

Women's volleyball and men's soccer continue strong starts



DENIS GOSTEV | BARUCH ATHLETICS

The sports teams at Baruch College are off to yet another strong start. Women's volleyball started its season with a huge win over SUNY Farmingdale, while men's soccer dominated St. Joseph's College - Brooklyn.

BY ETHAN BHERWANI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Baruch College Bearcats women's volleyball team was victorious in their season opener against the SUNY Farmingdale Rams. As a team, the Bearcats totaled 33 kills and 8 aces. The team was led by Anita Sengara, who totaled an impressive 16 kills, 2 aces and 1 block. Sanaa Hadjeb assisted her teammates 31 times. Captain Stella Chung totaled 7 kills in the sweep against the Rams.

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Competition keeps businesses around Baruch on their toes

BY ANACOANA RODRIGUEZ
STAFF WRITER

The Baruch College community has noticed the closure of businesses near campus such as Poké Zone and Chaamlex. New businesses like Vivi Bubble Tea are opening in the neighborhood and causing more competition for similar businesses that were already present in the area, including Coco Tea and Rabbit Rabbit Tea. This begs to question why these businesses are closing, and what the market demand is in Gramercy Park.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Alpha Phi Omega honors 9/11 heroes with letter-writing event

BY SHEIK FLORADEWAN AND JAHLIL RUSH
NEWS EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the 18th anniversary of 9/11 approached, CUNY Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez recognized the tragic event and made a public announcement that honored the lives lost. He stated that CUNY recalls the "Borough of Manhattan Community College's Fiterman Hall, located mere blocks from the Twin Towers, was nearly destroyed and how, in the days after September 11, the lower Manhattan campus was established as a hub for first responders," and continued, "this year, as we do each September 11 on campuses across the University, we commemorate the lives of those who perished in those unprecedented attacks."

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

OPINIONS

Student journalists' work must be taken more seriously

Journalism is a profession that requires a wide range of resources and connections in order to climb the ladder to success. Most of these connections are built with years of experience or with the help of a news organization a journalist is working for. However, the process for student journalists trying to become well established in the industry is difficult. Most newsrooms are highly cooperative — they are full of experienced journalists with many connections built over the years. As a professional journalist, it is easier to reach out to experts in certain areas and political figures.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New York Press Club hosts 27th annual Foundation Conference to discuss the evolving media industry

BY AYSE KELCE
BUSINESS EDITOR

The 27th Annual New York Press Club Foundation Conference on Journalism took place in New York University Kimmel Center. Reporters and editors from various local and national publications attended the conference along with college students and freelancers. Throughout the day, experienced reporters shared their perspectives on concepts concerning the media industry. The theme of the plenary panel was media's responsibility in 2020 elections. The panel moderator Ethan Harp, senior writer for "Cuomo Prime Time," raised questions about the coverage of the upcoming elections. The four panelists include Ruby Cramer, a political reporter for BuzzFeed News, Michael Calderone, senior media reporter at Politico, Harry Siegel who is a senior editor at The Daily Beast and columnist at the *New York Daily News* and Zack Fink, NY1's state house reporter.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Baruch's Alpha Phi Omega writes letters to 9/11 responders

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He continued, “this year, as we do each September 11 on campuses across the University, we commemorate the lives of those who perished in those unprecedented attacks.”

“Their memory is indelible. At BMCC, the college places a wreath around a plaque just outside of the Chambers Street building. At John Jay College, 3,000 flags have been planted — one for each life lost in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa., as a result of the attacks. At the College of Staten Island, in the borough that was home to so many first responders, a memorial will be held for the entire Staten Island community, to honor their sacrifice.”

Baruch College did not officially host any event to commemorate the victims as other CUNYs have.

Some clubs on campus, however, such as one of Baruch's fraternities Alpha Phi Omega hosted a 9/11 letter writing event on Sept. 9 in the Newman Vertical Campus with the theme of gratitude.

Students were able to write thank you letters and cards to 9/11

responders to commemorate the memory of the tragic event that occurred 18 years ago.

The event was organized by APO Recruitment Chair members Tiffany Chen and Tammy Sfogleia.

The evening began with different Baruch students introducing themselves to the groups.

During the introduction, students told everyone their names, majors and fun facts about themselves.

Chen and Sfogleia reminded the students that the anniversary of 9/11 was nearing and members explained that the idea of this event was to create these cards for 9/11 first responders as a gesture of goodwill.

Before the APO allowed students to start making the thank you cards, they began with a moment of silence for those who died as a result of the attacks.

After the moment of silence was completed, the students then began to create their thank you cards.

The rest of the evening was comprised of music, snacks and bonding among one another.

“9/11 is coming and even though we were young, we were heavily impacted by impact,” Sfogleia stated as the reason for the event.

“Sending thank you cards is the perfect way to give back. After all, we are a service fraternity,” Chen stated.

She continued, “As a service fraternity, we have a duty to not only to serve our present day but to help our members those who came before us and serve our communities,”

To end the evening, the APO e-board thanked everyone who came out to create a thank you card for the 9/11 responders that they will be sending out.



Students of Alpha Phi Omega write letters to 9/11 responders as a tribute to the tragic event that occurred 18 years ago.



"As a service fraternity, we have a duty to not only to serve our present day but to help our members those who came before us and serve our communities"

- Tiffany Chen

USG Chair of Graphics' unofficial co-presidency position raises concerns

BY AMANDA SALAZAR
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Baruch College's Undergraduate Student Government is organized by a constitution, much like the national government is bound to the provisions of the U.S. Constitution.

While the 20-page document — available for the student body to read on USG's website — does lay out many standards and processes, there are occasional loopholes that can be discovered in what is specifically stated.

Thus came the issue of Annmarie Gajdos, a senior majoring in Computer Information Systems and Management of Musical Enterprises, who is both the co-president of the Baruch Pre-Law Society and the USG Chair of Graphics.

According to USG's Constitution, “No candidate may simultaneously hold a position on the Executive Board or the Senate and any of the following Executive board positions on any club or organization, including media organizations: President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary.”

As a chair, Gajdos is part of the USG senate.

At the beginning of the semester, the Pre-Law Society marketed her as part of its executive board; in a post on Facebook, Gajdos is the first person listed and photographed on the club's e-board, labeled as co-president to student Gregory Usvitsky.

This brings about a question of constitutionality.

Whether or not Gajdos is eligible to serve on the senate table has already been decided as a resounding “yes” from this year's USG's e-board.

The reason for this: Gajdos is not the “official” president of the Pre-Law Society. She's off-the-books.

Usvitsky is the one who goes to Baruch Officer Leadership Training to get guidance from the Office of Student Life, a mandatory seminar for the presidents and treasurers of all on-campus clubs.

Usvitsky is the one who signs Baruch's paperwork, the one who the school recognizes as the real club president.

This makes Gajdos's position somewhat harder to pinpoint — if she isn't actually the president, then what really is her role?

A student advisor, both she and USG President Dakshatha Daggala say.

“As co-president, I act as a student adviser for the Baruch Pre-Law Society,” Gajdos said when asked by *The Ticker*.

“This is my fourth year in the club, having been an active member during my freshman and sophomore years, while serving as the club's executive vice president during my junior year.”

She continued, “My long history of experiences in the club, allow me to offer important insight into event topics, marketing efforts, and logistics, such as the food ordering and room booking systems, to the current executive board.”

“Furthermore, the current executive board is comprised of many individuals who are new to their roles and need help learning the ins and outs of their job descriptions. This is what I help them with.”

Since Gajdos is not the club's official president, she technically isn't breaking any rules by holding the position while also being

on the USG senate. The question, now, is whether this is a loophole for senate members that allows them to be both on a club's e-board and in USG.

According to Daggala, it's not. “And that's a totally fair assumption,” Daggala said when asked about this situation being a loophole. “At the same time, I guess, she would have to explain herself every time someone's like, ‘Why are you co-president, aren't you [a] rep. sen.?’ It's like ‘No, I'm only here as an advisor, senior advisor.’ She doesn't get the, I guess, privileges of being a club e-board because she's not making these decisions for the club, she's not there to lead them with events, she's there as general figure head.”

Daggala also agreed with Gajdos that the Graphics Chair is more of someone the current Pre-Law Society e-board can turn to for advice, whether it's something small for marketing purposes, or a larger question in terms of planning big events, because of her e-board experience from the year before.

Gajdos also does not think that her being an unofficial co-president is a loophole, because she acts as an advisor and does not wield more influence over the club than other members.

“This is not a loophole because I do not have the same capabilities that a registered club president typically has at Baruch,” she said.

“The role of the Baruch Pre-Law Society is to introduce as many Baruch students as possible to the legal field and maximize their chances of success in the law school admissions process. I will use my time working with the organization to help it do exactly this.”



Students learn about visa opportunities with ISSC

BY YASMEEN PERSAUD
OPINIONS EDITOR

The seats of room 8-155 in Baruch College filled up quickly as the International Student Service Center prepared to host an immigration workshop for the fall 2019 semester: “International Students and the Road to the Green Card.”

The fourth in a series of workshops titled “Immigration 101,” ISSC welcomed NPZ Law Group P.C. managing attorney Ludka Zimovcak to the lecture room podium, where she discussed the path to a green card for F-1 students.

The F-1 visa allows for students to enter the United States to study at an accredited academic institution.

Zimovcak informed students of her history in dealing with immigration cases as an attorney for many years and described the process in obtaining a better visa status and a green card.

“I think it was really helpful that the speaker has knowledge and it's really interesting to know how many options you have in applying for a visa through this presentation,” graduate student

Francisco Balarezo stated, who is currently pursuing a master's of science in finance.

Balarezo came to the event to obtain more knowledge from ISSC, and to also explore options available to him.

This event hosted truly highlighted the opportunities that international students have at Baruch.

As stated on their official Baruch College website, “We also offer information about programs of study abroad and arrange programs of special interest to International Students.”

“I chose this program at Baruch because I can work three years after graduation, which will help me get Visa approval and a better job at a better company,” Balarezo added.

While the event hosted also aimed to sharpen interview skills, Zimovcak didn't address this during her presentation, but the rapid questions and welcoming atmosphere of the event showed that Zimovcak and ISSC were facilitating confidence and conversation — just like the end goal of an interview.

Charbonneau pursues Baruch degree to help improve philanthropy

BY TANVIR KAWSER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When an opportunity presented itself, Baruch College freshman, Alex Charbonneau, took full advantage of it. Charbonneau, a recent graduate from John Dewey High School, came to Baruch with a purpose.

“In good times we will find great opportunities or we will create the opportunity,” he said.

Since sophomore year of high school, Charbonneau was involved with First Robotics Team 333 — a non-for-profit that gives kids from grades one through 12 the opportunity to get involved in STEM, by having them build their own competition, “Ready robots.”

“Since our team had to pay tens of thousands of dollars a year for parts, tools, travel and housing money, which would come from grants, the school, donors and a fundraiser that was ran by the student,” he stated.

As his sophomore year was ending, the teammate who was in charge of running the fundraiser was graduating, leaving a gap in his absence. A gap which Charbonneau saw as a great opportunity. This meant managing students who would be willing to sell refreshments to their classmates throughout the day.

His role also consisted of managing supplies and determining the product mix, the progress of which had to kept track of with the help of a dynamic spreadsheet. He also organized fundraising events at a local Chipotle, who gave the team a percentage of the profits

that came from his supporters who visited the restaurant. Charbonneau carried on his legacy as a fundraising manager over his junior and senior years. Over this time the club had raised \$18,000 from sales.

However, Charbonneau mentioned that, “This wasn’t done alone.” The following year his current successors worked alongside to ensure that the operation was running smoothly. It is because of this that Charbonneau became more interested in marketing and management. He said that through this experience, he learned different things such as leadership, how to better handle money and the power of working with others. As a result of all this, he came to Baruch with the intention of majoring in marketing management.

“I hope to one day to start a business while also being involved in investing,” he said.

In order to learn more, Charbonneau also took the time to attend several conferences and workshops about data analytics, investing in the stock market and investing in real estate. Of these events, one featured Barbara Corcoran, a television personality on the show “Shark Tank.” She came in as a speaker and was a great inspiration for Charbonneau as she was responsible for turning \$1,000 into a billion-dollar business. This conference focused heavily on real estate and different investing options.

It led to him learning different tactics that people use in order to sell a product, skills he hopes to use for charity.

“¡Baila!” continues Latinx Heritage Month events with traditional dances

BY FEBE GEORGE
STAFF MEMBER

One of the many events of this month dedicated to Latinx Heritage was ¡Baila! which took place on Sept. 12. This Latinx Dance workshop included clubs such as Ecuadorian Club and Latin American Student Organization.

Instructors Justin Gonzalez and Justine Rodriguez taught students the Bachata, Salsa and Merengue. Students followed their directions individually and were then paired up to try the moves they learned with different partners.

Afterwards, students socialized as they ate traditional Latino food, rice with chicken, and continued to dance on the open dance floor.

“I love the nostalgia you get with the music, you feel the music, and you feel the history- you feel connected to it,” said instructor Gonzalez when asked what he loved most about these different dances.

“The Latinx community as a whole is very passionate, you can even say romantic and dancing is a way to express yourself not only to you significant other but it’s a way to have fun with friends and family,” said Paul Romo the vice president of LASO.

When asked why she came to the event, Baruch College student Katerin Velasquez responded “well the event is called ¡Baila! which in Spanish means to dance which I love to do. Dance is part of our culture because when we come together in a celebration that’s what we do. You know other people are learning it but that’s what we grew up with.”

Another student of Mexican background, Josman Garcia, came



FEBE GEORGE | THE TICKER

Students learn how to dance the Bachata, Salsa and Merengue in a Latinx workshop.

to the event to learn how to dance better. He commented that “Spanish music has a lot of Afro-centric background, you see a lot of that in the movement, a lot of hip swinging.”

The two instructors agreed students seem to enjoy the social aspect of this event the most.

Garcia validated this when he stated his favorite part of the event was “meeting new people and dancing to different genres of music.”

Gregory Antoine, a student of Haitian background, enjoyed identifying differences between Latin/Hispanic dances and his own

cultural dances such as the varying physical proximity of dancing partners.

