credit card debt and how people should not build up their debt with credit card companies. He said that people should “stay on the business side, not on the victim side” with credit card companies by paying their bills on time and not paying interest on overdue charges.

Kunin told students that by paying their credit card bills on time and getting a low utilization ratio, they can easily increase their credit scores, which will benefit them when they apply for loans in the future.

In terms of emergency funds, Kunin said that the general rule is for a single person to save six months of salary for emergencies, while a married person should save three months of salary. To be an investor, “you must think long term and not rush or panic” when small changes in the market occur, said Kunin.

For investment products, he recommended products that say “index funds” and charge a very small fee as opposed to the free ones that he says are actually the most expensive products.

Kunin compared the different retirement plans, the 401K, the IRA and the Roth IRA, and what each plan offers.

He also spoke about the differences in the federal taxes and state taxes that are taken from each retirement program and how they are removed from the program at different times.

Kunin warned that the money invested in these retirement programs becomes illiquid, charging high withdrawal fees.

He said that although students do not have much disposable income to put away for the future, even investing a small sum into a retirement program each year from now on will be beneficial in the longterm because the money gains interest each year it remains in the fund.



SPECIAL TO THE TICKER

Proposed SAF changes cause confusion on CUNY campuses

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

While some CUNY colleges have more complicated allocations with their fees directly going to certain media groups and clubs on campus, the earmarks at Baruch are more streamlined. There are separate allocations that group all clubs and organizations, all student media and all of the Undergraduate Student Government's money into their respective earmarks and so on.

The student activity fee must be revised after a legal case in which a student from Queens College sued the CUNY Board of Trustees after the student government at Queens College denied her proposal to start a pro-life club at the college without sufficient reasoning. She won the suit, and to be in compliance, student activity fees must be allocated with "viewpoint neutral criteria," meaning that funds cannot be earmarked for student "speech activities," like clubs and organizations.

The proposed changes were revised through the Student Activities Fee Task Force, a group of trustees, student leaders and CUNY staff and faculty.

The CUNY Board of Trustees' Student Affairs Committee spoke about the proposed changes during its April 16 meeting after receiving input from the task force about the changes. Issues discussed within the meeting included a new proposal to grant student government the ability to pass referenda to change student activity fees through a supermajority vote, in addition to the current process of

having 10 percent of the student population sign a petition to create a referendum. The committee also discussed no longer allowing external groups to be paid through earmarks in CUNY. This would mainly affect NYPIRG, or the New York Public Interest Research Group, a political group that receives \$1.3 million in student activity fees to have students participate in its organization across nine CUNY campuses. Baruch does not have NYPIRG on its campus and would not be affected by this change.

One of the most contentious changes was dissolving all earmarks for all activities funded by these fees, but now the proposal recommends that students still be able to earmark funds for what is called "non-speech activities," or for programs that are viewpoint neutral, such as the student government, athletics and childcare centers. Earmarks for clubs and organizations and media would be dissolved and funds will be allocated in the future without an earmark. The language in the proposal does not explicitly say how funding will be decided for organizations that have their earmarks dissolved, only that they will be allocated money through the use of viewpoint neutral criteria that is outlined in CUNY's Fiscal Handbook for the Control and Accountability of Student Activity Fees.

"There is currently no transition plan," Fernando Araujo, executive director of the University Student Senate, a body of elected students from across CUNY that is supposed

to advocate for students, wrote in an email to *The Ticker*.

Araujo is on the task force, and is also a graduate student at Brooklyn College. He explained that there is currently no plan to ease students into the transition if these earmarks were to be eliminated.

"There has been no discussion of a transition plan by the committee. The effects of this proposal on the local campus have not been given serious consideration at the task force or board committee. It will likely be a shock to the system. Especially considering that the associations are allocating those funds now, in the Spring semester. Does this mean that the funds allocated by the college association during this semester will, in turn, be dissolved? When do referendum organizations that were previously referendum organizations, such as *The Ticker*, get their budgets?" Araujo wrote.

In an in-person interview, Araujo argued that the situation for student activity fees is complicated and differs from campus to campus. "I don't know what the breakdown on your campus is like. You don't know what the breakdown on my campus is like. These people don't know what the breakdowns on the individual campuses are like because they're here in a corporate building in the middle of Manhattan.

"You can't tell me that the students understand what's about to happen," Araujo said.

Araujo said that at Baruch in particular, the student government would absorb the earmarks of student media and clubs and organi-

zations. Currently, student media, such as WBMB and *The Ticker* at Baruch, do not have to appeal to USG to receive their funding, instead going directly to the board of directors, a group of students and administrators who approve the allocations for all budgets funded by student activity fees. Clubs at Baruch appeal to USG, who then take it to the board of directors, akin to what other CUNY schools and the CUNY bylaws consider a College Association. He presumed that USG would now have to allocate funds to media directly.

Repeated attempts to get in contact with Francesca Royal, a USS delegate who is on the task force and who agreed with Araujo's in-person assessment of how fees would be allocated after the change, went unanswered.

Baruch student leaders and administrators, however, are unclear if this would be the case.

"It doesn't seem like that's what they're trying to do," said Baruch USG President Isabel Arias in regard to the effect the proposal will have on student media and if that would mean that media's funds would be allocated directly by the senate table during the April 24 senate meeting. "It really doesn't seem like that. We're waiting for confirmation when Dean King is able to talk to CUNY Central," she said.

Damali Smith, director of Student Life, said during the April 24 meeting that CUNY is modeling the new proposal after Baruch, with a comprehensive college association and process. She heard this

information from Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Art King. Because of Baruch's comprehensive process, she said, the school actually has a surplus of student activity fees. The difference potentially could be that media would still go to the board of directors for funds, but that they would not be restricted by how much their earmark currently allots.

It is unclear who is correct on these points. *The Ticker* contacted both CUNY media relations and the legal office for comment on the specific questions being raised about what these changes will mean and if students are being adequately prepared for them. While the legal office did not respond, CUNY media relations gave a general statement from Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Christopher Rosa, describing the task force and stating that the task force, the Office of the General Counsel and the Central Office of Student Affairs were actively seeking input on the issue from all key stakeholders. When pressed to speak further on the issue, the media relations office sent a video and transcript of the student activity fees being discussed at a prior board of trustees meeting. When pressed twice more, no office responded.

The CUNY Board of Trustees organized a website devoted to the proposal that explains why the changes are necessary, the proposal and other relevant documents. Find it at <http://www2.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/student-life/student-activities-fees/>.

Miss Vietnam dedicates ‘Miss Asia’ 2018 win to her grandmother

BY MAY KHIN
STAFF WRITER

The third annual “Miss Asia,” hosted by the Vietnamese Student Association, featured student contestants from Baruch College representing their respective Asian countries and competing for the title of Miss Asia 2018 on April 26.

The cultural pageant consisted of three rounds: cultural catwalk, talent portion and evening gown walk to illustrate heritage, culture and beauty.

There were eight contestants this year, and Miss Vietnam, Jessica Tang, took home the crown as Miss Asia 2018. It was the first time Vietnam participated in the pageant.

Along with the title of Miss Asia, there were four other titles to win. Miss South Korea, Mina Kim, won Miss Social Media; Miss Philippines, Danikha Catada, won Miss Fan Favorite; Miss China, Joy Ling, won Miss Congeniality and Catada took home another win for Best Cultural Catwalk.

Tang said she competed to showcase the culture that her grandmother had always taught her to stay connected with and that she dedicated this to her grandmother.

“I am actually really surprised because I didn’t expect this to happen,” Tang said. “Originally I didn’t do this to win, I did it to represent my culture. Miss Asia is not your ordinary beauty pageant; it’s intertwined with cultures as well.”

As the ladies showcased their traditional attire, they also spoke up on multiple issues and why they decided to participate in Miss Asia 2018. For example, Miss Bangladesh, Sadia Huque, spoke about the importance of her language and her hopes to pass it along to future generations.



JULIAN TINEO | THE TICKER

Jessica Tang, Miss Vietnam, took home the title of "Miss Asia" during the third annual "Miss Asia" pageant. This was the first year that saw Vietnam in the competition.

Kim mentioned how South Korea is a small country, but has a big heart. She, like many of the other contestants, emphasized the importance of unity, family and community as a whole in their respective countries.

Tang shared that respect for elders is important in her culture because it builds a stronger relationship and better communication.

There were outstanding performances for the talent portion. Huque danced to a traditional song and she moved around the stage in flowy traditional attire. Kim danced the night away like a Korean popstar. Catada showcased her journey of finding herself between the two cultures by singing and dancing to the song “How Far I’ll Go” from The Walt Disney Co.’s movie, *Moana*.

Miss Vizag of India, Dakshatha Daggala brought excitement on stage with her dance moves, which were as strong and vibrant as her traditional red skirt. The audience started to clap and sing along as Miss Hong Kong, Nicole Pung, played the ukulele and sang “Riptide.” Ling not only sang a Chinese song, but also played the piano to “What A Wonderful World,” as she dedicated the song to her grandfather who she mentioned is about to pass away.

Tang’s performance stood out the most because she focused her theme on the Vietnamese national flower and showed how a lotus flower starts from the muddy water and rises up to blossom.

Her performance vividly illustrated Vietnamese culture and the strength the Vietnamese people

have after going through the Vietnam War. It was colorful, historic and symbolic.

“The lotus flower represents purity and strength,” Tang said “The lotus flower is the representation of the Vietnamese people.”

During the Q&A for the final four contestants, they spoke on issues such as sexual harassment, Asian representation and Asian-American identity.

Tang said 31 percent of the girls in Vietnam had been sexually harassed when they were going home after school. She raised awareness about sexual harassment in schools and workplaces. Ling stressed the importance of having a voice and how you can express through music what language cannot — as she did with her performance during the talent portion.

Catada said the representation of Asian-Americans is generally underwhelming, and she wanted to address the lack of representation. “We get lost in the conversation,” she said, “to bring us back to the forefront of it, to have the voice again, representation in media, in the political scope, in movies, I think that’s really important.”

President of VSA Blossom Chen said the “Miss Asia” event is significant because it is the closing ceremony for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and it brought many different cultures together on stage.

“All of our contestants worked tirelessly for this event so they are all winners in my heart. It takes a lot of courage to go up on stage and perform with hundreds of their peers watching them,” Chen said.

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Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Baruch Residence Hall needs to improve living conditions

The Baruch College Residence Hall located at 1760 Third Avenue has been known for its flaws, but recently it has reached a new level of gross. Despite having to pay between \$6,000 and \$7,000 per semester for either a triple or a double room, students are realizing that the basic amenities often do not work.

This winter saw many days go below freezing, yet the students who stayed in the dorm had to cope with having no heat. The problems do not stop there. Many of the students, including *Ticker* members who reside at the dorms, experienced flooding, a ceiling that was falling apart and the presence of silverfish insects in their bathrooms.

When a student experiences a problem in their dorm room, they are told to submit a work order. This seems logical, except for the fact that the work orders are often ignored or delayed. When chunks of the ceiling are falling onto one's bed or the toilet is not flushing, one would obviously want it to be fixed immediately. Nevertheless, it takes approximately a week or two for a work order to be processed. Often, students submit more than one work order for the same recurring issue.

There are issues in the communal kitchens as well. The kitchen opens at 6 a.m. and closes at 12 a.m. Some kitchen staff members frequently come to clean the kitchen earlier than midnight, which inconveniences the residents. The students have until midnight to cook, clean and eat, but when the staff insists that they leave, it impedes on one of the amenities that was guaranteed to the students when they registered for the dorms.

Just recently, there have been complaints brought to *The Ticker's* attention of a staff member acting out against the students. When the staff member walked into the kitchen prior to closing, he started yelling at the residents to get out. In what seemed like an act of anger, he started to shove the residents' cooking supplies aside. It is unacceptable that this kind of behavior is tolerated in the dorms, a place that students are paying to live in.

