

Students embrace drag culture during LGBTQ+ History Month



PETER MORGAN | THE TICKER

Drag queens Tsunami New and Chanel NO 5 entertained students and faculty alike while exposing them to drag culture at "Life's a Drag." Students were also able to participate in dancing, games and competitions.

BY GERALDINE TAVERAS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Students and drag queens danced straight past noon on Oct. 23 at "Life's a Drag," all thanks to Baruch College's Gender, Love and Sexuality Spectrum club. It was the seventh event in the past few weeks that paid homage to LGBTQ+ History Month. The month of October is intended to bring awareness and to celebrate a culture of acceptance towards all sexual orientations.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BioMed Society nearly doubles funds after appeal

BY AYSE KELCE
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Baruch College Board of Directors approved a total of \$13,386.61 in club budget appeals in its September meeting. Baruch's Undergraduate Student Government representatives highlighted the increase of student engagement, which led to more active clubs and a significant number of clubs appealing for budget increases.

STORY CONTINUED ON THETICKER.ORG



WENDY HE | THE TICKER

The Muslim Student Association held multiple events during its 2019 charity week. See more in *The Ticker's* spread on page 4.

OPINIONS

Mentor programs such as SEEK will help decrease dropout rates

Colleges hope to always achieve high graduation rates. However, this can sometimes be a difficult task for students who come from low-income families. They might have to balance classes with jobs, or they might be the first in their families to even attend college.

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'Safe Zone Training' helps students become better LGBTQ+ advocates

BY FEBE GEORGE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As Baruch College continues to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, students, faculty and staff members were all invited learn more about LGBTQ+ sensitivity and awareness.

On Oct. 22, Baruch G.L.A.S.S. co-sponsored "Safe Zone Training," with UNICEF and Baruch's yearbook, Lexicon. LGBTQ+ allies learned new terms and tips on how to better address members of a community that includes many genders and sexual orientations. Event organizers used materials created by Safe Zone Project, an organization that provides free online resources and training for gender, sexuality and LGBTQ+ education sessions.

At "Safe Zone Training," attending allies received participant packets that covered topics like group norms, first impressions of the LGBTQ+ community and core vocabulary. The event was divided into several parts, starting with a general overview and then breaking into group activities, a discussion of coming out and, lastly, a Q&A session.

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Sanders emerges as clear winner of fourth debate (pg. 6)

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Saudi Aramco delays IPO again after September oil attacks (pg. 9)

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NASA conducts first all-female spacewalk to fix broken power unit (pg. 14)

‘Life’s A Drag’ allows students to learn more about drag culture

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Students went all out competing against each other on stage. At the end, goody bags filled with lipstick, lash extensions and eye-shadow were handed out, while Chanel NO 5 reenacted the play *Wicked*.

Pride wristbands and flags were also given out, in addition to plates of food and rainbow lollipops.

“Drag is about beautiful illusions,” Chanel NO 5 said.

According to them, it’s about blurring the lines of sexuality and finding a safe middle ground that combines the duality of sexes into one.

Chanel NO 5 shared that she “started doing drag on Halloween — like everyone else,” and was enchanted by it.

However, many people don’t understand what drag is all about.

“People think if you’re drag, you’re a man and you want to be a woman. No! That’s not it,” Tsunami New said.

Drag queens are men who dress up in exaggerated women’s attire. They typically wear long shiny garments that are critically provocative.

Chanel NO 5 rocked a cheetah print two-piece with black cat ears and Tsunami New was draped in diamonds with a long silver dress that followed her. Together, they danced and lip synced to Celine Dion, Cardi B and Tyra Bank’s sassy interview quotes.

While Baruch has been celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month for years, the drag community wasn’t always welcomed in New York City.

During the event, there was an educational portion in which it was explained that drag culture originated in theater in the late 1800’s.

Men dressed up in women’s garments and let their coats drag onto the floor.

In the 1920’s the LGBTQ+ community adopted the term. Thus, a more modern idea of drag was born. Drag serves to entertain and decompress from the daily boredom of life.

The two queens took a more serious stance while teaching students about the 1969 Stone Wall Riots, in which a gay club in Greenwich Village was brutally targeted by the New York City Police Department.

Police raided the Stonewall Inn causing an uprising in the city’s LGBTQ+ community over police mistreatment of employees and patrons.

The protest lasted six days, in which violent outbursts between law enforcement and protesters persisted, causing injuries to some.

In the 1960’s, same-sex relations were illegal in New York at that time, resulting in the LGBTQ+ community flocking to underground gay clubs in Greenwich Village.

The Village was seen as a safe haven for the outcasts of society where people could come and express themselves openly without the fear of judgment.

“Opportunities are being opened up for us now,” Chanel NO 5 said. Now, drag queens can live comfortably in New York, the queens explained, but not in other cities. “Now that people like us are more accepted in society we want to put ourselves out there,” Dominic Maciejaszek, G.L.A.S.S. secretary, said.