As instructor Gonzalez said, “dancing brings every culture and every types of people into this one little melting pot of fun.”

¡Baila! was a great event that brought students from different ethnicities together to share in the experience of learning more about Latinx culture.

It brought back childhood memories for the students and professional dancers alike, while also showing non-Hispanic students more about the culture as a whole.

NY Press Club brings together journalists from various backgrounds

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The panelists agreed that the number of Democratic presidential candidates made it more confusing to cover the elections, but once the initial candidate is decided, the media can better focus on more detailed reporting. They also highlighted that they observed an increase in public engagement with the media after the 2016 elections.

Cramer mentioned that they had a team in charge of covering the candidates in BuzzFeed News newsroom, and each person was usually assigned to cover certain candidates.

Cramer covered Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign in 2016, traveling all around the country.

There were two breakout sessions after the first main panel, and the attendees were given the chance to choose from three different panels for each session.

The panels for the first breakout session were: “Local News: Anybody Have a Watchdog in This Fight?” and “Turning Your Reporting into a Book and Workin’ It: Making It as a Freelancer.”

“Workin’ It: Making It as a Freelancer” was moderated by Debra Caruso Marrone, president and owner of DJC Communications, and the panelists were Hannah Bae, Joe Finora and Amanda FitzSimons.

All of the panelists had newsroom experience before starting as a freelance journalist, and they agreed that the experience and the name that come with a previous newsroom job helped them in their freelance career.

The panel focused on ways of presenting work as a freelancer, how to reach out to editors and format an effective story pitch. They highlighted the importance of us-

ing social media platforms and creating a website for self-marketing as a freelancer.

The second breakout sessions hosted panelists who worked for various news organizations; *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Information* and *Yahoo Finance* to name a few. The panels included “NYPC Award Winners: How They Did It,” “Making Data a Routine Part of Your Beat” and “My Next Move: Career Advancement Advice.”

“My Next Move: Career Advancement Advice” also highlighted the importance of having a website to show written and visual work to potential employers.

Panelists advised the attendees to keep in mind the style and the vision of the publication they are interviewing to work for and prepare accordingly. After the second breakout session, The Peter O.E. Bekker Scholarships were given to Sarah Spoon and Leo DeLuca, both from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

The New York Press Club President’s Award was given to Rich Lamb, for his long and remarkable journalism career.

Azi Paybarah, Metro reporter at The New York Times, was on stage with 2019 Pulitzer Prize winner Russ Beuttner of *The New York Times* for the keynote discussion.

Buettner won the Pulitzer for Explanatory Reporting with a story about President Donald Trump’s finances and taxes with his colleagues Susanne Craig and David Barstow.

Paybarah started the conversation with an entertaining question; he said that he covered a story on a lost bodega cat on the same month Beuttner published his Pulitzer-winning story, and asked Beuttner



AYSE KELCE | THE TICKER

Panelists discuss media’s responsibility in 2020 elections at the 27th Annual New York Press Club Foundation Conference.

how he got his assignment.

The discussion continued on the process of the investigative story that took 18 months to complete. Beuttner said that only the fact-checking period of the story took eight weeks, and they had thousands of pages of tax documents that belonged to the Trump family. The story revealed that President Trump was not a self-made billionaire.

When Paybarah asked Beuttner how did it feel to hold onto such an important, explosive information

for so long, Buettner answered “It made me feel really old.”

“My impulse is to hold onto something and so, you know exactly what it means. And you sort of maximize the potential of that information,” he said about the long process of gathering information and revealing the award-winning story.

“It was a weird thing internally at the paper,” Buettner said about the privacy of the project they were working on. “Just keeping a secret internally was a bit of a challenge.”

“The stakes were so high, if something gets out, one of the principals finds out what we were working on; it kind of changes the game,” he said.

At its conclusion, Alicia Venter, a student journalist who attended the event, tweeted “Thank you to @NYPressClub for holding your conference this weekend at the NYU Kimmel Center. As a uni freshman who is a student journalist, I was given very in-depth and accurate information on how to pursue my career.”

Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Indivisible, with liberty and remembrance for all — 9/11

On Sept. 11, 2001, the sun shed its majestic yellow light over a city that would seconds later be covered by not only a literal cloud of smoke, but a cloud of fear and uncertainty unlike it had ever experienced before. Two planes hijacked by terrorists had struck the twin towers of the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan, forever changing the course of American history.

Hours later, the two monolithic towers of the World Trade Center, which served as symbols of the strength and unity of the American people, were reduced to ash and rubble. The Pentagon in Washington, D.C., the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense, was also struck by a plane and severely damaged and a fourth plane, United Flight 93, crashed into a field in Pennsylvania after its passengers rebelled against their captors.

In one day, 2,996 Americans were killed, and the United States was thrust into conflicts with the Middle East, which came to be known as the War on Terror. These conflicts have since taken the lives of over 6,700 American soldiers. Countless more first responders have died from illnesses related to the 9/11 attacks.

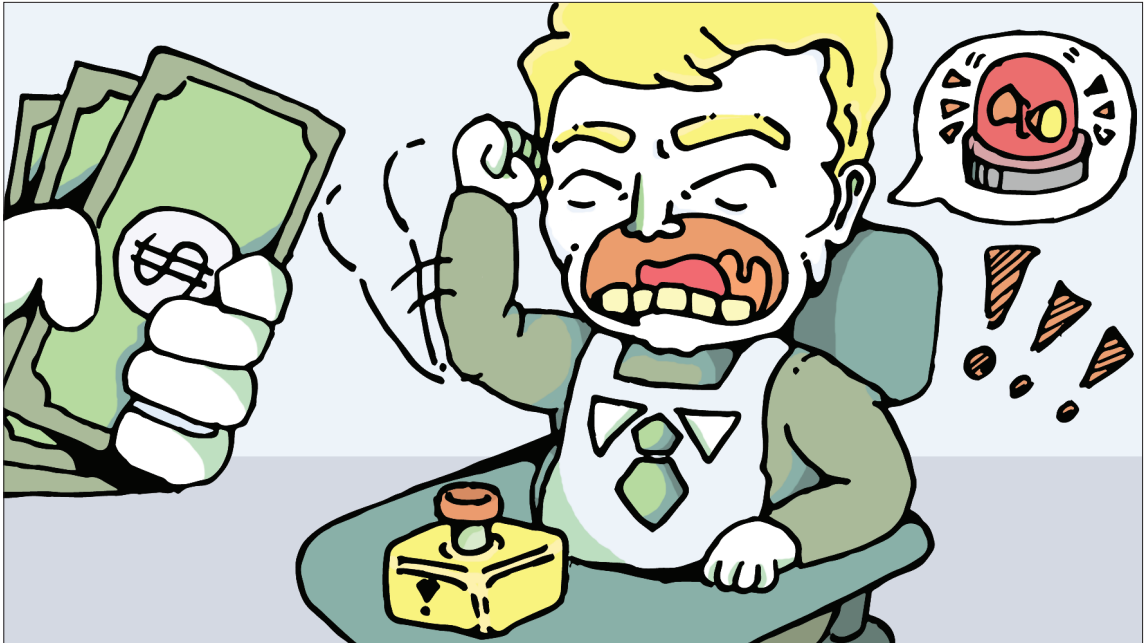
The attacks were meant to break the American people. However, the attacks just brought them together and made them stronger. It didn't matter what religion, political ideology, race or sexual orientation one identified with. On that day, everyone was an American — one nation, indivisible. It's a sentiment that's hard to relate to in an age where Americans seem so divided, but the worst day in American history brought out the best in the American people. Many Americans adopted the phrase "Never Forgive, Never Forget" in the wake of the attacks. However, as the 18th anniversary of the attacks passes, it's unfortunately clear that the memory of who and what was lost is beginning to fade.

In June 2019, comedian Jon Stewart testified in support of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund to a nearly empty Congress, on behalf of the many first responders who have been diagnosed with or died from 9/11-related illnesses. An irate and emotional Stewart called Congress' apparent lack of interest in the subject "embarrassing." He was right. Video of his testimony went viral, and many voiced their concern and support on social media, pressuring Congress into extending the fund, which was set to expire in 2020. Eventually, the bill was passed, and financial support for the heroes who put their lives on the line responding to the attacks was extended through 2090.

Most of these victims were members of the New York Police Department and Fire Department of New York. When both organizations held a dedication in a memorial for these victims, neither New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio nor Gov. Andrew Cuomo attended — even though they were both in the city and the state, respectively. The fact that elected leaders are declining to show support for those who died and continue to die because of 9/11 is reason for concern that eventually Americans, especially younger generations, will become desensitized to the tragedy. As Americans who experienced the event, it is our duty to ensure the memory of the worst tragedy in American history is preserved. Progress has been made — the Sept. 11 memorial attracts thousands of visitors, and the Tribute in Light serves as a yearly reminder of the might the World Trade Center inspired.

Recently, a bill was passed requiring a moment of silence in classrooms each year, which will help younger students who did not experience the event still realize its gravity and importance in American history. Most current college freshmen were newborns when 9/11 occurred and have little to no recollection of the aftermath of it, yet it seems as if colleges don't do anything to commemorate the heroes who died on that day.

The 9/11 attacks are more than just another page in a history book. It was an event that destroyed American families and shook the core of the American people. We have a responsibility to learn from the attacks, and remember how we were united as Americans with pride and strength in the face of the greatest adversity a nation can face.



JOEL C. BAUTISTA | THE TICKER

Worthy of being newsworthy, new student journalists deserve more

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

On the other hand, student journalism can be more overwhelming that it looks. Companies, school executives and even the deli around the corner might not return calls, emails or refuse to talk.

No matter the experience, the attitude toward a student journalist becomes very different from that. *The Daily Princetonian's* former editor-in-chief Marcelo Rochabrun wrote, "It's hard being a student journalist at Princeton these days," in his goodbye letter.

Rochabrun talked about how the newspaper experienced backlash from not only administration, but also from students.

"Professional journalists don't face these encounters as often, nor do they have to reconcile their affiliations with their town, city or country with the work they do in the same way that we have to reconcile our affiliations with Princeton and the 'Prince,'" he added.

There are many instances that student journalists are not taken seriously, or they face aggressive behavior. Without the legal protection of a powerful organization,

student journalists often hesitate to cover controversial, large-scale stories.

"Instances of student press censorship often go unreported because advisers fear losing their jobs, and students worry about jeopardizing their advisers," wrote *Columbia Journalism Review*, about the student press censorship.

Student journalism by nature is highly focused on school related issues and stories.

Protests, scandals, corruption and student successes are usually the most exciting stories that are often printed in the front page of the newspaper.

Without being able to reach the right connections, student journalists often settle for aggregated stories rather than original reporting.

They see a significant story about politics, business or any other area, read a few articles about the same topic from different big media outlets and write their own story citing those resources while being able to add only a little bit of perspective.

These circumstances hinder the growth and improvement of student journalists, who are supposed

to become the voice of the next generation.

Students journalists who are trying to focus on their own reporting usually face similar obstacles with freelance journalists. Freelancers with previous professional newsroom experiences are at an advantage when it comes to pitching stories to editors. However, it is not impossible to start a journalism career as a freelancer.

Social media presence is considered helpful for both student and professional journalists. Using their own websites as an accessible portfolio makes it easier for publications to decide whether someone is a good fit for the project they are going to be assigned to.

It is possible to start with more local projects to build a portfolio and not be discouraged in a situation in which people act mean or they do not want to be interviewed.

Both people and bigger media organizations should show more respect to student journalists and freelancers who are facing many difficulties.

-Ayse Kelce
Journalism '23

USG means more than a title and role

THE USG REPORT



JOSHUA CASTILLO

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Joshua Castillo, the executive vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government for the 2019-2020 school year. I'm responsible for chairing the Senate during our meetings on Tuesdays and like any other student, I'm still getting acclimated to all of the people we have on campus. We have more students than ever before, and with changing times comes changing perspectives.

When coming into roles of leadership and responsibility, it's very easy to allow things to affect your well-being. In that sense, having a new title can often be more detrimental than beneficial. It's so easy to get lost in titles

— the professional vernacular can become very overwhelming. In my first 10 days of school, I've had dozens of people call me "the man in charge," or even "the MVP VP." Someone even called me "Mr. Gavel." I pulled out a gavel once before a Senate meeting, and a friend of mine asked me, "you actually use that thing?" which I found quite hilarious.

I had a friend who recently messaged me, "you are USG now, there is no USG without U!" and it really made me think about the power and responsibility that comes with this position. To many people, including President Dakshatha Daggala and the rest of the USG table, I embody USG.

I couldn't disagree more. If I had to move out of the country, USG would exist without me. If I had an emergency that required me to step out of my position, there are processes in place that would provide a substitute. If the entire USG table was abducted by aliens and taken to another planet, USG would still exist, so long as the Baruch College system remains intact.

I am not USG. I know that's

very easy to take poorly when out of context, but it's the truth.

I am not USG, nor do I wish to become USG — I simply wish to become the best version of myself, just like anyone else. At the end of it all, I'm a representative, a temporary part of USG, in the same way that our current student population is a temporary part of Baruch. The dynamic is ever changing, and as students, our only true responsibilities are to embrace changes in ways that impact us positively and to leave things a better than we found them. In that sense, there is no USG without us.

We have a lot of great things awaiting students this year. This job is definitely stressful because of the many moving parts at Baruch, but rest assured. In the midst of congested hallways, broken elevators and sly attempts at recruiting for pyramid schemes, I'm having more fun than ever. See you all at Homecoming on Sept. 19!

Joshua Castillo is the executive vice president of USG. He can be reached at joshua.castillo@usgbaruch.com. His office is located at 3-276 in the Newman Vertical Campus.

The Ticker

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OPINIONS PAGE POLICY

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Gifted student program overhaul faces backlash

A proposal by School Diversity Advisory Group, a panel appointed by Mayor Bill De Blasio, and it calls for the complete removal of New York City gifted programs. The initiative attempts to address the concerns that black and Latino students are not being given an equal chance at getting into these programs by overhauling the gifted students program entirely.