Either way, the students who reside in the Residence Hall are typically students who are out of state, international or live too far to commute to school on a daily basis. Coming to New York, the students may expect to live with better conditions considering the amount they pay per semester. The basic amenities, such as heat and air conditioning, should be functioning, and the staff should be consistent when enforcing the dorm rules.

USG elections need more advertising

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

If Student Life were to give advanced notice of the upcoming deadline in the fall semester or winter session, perhaps there would be a greater number of candidates prepared to run.

This year's Project Now party had little opposition. Only four candidates ran independently of the mainstream party, which undermined their individual abilities to campaign effectively.

It may be of benefit to push elections later in the semester to encourage candidates to use ample time to campaign, especially considering that spring recess disrupted the process this year.

Advertising changes may diversify the types of candidates available. As it stands, those most aware of the election's application and who form a party are already involved in or close to USG.

Teams strategically include running mates from different clubs who can pull in votes, basing the election of a party more on friendship rather than on informed decisions and policy. This pattern may explain why Project Now candidates were in no rush to publish their platform and were missing several members at the USG Debate on April 19.

Student Life and USG candidates should proactively take steps to equip the student body with the options and knowledge they need to elect USG members to represent their interests.



DAPHNELLY DELACRUZ | THE TICKER

Private US citizens, like Bloomberg, should not have to fund climate deal

An ecosystem stretching approximately 1,400 miles long is in danger. Most have never visited this mystical world, and since one cannot see it, one may not even know that the Great Barrier Reef is fighting for its very existence.

The reef is slowly dying due to climate change. This is a change that humans have contributed to, falling asleep at the wheel while the planet and its oceans warm to dangerous extremes.

Three years ago, a mass bleaching event hit the northern half of the reef hard. As oceanic temperatures rise, the corals expel micro-sized algae that normally reside in their tissues for shelter, but symbiotically provide them their food and color. If all of the algae are expelled, the corals slowly starve to death, lose their color and die.

A study released by the journal *Nature* unearthed a disturbing new discovery: during the summer of 2016, the hottest year on record, a powerful El Niño created a deadly combination of sea temperatures that rose so exponentially within a short period of time that the corals simply cooked to death rather than starved.

This rapid degeneration does not allow the corals to naturally regenerate over time. If the oceans continue to experience extreme climate like that in 2016, the entire reef will perish.

There is a solution to the issue: stop warming up the oceans. The Paris climate accord was a step in the right direction. The accord called for global temperatures to not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius, their pre-industrialization averages. The current member states' actual commitments place their pace closer to 3.4 degrees of warming.

In another study released by *Nature Climate Change*, researchers found that if global temperatures rose only the desired 1.5 degrees — which would right now require every country to quit emitting carbon dioxide by 2021 — the temperatures that strangled the reef in 2016 would still occur every two out of three years. If there is even a 2-degree Celsius rise, there is an 87 percent chance that the oceans will annually exceed their 2016 temperatures.

And yet, the United States' commitments to the accords it used to be part of were just paid for on Earth Day, April 22, by Michael Bloomberg. The former mayor and private billionaire philanthropist paid the \$4.5 million annual payment this time, and his charities donated \$15 million last year.

We should commend private individuals and particular states within the nation that have picked up the current administration's slack, but there is a larger, underlying problem: the willingness of the American public to either gleefully

or tactically support the nation's breach of its promises to the international community.

If the American people elect a climate-skeptical government into office and allow it to flaunt international commitments regarding the deal while also backing out of the said deal, then other countries in the agreement have no option but to reassess their inclusivity.

So far, all of the member states have struck a tone of unity, hoping to shame the isolated American decision to leave the Paris climate accords. However, as the administration forges ahead, private citizens are forced to cover the country's missed payments while the American public remains silent — and this inaction speaks volumes.

Countries like India, whose current economy will be negatively affected by its Paris commitments, joined the agreement mainly because wealthier, already industrialized countries — like the United States — agreed that they would make payments to India to offset some of its economic losses.

The Paris agreement was to be maintained by American leadership. However, as the government spins its wheels formulating a coherent climate policy, the Great Barrier Reef, and the entire planet Earth, will keep withering away.

- Salvatore Gagliardi
Political Science '18

Trump's tariffs do not satisfy moderates

With the midterm elections quickly approaching, Republicans and Democrats find themselves in a political quagmire. President Donald Trump's move to impose tariffs on China and Europe has found more support with conservatives. It does not satisfy most Americans, however.

Recent polls have shown a partisan divide on Trump's trade policies, which comes as no surprise in this current political climate. However, there are some interesting caveats in the data that should worry Trump and the Republican Party as they try to maintain their majority in Congress as well as pass party-supported legislation.

Only 68 percent of moderate Republicans and 42 percent of independents support the president's tariff policy. Affluent suburbs, once reliable Republican strongholds, are not completely supportive of Trump's tariffs either. This climate will force moderate Republicans who are running for office to make

a tough choice between supporting their party or appeasing the American people through compromise. Republicans will have to decide whether supporting Trump's unpopular tariffs will endanger their future reputation, or if the Trump magic will help them squeeze out a midterm win.

A majority of the seats up for grabs are located in the Midwest. The Republican party has been taking such a beating in the ongoing trade war that senators from the Midwest tried to convince Trump to re-enter the Trans-Pacific Partnership to grant some much-needed reprieve to their constituents. Politicians in these districts need to make economic growth a priority and must advocate for freetrade.

The people who voted for the president — not the party — in 2008 did not show up for the 2010 midterms, and the same pattern will likely repeat itself in this year's midterms. The Republican Party is already at a disadvantage as Trump

is currently an unpopular president, with an approval rating sitting at 40 percent — lower than the past 12 presidents.

This should embolden both Republicans and Democrats to come out swinging against Trump's policies. These actions on trade, especially the aluminum and steel tariffs, are causing more harm than good. Having backfired, the trade tariffs are increasing Democratic support instead.

The independent and moderate voters are showing that they have had enough. These voters are compelling the politicians running to adopt more moderate views. In response, the Republican National Committee must now dump millions of dollars into races that were once thought to be safe. Cynics will argue otherwise, but cynicism is a choice. However, hope will always be a better choice.

-Davon Singh
Marketing '18

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Barbara Bush sets a strong example for future US politicians to replicate

Throughout her time as the matriarch of one of the United States' greatest political dynasties, the late Barbara Bush and the country her family helped lead changed quite a bit.

Some may disagree with the politics of Barbara and her husband, former President George H. W. Bush, but the one constant throughout their lives was their ability to adjust as the country changed with them.

Barbara exemplified this attribute most uniquely, never pushing back against the turbulent world, but learning from it and changing it for the better.

Born in upstate New York in 1925, Barbara would marry George when she was just 19 years old, while he was on leave for his tour during the second World War. Together they would have six children. Their son Robin Bush would be lost at the young age of three due to his ongoing fight with leukemia.

For Barbara, the death was difficult to parse. In a series of interviews she did for a soon-to-be-released biography, author Susan Page describes how the death changed the Bush family's relationship for the better, and how the family grew stronger because of it.

The former first lady, standing firmly beside her husband, would prove to be an influential mother and leader.

One of only two first ladies in history to raise a child who would also become president, she also became a leading advocate for children battling leukemia and illiteracy, after her other son, Neil Bush, was diagnosed with dyslexia.

For Barbara, public service was never about what she wanted but

what the position was expected to be: a platform to do good.

Barbara was an instrumental adviser to her husband and contributed greatly to some of his progressive-leaning beliefs.

They campaigned against homelessness because of Barbara, and after winning the election, she advocated on behalf of Dr. Louis Sullivan, who was the only black person to join her husband's cabinet.

She also famously forced her husband to visit an AIDS clinic in New Orleans that convinced him to provide public funds for the disease, whereas former President Ronald Reagan had notably refused. Flexibility of the mind was a keen attribute of the late first lady.

In an interview she conducted in 2015 with historian Jon Meacham and *The Atlantic's* Timothy Naftali, Barbara initiated an impactful discussion on then President Barack Obama's appointment of a transgender individual within his administration.

Barbara, whom one could easily pigeonhole as an ideologue of a bygone era, was true to her conservative form — at first. She did not disagree with the appointment, only with its grandiose announcement in comparison to the appointments of heterosexual administration members by the Obamas.

Naftali politely attempted to counter her, highlighting the importance of the announcement for the LGBTQ community.

Any recognition, he argued, especially from the White House, could give a much-needed confidence boost to a community often looked down upon and it could positively impact how the rest of

society views it. Naftali noted that, at the time, Barbara did not seem convinced.

A few weeks later, however, Meacham received a note from Barbara regarding their sit down. The note read, "I so enjoyed the lunch and Tim won the argument or he changed my mind about so much. Transgenders are born that way ... Please tell him that at 90 I learned a lot from our lunch."

Barbara's flexibility of mind and her willingness to reconsider some of her long-held beliefs at 90 years old has set an incredible example for all to follow. Today, alternative facts — perpetrated most egregiously by the current U.S. President Donald Trump and media silos — have allowed too many people of all ages to wall themselves off into their own ideological echo chambers.

Allowing one's own opinions or beliefs to be tailored, over time, by the lived experiences and beliefs of other people is not only desirable but also a vital function of an evolving society. When this process fails, people are unable to forge middle grounds or come together over any shared ideals, something similar to the hyperpolarization that is currently crippling Congress.

Barbara set the standard. At 90 years old, she could still have a rational and informative discussion with others that would change her mind and refine her perspective.

It may seem trivial to alter one person's opinion, but if this happens on a large scale, it will lead to real, concrete change in society over time.

-Salvatore Gagliardi
Political Science '18

Is the Korean War over?

North and South Korea have been in a state of war since the Korean War began in 1950. Recently, South Korea confirmed its intentions to reopen negotiations with North Korea to finally end the war after almost 70 years.

The United States is also taking part in these negotiations, hoping the North will relinquish its nuclear arsenal. This treaty, if finalized, will effectively reduce tension between the two Koreas as well as with the United States.

South Korea's Director of the National Security Office Chung Eui-yong is planning a meeting with President Donald Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton, a known conservative, with war-hawk leaning tendencies, and the North's leaders.

This is the first time North Korea, South Korea and the United States will be together in the same room. The North will expect security guarantees in exchange for surrendering its nuclear programs.

Trump said he approved the idea of a peace treaty and confirmed that he had sent Mike Pompeo, then director of the CIA who is currently in the process of being confirmed for secretary of state, to meet the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to plan the upcoming talk in May or early June.

It has been effective and for the first time in history, the U.S. president will be meeting a North Korean leader.

South Korean officials want the United States to show a united front on denuclearization as a precursor to the treaty. However, Chinese officials want the United States to discuss such matters with them first before rushing off to sign any peace treaty. China is supportive of a peaceful conclusion to the war but is upset over the current

trade spat with the United States.

"If the two countries cannot settle the trade issues, that will have a significant impact on China's attitude toward helping the United States on North Korea," said Cheng Xiaohe, a North Korea expert at the Renmin University of China in Beijing. The United States should respect Chinese concerns and inform China on the path it will choose moving forward.

Kim expressed his concerns about American troops on Southern soil, and, therefore, he refused to denuclearize. However, a partial withdrawal is possible. If the United States removes a certain number of American troops, especially from the heavily armed border, it would gain trust and respect from the North.

If the North breaks that trust and attacks the South, the United States then has every right to take military action against North Korea.

According to *The New York Times*, former South Korean Minister of Unification Lee Jong-seok said, "I am quite sure that if relations between North Korea and the United States improve, the North will not demand the withdrawal of American troops in signing the peace treaty." It has been reported that Kim wants to shift the North's economy away from nuclear weapons.

Trump should lean on his expertise in economics to help shape the peace process and economic prosperity across all Asia, which would strongly benefit the United States in the long term.

The peace treaty must take effect immediately to bring peace on the Korean Peninsula once and for all.

-May Khin
Journalism '19

Comey hypocritically makes money off book tour despite meddling in election

The week of April 23, Former FBI Director James B. Comey has been all over television, tearing into President Donald Trump. He compared the president to a mob boss and went as far as to say that the man is "morally unfit" to be the commander in chief, among other things. These are all valid sentiments and Comey should continue to make them, given his mass influence as the former head of an intelligence agency. That being said, Comey is still a complicated, self-serving individual who made an inexplicable, unforgivable mistake that quite possibly altered the course of U.S. history.

Before anyone paints Comey as a hero, people should first revisit his costly mishandling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. In the summer of 2016, back when Comey still had a job at the Department of Justice, he closed the probe on Clinton's emails due to lack of evidence. However, he publicly chastised her and even questioned her judgment. Regardless, the matter was put to bed and Clinton managed to secure an enormous lead over Trump in the initial polls.

Afterward, Comey decided to write a letter to Congress just 11 days prior to the election, announcing that he was reopening the investigation, severely impacting her standings in the polls and potentially costing her the presidency. Comey cleared Clinton's name for the second time a day before the election, but by then, the damage had already been done.

Clinton saw her lead in the polls begin to dwindle after the infamous letter and never fully recovered post-election. Meanwhile,

the FBI has been investigating possible ties between Russia and the Trump campaign since early July, yet there was strangely no mention of that from the agency's director until well after the election. It is quite interesting that Comey, a professed Republican at the time, decided to send a letter to Congress informing them of his reopening of the fruitless investigation, while keeping the investigation into Trump's campaign a well-guarded secret.

Things became even more peculiar upon Comey's confession that his assumption of Clinton ultimately winning the 2016 election was "a factor" in determining his course of action. This is not the way an FBI director should behave. His statement implies that if the race was closer, he would not have sent the apology letter.

Shortly after the fiasco, Comey received his comeuppance when the president he helped put in office fired him for "Mr. Comey's handling of the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server," according to *The New York Times*. Trump would later admit and then deny that the FBI's investigation into his campaign's possible collusion with Russia factored some way into his decision. Comey was out of a job and the United States was stuck with a president that most Americans did not even vote for.

Now, Comey is back with a vengeance, insulting the president to no end and attempting to recapture the hearts of Trump haters everywhere. The man who had been silent for months has now re-emerged into the public spotlight — just in time to promote his new book. He is making the rounds on

all of the talk shows.

Comey's book dilutes substantive political dialogue and personal autobiography with childish insults about Trump's orange skin and small hands. It is enough to write Comey off as a vengeful ex-employee, which is exactly what the GOP is scrambling to do. Comey is once again butchering his chance at doing the right thing. This time, it is hard to be surprised.

Comey is an opportunist who has waited until now to emerge from the woodwork solely to sell his book. His time away from the public eye has allowed him to transform himself from bumbling government employee who wrongly intervened in a presidential election, to a petty, pompous celebrity who has somehow achieved the nearly impossible political feat of being despised by both the left and right.

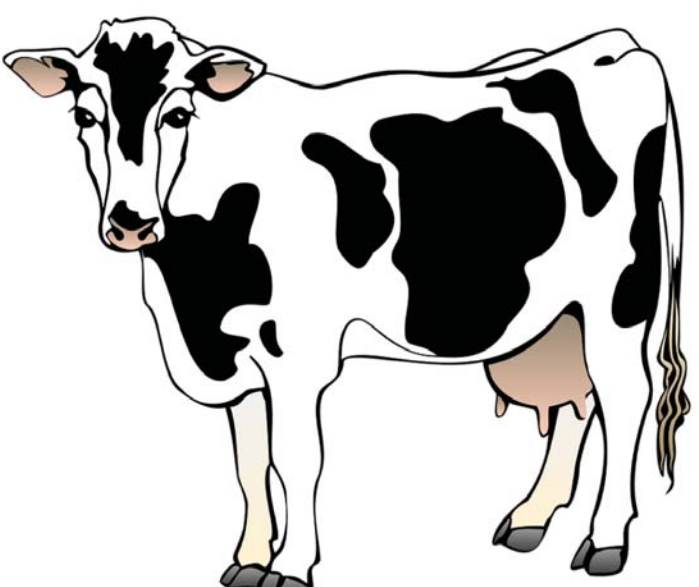
By trying to feud with Trump, Comey may have ultimately become like him. The passive-aggressive tweets, the immature personal digs, the overall incompetence at his position and the massive thirst for attention have thrust the former FBI director into rare company right alongside his arch enemy. As if swaying a national election and being fired in disgrace were not enough; Comey had to attempt his comeback as a Kardashian.

Comey is a man with the wrong intentions who has made colossal mistakes and now wants to be beloved by the public because he is trashing the man who fired him. Regardless of anyone's opinion, one thing is for sure: Comey is bound to sell a lot of books.

-Evan Lewis
Journalism '19

Write for Opinions

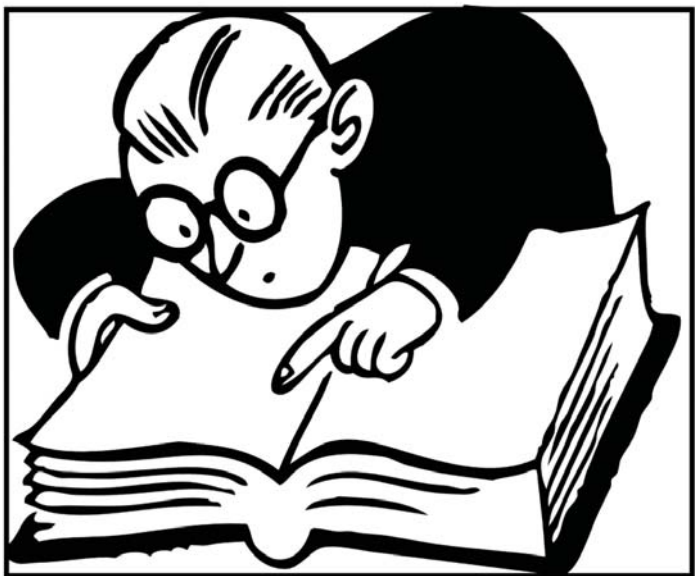
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Business

MoviePass’ future is uncertain as company stays unprofitable

BY BRANDON TINGLE
COPY EDITOR

In this day and age, going to the movies is quite expensive and is slowly becoming an outdated form of leisure time. Founded in 2011, MoviePass allows moviegoers to avoid this expense by offering them a movie a day for an affordable rate of \$9.95 a month. Unfortunately, an auditor speculates that the company will not be able to stay in business.

An auditor for MoviePass’ parent organization, Helios and Matheson Analytics Inc., expressed uncertainty about the company’s total profit in The Verge. “MoviePass auditor has doubts about the company’s business model after significant losses.”

From a story in Business Insider, the reason for these doubts is attributed to “negative cash flows from operating activities,” meaning that cash outflows exceeded cash inflows.

The auditor’s statement rebuts MoviePass’ CEO Mitch Lowe’s prediction that “the company would be ‘cash-flow positive’ by 2019.” MoviePass needs to increase its profits in order to stay in business, as stated by Helios and Matheson Analytics CEO Ted Farnsworth. This, however, will not be an easy task.

When signing up for MoviePass, a user receives a customized Mastercard with their name on it. The card is then used after you confirm the movie time on the app. However, this is inconvenient as the tickets cannot be purchased online; one

must be within 150 feet of a theater.

An article published by WIRED hints at the idea that MoviePass is giving its money away: “The more subscribers MoviePass signs up, the more money it loses.”

The company reimburses the theater for the tickets, regardless of how many people show up. In addition to this, it provides customer service for millions of customers across the nation.

MoviePass’ business model of one movie a day is no longer available to new subscribers who opt in for the package offering film tickets and a trial for iHeartRadio. MoviePass now limits these subscribers to four movies a month.

However, this should not discourage new members, as a representative of MoviePass stated, “the previous version of MoviePass will eventually be available to new subscribers again.”

Earlier this year, MoviePass revealed how it plans to make money. In a statement to *Variety*, Lowe said he wants to gain more subscribers from “Kansas City and Omaha,” where tickets are cheaper than in Manhattan and Los Angeles.

Additionally, the company has been trying to get a cut from AMC Theatres’ ticket sales and concession profits, according to Deadline Hollywood.

According to an article published by Investopedia, in order for MoviePass to remain in business, it must form partnerships with multiple corporations. The company has begun this endeavor by collaborating with smaller studios and distributors to advertise mov-



COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG

If MoviePass does not start to profit and continues to lose money with every new user, it may not stay in business.

ies such as *Forever My Girl* and *I, Tonya* through various forms of social media.

Furthermore, Investopedia reported that the company “announced they would begin acquiring and distributing films themselves under a new division named MoviePass Ventures.”

MoviePass also needs to make deals with various movie theater chains such as Regal Entertainment Group in order to sustain its business. MoviePass is not receiving a dime out of theaters’ large profits from concessions.

In a WIRED interview with Lowe, he expressed his views on moviegoers’ expenses, stating that they spend “an average of \$13 on popcorn and soda, which is more than double the norm.”

With MoviePass’ current dilemma, action should be taken immediately. Partnering up with Regal and AMC would be a move in the right direction. After gaining a substantial amount of subscribers, the company can demand more from the big movie theater chains. This initiative could save MoviePass from its downfall.

Investopedia published a article that stated, “a public presentation from January 2018 claims that when the service hits 3 million subscribers, MoviePass could become cash flow positive.”

Moviegoers, however, are enjoying the service. MoviePass projects that it will reach 5 million subscribers by the end of this year.

More Sears stores closing as company struggles to stay in business

BY ESTELLE SAAD
STAFF WRITER

Sears is expected to close 24 of its stores across the United States in addition to the 166 stores that the company had already announced it would close this year. These actions are a result of the trend in retail in which companies are focusing more on their on-line platforms than their physical stores.

Business Insider reported that Sears is closing 22 stores and two Kmart stores in 17 states. Most of the stores set to close will do so by mid-July, and liquidation sales will begin by April 27.

Sears, which is in danger of going bankrupt, has cut its total store count in half over the last five years. The retailer has had slow sales and excess floor space at its stores and, as a result, began announcing closures last year.

Howard Riefs, the director of corporate communications for Sears Holdings Corp., said that the company closing down stores is “not an effort solely aimed at cost savings but is part of a strategy we have been executing ... as many of our larger stores are too big for our needs.”

In an emailed statement, Riefs said closing the Clearwater, Florida, store was a “difficult, but necessary decision,” though having fewer stores and the “right format” will help them to “bring Sears Holdings to a size and place to meet the realities of the changing retail world.”

The company had 1,002 stores as of early February, down from 1,980 stores in 2013. Sears Holdings’ sales have been on the decline for years, down 45 percent since early 2013.

The retailer’s debt is now over \$4 billion, and the company’s an-



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More of Sears’ stores are closing and online competitors continue to take more of its customers. Sales at what was once the nation’s largest retailer are still plummeting.

Annual losses are well over \$1 billion. They are now shifting their focus to their Shop Your Way membership platform, websites and mobile apps.

Due to the closing of the stores, Sears gave letters of notice to employees at the affected stores. The number of employees that are being affected is unknown at the time. However, eligible associates will receive severance and have the opportunity to apply for positions at other Sears and Kmart stores.

Sears is also selling 16 properties — mostly in Indiana, Ohio, Missouri and Texas — on leaseback opportunities, meaning that Sears would pay rent to the winning bidders to remain in the space. The liquidation sales will have products with discounts ranging from 10 percent to 80 percent off.

Sears was one of the nation’s largest retailers for a part of the 20th century, but retail has changed dramatically and they have struggled to keep up with the times.

The company has been frequenting the news in the past year for their falling sales and unsuccessful business strategies.

As e-commerce websites such as Amazon lead in online sales, many traditional stores are losing their customers.

To minimize their footprints, numerous retailers have closed down, with more closures and downsizings expected to occur as well.

Macy’s and J.C. Penney are in a similar situation, and both have closed some of their locations. In the past year Bon-Ton Stores Inc. and Toys R Us both went out of business for similar reasons.