This proposal is currently met with backlash from parents who have children in the program. While the proposal is far from being accepted, it does reignite the issue of the intense segregation in NYC public schools. To completely overhaul the gifted students program does nothing but ignore the root issue of systemic racial inequality within the New York City public school system.

Historically, lower income neighborhoods have been largely made up of black and Hispanic racial groups. When many are living paycheck-to-paycheck, it's not surprising that families in these areas generally do not have the financial flexibility to give the same test prep services to their children that middle to high-income white and Asian families do.

Additionally, the schools in these areas tend to be lower-performing and under-funded, according to a report mentioned in *The New York Times*.

In one respect, we must consider that students who are actually in the program have a right to be there and receive an education that challenges them intellectually. All of them took an examination in which they demonstrated that they require a more challenging educational approach compared

to their peers. To completely remove the gifted students' program would do a disservice to children currently in the program and in some ways, deepen the racial divide even more.

Whenever there is structural change within the public-school system to address the racial divide, like in 2016 when a proposal was made to have kids attend schools farther than their designated zoned schools in the name of diversity, parents protested heavily against these measures.

To some, they had every right to do so.

How can one justify sending their kid to a school known to be lower-performing in order to increase some statistics?

The same backlash will occur now if this proposal passes and it will worsen the racial disparity within not only the gifted students' program but public schools in general, as middle-income parents will prefer send their kids to private schools.

The current proposal is akin to putting a band-aid on a gunshot wound. White and Asian gifted students in middle-income families are currently excelling because they have the resources to do so.

If reforming the way schools teach in lower-income neighborhoods — like implementing a more individualized approach — can help black and Latino students reach the standard threshold and then past that, over time it can then be possible to have a gifted program that truly reflects the diversity of NYC, the melting pot of the world.

-Maham Ayaz
Biology '22

Homes: not a priority for millennials

Millennials often come under fire for not achieving the “requirements” for living the traditional American dream — a spouse, a house and kids, in that order.

However, it may be time that people come to accept that an irreversible paradigm shift has taken effect in American culture, jumbling up the old order of life events and generating a new world order.

There are many reasons for this paradigm shift.

Chief among them is the fact that homeownership has decreased tremendously. The homeownership rate for millennials, ages 25-34, is 8% lower than it is for Gen Xers and Baby Boomers when they were in the same age range, as reported by CNBC.

The reasons behind why this is the case stem back to the idea that the culture of America has changed rapidly from this generation to the one before it.

Not only has this generation become softer and more accepting, it also deals with unrest in terms of not settling down as easily as prior generations have.

Marriage is often the deciding factor for whether people buy a house, regardless of generation, with marriage increasing the likelihood of owning a home by 18%, the article also reports.

Given this, it comes as no surprise that millennials are lacking in the homeownership department since it is well documented that they are just as lacking, if not

As such, millenials don't meet the old requirements for a good life.

more so, in the marriage department, marrying both later in life and less often than their previous generations' counterparts.

While it was common in earlier times to be married early, millennials seem to want to take their time. Indeed, it's not like they have much of a say in the matter, since people generally want to clear their debts from school before shacking up with someone. However, this is almost impossible when considering the all too well-documented rise in college tuition costs across the country.

These costs usually drive people to leave school with a generally unprofitable degree and tons of loans. It's not like millennials have it easy to repay these loans either.

Entry-level jobs that people may want to take in order to repay their college loans often require a degree that is not possible to achieve without going to school for more years and taking on more loans in order to pay those extra classes off.

Researchers at mortgage company Freddie Mac corroborated this idea by documenting that more than half of people working at the level of the “essential workforce,” such as health care, education, and law enforcement make their homeownership decisions based on their college debt, CNBC also reported.

Compounding this idea with soaring tuition prices shows that debt is a serious hurdle for millennial homeownership.

The cost of living has also skyrocketed in recent times, resulting in millennials renting for longer in more expensive areas, which may seem cheaper in the short term than buying a house but ultimately builds up to eventually restrict them from investing further down the line in a house and costing

more in the long term.

Buying a house means settling down for good, an idea that in and of itself is not entirely in line with millennial values.

Because of the recent explosion of social media and the subsequent lack of face to face interaction it brings, many troubles may arise from inadequate communication in a romantic relationship.

As such, they seem to falter more rapidly than in the past and therefore result in the lack of stability needed to buy a house.

Even those who do end up getting married are having fewer kids.

Any number of reasons are given, from “I just don't feel quite ready yet” to “I don't have what it takes to be a mother or father” and even “there are already too many kids.”

Regardless of whether these excuses are adequate or not, the fact remains that the share of married households with children, aged 18 to 34, has decreased from about a third in 1990 to around a quarter in 2015, CNBC reported

Due to a mix of social and economic factors, it seems then that America is changing greatly in terms of its ideals.

As such, millennials often don't meet the old “requirements” for a good life.

However, that does not mean that millennials are failing. In reality, it means that the idea of a good life needs to change in order to accustom itself to the new generation.

Different values produce different ways of measuring success and denying that would not only be illogical but ultimately drives generations apart instead of together into a cohesive culture.

-Ali Hussain
Neuroscience '21

President Donald Trump should stop meddling in the affairs of Afghanistan

In a series of alarming tweets on Sept. 7, U.S. President Donald Trump said, “Unbeknownst to almost everyone, the major Taliban leaders and, separately, the President of Afghanistan, were going to secretly meet with me at Camp David on Sunday.”

Even though the meeting did not end up happening, Trump continued to tweet on about the subject, even as he faced backlash from Twitter users.

The U.S. president is willing to meet with terrorists who have provided sanctuary to Al-Qaeda and have the blood of thousands of innocent people on their hands, including countless American civilians and personnel around the world.

The Taliban is not a trustworthy partner — they are only looking for U.S. withdrawal to overthrow a weak Afghan government.

People must know that the Taliban ruled in fear and brutality in Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when the group was finally overthrown by the United States.

The Taliban was harsh on women, denying them rights such as education and participation in public life, as reported by VOA News.

The article also acknowledges the fact that the Taliban also limited freedom of speech, putting bans on movies and music.

They performed barbaric public executions and amputations. In Afghanistan, the Taliban provided shelter to Osama bin Laden and other 9/11 co-conspirators who have also committed attacks against the United States in Kenya, Nairobi and Yemen before the 9/11 attack.

Sure, Trump's willingness to

meet with many of America's adversaries is a good thing, as diplomacy is always favorable over violence.

But the insensitive timing of the talks, near the 18th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and the interest to talk to known terrorist organizations is worrying to say the least.

Since when did the U.S. negotiate with known terrorists? They must not be allowed into the United States at any cost.

It is mind boggling, that President Trump would consider inviting senior Taliban officials to Camp David in Maryland — they are our mortal enemies.

Trump's vision of leaving Afghanistan is one that is rational and wanted by the American people.

“Fifty-seven percent of Americans, including 69 percent of military veterans, said they would support a decision by the president to remove all troops from Afghanistan,” according to a survey conducted by YouGov and reported by The Charles Koch Institute.

This may be only one poll, but the message is clear. We must get out of Afghanistan and focus on our own country.

The United States cannot unilaterally, by itself, spend money and sacrifice lives in Afghanistan.

The international community must help out Afghanistan. Other democratic countries must also step up to the plate, and help Afghanistan become whatever the Afghan people want it to be.

According to a poll by the Asia Foundation, “Afghans’ satisfaction with democracy has increased from 57.0% in 2017 to 61.4% in the

year of 2018.”

This may increase if there is transparency by the government, a strong electoral body and no election fraud committed by political parties and leaders.

Our brothers and sisters in arms must not be forced to fight in a war where there's no clear objective.

First we wanted to overthrow the Taliban, we were successful. Then, we wanted to capture Bin Laden, we successfully killed him. What exactly are we in Afghanistan for? It is not our job to rebuild other countries. Our own country is crumbling.

The Taliban must be fought with by the Afghan government with assistance from the international community.

It is insensitive to the countless innocent civilians and countless American soldiers killed, to simply start peace negotiations with them.

The Taliban currently controls more territory in Afghanistan since its toppling in 2001. It will be the job of the Afghan government to fight the Taliban.

Wars will always cause civilian casualties, it is undeniable.

It is impossible that we can intervene in a war and not have any civilian casualties.

The Taliban have long weaved in and out of civilians houses and civilians as human shields.

The Taliban must be fought and that can only happen with the assistance of the local populations.

The Afghan government must work with the Afghan population as they both know their country better than Americans do.

-Ahsan Mushtaq
Political Science '20

Write for Opinions

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Business

Brexit leads to uncertainty regarding UK and world economies



BY NICOLAS DOMINIQUE
STAFF WRITER

As of Sept. 6, the United Kingdom's Parliament has failed to come to an agreement with the Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Many echoes of impending doom for the national economy and poor immigration are being voiced, while others say it will help spur economic independence from the European Union and help remedy wealth inequality.

Just like many important decisions, Brexit has its pros and cons. However, it will not only affect the U.K. and Europe, but also the United States and the entire world.

Brexit is the proposed withdrawal of the U.K. from the European Union which began in June 2016 after a referendum.

The European Union is one of the world's largest trade agreement

blocs after the North American Trade Agreement and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Nearly half of all British exports are sold throughout Europe, Bloomberg LP reports showed. Many worse case scenarios about regional, fiscal and social impacts are being analyzed by the University of Oxford.

Additionally, many people voted for Brexit as it embodies the causes for regaining sovereignty and freedom.

Economically, Brexit will have both short term and long-term effects on Great Britain's economy, as business confidence early on will be lower and investment will be seen as much riskier.

The U.K. is expected to maintain its trend growth rate up to 2030 of 30%, according to the London School of Economics. Some economists speculate that gross domestic products growth will be

stunted by 6%.

A loss of 6% would result in 24% growth instead of 30% growth and cause the economy to be smaller indefinitely due to unemployment and lower production.

Some groups in the U.K., notably farmers and universities that succeed in obtaining research grants from EU programs, would potentially lose steeply from Brexit.

Despite this, the nation's economy will grow moderately and will no longer have payments to make for being a member of the trading bloc.

Based on the 2014 data most often quoted, the saving would be around 280 million euros per week or 14.56 billion euros annually. Many want a sovereign government that is not subject to EU laws or ordinances coming from unelected officials in Brussels.

Socially, the argument for immigration is exaggerated and not

fully accurate by those who are for the Brexit. Migration into cities like London, Manchester has had both positive and negative effects as the service sector continues to grow.

Indeed, there are actually more migrant workers than the indigenous people which was expounded as being a proponent for cheap labor.

Yet, there is no statistical support for the proposition that the inflow of EU migrants has resulted in lower wage levels.

However, many migrants from some origins do remit some of their income to their home countries and this can be regarded as a loss for the U.K. economy.

In some local areas, migration undoubtedly puts pressure on public services and housing. Natives are being forced out of what was once their homes. This similar to what is happening

around the world, even in places like San Francisco.

Forecasts are uncertain, and in addition to the normal uncertainties inherent in long-term economic modelling, there are additional ones about future policy.

It is not known yet how other nations will change their trading relations with the U.K. For example, both the U.K. and the U.S. governments have hinted their intentions to negotiate a speedy trade deal. But even leaving aside the political difficulties, it is likely that any benefits will be relatively small.

The EU accounts for around half of U.K. trade, more than three times as much as the United States. Brexit will not be a quick resolution.

In fact, it may take a few more years to come to an agreement but whatever the decision may be, it will be one with great magnitude.

Businesses near Baruch keep changing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Gramercy is known as "one of NYC's most upscale neighborhoods," according to NYCgo.org. Notable residents of the area include President Theodore Roosevelt, Oscar Wilde and James Cagney.

In addition, the National Arts Club, Irving Plaza, Gramercy Theatre, the Jazz Standard and El Repertorio Español are some of the most popular neighborhood landmarks, making it no surprise to anyone to find out that the neighborhood is generally wealthy.

The biggest guess as to why these businesses are closing is the cost of living. Gramercy's demographics include 59.01% of residents with white-collar occupations and the average neighborhood income is around \$181,091.74, yearly, according to Point2homes.com.

The average cost of rent in Gramercy is between \$4,001 and \$5,000, as reported by Business Insider. Considering the neighborhood profile, it is reasonable that the cost of living is significantly higher in Gramercy than most neighborhoods in New York City.

Despite these closures, there are new businesses appearing seemingly overnight. They also have something in common; they are mostly food-related businesses. This makes sense since there are nine pre-K to 12th grade schools and three universities within the 10010 zip code area alone.

Overall, the businesses that remain open are ones that offer affordable food options to the neighborhood, especially to students.

When asked about where she usually goes to get food, Baruch junior Elda Ferruku said that she visits businesses like Pret-a-Manger, Cava, Starbucks, Bagel Express and Gregory's Coffee. How-



Gramercy businesses are quickly learning that they must evolve to stay afloat.

ever, she also pointed out that she prefers to bring food from home to avoid expensive prices around school.

Another third-year student, Mark Roitburd, also pointed out that the only stores he shops at regularly are delis and he tries to avoid other expensive businesses as much as possible because of the costs.

Rami Bazzi, a sophomore, stated that he usually searches for the most affordable option when buying food around campus.

At midday, most businesses will most likely be packed with Baruch students trying to grab a bite. However, there are some businesses that seem to be crowded more often.

Bubble tea stores are good examples of affordable options targeting students. Whether it is a

business like Coco Tea that have been around for years or newer ones such as Vivi Bubble Tea and Kung Fu Tea, each one of these businesses offers Baruch students affordable food options.

Businesses like Coco Tea, Kung Fu Tea and Vivi Bubble Tea are also franchises. Franchise restaurants have more resources, like marketing and licensing, granted to them from a franchisor.

Generally, franchises that offer more affordable dining options to students are the ones staying afloat.

In contrast, independent businesses like Poke Zone that were relatively popular around Baruch most likely could not keep up with the rising cost of existing in Gramercy while competing with newer and more affordable businesses at the same time.

“Planet Money” makes money talk entertaining



BY AYSE KELCE
BUSINESS EDITOR

"Planet Money" is a podcast series covering topics about economics, business and culture.

The podcast was launched by NPR in 2008, during the financial crisis.