In addition to these closures, malls around the United States have been shutting down. When anchor tenants such as Sears leave a mall, other stores try to break their leases or negotiate for cheaper rent, hurting the mall industry.

According to CNN, experts predict that a quarter of American malls will close in the next five years, which is around 300 out of 1,100 malls.

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Arts & Style

Hero's selfishness damages emotional bond of *Lean on Pete*



BENJAMIN WALLIN

The story of a boy and a horse — as told in C.S. Lewis’ novel *The Horse and His Boy* or as filmed in Steven Spielberg’s *War Horse* — needs a strong emotional foundation as its basis.

For an audience to care about the bond between a human and an animal, the latter light on expressive abilities, there needs to be something strong ensuring that the bond is felt. *Lean on Pete*, directed by Andrew Haigh, tries to do so, but fails, for the most part.

The film’s protagonist, Charley Thompson, lives with his dad Ray in Portland, Oregon. While Ray busies himself with a married secretary, Charley goes off and discovers a local racetrack where he finds employment and an aging racehorse named Lean On Pete.

Under the tutelage of Pete’s owner, Del, Charley learns to care for and maintain racehorses. When Ray’s relationship leads to unintended consequences, Charley chooses to go off in search for his estranged aunt, taking — but never riding — Pete with him as



SCOTT PATRICK GREEN | A24

Charley takes Lean On Pete, an aging racehorse, with him on his journey from Oregon in search of his estranged aunt.

a companion.

As can be gleaned from the sunset images used for the film’s marketing, *Lean on Pete* is visually impressive. Cinematographer Magnus Nordenhof Jonck films every shot with beauty and a strong sense of color. The film cycles through its journey over day and night, and at every hour throughout. Jonck’s work is an absolute pleasure to behold — and the best element of the movie.

The use of perspective in cinematography helps to point to the main issue of the film: it is all about Charley. The camera is purposely aimed to situate Charley as the focus of attention. Recent similar examples that come to mind are *The*

Florida Project in its storytelling from the height of its protagonist children and *mother!*, where the shot points almost constantly at Jennifer Lawrence.

Similarly, *Lean on Pete* takes a horse race and shows the horses in the background while Charley watches them in the foreground, the camera turning around him.

In *Lean on Pete*, almost everything is about Charley, and the character’s selfishness is a key detractor from any emotional structure the film attempts to build.

The protagonist takes Pete with him in his attempt to find his aunt and the consequences are never shown; there is no cutaway to Del. It would not be fair to call him com-

pletely selfish, as Charley does save Pete from danger, but his motives seem purely for his own purposes. Charley has no plan of what to do with Pete; he just pulls the horse around and talks to him about his aunt.

Toward humans, Charley acts with reckless abandon, taking for himself moment after moment, to the detriment of those around him.

There is no need for the selfishness and at no point is Charley alone. He is offered help from every angle, and only in one instance is he justified in not trusting others, and this is following plenty of attempts to reach out and help him.

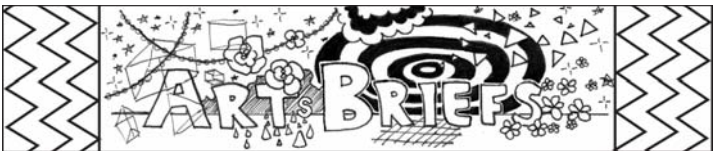
Steve Buscemi plays Pete’s owner, Del, and even as he puts on

a persona of meanness, Del is a father figure for the 15-year-old Charley. Authorities try to help Charley find support, but he ignores them in favor of his quest.

There are small moments of tenderness that give a little support to the relationship. Pete approaches a fence, as if to say hi. Charley feeds him from his hand or shares water from the same jug. He cheers Pete on at a race, hoping the horse will survive to run again. However, these moments are overwhelmed by a discomforting myopia from Charley’s perspective, as he has trouble seeing past his own difficulties.

The story develops slowly and the emotional drive is not strong enough to propel enjoyment for two hours. The stapling of two stories — a horse and a boy, a boy and a quest — does not come off seamlessly, especially as certain characters suddenly disappear without much notice given on their departure. What comes next is a question that plagues *Lean on Pete*, not for a particular interest in the events, but for wondering if the story actually has a place it is able to go.

Aiming for an emotional journey, *Lean on Pete* comes across as a dull exercise in a boy’s unnecessary isolationism. The attempts to create connections in the beats of the story are as uncomfortable as the repeated, sudden bursts of light throughout the film, the shots cutting unceremoniously from night to day. There is a backbone missing to the central relationship of the plot, and it cripples the entire film as a result.



COMPILED BY MAXIM IBADOV

Kanye West tweeted the announcement that he would be the producer of five new albums over the coming months, indicating that one would be made up of his own performances. This will be West’s first music release since *The Life of Pablo* in 2016 and a series of personal troubles that resulted in the rapper’s hospitalization and cancellation of 21 concerts.

In true West style, the rapper announced in a series of laconic tweets that his own album will feature only seven songs and will come out June 1. Another album will be in collaboration with Kid Cudi, set for release a week later, on June 8. West tweeted that he had produced the upcoming albums of Nas, Pusha T and Teyana Taylor, which are all expected to come out this spring as well, making for a strong comeback.

Pop stars Camila Cabello, Shawn Mendes and Dua Lipa are the first set of artists to perform at this year’s annual Billboard Music Awards, *People* magazine reported. The awards show will take place on May 20 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and will be hosted by Kelly Clarkson.

TheaterMania.com reported that Bette Midler will reprise her Tony-winning performance in the title role of *Hello Dolly!* After the scheduled departure of Bernadette Peters — who is currently playing Dolly — on July 17, Midler will come home to the Shubert Theatre for the show’s last

six weeks alongside original cast members David Hyde Pierce and Gavin Creel, who will be returning as well. Creel also won a Tony for his role. The production, which also won best revival and best costume design, will play its final performance on Aug. 25.

Playbill revealed that this year’s Tony Awards will honor groundbreaking actress Chita Rivera and prolific composer Andrew Lloyd Webber with lifetime achievement awards. Webber is a world-renowned creator of hits such as *Cats*, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Rivera is a two-time Tony-winning performer who was among the very first Latina actresses on a U.S. stage.

The 72nd annual Tony Awards will take place on June 10 at Radio City Music Hall and will be co-hosted by best-selling musicians and Broadway alums Sara Bareilles and Josh Groban.

The shortlist for the Women’s Prize for Fiction, one of England’s most coveted literary awards, was announced. The award celebrates “excellence, originality and accessibility in writing by women throughout the world.”

This year’s shortlist consisted of *Sight* by Jessie Greengrass, *Home Fire* by Kamila Shamsie, *Sing, Unburied*, *Sing* by Jesmyn Ward, *The Idiot* by Elif Batuman, *The Mermaid and Mrs Hancock* by Imogen Hermes Gower and *When I Hit You: Or, A Portrait of the Writer as a Young Wife* by Meena Kandassamy. The final winner will be announced on June 6.

J. Cole addresses addictions of all kinds in his grimly smooth 5th album, *KOD*

BY VICTORIA MERLINO
NEWS EDITOR

J. Cole’s new album is, simply put, about drugs. It is about different types of drugs: pot, lean, Xanax, crack, Percocet, molly, fame and greed.

It is about love. It is about the people who get swallowed by these vices: the addicts, hardened dealers and those who become collateral damage.

The album cover shows Cole painted garishly as a king: his eyes are dead and out of his robes pour children smoking pot, snorting coke and sipping lean. The cover reads, “This album is in no way intended to glorify addiction,” in small white text at the top.

The album is titled *KOD* — initialized for King Overdosed, Kids on Drugs or Kill Our Demons, as confirmed by Cole in a tweet. Released, fittingly, on April 20 — a day notorious for its connection to pot — *KOD* is the North Carolina rapper’s fifth studio album, and perhaps his hardest for the casual listener to access.

Gone are the radio-friendly hits of *2014 Forest Hills Drive* and lighter reprieves such as “Foldin Clothes” and “Deja Vu” from 2016’s *4 Your Eyez Only*. What remains is Jermaine Lamarr Cole, the prophet, grim in delivery but smooth in sound, with a steadfast message: don’t do drugs, kids.

The characters Cole channels throughout the album do not deal with their pain wisely. “Life can bring much pain / there are many ways to deal with this pain / choose wisely,” a woman intones on the opening track of the album, “Intro (KOD).” “Photograph” has Cole lusting after a woman’s photo



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Some have speculated that the only guest voice on *KOD* was J. Cole himself.

on social media without knowing her personality or anything about her — Cole counts social media as a drug. In the heartbreaking “Once an Addict (Interlude),” he ruminates on his mother’s alcoholism and his inability to save her from herself: “Depression’s such a villainous state.”

In the fourth track, “The Cut Off,” Cole cuts off people in his life who take advantage of him. As the only other featured artist on the album, unknown artist kiLL edward raps, “Gimme drink, gimme smoke / get me high, let me float.”

As theorized by online music magazine *Pitchfork*, kiLL edward’s may just be a voice-modulated Cole. Cole’s lack of any features in his last two albums and sentiment in the album’s second song “KOD” that others are not worth his time support the guess.

“I understand this message is not the coolest to say / but if you down to try it I know of a better way,” Cole raps on “FRIENDS,” counseling his friends and anyone else listening to try meditation instead of doing drugs.

Detractors may write off *KOD* as an overhyped after-school special, but its heavily anti-drug message is a breath of fresh air in a world where Future is popping Molly and Migos is sipping lean.

Cole does not come into the album as an accuser. On the contrary, his delivery makes him sound sympathetic toward those impacted by drug addiction in any of its forms. A pervasive melancholy makes even the hardest hitting songs like “KOD” and “ATM” sound strangely wistful.

Cole ruminates on why young men self-medicate and gangbang in his hometown of Fayetteville, North Carolina, in “Window Pain (Outro),” coming to the conclusion that they will do anything for acceptance.

Cole, though widely renowned, will choose his own path before the acceptance of others — something that comes across in this project more than in any of his others.

Though his delivery is somber, his purpose is grand and clear: to help dig the world out of the hole it is in.

Taylor wastes sex-trafficking cautions in the forgettable *Traffik*

BY CHARLES TABASSO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It is no wonder that Hollywood thrillers have converged on the story form of home invasions like a pack of piranhas, and that out of these churning waters, scores of films capitalizing on this common fear have been produced in myriad levels of quality.

Thanks to movies like *The Purge* and *The Strangers*, home invasion has become a veritable subgenre for audiences to watch in the supposed safety of their own homes. Still, there are risks involved for filmgoers, as they are exposed to movies that are “based on a true story,” which are mundane attempts at spooking viewers with the same bag of tricks that never worked in the first place.

Traffik, written, directed and misspelled by Deon Taylor, is more of the same fodder that has bored audiences since time immemorial, but now it includes current themes such as human trafficking and casual cocaine use. It is a film that stumbles at every moment on its way toward a forgettable DVD shelf life.

Brea, played by Paula Patton, is a reporter for a nondescript Sacramento, California, newspaper and her upcoming story on domestic corruption has just been “scooped” by a less-talented journalist.

An argument ensues between Brea and her boss as Brea’s prospects of keeping her job are put on the line, completely ruining her birthday, which she dejectedly celebrates later that night with her boyfriend and a dysfunctional group of friends.

Understanding that within the first 35 minutes of screen time the ominous doorbell must ring to maintain some semblance of cinematic tension, Taylor clears most

of the expositional hurdles by giving most of the lines to the egocentric and hotheaded Darren Cole, played by Laz Alonso.

Aside from being as subtle as a foghorn, Darren promises that the estate John — Brea’s longtime boyfriend, played by Omar Epps — plans to whisk Brea away to will be the perfect remedy for their fear of commitment.

But of course, audiences are not paying top dollar to watch a romantic comedy; cue the human trafficking. In this case, the traffickers are a gang of bikers who have been preying on women and grooming them as sex slaves.