The podcast still continues to air today, reaching almost 1000 episodes, and it is hosted by Jacob Goldstein, Kenny Malone, Sarah Gonzalez and Karen Duffin. The episodes are usually around 15 to 20 minutes long.

"Planet Money" is does not discuss everyday financial decisions, but offers explanations to broader perspectives in economy, or "economy explained" in other words.

The episodes are well narrated and the tone is lighter for a specific purpose. "Planet Money" aims to make it feel like listeners are meeting with a friend at a bar and learning about economics from them, NPR's website stated.

The direction of the conversation, sound effects and the approach to the topics make potentially heavier conversations sound more interesting and fun.

"Planet Money" succeeds to explain the historical and economic

context with interesting facts that make the episodes appealing to most audiences.

In fact, the podcast does not only tackle economic issues, but it talks about political issues like what is currently happening between Hong Kong and China.

Recent episodes include detailed explanation of Martial Law, process of producing dollar bills, tracking down a fake-news creator, copyright comedy and Mexican drug cartels going into the oil business.

"Planet Money" also releases content topics concerning the general public such as taxes, recycling, solar energy, unemployment and other general economic subjects.

The podcast offers episodes explaining a wide range of different topics from various fields.

The topics are often interesting and unique, making the episode more appealing for audiences looking to learn more about diverse topics.

However, it might not be the ideal podcast to listen to for those who hope to get everyday financial advice.

The creators of "Planet Money" also started "The Indicator", a shorter podcast mostly about business and economy.

The Indicator episodes air on weekday afternoons and they are ideal for those who are hoping to get fast updates.

Both "Planet Money" and "The Indicator" have a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Apple Podcasts, and were rated by more than 18,000 users.

In addition to the podcasts, "Planet Money" also offers a newsletter for users to sign up and get updates in email form.

New NYC rent bill raises questions among brokers and tenants

BY RYAN STOEHRER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signing the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 in June marked an important shift in the direction of New York City’s real estate market. The controversial bill is one of the most significant tenant protection bills in the history of NYC, affecting 2.2 million rental units in boroughs that experience some form of rent regulation.

The bill placed significant regulation on both rent controlled and rent stabilized units in the city. Some of the most important components like vacancy decontrol and vacancy bonus were left vacant, but are now banned in the current bill.

Vacancy decontrol occurs when apartments upon vacancy could no longer be considered free market and rent price is instead regulated at or near market levels.

Vacancy bonus is a practice which allowed landlords to increase rent up to 20% after a unit was left vacant. Another segment called the individual apartment improvements limits up to \$15,000 to be used on up to three separate improvements over a 15 year period.

Major capital improvements are reserved for major changes to the infrastructure of buildings and landlords could increase rents up to 6% to compensate for these improvements. In this bill however, they can only increase by 2%.

Preferential rent is also seen in this bill and says that stabilized units can be offered for prices lower than the legal rent, but landlords can no longer raise rent to the legal rate when the lease is renewed.

Another key component of the

bill is high income deregulation which bans the practice of deregulating units if a tenant earns over \$200,000 for two consecutive years.

“Today, tenants’ rights in New York are stronger than they have been in a generation. This victory is the result of decades of tireless organizing on behalf of tenants across the entire State of New York,” said Cea Weaver, the Campaign Coordinator of the Upstate Down State Housing Alliance that is a New York based tenant advocacy group.

The group is fighting to “tax the rich and house the poor,” as well as “preserve safe, dignified and affordable rental housing across the entire state.” Although celebrating the victory, Weaver anticipates retaliation.

“Landlords are not taking it lying down — they are already holding apartments vacant, planning a campaign to undermine our laws and refusing to make repairs,” she said, noting that tenant rights organizations are more important than ever before.

While tenants and advocacy groups are cheering, real estate professionals warn that the legislation will have an adverse impact on the tenants. Nick Hakim is a co-founding principal at Pioneer Communities, a New York City based real estate investment firm focused on multifamily and mobile home park investments in growth markets.

Prior to founding Pioneer Communities, Hakim managed a portfolio of multifamily buildings in New York City where 50% of the units were rent regulated. When starting on his own, Hakim had no intentions of investing in the boroughs.

“We would love to own in New York City at some point, but now is



At first glance, the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act of 2019 increases tenants' rights, but there's more than meets the eye.

not the time. When you see legislation like this (rent law), you would rather go to cities that actually want your investment,” Hakim noted. “You go to markets like Charlotte, Austin, Tampa... They want our investment there.” Hakim noted that he has been seeing an increasing amount of New York capital entering the markets he’s been sourcing in, and credits this to anti-business sentiment among political advocacy groups as well as the new legislation.

Owners and brokers alike seem to agree that this will have a negative impact on the industry, citing the changes made to IAI, MCIs and the removal of vacancy bonuses in particular. However, many see this law eventually trickling down and hurting tenants in the long term.

The law significantly impacts the ability to improve building and apartment quality without impact-

ing cash flow, thus removing all financial incentives for improving the tenant experience.

“There can be political implications for sure,” Hakim said. “It may take three or four years for the impact to really be felt at the lowest levels.”

This isn’t just all speculation and talk from the industry at this point, negative impact is already being displayed in the market as uncertainty. Because of this uncertainty, Blackstone, one of the largest multifamily owners in the city, is keeping somewhere between 20-50 regulated units vacant at their Stuyvesant Town complex, according to The Real Deal.

The company has also halted planned renovations to the property in light of the law, citing the need to reevaluate costs and benefits of the renovations.

As far as loopholes go, not many

have been utilized thus far, as the legislation is still very new.

One loophole brokers have seen are in vacant buildings. In a building that is regulated and also 80% to 100% vacant, owners can qualify for a NYC housing program referred to as substantial rehabilitation.

Under this program, owners complete a series of mandated improvements to the infrastructure of the building and its units. If all requirements are met, the building may qualify for exemption to the regulation laws.

Just a few months out from the passing of this legislation, it’s hard to tell how these laws will impact the market long term or if there will be any changes to the laws. However, one thing that will continue for the foreseeable future are the new pro-tenant standards for individuals living in rent regulated apartments citywide.



Proposals to be submitted for 5 World Trade Center

BY RYAN STOEHRER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In June, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation sent out a request for proposals for World Trade Center Site 5. LMDC purchased the site after the 9/11 attacks, which left the old Deutsche Bank building at the lot damaged.

Companies that are expected to submit bids for the site by the Sept. 20 deadline include Tishman Speyer, Vornado Realty Trust, Durst Organization and Normandy Real Estate Partners.

Two of the biggest downtown developers, Brookfield and Silverstein Properties, are considering teaming up on a bid to co-develop the site.

Brookfield and Silverstein have operated neighboring properties in Lower Manhattan for decades, but have never teamed up for a co-development.

Both players, however, have a significant interest in sharing the site. Brookfield manages Brookfield Place, the complex containing mall and office space that neighbors the WTC.

Silverstein has controlled the

majority of the WTC sites, including 2 WTC which is still not finished, 3 WTC, 4 WTC and 7 WTC under a master with Port Authority signed after the 9/11 attacks.

The Durst Organization also serves as a possible competitor for the site and they currently manage 1 WTC alongside Port Authority.

According to the Commercial Observer, the development can house a mixed-use project spanning more than 1 million square feet.

The lot is currently zoned commercial, with plans including offices, a hotel, convention space and retail space.

The development allows for buildings 900 feet in height. In order to build any residential units, the chosen developer will have to seek a zoning change and environmental review for the parcel.

Request for proposals finally came to the table after LMDC and Port Authority spent years trying to establish an agreed upon development plan.

The two organizations agreed on plans in May. This marks another huge step in the re-development of downtown following the 9/11 attacks.

Apple to release gaming subscription in addition to new generation of iPhones

BY MANSUKH GOBIND
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Apple’s most awaited event of 2019 took place on Sept. 10 at the Steve Jobs Theater in Cupertino, California. Despite the falling iPhone sales, Apple played by their rules and introduced multiple services and devices this year.

At this year’s event, Apple decided to focus heavily on subscription services and the mobile gaming industry to offset declining iPhone sales over the years.

With the launch of Apple Arcade, a subscription service that allows users to play hundreds of premium games on-the-go, it expected that Apple might be heavily investing in the ever-growing gaming industry.

Mobile gaming is set to grow a staggering 10.2% worldwide this year alone, according to TechCrunch. Apple has decided to follow this trend and capitalize on a golden opportunity.

In addition to that, Apple TV+ was launched to provide users with the cheapest television streaming service on the market. With a price of \$4.99 a month, Apple’s TV+ suddenly might get ahead in the competition and maybe even steal customers from other streaming services.

In addition to the services Apple has launched, they have also unveiled two next-generation devices: The Apple Watch Series 5 and the 7th-gen iPad.

The new Apple Watch is packed with impressive features such as an always-on display, new customizable bands and cases and multiple health monitoring sensors. The new features will probably preserve Apple Watch’s title



as the most popular smartwatch around the globe.

The 7th-gen iPad has upgrades under the hood and a bigger 10.2-inch retina display compared to last generation’s 9.7 inch display.

This year’s upgrades to the iPad have been relatively insignificant and this is probably due to the increased sales of the iPad Pro.

Last but not least, Apple has presented us with three new flagship devices: the iPhone 11, the iPhone 11 Pro and the iPhone 11 Pro Max. For \$699, it is possible to get an iPhone which will include a dual-camera configuration and a lightning-fast A13 bionic chip with six new vibrant colors to choose from.

However, with a little extra “dough” you can go “Pro.”

Apple’s iPhone 11 Pro starts at

\$999, and features an improved camera system with three cameras on the rear and better battery life.

There are three distinct cameras on the Pro; a wide lens for your general shots, a telephoto lens for portraits and an ultra-wide lens for capturing the entire scene. With concentration on the camera this year, many users expect superb photos and stunning videos.

The iPhone 11 Pro Max is almost identical to the regular iPhone 11 Pro, except it has a larger 6.5” OLED screen and slightly bigger battery to compensate for the bigger screen. It also starts at \$1099.

Apple has once again stepped up the game with transforming and adapting its services and products to meet shifting customer needs and demands.

Ticker Tape

A Financial Briefing by Baruch College’s Investment Management Group

With the ongoing trade war between the United States and China, slower economic growth and muted inflation levels have created uncertainty and fallout in the markets in 2019. However, one area that has seen growth this year is the consumers industry. This industry, which is broken down into two primary sectors — consumer staples and consumer discretionary — have outperformed the overall market performance as a whole so far this year.

The S&P 500, which is comprised of 11 sectors, has seen 18.8% growth year-to-date. Consumer discretionary is ranked second with 23.5% growth, while consumer staples is ranked fourth with 20.4% growth, according to Yardeni Research.

These growth numbers should not come as a surprise, since consumer spending is responsible for approximately 65% of the growth in the U.S. economy, as measured by Gross Domestic Product. Although economic growth is expected to slow in the second half of 2019, the consumer industry continues to outperform.

The consumer has been the primary driver of growth in 2019 so far, since the trade war between the United States and China has slowed business investments. Additionally, the Federal Reserve’s willingness to continue to cut rates means consumers will have cheaper borrowing opportunities and more money to spend. As a result, the United States will need the consumer industry to remain robust through year end and deliver solid spending during the holiday shopping season.

The consumer staples sector, which is comprised of companies

specializing in typical consumer products, such as food, beverages, home and personal care and tobacco, has followed a historically consistent trend. It has outperformed during trade-induced volatility, but has underperformed at times when those concerns have eased.

Some of the factors that have made an impact on the sector this year are the retailers aggressively cutting costs, increased geopolitical tension and increased competition within the low-cost space. The trade disputes are likely the most significant factor since escalating. Long-term trade conflicts could increase costs for American producers and prices for consumers.

However, due to the increased likelihood of a recession in the near future, consumer staples are a safe haven to continue to outperform the market.

Consumers will continue to buy essential goods, such as toiletries, food, water and clothing, regardless of the economic state. As a result, these businesses are protected from short-term economic-driven demand swings, and they tend to grow steadily, regardless of the status of the economy. That is why stocks in this sector are referred to as "recession-proof."

The consumer discretionary sector, which is made up of goods and services that are considered non-essential items that require extra income, including luxury goods, restaurants, hotels and casinos, saw a decline in performance at the start of 2019 after the December 2018 market correction. However, some sector companies have recovered nicely in 2019, such as Home Depot and Chipotle Mexican Grill.

Consumer spending continues



The consumer staples and discretionary sectors have experienced major growth in a year filled with market uncertainty.

to reach all-time highs, with spending in the United States surpassing \$13.3 trillion in the second quarter of 2019, compared to the \$13.1 trillion in the first quarter of 2019. As a result, the sector remains in a position to benefit.

The Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR Fund, which holds 62 of the largest consumer discretionary companies, is up 24% since the start of 2019, proving that there has been a strong rebound from the correction.

Currently, the near-historically low unemployment, still relatively low interest rates and modestly rising wages are positive signs for the sector, but tends to perform more in line with the market. The way consumers buy products has also affected the sector, since the rise of e-commerce has created a tough environment for many retailers and traditional department stores.

Department stores saw a 36.1% decrease in growth year-to-date as

a result, but that decline was offset by strong positive growth in other niche verticals within the discretionary sector this year.

Trade disputes, increased retail competition and changing consumer habits continue to affect the sector along with low unemployment, increased wages and rate cuts.

As of mid-2019, consumer staples stocks accounted for \$3.6 trillion of market capitalization, making them sixth in relative size, while consumer discretionary accounted for \$5.4 trillion of market capitalization, making them fourth.

John Williams, New York’s Federal Reserve Bank president, said “The consumer is now carrying all of the weight, or much of the weight, for growth going forward.”

Overall, the American consumer’s mood appears positive, as shown by the Consumer Confidence Index, which measures how optimistic or pessimistic consum-

ers are regarding their expected financial situation. The index is currently at 135.1 as of August 2019, which is a very small decline from July’s index of 135.8. Expectations cooled moderately, but overall remain strong.

The index has seen a huge spike since the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent recession, while steadily increasing the entire decade and illustrating the increased optimism consumers have about current and prospective businesses, labor market conditions and their own financial outlook.