This is where shock value ultimately fails to overshadow Taylor’s lack of imagination. The bikers may be cruel, dirty leather jacket-wearing degenerates with matching gauntlets, but it is impossible to tell them apart outside of who has the greasiest hair. There is no effort at characterization beyond first impressions, so the gang is depicted as simply a pack of wolves out for blood.

The leader of the group, known only as Red and played by Luke Goss, is a man of few words who manages to say just enough to incriminate the “multibillion-dollar operation” that his hapless crew has been running.

Red is a prime example of what a bad echo can do to a movie that already sounds like a broken record: outside of riffing *Traffik* for its clichés, the film quickly becomes unwatchable.

What is even more disappointing about the plot is how the conflict initiates. After some messy blue slushie action at a local gas station, Brea encounters the battered Cara, played by Dawn Olivieri, in the women’s bathroom, who plants a cellphone in the reporter’s bag.



SCOTT EVERETT WHITE | CODEBLACK FILMS

Paula Patton plays the journalist-in-distress, Brea, a heroine whose terror makes the film’s tension seem laughable.

There are enough plot holes to drain a Jacuzzi in this scene alone because Cara’s relationship with the gang remains ambiguous and short-lived. It is utterly absurd that a cellphone used to pimp women would have a six-digit code related to America’s Independence Day when all of its data is heavily encrypted, but this phone is what the entire crux of Taylor’s plot hinges on.

Worse still, starting from the moment the base of operations — a mobile truck — for the gangsters is left idling outside of the isolated estate, Brea quickly devolves into a boring character. She is saved from expendability solely because she is the protagonist. Her actions are an affront to common sense. And the

tension becomes outright laughable once Patton’s method for acting terrified is unveiled: a patented combination of dry heaving mixed with the hysteria of stubbing a toe.

It is difficult to recall any other film in which an audience could be expected to root so vehemently against its heroine.

Redeeming moments are few and far in between. There is a five-second segue from dusk to dawn that captures a truly beautiful and vibrant sunset. The sound effects for John’s automobile are powerful and can test the limits of any theater’s surround sound systems. It is touching to think that someone could actually look forward to arriving at a gas station.

As the final coup de grâce before

the end credits roll, a pair of statistics remind the audience of how many millions of women have been abducted and sold through sex-trafficking networks. By now, these facts fall upon deaf ears, however — not because the audience can be unsympathetic to their plight, but because if *Traffik* intended to promote awareness, it did a tactless job in doing so.

Regrettably, this was a film better left in transit. *Traffik* reeks of a cash-in mentality. It is a lackluster thriller that hides behind the cliché hallmarks of R-rated films — gratuitous soft-core pornography over R&B; derelict cars that do not start and even the token betrayal by law enforcement — to pad out its meager run time of just 96 minutes.



Science & Technology

How much alcohol is too much? Probably less than you think

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The subjects were asked questions about their alcohol habits as far back as 1964 and were followed ever since.

The analysis of the data gathered from tracking the lives of more than half a million drinkers revealed that people who reported drinking more had higher rates of stroke, heart disease, deadly high blood pressure and fatal aortic aneurysms.

“The paper estimates a 40-year-old drinking four units a day above the guidelines [the equivalent of drinking three glasses of wine in a night] has roughly two years lower life expectancy,” David Spiegelhalter, a risk expert at England’s University of Cambridge, said. “This works out at about an hour per day.”

Spiegelhalter added, “It’s as if each unit above guidelines is taking, on average, about 15 minutes of life, about the same as a cigarette. Of course, it is up to individuals whether they think this is worthwhile.”

The study found that people could drink approximately five drinks — one drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer, 4 ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof spirits — without facing the increased likelihood of the adverse consequences. These findings stand in stark contrast to the numbers the AHA and the CDC give.

Both organizations support the idea that a man could safely drink two alcoholic drinks a day, and that a woman could safely drink one al-



NATHAN LIN | THE TICKER

Regularly drinking more than the recommended U.K. guidelines for alcohol is associated with a higher risk of breast cancer, stroke, aneurysm, heart failure and death.

coholic drink a day.

The CDC says that more than 38 million American adults admit to binge-drinking once a week and drink an average of eight drinks per spree. Additionally, the CDC says more than 2,000 Americans die each year from acute alcohol intoxication.

Alcohol has been proven to be bad for health in many faculties. It increases the risk of different types of cancer and heart disorders. One

study even suggests that 15 percent of all cases of breast cancer are linked, in some degree, to alcohol consumption.

Non-drinkers can have health problems, too, which may confuse consumers and doctors. Researchers led by Cambridge University’s Dr. Angela

Wood only used information about current drinkers “because ex-drinkers include people who might have abstained from alco-

hol owing to poor health itself, as well as those who have changed their habits to achieve a healthier lifestyle.”

This meant that the risk of incorrectly labeling alcohol as unhealthy was minimized. Researchers found that an increase in alcoholic intake correlated with a higher risk of death.

“The key message of this research for public health is that, if you already drink alcohol, drinking

less may help you live longer and lower your risk of several cardiovascular conditions,” Wood said in a statement.

Ultimately, the best piece of advice regarding the matter moving forward comes from Victoria Taylor, a senior dietitian at the British Heart Foundation, who said: “We should always remember that alcohol guidelines should act as a limit, not a target, and try to drink well below this threshold.”

Watch out, humans: IKEA-building robots could make you obsolete

BY BRANDON TINGLE
COPY EDITOR

With the advancement of robots, the need for manual labor is becoming more and more obsolete. Although some might object, these advancements in technology help many people in their day-to-day lives.

In an article from *Scientific American* called “IKEA-Building Robot Conquers Touchy-Feely Challenge,” robots are capable of building IKEA-produced STEFAN chairs, according to engineers at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

In a recent issue of *Science Robotics*, these engineers said they assembled a STEFAN chair with the help of a two-armed robot. Due to its equipped sensors and programming, the robot was able to accomplish a task seemingly troublesome to humans in approximately 20 minutes.

Pham Quang-Cuong was one of the engineers who partnered with Nanyang researchers Francisco Suárez-Ruiz and Xian Zhou.

Pham talked about the extent to which they developed the robot’s artificial intelligence: “In this work we were interested in achieving the low-level capabilities such as perception, planning and control, rather than in the high-level reasoning.” He also plans to enhance its artificial intelligence in order to improve its reasoning skills.

In a *Scientific American*-produced video, the robot’s arms were moving at a snail’s pace but they were able to “fit pegs into holes,” which would normally be a difficult task for robots according to Ross Knepper, an assistant computer science professor at Cornell University.

Knepper, along with researchers from the Massachusetts Insti-



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Humanity draws one step closer to the singularity: a robot has learned to autonomously assemble an IKEA chair without throwing anything or hurting a finger or toe.

tute of Technology, developed the IKEABot system in which robots were able to build LACK side tables.

While the Nanyang project involves one robot, the MIT IKEABot involves two. Knepper goes on to further contrast his work to Pham and the team’s, stating “the Nanyang researchers are doing it through tactile feedback, feeling whether or not the peg went into the hole.”

Although robots may be useful, they still have their limitations when dealing with seniors. Family members cannot afford to hire personal caregivers, so they provide their relatives with automated products such as escalators.

A *Smithsonian* article that de-

tails these struggles said, “artificial intelligence has the potential not only to care for our elders but to do so in a way that increases their independence and reduces their social isolation.”

Older people require supplements to maintain their health and may need help dressing and eating. Robots can help in these instances.

In addition to these activities, robots are able to maintain the condition of lawns and kitchens. Researchers and other scientists are developing robots that will successfully do these activities and more, finally closing the gap between human beings and species of artificial intelligence.

The most advantageous thing

about robots is that they are available around the clock. While the robots carry out daily activities, seniors can spend more time with family and friends, socialize and form new relationships.

Robots can act not only as caregivers, but also as companions. The *Smithsonian* article includes research from the Research Center that shows that in general, people are embracing technology to a greater extent by everyone, the elderly included.

The Singapore-based researchers are ambitious in their future endeavors with robots, as they hope they will be able to program the robots to design other types of furniture as well.

Knepper said, “Many people, especially many Americans, have this intimate experience with struggling and maybe failing to build IKEA furniture.” He aspires to build a robot that can assemble all IKEA furniture, but he knows that he has a long way to go.

In the long run, robots will not only be able to help carry out daily activities, but they will also be able to connect with their owners on a personal level. These developments will help robots enhance or potentially erase the role of human home attendants.

The creation of the IKEA robot serves as an inspiration to other developers who now realize that the sky is the limit for robots’ abilities.



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Sports



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Sean Manaea's shocking no-hitter halted the surging Red Sox dead in their tracks.

A Boston no-hit and Puerto Rican games: the baseball rundown

BY KEVIN MENDEZ
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As part of Major League Baseball's program to grow the game of baseball around the world, the Minnesota Twins and the Cleveland Indians met in Puerto Rico on April 18 for a very special two-game series.

This is the latest in a series of games played outside of the mainland United States. Major League teams have also played in places such as Tokyo, and Sydney.

Puerto Rico itself is no stranger to these sorts of games as they previously hosted the opening series between the Toronto Blue Jays and Texas Rangers in 2001.

This series, however, felt particularly special, since it was the first event after Hurricane Maria ravaged the island in September 2017.

The historic Hiram Bithorn Stadium had a playoff atmosphere for the matchup between the Twins and the Indians. Former Cy Young Award-winner Corey Kluber was up against right-hander Jake Odorizzi who got the ball for the home team.

Kluber was dominant striking out six in 6.2 innings while only allowing one run.

The hits came early and often for the Indians, who hammered out 12 hits and four home runs off Minnesota pitching, including a memorable home run by native Puerto Rican shortstop Francisco Lindor that brought everyone in attendance to their feet.

Fans who were in attendance the next night got a game that was worth the price of admission.

Another native son, Twins' ace José Berrios, faced off with Indians right-hander Carlos Carrasco.

Both pitching staffs put up scoreless frames until the 14th inning, when the Indians finally got on the scoreboard with a home run by designated hitter Edwin Encarnación.

The lead would last until the bottom of the 14th, when the Twins drew even on a solo home run by third baseman

Miguel Sanó.

In the bottom of the 16th, after five hours of play, the Twins finally secured the victory when center fielder Ryan LaMarre drove in Eddie Rosario with a single for the 2-1 Minnesota win.

The last thing anyone in attendance for the April 21 game between the Boston Red Sox and Oakland Athletics expected was to witness history, yet that was what they saw as left-hander Sean Manaea put his name in the history books with a no-hitter for Oakland.

Manaea's feat is even more impressive, considering the Red Sox entered the game on an eight-game winning streak while enjoying a 17-2 start to the season — the best start to a season since the 1987 Milwaukee Brewers.

The Red Sox also appeared to have the advantage on the mound as the Athletics would have to face left-hander Chris Sale, the runner-up to the 2017 American League Cy Young Award.

Sale was the first to blink in the Athletics' half of the first, as he served up a double scoring run to second baseman Jed Lowrie to give Oakland the early 1-0 advantage.

The A's tallied another run in the third inning when right-fielder Stephen Piscotty ripped a double run of his own to increase the lead to 2-0.

Shortstop Marcus Semien capped the scoring in the fifth inning when he hit a home run over the wall in left field for a 3-0 lead.

A three-run lead was all Manaea would need, as he baffled and frustrated the Red Sox through the first eight innings.

In the ninth inning, designated hitter Hanley Ramírez was the last obstacle between Manaea and baseball history.

On a 2-0 pitch Manaea got Ramírez to ground out to shortstop and the celebration began at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

Manaea's no-hitter was the seventh no-hitter in Oakland Athletics history and the 297th overall in MLB history.

Say it ain't so: Barkley not G-Men's only option with second overall pick

BY GEORGES HUBERT
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The NFL draft is upon us. On April 26, teams picked the best collegiate prospects from all over the nation, officially kicking off their professional careers.

The New York Giants find themselves in an interesting situation with the second overall selection in this year's draft, a pick they unfortunately earned by recording a heartbreaking 3-13 season, the second worst mark in the league last year.

Giants fans want to quickly forget last season by rebounding and selecting the next NFL star in this year's draft. There is a plethora of directions the Giants could take with this pick. It is a quarterback-heavy draft and this pick provides a good opportunity to draft a future QB who will eventually be Eli Manning's successor.

There is also future star running back, Saquon Barkley, that most scouts feel the Giant's general manager, Dave Gettleman, would be a fool to pass on, not to mention the pass rusher extraordinaire, Bradley Chubb, whom the Giants could certainly use after trading away Jason Pierre-Paul.

Also, it is important to remember that the Giants could forgo the pick entirely and trade down for more picks later on, a strategy Gettleman has been quite keen on implementing in drafts prior. The Giants will shape the way this draft flows and teams are on the edge of their seats to see what they will do.

Most fans believe that the Giants need a QB, but Gettleman seemingly does not. It appears that the Giants are toying with the idea of taking a QB, but have absolutely no intention of benching Manning any time soon.

This suggests that the team is not exactly desperate to draft a QB. While there is an interesting crop of QB prospects this year, none of them are shoe-in, day-one start-



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Bradley Chubb is the Giants' best alternative should they pass on Saquon Barkley.

ers in most scouts' opinions. All of them have their own flaws and there is no clear standout. All of these factors could lead one to believe that if the Giants keep the second overall pick they are unlikely to use it on a gunslinger.

Barkley, from Pennsylvania State University, is another popular idea among Big Blue faithful. He is a dynamic, generational talent with an unbelievable skillset. However, he is still a running back.

That particular position has a notoriously short shelf life. Factoring into this decision may also be that the Giants are suffering through some of the worst offensive line plays in their history. These factors all challenge the idea of the Giants taking Barkley.

The team's third most likely option is defensive end Chubb from North Carolina State University. This is a less popular pick because it is not as flashy and exciting as a QB or running back.

However, this makes the most sense, as Big Blue just lost their star defensive end in Pierre-Paul via trade to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and now have a desperate need to fill that hole.

It must also be considered that because so many teams are in need

of a quarterback, talent at other positions will be available farther down the draft board. Gems like Chubb are getting overlooked for QBs.

Most analysts would say that Chubb is as good as, or perhaps even better than, last year's No. 1 overall pick Myles Garrett.

Gettleman loves drafting defensive players, aligning with the Giants' usual "defense first" mindset. Chubb makes too much sense at No. 2 for the Giants.

As previously mentioned, the Giants could always trade down. With many teams desperate to find their franchise QB, one of those desperate teams is likely to offer Gettleman a king's ransom for the second overall pick. It may be an offer that Gettleman cannot refuse.

Gettleman is fond of trades as he has made more in his first few months than the previous general manager made in his first full year.

The team could then use the abundance of acquired picks to fill up other holes on its roster. For Gettleman, in the end, the most practical strategy may be to turn less into more.

Editor's Note: This article was written before the draft took place.

Baruch baseball and softball teams begin new end of season playoff pushes

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
STAFF WRITER

The past few weeks have been incredibly productive for the Baruch College baseball team.

Entering a doubleheader against CUNY Athletic Conference opponent University of Maine at Presque Isle, the Bearcats were at an abysmal 3-13-1, looking for anything to take them out of their losing funk. This specific weekend started a good hot streak for the team.

The Bearcats went on to win five games in a row, as they looked forward to a difficult matchup with their conference rival, the College of Staten Island.

During this win streak, the Bearcats outscored opponents 54-19, capped off with a 17-4 blowout of Lehman College.

In each game, the hitters had 10 or more hits and hit an outstanding .399 against opposing pitchers.

The lineup was led by freshman Liam O'Gara, junior Michael McGroarty and senior Donovan Hunt, who has turned his season around after becoming the team's lead-off hitter.

Baruch's pitchers are also holding their own against opponents.



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The teams believe they can make title runs, overcoming multiple rough stretches.

One such pitcher is sophomore Paul Sirakowski, who won two of the five games Baruch won.

The team also received quality starts from juniors Ryan Warner, Bryan Flannery and sophomore Matteo Flamio. Freshman Matthew Lawlor recorded his first career save.

The playoffs begin on May 3, and the team hopes it can make a run toward the CUNYAC Championship. Its record at this point is 9-17-1.

The Baruch College softball team is only four games and two weeks away from the start of its playoffs and is currently sitting at fourth in its conference, with a CU-

NYAC record of 6-4. It sits at a current record of 10-12.

Senior Nicole Bellini is continuing to rake this year with her average at .464.

Junior Cassandra Lagana is producing an almost equal .419 batting average with the same number of RBIs — 13.

The Bearcats have lost their previous four games but are looking toward their doubleheader against CUNYAC opponent Hunter College.

Their current five-game losing streak is the longest of the season and they hope that they can turn things around and kick off a winning streak to ride into the playoffs.

A Tale of Two Boroughs: Mets send Harvey to pen, Didi helps Yankees end early slump

BY MATTEO FLAMIO



No one predicted the New York Mets to be in the spot they are in right now. Every-one's predictions had this team second or maybe even third in the National League East behind the juggernaut Washington Nationals, maybe fighting for a playoff spot.

The Mets came into the year with a pitching staff made up of a rotation that, if healthy, could possibly be one of the best in the league, along with a shaky bullpen and a lineup with some streaky hitters. However, New York's season started differently than everybody thought it would.

The Mets got off to a National League best of 12-2, taking the second spot in the entire league behind the Boston Red Sox; they currently sit at 14-6, first in the NL East. They have already had a nine-game win streak, which included a clean sweep of the Nationals. The Mets' pitching rotation is led by Noah Syndergaard and Jacob deGrom, who the Mets will rely on heavily if they want to sustain their hot start and make a postseason push. Syndergaard, whose 2017 season ended in April due to injury, has five starts with a 2-0 record, a 3.29 ERA over 27.1 innings and 39 strikeouts.

DeGrom was the Mets' work horse last year in the rotation and hopes to retain that status this year. His statistics over five starts are a 2-0 record, 2.53 ERA over 32 innings and 40 strikeouts. Both players are the type of pitchers that can throw with the best, like Clayton Kershaw and Max Scherzer from the

Los Angeles Dodgers and the Nationals.

The Mets' bullpen is one of the biggest surprises for the team this year, and one of the best in the MLB so far. The Mets have been led by their closer Jeurys Familia, who has totaled eight saves in 10 chances and has an ERA of 1.50. In his 12 innings pitched, Familia has 15 strikeouts and six walks.

The Mets have also had great production by Robert Gsellman and Seth Lugo, who could sneak into the rotation if there are any injuries. Finally, the bullpen just added a big name: Matt Harvey, the ex-Cy Young winner was moved to the bullpen in hopes of becoming what he once was in baseball.

The Mets lineup is being led by an unexpected name, Asdrúbal Cabrera. In his 79 at-bats, he is hitting .354 with four home runs and 12 RBIs. With Cabrera's help, the Mets are averaging almost four runs per game. The team's usual big name, Yoenis Céspedes, has started off a bit cold, only batting .195 with four home runs and 18 RBIs.

His scariest stat right now is that in his 82 at-bats, Céspedes has struck out 37 times, or 45 percent of the time. Jay Bruce is also off to a slow start, only batting .194 with one home run and eight RBIs. If the Mets want to continue their good play, they need these two players to improve their performances.

The Metropolitan hope to continue playing well and giving the Nationals a run for the division this year, in order to make it back to where they were in 2015.



If one travels 10 miles into the Bronx from Queens, New York, they will reach the home of the New York Yankees, whose season has not been the type of start the team was hoping for.

The Yankees currently sit third in the AL East and are 12-9 to begin the year, winning their previous three games.

After the acquisition of reigning NL MVP Giancarlo Stanton, the Yankees' expectations skyrocketed.

After the deep playoff run last year, no one is expecting less than a World Series appearance. Many are saying that this season for the Yanks is World Series or bust, and their slow start compared to the Boston Red Sox's very hot start is causing some fans to hit the panic button. However, this should not be the case.

It is still only 21 games into the season and there are 141 games left.

As the days go by and the weather gets warmer, players usually start to bring the heat to the field.

Some key players that hope for this occurrence are Stanton and Gary Sánchez. Stanton is the bigger name of the two, and he is only hitting .224 with five home runs and 14 RBIs in his 85 at-bats.

He has 32 strikeouts. However, there is a bit of a bright side to this.

In the Yankees' 14-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins, Stanton went 4-4 with a home run, two RBIs and a walk.

Sánchez is currently only hitting .192 with three home runs and 15 RBIs. His batting average has been rising in the past few weeks, however, after he started the season going 2-36.

The Yankees do have hot bats in their order. These names include familiar faces like Aaron Judge and Didi Gregorius, along with rookie Miguel Andújar.

Judge has been hitting .325 with six home runs and 15 RBIs, while Gregorius is scorching with an average of .324 with seven home runs and 24 RBIs.

One of the biggest surprises, however, is rookie Andújar, who is tearing the cover off the baseball right now. He is hitting .316 with three home runs and 11 RBIs and has eight doubles and a triple.

Andújar also has a seven-game hit streak where he is hitting .550 with 11 hits, six of those being doubles and two home runs, as well as seven RBIs.

His amazing play is giving him the ultimate opportunity to solidify his spot in a very deep lineup. The Yankees now have 14 games in a row and no off days.

In order to get on the rhythm that they are hoping for, the team needs to continue hitting the ball as well as it has in its current small win streak.

This is a team with massive amounts of potential, and once every player is going strong, the Yankees will be a force to be reckoned with.

‘Broadway Baker’ and Barkley dominate the NFL draft-week hype

BY RAY MAURER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Three days before Roger Goodell officially puts the Cleveland Browns on the clock, rumors are swirling and phones are buzzing. A few things seem to be taking shape, but no one knows for sure until Goodell announces the pick on the podium.

The Browns hold the keys to the draft with the first and fourth overall picks. The sense around the NFL is that the Browns will take a quarterback with the first pick, but general manager John Dorsey has been doing a great job keeping the team's favorite quarterback a secret. Sam Darnold is the heavy favorite to get picked in that slot, but Josh Allen and Baker Mayfield have both been tied to the organization as well. It is safe to say that one of the three players will be chosen first in this year's draft.

Next up is the New York Giants. For the Giants, the big question is Eli Manning's longevity in the NFL. The team and its fans do not know how much longer he will play, but do know he will require a successor soon. Dave Gettleman has made it clear he wants to win now and does not want to rebuild.

This gives fans the feeling that the Giants will select Saquon Barkley or Bradley Chubb. The Giants reportedly have not been in love with any of the top quarterback prospects. A team needs to be in love with a player it drafts this high in the first round.

The New York Jets made it clear they are looking for a new franchise signal caller, hoping to end their quest to replace Joe Namath. Incredibly, it has been decades since their last franchise quarterback. The Browns are likely to take Darnold, but the Jets will jump on him



There is a plethora of quarterback talent in this year's draft, and there is no clear cut favorite to be drafted first overall.

if he is still available. Assuming he is gone, the Jets have support for Mayfield and Josh Rosen in their front office. This pick feels like a true 50-50 split.

Although there has been recent buzz supporting Mayfield for the Jets, there are still many questions surrounding the pick. That being said, Jets fans would love to see "Broadway Baker" take over

the franchise.

After the Jets, the whole draft is up for wide-ranging debates. The Buffalo Bills have clearly expressed they want one of the quarterbacks, particularly Allen. However, they do not know if they can wait until the 12th pick to snag him. This calls for a trade scenario.

The Denver Broncos, Indianapolis Colts and Browns have all

mentioned wanting to trade down from their slots at four through six. It is likely the Bills will use their draft capital to get Allen around this range.