It will be interesting to see if that translates into more spending and more pricing power for retailers, especially during ongoing trade tensions and other factors of economic and political uncertainty.

By Felix Malamud

Editor’s Note: Felix Malamud is the Sports Editor at The Ticker.

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Arts & Style

Skaters rejoice after winning battle for Tompkins Square Park

ANA DURAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Sept. 7, skateboarders from all around New York City gathered at the northwest corner of Tompkins Square Park to celebrate their win over their summer-long battle with the Parks Department over keeping the asphalt in the northwest corner of the park known as “Training Facility”, or TF for short. Skateboarders have spent the majority of this summer attempting to save the asphalt in the park from being turned into synthetic turf. Tompkins Square Park was one of five locations chosen to be demolished and replaced with synthetic turf to accommodate those who were affected by the renovation of the East River Park.

22-year-old Adam Zhu created a petition that deemed Tompkins Square Park “a safe haven for skateboarders and other marginalized activities.

It serves as a melting pot for all walks of life and is an integral part of our identity as a neighborhood and community.”

This petition was signed by over 32,000 people, including Academy Award nominee Chloë Sevigny who has resided in the area for many years now.

A rally was organized to help save the skateboarding site with help from brands such as Supreme and HUF — who have over 14 million followers combined — and posted on their social media about the rally in order to show their support for the preservation of their be-

loved skating hub. The day before the rally was supposed to happen, the Parks Department announced that Tompkins will in fact not be replaced and will remain as is.

Crystal Howard, the Parks Department spokesperson, said in a statement, “Tompkins Square Park has served as the epicenter of NYC skateboard culture for decades, as such, we have decided to leave the area previously proposed for synthetic in the park as is, and will not move forward with creating a synthetic turf area there.”

Zhu went on social media to express the excitement on this glorious win for the skateboarding community.

“It’s not a coincidence that they made the decision the day before the rally. We organized, made our voices heard and made a difference. TF is here to stay” read his caption under a photo of the “Training Facility” on Instagram.

The planned rally quickly became a celebration for all skateboarders in New York City.

Many gathered at Tompkins and all cheered as they all stood in line, ready to skate out and just enjoy the thrill of the smooth asphalt against their wheels.

Novice skateboarder Isabela Butler was elated at the fact that she would be able to come to the park to practice her skating as well as work on learning new tricks.

“Tompkins is a place that feels like a refuge from how scary and intimidating [skateboarding] can be. This has always been a place



ANA DURAN | THE TICKER

With over 10 acres of space, Tompkins Square Park has been a favorite feature of Alphabet City by the residents since 1850.

in which you can begin from the ground up.”

“It’s important to have an area like this in which people can mess up and keep going and not feel worried about what other skaters may think of them” said Butler.

It was not only local skateboarders from New York City that came to join the celebratory day; those from countries such as Brazil and Aus-

tralia as well as those from different states such as California came to shred on the treasured asphalt.

Australian native Chris Luu came to Tompkins Square Park accompany his friends on this glorious day. “I’m super happy they didn’t demolish the flat ground here, because it is so nice. Tompkins is located in the middle of New York City so that’s lovely.”

When asked about the significance of skating at Tompkins Square Park, Luu said, “skating is a pretty universal language. I’m from Australia and I can come here and have the same exact number of friends as I do back home. We all come here as a way to socialize and help each other out whether it be on skills or just to motivate one another.”

IT Chapter Two relies on comic relief to overcome its lack of horror

MIGUEL MODESTO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The return of the Losers Club as adults in *IT Chapter Two* demonstrates what many people enjoyed about the first film: the characters. Both films are driven by character development; however, *Chapter Two* shows maturity. At two hours and 50 minutes long, *IT Chapter Two* packs in scares, comedy, emotion and more Pennywise.

Bill Skarsgård’s performance as the demonic clown is such a pleasure to see, especially in light of the poor big-screen adaption of the gunslinger.

Although Tim Curry’s performance left a whole generation terrified of clowns, it is extremely outdated. Skarsgård’s performance leaves its own unique mark on the character. It’s almost as if Bill Skarsgård was made for this role. The laugh, the voices, the deception, the look — it is all there.

Similar to how the first film got the casting so right with the kids, the adults are a perfect representation of the characters. Bill Hader does an incredible job in the entire film.

Not only does he bring comedic relief to the film, he also displays serious acting at times, almost to the point where Hader steals the show.

Although Pennywise is the star of the entire film, the cast does a magnificent job in stealing the spotlight.

The other standout performances are James McAvoy and Jessica Chastain. In the first films, their characters have story arcs that continue into the sequel and they are both fantastic extensions of their younger selves.

The story of Bill and his accep-

tance of what happened to Georgie are finally resolved throughout the film, as well as Beverly’s struggle with the people who abuse her in life, which eventually leads her back to the person who wrote her the poem that she holds near her heart.

In fact, all the characters have their sagas completed by the film’s end.

The only exception to this is Stan, although he still gets his moment to shine by the film’s ending scene.

Even then, Stan’s purpose in the film is very minimal and the way the writers tried to give his character some significance ultimately falls flat and does not make much sense. It also deviates a bit from the source material.

Like previous adaptations of *IT*, the story is slightly different from the novel.

If the film followed the book exactly, it wouldn’t be a horror film; instead it would be some long drawn out science fiction film.

The writers did a good job taking what they needed from the original story for a movie adaption.

These two films are the best screen adaption of the book we are going to get. The only criticism that one might make is how the film leaves some things unanswered.

A good example of this is Ritchie’s secret, which is always alluded to but never revealed.

A problem that some saw with the first film was that although it was entertaining, it was not all that scary.

Chapter Two bumps into some of the same issues, however, it does seem to step it up when it comes to the scare department.

What the first film lacked in fear, the second makes up for



JOEL C. BAUTISTA | THE TICKER

IT Chapter Two and *IT* are both directed by Andrés Muschietti, who continued to tell the story from Stephen King’s 1986 novel.

in a lot more suspense.

The biggest letdown, however, is the showdown with the killer clown in the movie’s final act. The movie builds up so much, yet its climax does not feel climatic.

The movie decides that friendship is enough to stop evil. For an intergalactic evil space clown who caused so much trouble for millions of years to be stopped by a couple of mean-spirited words by a bunch of angry adults is pretty lame.

Some might end up laughing more than jumping from their seats

in fear. Throughout the entire film there is always something to pay attention to, whether that be looking out for Pennywise, looking for Easter eggs, or both.

The film does something right by holding an audience’s attention for almost three hours yet still establishing itself as one of the most anticipated horror films of the year. That being said, it still somewhat falls a little short of being a scary film.

The film ultimately shines with the performances of the entire cast. The interactions that

the Losers have are always entertaining to watch.

To see Pennywise terrorizing children and fooling around in the town of Derry in the background of some scenes is also fantastic. However, the film’s final act does not reflect the intense roller-coaster it took to get there.

In the end, *IT Chapter Two* does a good job at being an entertaining film; however, some may find more amusement than fear in watching. Time will tell whether or not this film has a place in the hearts of horror fans.

Birkenstocks aren't just sandals made for dads



LILY RANSOM

Dear Lily,
Birkenstocks and socks: trendy or a faux-pas?
-Mackenzie L.

Dear Mackenzie,
Birkenstocks seem to have been the sandal of the summer. Many people who didn't already own them, including myself, have now bought them.
People used to laugh them off as being hippie shoes but now they have become more mainstream as people realize how comfortable and trendy they are.
There have been many people who also opt to wear them with socks. These are typically the more athletic types of people who don't

People used to laugh them off as being hippie shoes but now they have become more mainstream as people realize how comfortable and trendy they are.

wear Birkenstocks for their fashion but instead for their ease and comfort; much like how Adidas slides are favored for their comfort. These people, similar those who wear Adidas slides , wear long athletic mid-calf socks with Birkenstocks.
Does it look weird when people wear athletic mid-calf socks with Adidas slides?
I think we have all long accepted this trend as completely fine and not faux-pas, so there is no real difference with Birkenstocks.
The whole "socks and sandals" concept used to be the source of many laughs but that is not the case anymore.
Granted, there are still certain sandals that, as a rule, you don't wear socks with like the "dad sandal" with Velcro straps though some may argue for their case as well.
Needless to say, older fashion rules are continuing to be changed or, more accurately, thrown out the window.
Socks with Birkenstocks are quickly becoming the athlete's uniform, coming right up next to socks with Adidas slides.
Whichever your prefer, the premise is the same. Therefore, it is not a faux-pas, but merely another piece in the constantly changing book of fashion.
If you like the way it looks and it's comfortable for you, then by all means, go for it.
I wear my Birkenstocks with my athletic Nike socks sometimes, and I love it. It also lets me wear my favorite pair of shoes even when it's starting to get colder so there is another reason why this trend is great.

Melanie Martinez's new album K-12 lacks originality despite tie-in film

SVEN LARSEN
ARTS & STYLE EDITOR

Four years since her debut and an absent online presence, Melanie Martinez released her sophomore record, *K-12* alongside a full-length movie of the same name.
The Queens-born artist has been known for her concept projects in the past, yet she fails to creatively continue any interesting story on *K-12*.
K-12 wasn't supported by any singles, something both odd yet fitting for the record as it's rare for an album to not have any singles, but *K-12* lacks any individual song that can muster up any hype or interest for the record.
The 13 songs bleed into each other, falling victim to an overly specific and exhausted theme that Martinez revisits.
This isn't Martinez's first trip back to childhood. Her debut record *Crybaby* retrospectively plays with similar themes with tracks like "Tag, You're It" and "Sippy Cup."
Accompanying music videos from *Crybaby* pictured ice cream trucks, oversized cribs, elementary schools, pacifiers and other juvenile paraphernalia that go along with the focuses on growing up and needing someone.
Martinez has long-established that this is her aesthetic, and although a recognizable style is increasingly important for modern-day pop musicians, failure to deviate at all from one proves disastrous.
She fails to mature at all from *Crybaby* and doesn't graduate onto greater themes or ideas on *K-12*. If anything, Martinez has re-

gressed. The allure of her particular style doesn't stick its second landing, falling over to clichés and easily expected song titles and themes.
Whereas the production on *Crybaby* looked towards unique references and samples like an actual carnival for "Carousel," *K-12* samples gross sounding sneezes and sniffles on the production for "Nurse's Office."
The obnoxious and obvious choice for the background of "Nurse's Office" soils the already pointless track, making it an uncomfortable listen.
Aside from the failed sonic choices, *K-12* also hammers in its main theme without ever going anywhere.
Martinez employs a group of characters, including her titular Crybaby, to be students in a school and bases the songs around their interactions, but aside from the creative choice to curate characters, Martinez just resorts to the predictable melodrama of fictional schools.
A student-teacher relationship transpires on "Teacher's Pet." Bullies harass others on "Drama Club." Two characters fall in love on "Highschool Sweethearts." She fights for her crush on "Class Fight."
Each story is completely detached from one another, yet Martinez makes it a pattern to have a cliché concept, washed down production and far too faint vocals on every track.
The lack of individuality for each track creates an over hour long listen of the same noise.
The movie of the same name features the songs in a musical-like setup, but without a clear narrative

within the songs themselves, it still feels boring.
The movie was released in select theatres across the United States. It has so far earned 6.8 stars out of ten on IMDb and 91% audience rating on *Rotten Tomatoes*.
The film is now available in its entirety on Martinez's YouTube channel.
The choice of a school and her past affinity for childhood often gets juxtaposed with the adult themes and lyrics, with fails to creatively utilize these themes without sounding awkward.
She sings on "Drama Club" that "you can keep your costume and you can keep your mask/I'ma take a bow so you can kiss my ass."
On "Detention," she calls out to a love interest that "Baby, can you meet me tonight in detention?"
Martinez repeatedly falls on the school metaphor to put an interesting twist on her music, but the idea itself is not creative enough to save the record.
Concept records and a heavy focus on the visual aspect of albums have become more popular. Fellow artist such as Beyoncé and Green Day have done so in the past.
Beyoncé released *Beyoncé* and *Lemonade* with music videos for each song. Green Day's *American Idiot* follows the character of Jesus of Suburbia as an anti-hero in a "punk rock opera."
K-12 serves as a lesson for what concept records should be in pop music. A strong focus, clear ideas, and a great execution all matter when employing this ambitious style, but Martinez fails at all three-with her sophomore record.

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Science & Technology

India loses contact with its lander on the surface of the moon

BY MANSUKH GOBIND
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

With the increase in popularity of innovative companies such as SpaceX and Blue Origin, the world has utterly become obsessed with space.

These companies have seemed to revive the thrill of exploring space decades after the space race.

All of this momentum to study space has created new opportunities for more space agencies.

Several space agencies around the world are now in a friendly competition with each other to prove that they are the best.

This high competition is catalyzing numerous discoveries, experiments, and space missions.

One company that has been coming to new light recently is the Indian Space Research Organization — also known as ISRO.



WIKILIMAGES | PIXABAY

The Indian Space Research Organization, a respected space organization with a number of accolades under its belt, experienced communications trouble with a lander.

This government-operated space agency is fairly small compared to large companies like NASA, however, don't rule them out just yet.

ISRO has conducted numerous space missions in the past 20 years. They launched Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 which discovered water in the form of ice on the moon.

In 2014, their Mangalyaan Spacecraft entered Mars orbit, making India the first nation to achieve Mars orbit on its first try.

In addition to that, the entire Mars Orbiter Mission budget was only \$74 million dollars.

To put that in perspective, the first Avengers movie cost \$220 mil-

lion dollars. Impressive, right?

In 2017, ISRO launch 104 satellites in a single rocket, a world record.

All of these achievements have made ISRO one of the leaders in space exploration.

Nevertheless, they didn't just stop there.

On July 22, 2019, ISRO launched its second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2, which comprises of an orbiter, lander and rover, to investigate lunar geography and the conveyance of lunar water.

And on Sept. 7, 2019, with just

2.1 kilometers of the journey left, disaster had struck.

Chandrayaan-2's Vikram lander had lost all contact with ISRO. Communication was completely cut off.

With the weight of India's 1.37 billion people, ISRO was devastated with this news.

They had been working on this mission since 2007.