Some other prospects that should be going in the top 10 are Quenton Nelson, Chubb, Denzel Ward, Roquan Smith and Tremaine Edmunds. Smith and Edmunds are two polarizing prospects in

the back half of the top 10. Both have the ability to change the face of a defense from day one. Smith proved to be a dominant force in the middle of a Georgia defense that almost won a national championship. A sideline-to-sideline tackler who is always near the ball can be an attractive option when you have a need for a linebacker.

As for Edmunds, at only 19 years old he proved to be a productive edge rusher who is athletic enough to contribute as inside linebacker as well. Edmunds and Smith both have the potential to be All-Pro players at some point in their careers and teams such as the Colts, San Francisco 49ers and Chicago Bears could all use their services to change their franchises' recent misfortune.

The prospect with the most questions surrounding him is Lamar Jackson. Jackson is a two-time Heisman Trophy finalist, winning the award in 2016. He had back-to-back seasons of 3,500-plus passing yards and 1,500-plus rushing yards. Although he has had a phenomenal college career, he has still been overlooked ever since the draft process started.

The typical NFL quarterback has been shifting toward being more athletic and run-happy, and Jackson fits the bill. Jackson can go anywhere from top 10 in the second round and the sense around the league is that no one knows.

This becomes the most interesting story because someone is going to land a player with the potential to take a franchise from the bottom to the top, but Jackson is being overlooked because of his unorthodox quarterback style.

Editor's Note: This article was written before the draft took place.



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Sidney Crosby, Jake Guentzel and Phil Kessel defeated the Flyers in six games to move on to face the Capitals in the second round. The Flyers' 43-year Stanley Cup drought continues with another game series loss.

Sid the Kid and Pens oust Flyers in 6 as NHL playoffs heat up

BY FELIX MALAMUD
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Week 2 of the Stanley Cup play-offs did not disappoint, as there were plenty of thrilling finishes that saw several teams punch their ticket to the second round.

Four matchups kicked the week off on April 15.

The Toronto Maple Leafs looked to bounce back at home against the Boston Bruins in Game 3. Both teams scored twice midway through the game, but the Leafs eventually took control when Auston Matthews broke the tie late in the second period. Patrick Marleau added an insurance goal in the third, Frederik Andersen made 40 saves and the Leafs won 4-2 to get back into the series.

The New Jersey Devils also looked to set a tone at home in Game 3 against the Tampa Bay Lightning. At one point down 2-1 in the third period, the Devils then exploded with four unanswered goals. Behind Taylor Hall's three-point night and Cory Schneider's 34 saves, the Devils got back into the series with a 5-2 victory.

The Colorado Avalanche, also down 2-0, needed a win at home to get back in their series against the Nashville Predators. A strong first period, two goals from Nathan MacKinnon and three points from Gabriel Landeskog helped Colorado secure a 5-3 win in a crucial Game 3.

The Anaheim Ducks could not match the three victors that night, as they laid an egg in a huge Game 3 against the San Jose Sharks. Eight different Sharks scored, Martin Jones made 45 saves and the Sharks put the Ducks on the brink of elimination with a dominant 8-1 victory.

April 16 saw much of the same. The Washington Capitals needed to steal a game in Columbus against the Blue Jackets to stay in the series. Tied 2-2 after regulation, the two teams had to play overtime.

This time, the Capitals finally broke through. Lars Eller scored the game-winner in double overtime to give Washington a 3-2 win in an enormous Game 3.

The Winnipeg Jets and Minnesota Wild squared off in a huge Game 4 for both teams. The Jets emerged victorious in this one, as Mark Scheifele scored twice and Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves. Winnipeg's 2-0 win put them one game away from advancing to the next round.

The Vegas Golden Knights looked to continue their historic run with a chance to sweep the Los Angeles Kings. To no one's surprise, they did just that. Brayden McNabb broke the ice late in the second period and Marc-André Fleury made 31 saves.

That would be more than enough, as Vegas won 1-0 to sweep Los Angeles and advance to the second round. It was not easy, as all four games were low-scoring and decided by one goal.

On April 18, fans saw another sweep and three teams get one step closer to advancing.

The Pittsburgh Penguins looked to take a stranglehold in Game 4 against the Philadelphia Flyers. The game ended in yet another blowout and the Penguins dominated once again. Four Penguins players had multi-point games, including the big three of Sidney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin and Phil Kessel. A 5-0 victory put Pittsburgh a win closer to moving on.

The Lightning also regained momentum against the Devils, with a strong 3-1 win in Game 4. Down 1-0 in the first period, the Lightning quickly regrouped. Nikita Kucherov scored twice and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 27 saves. Tampa is now one step closer to the second round.

The Predators looked to bounce back and take control against the Avalanche in a huge Game 4. Nashville jumped out a 3-0 lead midway through the game and that proved

to be enough. Despite a strong push by the Avs, Pekka Rinne shut the door and the Predators hung on for a crucial 3-2 victory, moving them a step closer to the conference semis.

The Ducks had no choice but to climb all the way back from a 3-0 series deficit, something that has only been done four times in NHL history. The Sharks, who were on the wrong end of such a feat in 2014, ended any hopes of that with a 2-1 victory in Game 4 to sweep Anaheim. They will now play the Golden Knights in the second round.

Just two games were played on April 19, but both were crucial turning points in their respective series.

Game 4 between the Bruins and Maple Leafs was huge for both sides, but Boston got the better end of this one. Strong defense, three different goal scorers and 31 saves from Tuukka Rask highlighted Boston's 3-1 victory, which gave them a 3-1 series lead headed back home.

In Columbus, the Capitals looked to steal another road win to even their series with the Blue Jackets. Strong goaltending from a rejuvenated Braden Holtby, four points from Evgeny Kuznetsov and tight defense gave Washington a huge 4-1 victory to tie the series at two games apiece. This was the first game in the series not decided in overtime.

April 20 saw two teams stay alive and one team advancing.

The Flyers were in a must-win situation against the Penguins in Game 5. Down 2-1 in the second period, Valtteri Filppula tied the game two a piece late in the frame with a shorthanded goal. With less than 90 seconds remaining in regulation, Sean Couturier gave Philadelphia a 3-2 lead. Matt Read iced the game with an empty-netter with 18 seconds to go. The Flyers stayed alive with a huge 4-2 victory to set up a Game 6 back in

Philadelphia.

The Jets were not messing around in Game 5 against the Wild. They dominated from the very beginning, scoring four times in the first period, yanking Minnesota goaltender Devan Dubnyk out of the game. Another strong 30-save performance from Hellebuyck in net, along with Scheifele scoring in the third period, helped secure a 5-0 Jets victory and a 4-1 series win over Minnesota.

The Predators looked to close the deal against the Avalanche at home in Game 5. Everything was going according to plan, with Nashville leading 1-0 late in the third period. However, Colorado had other ideas. Landeskog and Sven Andrighetto scored with less than five minutes remaining, Andrew Hammond made 44 saves in net and the Avs stole Game 5 by a score of 2-1 to stay alive.

April 21 featured three games with teams looking to gain momentum.

The Lightning looked to close out the Devils back home in Game 5. They got off to a quick start, and took a 2-0 lead late into the third period, with goals from Mikhail Sergachev and Kucherov. Patrick Maroon scored for New Jersey to cut the lead to 2-1 with three minutes remaining. However, Tampa thwarted any plans for a comeback with an empty net goal from Ryan Callahan. The Lightning took Game 5 by a score of 3-1 and took the series 4-1.

The Capitals were home against the Blue Jackets in a crucial Game 5. The first four games were won by the road team, but that would suddenly change in this game. Both teams went back and forth, with each side scoring three times. For the fourth time in this series the game went past 60 minutes. In the ensuing overtime, Nicklas Bäckström scored his second goal of the game, to give Washington a 4-3 win and a 3-2 series lead.

The Maple Leafs looked to stay alive against the Bruins in Game 5 in Boston. Led by James van Riemsdyk and Tyler Bozak, Toronto jumped out to a 4-1 lead in the second period, forcing Bruins netminder Rask to be pulled in that frame. Anton Khudobin replaced Rask in goal and kept his team in the game.

The Bruins' Sean Kuraly and Noel Acciari scored to cut the lead to 4-3 in the third period, but Andersen held his ground in net for Toronto and stole the show. He made 42 saves to help the Leafs stay alive in the series. Toronto won the game 4-3 and could make things interesting back home in a Game 6.

April 22 featured two crucial Game 6 matchups.

Game 6 between the Penguins and Flyers did not disappoint. Philadelphia was in a must-win situation and played that way in the first half of the game. They led 4-2 with less than eight minutes to go in the second period, but suddenly a switch was flipped.

After Pittsburgh scored twice late in the second to tie the game at 4, they exploded for four goals in the third period. Jake Guentzel scored three times in the frame and finished the game with four goals. Four other Penguins recorded multi-point games, including Crosby and Kessel. Couturier finished with five points, including a hat trick, for the Flyers. Pittsburgh, however, closed out the series with a dominant 8-5 victory, their ninth straight playoff series win.

The Predators looked to close out their series against the Avalanche in Game 6 after a late collapse in Game 5.

They did not mess around, as they were all over Colorado from the opening puck drop. Five different players scored, Rinne made 22 saves and the Predators shut down the Avs 5-0. They will face off against the Jets in the second round.

Finally, the NBA Finals may not feature a Cavs-Warriors series

BY SALVATORE GAGLIARDI
COPY EDITOR

The prior three NBA playoff outcomes felt preordained. In the Eastern Conference, the league’s best player LeBron James, more aptly referred to as the King, reigned dominantly over what used to be a conference consumed by his greatness.

It appeared that other teams were simply delaying future success until they other teams finally began to catch up.

Out in the Western Conference, the league’s superior team, the Golden State Warriors, transformed the way the sport is now played with 3-point shooting and great defense, forcing the other teams in the West to adapt or die.

This season’s NBA playoffs have been different from the ones from years past.

LeBron appears vulnerable, and the other Western teams have adapted, quickly.

In the Eastern Conference, the top-seeded Toronto Raptors, after looking the part of a 59-win team, lost two games to the Washington Wizards, tying the series 2-2.

The Raptors are sure to hear their ghost of playoff past begin to reappear, as they now fall to a franchise record of 0-4 when they are ahead in an all-time playoff series of 2-1.

Unfortunately, this has become the Raptors’ playoff M.O. in previous years, and the pattern will continue if they do not make any adjustments. If they win the series, the Raptors will move on to face the victor of the series between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Indiana Pacers.

The Cavaliers, LeBron’s team, and the Pacers are currently knotted up 2-2. The Cavs, with only four players remaining from their

2016 championship squad, look beatable.

LeBron has carried the team, as expected, with a triple-double in Game 1 and a 46-point performance in Game 2.

However, the Pacers, carried by the incredible two-way play of Victor Oladipo, have not been intimidated by LeBron. They won Game 3 behind the heroics of Bojan Bogdanovic’s 30-point performance but then quickly forfeited home court advantage back to the Cavs in a Game 4 defeat.

Expect the Cavs to put in the work, appease their home crowd by clinching a Game 5 victory and let the King close the Pacers out on the road, winning the series in Game 6.

The other series tied 2-2 is the Boston Celtics versus the Milwaukee Bucks.

After taking what appeared to be a commanding 2-0 lead over Milwaukee going into Game 3, the Celtics fell behind by 23 points at halftime and could not recover, losing 116-92.

The same result followed in Game 4, leading to an even larger deficit. The Celtics, attempting a comeback, still fell short 104-102.

This series is now truly a toss-up, with the best player in the series, Giannis Antetokounmpo, capable of stealing a game on the road for the Bucks.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia 76ers, who most fans expect to replace the King and the Cavs as the conference’s best team, are already making waves this year.

The youth movement within the organization might just be naive enough to play well under the bright lights of the postseason.

With the 76ers’ star center, Joel Embiid, returning from a broken orbital bone for Game 3, the Sixers have simply looked like the more talented team.