Yet, ISRO's chief, K. Sivan, decided not to abort the mission and to continue establishing a connection with the Vikram lander.

As of now, the location of the

lander was affirmed by the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which utilized its high-resolution thermal camera to find the lander. However, ISRO has not restored communication with the lander yet, which implies that they are unsure of whether the lander endured the hard crash-landing.

Despite the lost communication with the lander, ISRO has extended the life of the orbiter to seven years from the planned one year due to sufficient fuel onboard to further study the moon and its geography.

ISRO claims, "90 to 95% of the

mission objectives have been accomplished and will continue to contribute to lunar science, notwithstanding the loss of communication with the lander."

Space can be unpredictable and mysterious sometimes.

There will always be setbacks and failures. But we must learn from them and continue to push the boundaries. ISRO embodies this philosophy whole-heartedly.

Hopefully, in the near future, ISRO can reconnect with their lander and fulfil their mission. For now, all can we do is hope and wait.

Samsung releases three new home appliance products at IFA 2019

BY ISRAEL CATALAN
STAFF WRITER

Samsung's foldable phone is not the only thing to look forward to this year. At the IFA 2019 in the Berlin City Cube, Germany, Samsung has released three new home products. The POWERstick Jet vacuum cleaner, the AirDresser and the Samsung Cube AX9500.

The Internationale Funkausstellung, or IFA, is a public European tech show where companies display appliances for consumers . The event ran from Sept. 6 to Sept. 11.

The POWERstick Jet is a wireless vacuum cleaner that can provide the same level of power as a corded vacuum cleaner. The vacuum also has 5-layer High Efficiency Particulate Air. These specially labeled filters mean that they can trap 99.97% of particles. Samsung claims their vacuum can capture "99.999% of dust particles and allergens."

This increase in efficiency is likely to attract many who are seeking for the finest in the cleaning industry. The vacuum also has a replaceable battery, which provides even more versatility.

The AirDresser is shaped like a small closet and cleans clothes for reuse. The appeal of the product is the convenience of cleaning some clothes at home instead of doing a load of laundry for a few articles of clothing. The AirDresser uses a Jet Air system to blow out any dust followed by the Jet Steam feature, which removes any bacteria.

The dresser also uses Heat Pump Drying to dry clothing at low temperatures to negate any harmful effects like shrinkage or heat damage. To finalize the garments, the dresser has a deodorizing function that gets rid of any bad odor after cleaning.

The Cube AX9500 is a cubic air



TOBIA SCHWARZ | GETTY IMAGES

Samsung Electronics unveiled three new advanced home appliances in Europe — the POWERstick Jet™ vacuum cleaner, AirDresser and the Cube air purifier.

purifier different from previous air purifiers. This air purifier does not pull air through one end and does not produce a loud sound as it functions.

The Cube has a 3-layer system, each capturing different-sized particles in the air from pet dander to microscopic particles. Samsung also reports that two can be stacked one on top of another because of their cubic design.

Samsung's claim can lead to people buying an air purifier for each room in their home. Bluetooth capabilities are included in

the cubes, making them easy to manage. The main target group are likely people with breathing problems as it could help soothe their breathing difficulties.

Through all three of these products, Samsung wants to encourage consumers to buy what they call "solutions to urban modern lifestyle" problems.

All of the home appliances have a focus on eradicating all of the harmful bacteria or organisms found at home. This cleaning commitment plays on human's eternal goal of approximating perfection.

All of the products appeal to people pursuing better health and a quick solve to dirty clothes.

The functionality of the products seems very productive on paper but to many, the effects might not be clear enough until use.

The microscopic filtering is something that consumers will have to believe as they use the air purifier.

The target group of the home appliances is very broad but nevertheless focuses on urban problems. The majority of consumers could come from the United Kingdom.

According to an article by CityMetric, London had a population of over 8 million in 2015.

Samsung has chosen to solve small problems that previous companies have had with similar products which further pushes the idea of perfection in these products. Samsung is very likely to go unrivaled with its products after the healthy benefits provided by each appliance.

Cleaning seems like a chore for many, but Samsung is willing to ease the process in this modern world.

Vape-related deaths plague America

BY ALI HUSSAIN
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

On Sept. 10, a sixth person died from a lung disease related to vaping, according to Kansas health officials. This was the first death in the state from such a cause but is the product of a toxic product that has caught young audiences all over America by storm: e-cigarettes.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration and state health departments are currently investigating the plague of vaping illnesses that has only been more rapidly spreading since they were first discovered.

At least 450 cases in 33 U.S. states and the Virgin Islands have arisen with a mystery lung illness related to vaping, a number that has been updated frequently and only shows a worse situation every time. The first reported death from this outbreak occurred in Illinois in August and was followed up by deaths in Oregon, Minnesota, Indiana, California and most recently in Kansas.

No cause has been indicated by the people and organizations behind the investigations as of yet. All reported cases have indicated e-cigarette products, with some cases including cannabinoid products.

New York health officials revealed that extremely high levels of the chemical vitamin E acetate were found in nearly all cannabis-containing vaping products that were analyzed as part of the investigation. As such, Vitamin E acetate has become “a key focus” of the investigation. Some of the Vitamin E acetate include candy-flavored e-cigarettes.

The CDC says e-cigarettes



LINDSAY FOX | PIXABAY

A mysterious e-cigarette-related illness has killed 6 people so far since August.

should never be used by youth, young adults, pregnant women or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. After the Kansas incident, the American Lung Association warned that “e-cigarettes are not safe”

“No one should use e-cigarettes or any other tobacco product. This message is even more urgent today following the increasing reports of vaping-related illnesses and deaths nationwide,” Harold Wimmer, CEO of the association, said in a written statement.

“The AMA recommends anyone who has recently used e-cigarette products to seek medical care promptly if they experience any adverse health effects, particularly coughing, shortness of breath or chest pain,” Dr. Patrice Harris, the association’s president, said in a written statement on Sept. 9.

In response to recent events, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo expressed desire to advance

legislation to ban flavored e-cigarettes. Meanwhile, Bloomberg Philanthropies, run by former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, announced the launch of a new \$160 million initiative to curb e-cigarette use among young people in the United States.

Action to ban e-cigarettes are in motion, but pushing this legislation forward will take time, during which others may follow the previous six victims of the recent epidemic to their deathbeds.

At the beginning of the 2010s, nicotine was on its way out but it seems that at the end of the decade, it came back in a new form and hit hard.

Prior to this, there was no adequate literature to affirm whether vaping was harmful or not and thus vaping was given the same treatment as any new product would. People would wait and see. Now, the time for waiting and seeing is over.

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Sports

NFL Week 1 recap: Saints and Chiefs start strong while Browns underperform



The 100th NFL season kicked off with the New Orleans Saints, Kansas City Chiefs and Minnesota Vikings all emerging victorious, while the Miami Dolphins, Cleveland Browns and Indianapolis Colts all fell short.

BY KYLE MCKEE
STAFF WRITER

Football is officially back, with Week 1 of the NFL season in the books. The first week of the regular season always seems to be a wacky one in the NFL. For instance, last year the New Orleans Saints came into the season as one of the favorites to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl.

However, they lost their Week 1 home opener against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who were predicted to be one of the worst teams in the NFL. After that loss, NFL analysts and sports personalities started to question the Saints’ legitimacy as an Super Bowl contender. The Saints ended up playing in the NFC Championship game and came very close to playing in the Super Bowl.

Overreactions happen after the first week because everyone is so excited to have football back in their lives. This year is no exception.

Heading into Week 1, the off-season champion Cleveland Browns kicked off the season at home against the Tennessee Titans.

CBS sent their best announcing crew, featuring Jim Nantz and Tony Romo, to Cleveland to get a first glance at the new look Browns.

The Browns had not received this much hype since Jim Brown was playing football. But in typical Browns fashion, they got absolutely trounced by the Tennessee Titans.

Baker Mayfield struggled as he threw three interceptions, one being a pick-six. The offense showed some flashes of potential, but it can only go up for the Browns

after this debacle.

The Browns’ defense did not do them any favors either, as they made Titans running back Derrick Henry and tight end Delanie Walker look like actual titans.

Speaking of getting trounced, Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens beat the Miami Dolphins 59-10. From this game, fans learned Lamar Jackson is indeed a quarterback, not a running back, Marquise “Hollywood” Brown is really good at catching footballs, and the Dolphins are really, really bad.

The Buffalo Bills squeaked out a victory at MetLife Stadium against the New York Jets, 17-16. In classic Jets fashion, after playing pretty decent for three quarters, they blew the game in the fourth quarter and lost.

The Detroit Lions also lost, even though the game actually ended in a tie. After controlling the entire game, the Lions defense broke down in the fourth quarter, and rookie quarterback Kyler Murray found a groove to bring his team from down 24-6, to tie the game at 24-24.

The Lions had a chance to win the game with a screen pass to wideout Danny Amendola, but offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell called a timeout, and the Lions ended up losing the ball on downs.

In overtime, Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford gifted the ball to the Cardinals with an errant pass right to a Cardinals defender, which would have set them up perfectly for a field goal to win the game, but the defender dropped the pass and the game ended in a tie.

Both the Seattle Seahawks and the Los Angeles Chargers won

close games at home against the Cincinnati Bengals and the Indianapolis Colts, respectively. The Chargers-Colts matchup game was an interesting one.

NFL fans were eager to see how the Colts would play without former Pro Bowl quarterback Andrew Luck, who famously retired toward the end of the preseason. Many people have written the Colts off since Luck’s retirement, but they played well on the road against the Chargers.

Jacoby Brissett, the Colts new starting quarterback, looked more than just a back-up, and played up to his recently-signed \$30 million extension with Indianapolis. However, despite having a chance to win, the Colts defense could not stop Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers and running back Austin Ekeler, who had over 150 yards from scrimmage and 3 touchdowns.

The Kansas City Chiefs picked up right where they left off last season with a 40-26 victory in Jacksonville against the Jaguars. Reigning MVP Patrick Mahomes balled out in the first half, with over 300 passing yards and 3 touchdowns. In the second half, the Chiefs slowed it down, ran the ball and ate up the clock, walking away with their first victory of the year.

However, star wideout Tyreek Hill suffered a shoulder injury and is expected to miss some time because of it. On the other side, the Jaguars hung around a bit in the beginning of the game.

Newly signed quarterback Nick Foles threw a touchdown to wideout DJ Clark. However, on that same play, Foles took a gruesome hit from a member of the Chiefs de-

fensive line and suffered an apparent shoulder injury. Foles broke his left clavicle on the play and will be out indefinitely. Foles could be out the whole season, which means the Jaguars season could be a lost one.

The Philadelphia Eagles and Minnesota Vikings had strong home debuts.

The Eagles struggled in the first half against the Washington Redskins, but in the second half, Carson Wentz took over, with the help of Desean Jackson. Jackson, in his return to Philadelphia where he spent the first six seasons of his career, ended up with eight receptions for 154 yards and 2 touchdowns.

The Vikings ousted the Atlanta Falcons, 28-12. Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr headlines a defense that could be the best in the league. The Vikings held the Falcons to zero points through three quarters, but took the foot off the gas pedal in the fourth, letting Matt Ryan throw a garbage-time touchdown to Julio Jones.

In the Sunday night matchup, the New England Patriots destroyed the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Somehow at 42 years old, Tom Brady looks just as good as ever, and the Patriots defense might be the best since Brady has been the team’s quarterback.

That is a scary thought, especially since they just added one of the best receivers of all time in Antonio Brown, even if he does induce drama.

Basically, the defending Super Bowl champions showed the world on Sunday night, why they are the defending Super Bowl champs, and they add another one of the best re-

ceivers of all time in his prime to that. If there is anything fans take from this game is that the Patriots are really, really good.

The first Monday night matchup was the best game of the week. The Houston Texans battled the New Orleans Saints in the Superdome in New Orleans.

The Saints ended up winning on a last-second 58-yard field goal by Will Lutz. The final minutes of the fourth quarter were thrilling to watch, as Drew Brees marched down the field and scored to put his team ahead.

Then less than a minute later, Deshaun Watson and the Texans marched down the field and finished the drive with a 37-yard touchdown pass to Kenny Stills. With less than a minute left and no timeouts, it looked as though the game was over. Somehow, Brees managed to get his team to field goal range and the rest is history.

The Denver Broncos and the Oakland Raiders faced off in the last matchup of week one, second game of the Sept. 8 Monday night doubleheader. Similar to the Colts, many people wrote off the Raiders after the entire Antonio Brown saga came to a tumultuous end.

However, the Raiders played very well. Newly signed linebacker Vontaze Burfict and the Raiders defense held the Broncos to six points at the end of the third quarter and 16 for the game.

On the offensive side of the ball, Raiders rookie running back Josh Jacobs became the first running back since Ladainian Tomlinson in 2001 to have over 100 yards from scrimmage and two touchdowns in their debut.

Andreescu and Nadal crowned champions in 2019 US Open

BY DIANA SHISHKINA
MANAGING EDITOR

The U.S. Open tennis championships, the last major tennis tournament and final Grand Slam event of the year, wrapped up its run on the weekend of Sept. 7.

A common occurrence, this year's U.S. Open was able to highlight the strength of both veteran champions in tennis and fresh-faced newcomers, who dominated the court at Arthur Ashe Stadium in Flushing, Queens for the very first time.

Each of the final doubles matches were decided in just two sets — Colombians Robert Farah and Juan Sebastian Cabal won the men's doubles final, while Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus and Elise Mertens of Belgium were the women's doubles champions, and Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Jamie Murray, of the United States and the United Kingdom, respectively, took home the mixed doubles trophy.

The singles finals for both the men and women were exciting displays of showmanship and skill. The match between Spain's Rafael Nadal and Russia's Daniil Medvedev, and the match between American Serena Williams and Canadian Bianca Andreescu offered fans both powerful triumphs, stunning upsets and competitive matches that were hard to predict the outcome of until the very last match point.

On the men's side, Nadal and Medvedev kept tennis aficionados glued to their screens for nearly five hours, as their game was finally decided in the fifth set, one of only nine U.S. Open championship matches in history that went on for that long.

Nadal is no stranger to the court or the fans, as the fan-favorite was competing in his 27th Grand Slam final, and looking to clinch his 19th Grand Slam title, which would put him at just one title below current Grand Slam record-holder Roger Federer.

On the other side of the court, Medvedev was appearing in his first major Grand Slam final, but he currently sits at fourth place in the men's world tennis rankings — just two spots below Nadal.

Medvedev already made headlines earlier during the U.S. Open, but not for good reason. His temper came to the forefront, as he earned a code violation for snatching a towel from a ball person and angrily throwing it down onto the court.

His response was flashing a middle finger at the crowd, much to the dismay of officials who later saw it on their screens.

All of the drama flew out the window during the final match on Sept. 8, however, and both players looked equally strong on the court.

Nadal brought home the first two sets, at 7-5 and 6-3, respectively.

Medvedev then clinched the next two sets, 5-7 and 4-6, that led the men to play the tie-breaking fifth set.

The match was dominated by break points — Nadal had 21 and six breaks in total and Medvedev had 15 and five breaks in total — and Nadal's volleys at the net, which allowed Medvedev to get some shots past the Spaniard, but also allowed Nadal to control the game all the way through the final set. Medvedev showed strength in his powerful, quick serves, a no-

ticeable difference to Nadal's more relaxed, slow approach for which he was almost penalized for.

At the end of the day, however, Nadal demonstrated why he was in the top three of tennis, and won the set with a score of 6-4, beating an opponent 10 years younger than him to clinch the U.S. Open men's title.

The women's match also came down to a well-known tennis veteran playing against a young rookie who made headlines this season.

Williams was also going into this match chasing a title that would tie her with Australian Margaret Court, who currently holds the record number of Grand Slam wins, which is 24.

Williams has had a rougher year than usual in tennis, as she has lost all of the other Grand Slam games this year since returning from maternity leave, and has been criticized by many for being too outspoken and hotheaded, with many pointing to the incident that happened at the 2018 U.S. Open.

Williams clashed with tennis umpire Carlos Ramos when he penalized her for supposedly communicating with her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, while playing on the court.

Andreescu, meanwhile, has made headlines for beating out several top players, such as Belinda Bencic and Caroline Wozniacki, to earn a spot in her first major final, while being only 19 years old.

The women's final match was decided in two sets in the early evening of Sept. 7.

Both Andreescu and Williams came out strong from the start, but the young Canadian seemed slicker and more dominant on the court.



Bianca Andreescu and Rafael Nadal emerged as champions in an exciting U.S. Open.

Andreescu won the first set, 6-3, and looked as if she was going to win the second set early on, serving and breaking her way to a score of 5-1.

However, Williams proved why she was one of the best tennis players in history, fighting back with aces, breaks and strong forehands to eventually tie the game at 5-5.

Williams was no match for the rookie, however, as Andreescu gathered her energy to win two more games, ending the set with a score of 7-5 to officially claim her first Grand Slam victory and jump to fifth place in the women's world tennis rankings.

The 2019 U.S. Open championships proved that the sport of tennis offers both hope for redemption and the chance to break through the ranks.

Once riddled with injuries and failing to advance to several Grand Slam finals that he used to dominate, Nadal showed that he is still one of the greatest players of this generation.

Meanwhile, Andreescu showed that in just one year, it is possible to go from being a top 250 seed and relatively unknown to going shot-for-shot with some of the most consistent players this sport has ever seen.

Women's volleyball comes back strong

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Despite the dominant scoreline, sets one and two were decided by a combined total of 5 points.

The next matchup, on Sept. 7, featured the Bearcats against the Rutgers-Newark Scarlet Raiders. The Bearcats fell to the Raiders, by a score of three sets to zero.

The Bearcats were thoroughly outplayed, and despite 15 kills from Sengara and 15 assists from Hadjeb, that was not enough to keep the Bearcats afloat.

However, in their second matchup of the afternoon the Bearcats disposed of SUNY Maritime with ease.

The score, also three sets to zero, but in the Bearcats' favor, featured 13 kills from Sengara, and 10 from Chung.

Maritime had no answer for Katherine Chen's serves, as she recorded an impressive 6 aces in the match.

Hadjeb racked up a plethora of assists, totaling 24, and another 11 digs.



The team kept their momentum going, as they travelled to face SUNY Old Westbury on Sept. 10, where they won three sets to none.

The men's soccer team gained momentum in their second half matchup again St. Joseph's Brooklyn on Sept. 4, to record a 4-2 win.

CUNYAC preseason MVP Shaiem Allah Morad scored twice and tallied an assist to secure the victory.

Ricardo Llanos notched the first goal for the Bearcats, finding space in the penalty box and converting his chance to put the Bearcats up, 1-0.

Morad added in the 51st minute, as well as Erik Pinsky Streinger in the 65th minute.

Morad converted his second goal of the day in the 82nd minute,

with the chance materializing because of a beautiful through ball, played by midfielder Frank Iacovano.

As a team, the Bearcats were dynamic on offense, totaling 21 shots, 10 of which were on goal. To contrast, the Saint Joseph Hawks totaled a mere 8 shots for the entire match.

The team also played very undisciplined and recklessly, totaling an astounding 10 fouls and 11 offsides.

On Sept. 7, the Bearcats were defeated by The Sage Colleges by a score of 2-1.

The Bearcats fell behind in the 12th minute, and despite a Michael Grald equalizer in the 31st minute, they could not recover from a sec-

ond-half goal by Sage.

In this match, the Bearcats mustered just 10 shot attempts, compared to the 19 by Sage.

The next day, the Bearcats played Sage in a rematch and were unable to counter Sage's offense, despite scoring 3 goals.

By the 27th minute, the Bearcats were leading 2-0, and a mere 10 minutes later they found themselves down 3-2.

Cormac Foley found the back of the net in the 48th minute, assisted by Jaedon Seneca to tie the game.

It was in vain though, as the Sage Saxons scored the eventual game-winner in the 76th minute.

The match was highly competitive and scrappy, as the two teams totaled 26 fouls.

Mets competing for their playoff lives in wild race

BY ETHAN BHERWANI
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After general manager Brodie Van Wagenen promised that his New York Mets would be going "all-out" this season, it is still unclear whether his moves will clinch the Mets a playoff berth.

By choosing to not move starting pitcher Zack Wheeler, or Noah Syndergaard and acquiring veteran Marcus Stroman, Van Wagenen showed Mets fans that he is committed to getting his team to the postseason.

In the tense National League Wild Card race, the Mets compiled an impressive run during July and August, winning 15 of 16 games, and currently sitting 4.5 games behind clinching a Wild Card spot.

This could potentially be the first time the Mets reach the postseason, since their disappointing Wild Card loss to the San Francisco Giants in 2016.

The Chicago Cubs have been the team to beat in the National League. The addition of slugging outfielder Nicholas Castellanos has solidified the Cubs' lineup.

Their lineup includes a healthy mix of productive left-handed batters, such as Anthony Rizzo, Kyle Schwarber and Ian Happ, as well as right-handed batters like Wilson Contreras, Kris Bryant, Javier Baez and Castellanos. The Cubs also bolstered their bullpen by adding All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel.

However, the Cubs have lost eight of their last nine home games. If the Cubs continue to slide, the Mets will most likely contend for an NL Wild Card spot.

Despite sweeping the Mets at Citi Field a few weeks ago, the Mets

find themselves well within striking distance of a Wild Card spot. Fortunately for the Mets, All-Star infielder Javier Baez will miss the rest of the regular season, as he rehabilitates from a hairline fracture in his left thumb.

Unfortunately, the Mets' bullpen has been abysmal all season long. Reliever Jeurys Familia has overwhelmed the Mets' fanbase, sporting an earned run average greater than 5.00.

The was-to-be closer, Edwin Diaz, has not provided consistent relief either, blowing 7 saves in 32 opportunities. Reliever Tyler Bashlor walks an average of 6.6 batters per nine innings pitched.

A microcosm of season-wide struggle took place on Sept. 8, during a 10-7 loss to the Phillies, when the Mets used seven relievers, all of which combined for 7 hits and 3 walks.

The Phillies are faced with a tough end to their season. They take on the Mets again, the Atlanta Braves, the Boston Red Sox, the Cleveland Indians and Washington Nationals.

This stretch will serve as a test to whether the Phillies will be ready for October baseball.

While the Mets have not dominated thus far into the September, the combined returns of second baseman Jed Lowrie and outfielder Brandon Nimmo helps the Mets protect their lineup. Giving more at-bats to Nimmo and Lowrie means less time for the under-producing Juan Lagares, Rajai Davis and Luis Guillorme.

The Mets find themselves in a spot where they must win the vast majority of their remaining games, but must also rely on their competition to take themselves down.

Khabib defeats Poirier in UFC 242 to maintain his elite status

BY ALI HUSSAIN
SCIENCE EDITOR

UFC 242, which was held in The Arena, Yas Island in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates on Sept. 7, saw Khabib Nurmagomedov, the undefeated UFC lightweight champion, return for a ninth title unification fight in UFC history against Dustin Poirier, the interim champion.

Nurmagomedov made headlines last year on Oct. 6 when, after winning his title defense fight against Conor McGregor, he jumped out of the octagon and on to Dillon Danis, McGregor's protégé and one of his cornermen.

That instance, provoked by what many see as a nasty rivalry between the two camps, resulted in the suspension of both Nurmagomedov and McGregor. On his part, Nurmagomedov was fined \$500,000, which was a quarter of his purse that night, and was issued a suspension that has since been lifted. As such, UFC 242 was his first time back in octagon in almost a year.

In the meantime, Poirier had been steadily climbing the ranks of the UFC lightweight ladder. He has seen great improvements in his form, from learning how to appropriately use the shoulder roll and the jab for defense and leave an opening for possible counter-offense to playing in the pocket, which he can use on top of his natural power.

Using these techniques eventually lead him to defeat Max Holloway earlier this year to obtain the interim championship due to Nurmagomedov's suspension.

It was clear from the announcement of the fight that the decision

would not be left to the judges. Either Nurmagomedov would be taken down by Poirier's boxing or Poirier would tap to Nurmagomedov's wrestling and ground game.

During the press release before fight, Nurmagomedov commended Poirier on his footwork and boxing and said that he would make Poirier tired and make him tap, to which Poirier responded, "I don't get tired, buddy."

The fight lasted until two minutes into the third round, when Nurmagomedov caught Poirier with a tight rear naked choke that forced him into submission.

This fight marks the least significant strikes Nurmagomedov landed with 22 and the second most takedowns with seven.

With this, Nurmagomedov rises to second all-time in takedowns with 57. Meanwhile, Poirier made new records too, though not as admirable. This was the most times he has ever been taken down in a fight, as well as the least significant strikes, 12 to be exact, that he landed in a match that was longer than one round.

Poirier came close with a guillotine but, according to him in the post-match press conference, he failed to "go full guard so [Nurmagomedov] could not pull out and relieve the pressure." Nurmagomedov said during the post-match press conference that the guillotine was part of his plan to tire him out because Poirier had put so much pressure on that aspect.

UFC president Dana White said "[Poirier] had that thing deep" and that "most people would have tapped or gone to sleep," which just goes to show how confident Nurmagomedov is in his wrestling.



Khabib Nurmagomedov continued his strong run in the UFC lightweight division by defeating Dustin Poirier for another title.

Nurmagomedov now moves to 12-0 in the UFC, tying his lightweight counterpart Tony Ferguson, who is also on an active 12-game win streak.

Nurmagomedov is the seventh fighter ever to do so and the second ever to do it in his first 12 fights, the other being Anderson Silva. Nurmagomedov's current 28-0 record now moves him past his fellow Russian icon Fedor Emelianenko's 27-match undefeated streak from 2001 to 2009.

Nurmagomedov dominated a man many thought would be his toughest matchup and staked his claim to both the lightweight "greatest of all time" title, as well as the top pound-for-pound fighter.

In stark contrast to Nurmagomedov's last fight, there was a great deal of respect for both parties. Post-fight, Nurmagomedov

commended Poirier by saying that he "is one of the best in the world, not just champion of state or champion of country. He's one of the best in the world."

This was the first time Nurmagomedov's father was one of his cornermen. Nurmagomedov said that when he "goes to the cage with [his] father, [he goes] to the cage with a lion [by his side.]"

The next fight for Nurmagomedov is certainly going to be against Ferguson, who he has had a long history with, having had four failed bookings, as well as being the one to strip Ferguson of his own interim championship last year after Ferguson pulled out due to an injury.

Ferguson called Nurmagomedov's performance "boring, lazy" and hopes to bring the fight to him as early as December and he hopes to be the one to finally take him

down. "I believe my style is actually the one that could out-smart him and out-think him and out-move him, out-maneuver him and put him in places where he's not familiar."

The legendary hypothetical match between retired Georges St-Pierre and Nurmagomedov has often been the topic of discussion, as St-Pierre is seen as one of the best in UFC's history and Nurmagomedov enjoys the same presence in UFC's present.

White does not seem to like the idea, though he did give it more thought at the post-match conference of UFC 242 than he has in the past, replying with a curt "sure" after some seconds of deliberation when the question was brought up, giving fans something to look forward to besides the unlikely Nurmagomedov-McGregor rematch.

Contenders and Pretenders: Rays and A's pushing for postseason

BY MATTEO FLAMIO
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The final month of regular-season baseball is well underway and playoff baseball is right in the grasp for many teams. It is one of the best times of the season, being able to witness teams make that extra effort to string out more wins.

Wild-card teams are the ones that do everything in their power to continue to win their games because they know that there is a hungry team on their tail trying to overtake them, making them the perfect candidates for determining contenders and pretenders.

Pretender: Tampa Bay Rays

For the past several seasons, the American League East has been won by the Boston Red Sox and after a 2018 World Series victory, it looked as if there was no other team to dethrone them.

This, of course, was not true. With the New York Yankees easily running away with the division this year, the tough and hardworking Rays are doing everything in their power in order to stay in the top wild-card spot.

The Rays actually have a better record on the road — 43-27— compared to at home in Tropicana Field — 43-32 — but the home-field advantage is a different animal when it comes to postseason baseball.

After a strong finish to August with sweeping the Cleveland Indians, the Rays steamrolled through the first week of September with a 7-1 record.