Driven by the veteran leadership of Dwyane Wade, the Miami Heat were suspected of having the playoff experience edge in this series.

Instead, it was the Sixers who looked the part in Game 4, and calmly overcame a fourth quarter deficit to win 106-102.

The Sixers will win in five games, and may just emerge as the conference’s new favorite. Out in the West, the second round is taking quick form. The New Orleans Pelicans won their first playoff series since the 2007-08 season, behind the unsurprising performance of Anthony Davis and the breakout performance of teammate Jrue Holiday.

A player seemingly forgotten about due to his previous underwhelming play and significant injuries, Holiday has finally put it all together this postseason.

His coach, Alvin Gentry, called Holiday the league’s best two-way player in the NBA after his dominating 33-point, nine-assist performance.

Though undeniably biased, Gentry’s assessment is fairly spot on. Holiday has created arguably the most dangerous pick-and-roll combination in the postseason alongside Davis, while playing phenomenal defense on the Portland Trail Blazers’ usually lethal backcourt of Damian Lillard and C.J. McCollum. He contributed 41 points in the closeout Game 4 while Davis contributed 47. The Pelicans’ next series against the Warriors will be a doozy.

The Warriors beat the San Antonio Spurs in an emotional five-game series. This victory occurred after the death of the Spurs’ head coach Gregg Popovich’s wife Erin Popovich between games 2 and 3.

The Spurs played inspiring bas-

ketball, but the Warriors were simply better.

After winning the series against San Antonio, Golden State will now face the rolling Pelicans.

Davis will not be an easy cover for the smaller Warriors’ lineups and even if Steph Curry returns, expects Holiday will win that matchup one-on-one.

This will be an entertaining and lengthy second-round matchup.

Finally, the remaining two first-round series have basically played to script.

The Houston Rockets, after slipping up to a playoff-hungry Minnesota Timberwolves team in a Game 3 loss, blew out the Wolves in Game 4 with the assist of a 50-point third-quarter offensive onslaught, just a point shy of the 1962 Los Angeles Lakers’ record.

The Rockets are the better team, simple as that, and they will advance in five games to play the Utah Jazz in Round 2.

The Jazz, matched up against the Oklahoma City Thunder in the first round, have played exceptional team basketball.

The Thunder and their dynamic trio of stars, Russell Westbrook, Paul George and Carmelo Anthony, took Game 3.

However, the Thunder have relied too heavily on isolation basketball to win games, and when their stars are not making shots, the offense bogs down.

This allowed the Jazz to get out and run the fast break on all the missed shots by the Thunder.

The Jazz should get credit, however, as they have played determined defense, not allowing Westbrook or George any easy looks.

Most impressively for the Jazz has been their backcourt duo.

Ricky Rubio has played the best basketball of his life, setting up his teammates per usual but also scor-

ing at an abnormally and efficient high clip.

Rookie Donovan Mitchell has also risen to the occasion of playoff basketball.

Mitchell, after playing a few minutes in his first playoff game, almost threw up from his postseason adrenaline rush, but since then has looked cool, calm and collected throughout the series.

He set an NBA record of 55 points scored by a guard in his first two postseason games, eclipsing Michael Jordan’s record of 53 set in 1985.

Mitchell would go on to score 33 points — a franchise record for a rookie in a playoff game — in the pivotal Game 4.

He has looked every bit the part of a closeout player capable of scoring at will, something that the Jazz have sorely lacked in previous postseason appearances.

Expect the rookie and his adept team to advance in five games.

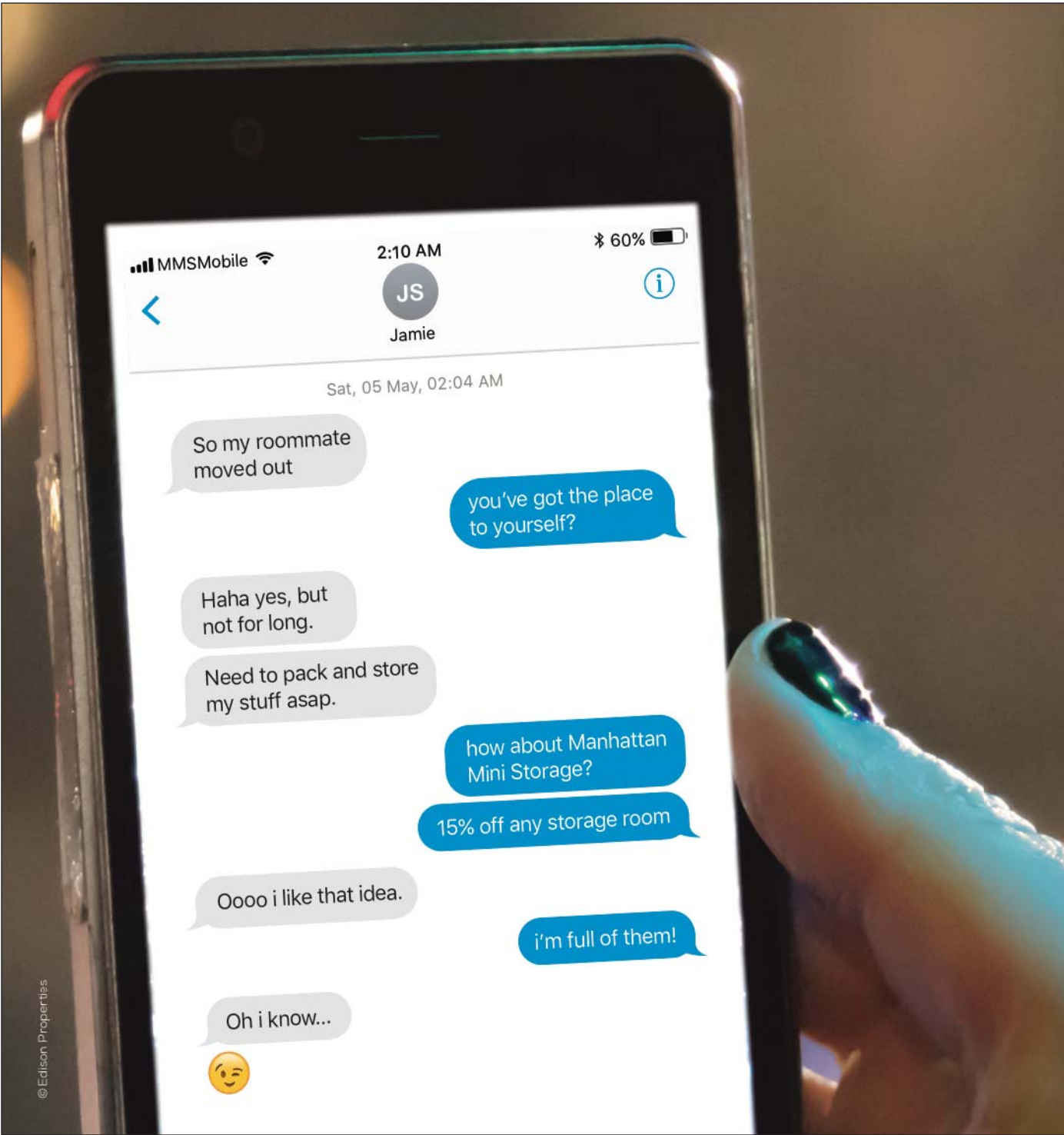
So far, these first round games have unequivocally proven that a fourth rematch between the Cavaliers and Warriors is anything but guaranteed.

The King’s iron-grip on the Eastern Conference throne looks vulnerable to rising challengers with three rounds to still conclude.

The Warriors, not taking a step back in competitiveness, have seen their competition around them rise quickly.

The Rockets are Golden State’s greatest threat, and they have evolved to become a more prolific 3-point shooting team while also ranking as a top-10 defensive team.

Both the Cavs and Warriors have set the bar high for championship-caliber teams in the NBA, and this postseason, basketball fans are being thoroughly entertained as many teams strive to overtake the two teams’ greatness.



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APRIL/MAY 2018

MON
30

ALPHA KAPPA PSI GAME NIGHT
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. | NVC 2-125 | Free

TUES
1

EXECUTIVE MS IN HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SESSION
6 p.m. - 7 p.m. | NVC 14-270 | Free

WED
2

HILLEL AT BARUCH TABLING
12 p.m. - 3 p.m. | NVC 2nd Floor Lobby | Free

BETA ALPHA PSI-ACCOUNTING WORKSHOPS
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | NVC 3-240 | Free

THURS
3

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS – INFORMATION SESSION
12:45 p.m. - 2 p.m. | NVC 3-125 | Free

FRI
4

ALPHA KAPPA PSI: BROTHERHOOD DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES
6 p.m. - 9 p.m. | NVC 3-120 | Free

SAT
5

HEARTBEAT OPERA SPRING FESTIVAL 2018: BEETHOVEN'S FIDELIO
8 p.m. | BPAC | Buy Tickets Online

SUN
6

HEARTBEAT OPERA SPRING FESTIVAL 2018: GALA DOUBLE BILL
3 p.m. | BPAC | Buy Tickets Online

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

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				4				
	1	6	3			4		

SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE 9

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



CINDY HUANG | THE TICKER

Starr Career Development Center

Career Spotlight

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

SAVE THE DATE

Making the Transition From College to Careers
Tuesday, May 1, 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m., Library Building 763
Learn key steps to successfully navigate the workplace and develop your own strategic career plan.

LinkedIn 101: Profile Development
Tuesday, May 1, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
Learn how to efficiently develop your LinkedIn profile at this workshop!

Job Search Boot Camp: Week Four
Wednesday, April 25, 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., NVC 2-190
Come to this workshop and learn how to incorporate job search tools into your search!

PEER TIP OF THE WEEK

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

"Summer internship season is just around the corner! If you have one, have fun, network and learn! If you don't have one, do not worry. Take time for yourself, rest up and enjoy your time away from school!"

– Victoria Merlino, Peer for Careers

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Primary Care Development Corporation Communications Intern

PCDC seeks a Communications Intern to support their Advocacy and Communications team, working 14 hours per week. Communications Interns provide knowledge of video, digital and print communications to support their work to build, transform, and ensure access to primary care for all. Reporting to the Communications Manager, the Communications Intern will be responsible for the successful execution and upkeep of PCDC's communications activities, including administrative tasks, in

supporting their overall mission and strategic direction.

PCDC seeks a dynamic, creative individual with either professional or educational experience in video and communications to help raise PCDC's organizational profile and showcase our reputation as leaders in health care financing, performance improvement, and advocacy.

Duties will include strategizing, filming and editing short videos featuring PCDC's programs, staff, and advocacy. Interns will support strategic com-

munications for PCDC and its practices, update the website including metrics monitoring and photo/text/layout, contribute to writing, editing and designing of print, email, news and social media content and campaigns, help implement and manage metrics to report on the performance of communications initiatives, provide communications support for all PCDC events, and assist other teams in their marketing and communications efforts.

Starr Search ID: 114530

ICHOR STRATEGIES

Intern – Summer 2018

Ichor Strategies is a public affairs boutique that advises general counsels, C-suite executives and other senior leaders on situations at the nexus of government and politics, urban communities and corporate strategy. Our team leverages decades of experience in the public, private and social sectors, as well as deep connections in U.S. cities, to provide focused, discreet and proactive counsel for our clients. We guide clients through sensitive matters ranging from policy, regulatory and community chal-

lenges to major transactions, capital investments and growth into new markets.

Ichor Strategies is a certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) based in Brooklyn, New York.

The internship will be research and writing focused—supporting the team in multiple lines of client work.

Interns should demonstrate an ability to use basic research tools and databases (e.g., Google, LexisNexis, etc.), media monitoring (traditional, social, and

digital media) and distributing clips to colleagues, clients and others. Interns should be able to write clear, accurate and concise summaries of research findings, demonstrate strong initiative and self-direction in assignments, have high performance standards for themselves and colleagues, work quickly while being attentive to detail, and finally, the intern should be able to have basic understanding of the business world.

Starr Search ID: 114540