This, in part, has to do with the returns by top prospects Tyler Glasnow and Brendan McKay.

Glasnow was on the injured list with a forearm injury and returned against the Toronto Blue Jays. His appearance was limited to two innings, in which he struck out five but gave up a two-

run homer to Randal Grichuk.

Even with the home run, Glasnow impressed in his return and the Rays hope that they could stretch him back out over five to six innings per start. Glasnow was very strong before his forearm injury and was looking like a true superstar in the league.

Top prospect McKay made his return to the mound and like Glasnow, he was limited to a pitch count of 60. These 60 pitches spanned over 3.2 shutout innings, where he struck out seven and walked none.

McKay is known for his potential in becoming a two-way player but the Rays plan to leave him solely in the starting rotation down the stretch of the season to see if he will be a viable option come playoff time. It was also noted that ace and 2018 AL Cy Young winner Blake Snell is nearing rehab starts.

Hitting for the Rays is nothing special, as they are basically middle-of-the-pack in nearly every offensive category. Their team on-base plus slugging — OPS — of .757 puts them in 16th place in the league and the only potential playoff team with a worse number is the St. Louis Cardinals.

Even with strong pitching, teams need to be able to consistently put up runs in order to win playoff series and the Rays do not have the offense that will put up the numbers that teams like the Houston Astros, Yankees or even the Oakland Athletics put up.

Contender: Oakland Athletics

The Athletics are back in a wild-card spot after holding the second spot in 2018 and losing to the Yankees.

This season, many believe that they could make a run for the division, but the power-house Astros controlled that destiny all year long.

For a part of the season, the A's floated around .500 until the end of



The Oakland Athletics and Tampa Bay Rays are among the teams fighting to clinch a spot in the MLB playoffs this year.

June, where they went on an insane winning run to get back into the hunt for a playoff spot.

They do not plan on slowing down as they still have to overtake the Rays in order to get home-field advantage for the one-game playoff.

A home wild-card game for the Athletics benefits them greatly, as they currently hold a 48-27 record at the Oakland Coliseum.

This advantage was clearly shown in a series at the end of August where they had a home sweep of the almighty Yankees and them feel uncomfortable on the road.

This run has been due to strong play from both their lineup and pitching. Their lineup is led by Matt Chapman and Marcus Semien, who have both placed their names at the top of their

respective positions.

A sleeper in their lineup is Ramon Laureano. Laureano jumped on the scene towards the end of the 2018 season, when he took over the centerfield job and performed well enough to keep it. Laureano is more well known for his ability to patrol the outfield and throw out baserunners with his cannon of an arm.

However, his offensive game has come alive this season, as he leads the team in batting average and has slugged over 20 home runs. The A's lineup is still waiting for Khris Davis' bat to fully wake up, as he has not had the type of season that many expected for him.

For the A's pitching, there are no fancy names that jump off the page, but starters like Mike Fiers and Brett Anderson have pitched well all season.

In recent weeks, the rotation has welcomed the return of Sean Manaea, who has been untouchable since he has returned from a shoulder injury. He has only given up three hits and one run in 12 innings pitched since coming back.

Their bullpen is nothing to sleep on either. Blake Treinen has had a rather disappointing season after such an incredible 2018 campaign, but Liam Hendriks has stepped up to take over the closers role and the rock of this bullpen. In his 76.1 innings pitched, he has 110 strikeouts, 19 saves and a very impressive 1.65 earned run average.

Oakland has the all-around talent in order to make a true run towards October and put up a fight against the other strong pitching and hitting teams that they will potentially meet in the playoffs.

Brown signs with Patriots after rough tenure with the Raiders

BY KYLE MCKEE
STAFF WRITER

After being released by the Oakland Raiders on Sept. 7, Antonio Brown quickly signed a one-year, \$15 million deal with the New England Patriots, with a \$9 million signing bonus.

Additionally, the Patriots have included an optional additional year to Brown's contract worth \$20 million for the 2020 season.

After trouncing the Pittsburgh Steelers in Week 1, 33-3, the defending Super Bowl champions add one of the greatest wide receivers of all time who is still in his prime.

Brown's tumultuous stint with the Raiders lasted six months in which he did not play a single game for the Raiders.

After getting into a heated interaction with Ben Roethlisberger, Brown missed a week of practice and was benched for the final game of the 2018 season in which the Steelers needed to win to make the playoffs.

Brown proceeded to request a trade from the Steelers, which resulted a trade to the Raiders for a third and fifth round pick. Shortly after the trade, Brown and his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, negotiated a new contract with the Raiders that would pay him over \$50 million over the next three seasons, which included over \$30 million in guaranteed money.

In May, the beginning of "helmet-gate" began and would last well into training camp. In the beginning of August, news broke that Brown had severely frostbitten feet after entering a cryotherapy machine wearing improper footwear.

The drama continued throughout August during the start of training camp when Brown filed a grievance against the NFL for not allowing him to wear his preferred helmet.

Brown lost the grievance, filed another grievance and lost again. Brown finally decided on a helmet on Sept. 4, which seemed like good news, until later that day news came out that Brown had been fined \$54,000 by Raiders general manager Mike Mayock for conduct detrimental to the team. He would also be suspended for the Raiders Week 1 matchup on Sept. 8 against the Denver Broncos.

Brown then posted a photo of the letter he received from Mayock of the fine which led to a heated confrontation between the two. Brown called Mayock a racial slur and had to be held back from Mayock by teammate Vontaze Burfict.

The next day, Brown issued an apology to the team and head coach John Gruden announced that the wide receiver would play in Week 1. Things seemed to be back to normal, until later that night Brown posted an interesting YouTube video showing a private conversation with John Gruden. Twenty-four hours later, Oakland voided the entire \$29.125 million in guaranteed money on Brown's deal and released him.

Shortly after, Brown signed with the Patriots. It has also been reported that Brown hired a social media team to teach him how to make noise to get him out of Oakland.

All of these actions made Antonio Brown one of the biggest wide receiver divas ever.

One week into the NFL season,



After a tumultuous stint with the Raiders what was mired by off-field drama, Antonio Brown quickly signed with the Patriots.

fans have a consensus on who will be holding the Lombardi trophy in February.

It will likely be the Patriots with the greatest quarterback of all time in Tom Brady, who defies father time, and with Brown catching passes from him.

The Patriots looked incredible in their season opener against the Steelers. New England might have the best defense it has had since Brady has been their quarterback. The Patriots defensive backfield is the best in the NFL, led

by twins Devin and Jason McCourty, Patrick Chung and Stephon Gilmore.

Their front seven is not too shabby either, with Danny Shelton and Michael Bennett, not to mention Dont'a Hightower and Jamie Collins at linebacker. On the offensive side of the ball, the Patriots have a solid core, with Sony Michel, James White, Rex Burkhead and Damien Harris at running back and Philip Dorsett, Julian Edelman, Josh Gordon and now Brown at wide receiver.

The Patriots have the easiest schedule in the NFL with only four games against teams that made the playoffs last year.

With all that said, Bill Belichick is going to have his work cut out for him with this one. This could go one of two ways: Brown has a season like Randy Moss did in 2007 and the Patriots are the heavy favorites to win the Super Bowl, or Brown continues his crazy actions and he gets released and the Patriots are still the favorite to win the Super Bowl.

Team balance key to Yanks' success

BY KEVIN MENDEZ
STAFF WRITER

As the 2019 regular season enters its final month, the New York Yankees continue their methodical march to what will likely be their first American League Eastern Division title since 2012.

The Bronx Bombers, having long since buried their closest competitor in Tampa Bay, will instead play out their remaining string of games while dealing with their surplus of talent.

With injuries decimating their roster all season long, the Yankees' place atop the AL East has been largely a result of career seasons from players originally slated for the minor leagues.

Mike Tauchman, who prior to this season had ridden the bench for the Colorado Rockies, has emerged from nowhere to become the starting left fielder.

Mike Ford, a prospect who had never played above Double A-level in the minor leagues, has emerged as a productive bat in the wake of injuries to Luke Voit and Edwin Encarnación.

Injuries to Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton required the emergency acquisition of Cameron Maybin in April.

Maybin has not only swung the bat well in limited playing time, but has also become the team's "resident hugger," often greeting his teammates with open arms after home runs.

However, no story is more unexpected than Gio Urshela, the third baseman who batted a weak .233 with Toronto last season, but has more than adequately replaced Miguel Andújar both with his sudden magical prowess at the plate and his slick defense at the hot corner.

Yet with several injured Yan-



kees set to return, manager Aaron Boone will have a month to try to figure out his optimal roster.

Boone will have to juggle this assignment, along with getting his starting lineup some rest and getting the injured players back up to game speed in time for the start of the playoffs.

Of more concern to the Yankees and their fans in October could be the pitching staff, one that on paper does not match up well with the powerhouse Houston Astros and their three-headed monster of Justin Verlander, Zack Greinke and Gerrit Cole.

Yankee starters have been so pedestrian that the team is seriously considering using Chad Green as an opener every third day in the playoffs.

The Yankees have seen firsthand how the best-laid plans can fail when they battered the Oakland Athletics' starter Liam Hendriks in last year's Wild Card Game. Hendriks gave up a two run home run to Aaron Judge two batters in to his outing and the Yankees never trailed on their way to a 7-2 win.

Even the Yankees' most consistent starter all season comes with question marks.

Domingo German, who leads all Yankee starters in victories, has never pitched in a post-season game and has seen his

velocity drop steadily since the season began.

Should the Yankees make a deep playoff run, German will also blow through his career high in innings.

James Paxton, the prize acquisition of the past offseason, has had an inconsistent first season in the Bronx.

At times, he showed flashes of the ace he was in Seattle and other times, he showed inconsistency, along with a tendency for giving up first inning runs, even in his dominant outings.

Masahiro Tanaka, now the veteran of three postseasons, has seemingly returned to ace form after struggling for much of the season to find a grip for his prodigious splitter.

His recent performance would designate him as the one to get the ball in Game One of the Division Series, but even he has shown a tendency to give up the home run ball.

Perhaps the biggest help to the Yankee pitching staff could come from their offense.

Should the Yankees bash their way to the best record in the American League and secure home field advantage throughout the playoffs, the road to the World Series will have to run through the Bronx, a place even the mighty Astros have had trouble winning.

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DEAR DOUBLE TAKE:
How do you tackle a bunch of assigned readings while maintaing a social life?

Balancing schoolwork and a social life is a common struggle among college students. With that said, one solution could be asking classmates or people in your social circle to meet up and study. In a study group you get to spend time with people while still getting the work done. If study groups don’t work for you, try getting a planner. A planner may seem cliché but it works well as a platform for you to budget your time with. If you schedule a part of each day for schoolwork and work efficiently during that time block you should have more than enough free time to be the social animal you’re meant to be. It’s important to realize that discipline is necessary in order to use the planner properly. You have to be able to refer to it at least once a day and then work as efficiently as possible in a specific time frame you set for yourself. By using a planner you’ll learn self discipline and organization skills while also maintaining a social life. I think that’s a win win.

RODNEY NGUESSAN

If you commute to school like most students do here, there is no more efficient way to get readings done than to do them on your way to and from class. A student who travels between 30 and 40 minutes to and from school can get a lot of reading done when doing so four times a week. An added benefit is that there usually aren’t many distractions on the train or bus so you can focus on your work. I had plenty of time to go out with friends during my first year at Baruch since I used multitasked and used my commuting time to take care of required class readings.

JULIO HERNANDEZ

Submit a question to the Double Take team via Google Form on The Ticker’s Facebook page, or email doubletake@theticker.org.

Disclaimer: It is up to The Ticker’s discretion whether or not to publish certain questions. Additionally, the use of this column is strictly informational. The Ticker is not trying to replace any legal, medical or professional consultation, and we do not claim to be doing so. If you are having serious concerns at school or in life, we recommend you reach out to the Baruch Counseling Center at 646-312-2155.

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SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE #2

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



JOEL C. BAUTISTA | 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

Career Fair Prep Workshop with Peers for Careers Tuesday, Sept. 17th, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., NVC 2-190

At this workshop, students will learn how to make the most of a Career Fair, including how to prepare, what to wear, techniques to use, and how to follow up with companies afterward.

Fall 2019 Undergraduate Career Day Friday, Sept. 20, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., NVC Gyms: Level 2

Network with representatives from 80+ companies from variety of industries, and land your dream job! This event is open to all Baruch Undergrads from all class years.

SCDC TIP OF THE WEEK

CHECK OUT THE **SCDC TIP OF THE WEEK** FROM THE **STARR CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

“Many first-round interviews are moving to an online format. To maximize your performance, be sure to dress in business attire, check your internet connection, ensure your background is neutral and free of distractions, deliver your answers directly to the camera and practice beforehand!”

– Adia Tucker, Assistant Director

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Screen Actors Guild

Legal Intern

The SAG-AFTRA Legal Department and Government Affairs and Public Policy Department offer an internship program for interested law students.

Interns will gain a meaningful understanding of how an entertainment labor union enforces collective bargaining agreements and participates in the political process.

Interns are involved in all aspects of the work done by the Legal Department, including, but not limited to arbitration and litigation of contractual disputes with studios, producers and distributors in the theatrical and television industries and with advertising agencies in the commercial industry, interpretation and enforcement of collective bargaining agreements, research and drafting related to labor law, entertainment law, intellectual property law, contract law and employment law and special projects as by staff attorneys.

Starr Search ID: 128431

CREDIT SUISSE

2020 Asset Management Summer Internship- NEXT Fund

To apply for this opportunity, you should currently be a sophomore (graduating in December 2021 or May/June 2022) at a 4-year college or university.

Candidates must have the ability to apply the skills that they have learned in college, prior work experience and/or training in a practical and dynamic setting, and have an aptitude for learning quickly.

We are seeking highly motivated, exceptionally bright candidates who have demonstrated their leadership abilities through campus activities and/or work/non-profit experience.

Key success drivers include strong analytical and quantitative capabilities, significant writing ability, superior organizational and communication skills, accuracy and attention to detail, the ability to work both independently and as a team member and a high degree of dedication.

This is a full-time role over summer 2020.

Starr Search ID: 128605