Confident and shy students of all backgrounds and majors put on a fierce competition which ended in a head-to-head tie where splits were busted and boa feathers and

dollar bills were left scattered.

“I wish they would have more drag events,” Erica Parker, a sophomore attendee, said.

Overall, the event succeeded

in bringing people together for laughs, sync, dance and a little bit of history on the origin of drag.

Tiffany Bois of G.L.A.S.S., who was also the main event planner

shared her insight on the culture.

“Drag culture, we do it because we love life, and life can be a drag but you can also make it fun,” she said.



Students wore beautiful gowns and showed off their modeling skills at the drag show while bringing awareness to the culture.

‘Safe Zone’ teaches how to be a better LGBTQ+ ally

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The goal of the event was to “provide students, faculty, and staff with an introduction to the LGBTQ+ community, to sort of bring about some more awareness in the hopes that they can make Baruch and their individual lives more inclusive,” explained Supervising Psychologist Gary Dillon.

After a preliminary overview and training, attendees enjoyed refreshments as they played “Privileges for Sale,” an activity created by SZP that helps participants understand and evaluate the concept of privilege by conceptualizing common privileges as commodities.

For the activity, attendees were broken into several groups and given imaginary budgets. Some budgets were higher than others. The groups then received a list of privileges, which each “costed” \$100, and had to decide which privileges were more worth purchasing than others.

Some privileges included adopting children, sponsoring a partner for citizenship and paid leave from work when grieving the death of a partner.

“There are things that are not even aware that people in the community have to deal with cause it’s something that within their own community they take for granted,” said Traci Espinet, a member of the LGBTQ+ History Month Committee, as she reflected on the privilege activity.

Allies were also able to learn about the prevalence of violence and hate against the transgender community during the event.

“There are still people who

seem to be much more accepting of those who are LGBTQ+, but when it comes to those who are trans in the community, they have a huge struggle that they’re dealing with,” explained Espinet.

Later on, event organizers discussed the process of “coming out” and defined it as when individuals accept and are able to share their identity and gender identity or sexual orientation willingly.

Attendees learned how to appropriately respond to someone coming out to them and picked up tips like not spreading the information to others if the individual is not comfortable with it and asking the individual how they can best support them.

“Being more aware helps me know what ways I can help,” said Emelie Ali, the program coordinator of the Baruch Honors Program, bringing a different perspective to the importance of the training.

At the close of “Safe Zone Training,” event organizers opened the floor for questions. Allies took the opportunity to gain a fuller understanding of the LGBTQ+ community and asked to clarify terms such as “queer” and “homosexual” and the appropriate uses for each of them.

As LGBTQ+ History Month draws on, the Baruch community hopes to be an inclusive and safe space even after the end of October. “Safe Zone Training” demonstrated that learning how to be a better ally is a great place to start.

“If you have someone who seems like they’re really open to not just tolerating you, but really accepting all of who you are,” explained Dillon, “it can be really healing.”

F.U.S.I.O.N. ‘Kamayan Night’ celebrates Filipino culture with food and dance

BY MAY KHIN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baruch College’s Filipinos Uniting Students in Other Nations, or F.U.S.I.O.N., celebrated Filipino-American History Month by hosting “Kamayan Night” on Oct. 22 in the Multipurpose Room.

F.U.S.I.O.N. President Erika Dioquino said October is Filipino-American History Month, and that not everyone is aware of it, so F.U.S.I.O.N has been doing a series of events to raise awareness on it.

“The fact that everyone came together to celebrate Filipino culture was so heartwarming,” said Dioquino. “At the end of the night we celebrated Filipino-American History Month through ‘Kamayan Night’ and that’s all I could ever ask for.”

“With people becoming more Americanized and adapting to this culture, I don’t want people to feel bad about losing their culture. I want them to take the right steps in educating themselves like really trying to honor the past and their family traditions just so they can keep it alive in the future,” Dioquino added.

“Kamayan Night” means a table full of feast with authentic Filipino cuisine. Filipinos use banana leaves instead of utensils and their hands to eat as part of their tradition. F.U.S.I.O.N. served Filipino cuisine to attendees from the banana leaves and most of the attendees were comfortable enough to eat using it.

The night started off with the Filipino national anthem, sung by Kristin Villafuerte, the internal public relations for F.U.S.I.O.N.

“Kamayan Night’ is our first introduction to what F.U.S.I.O.N. can



As part of Filipino American History Month, studnets showcase their original dancing.

offer to people as a cultural club that celebrates Filipino culture,” said Villafuerte. “We really want to share this experience — this is our culture, we don’t care what other people say about it because we grew up in it.”

“I wanted to sing [the] national anthem because we are a Filipino cultural club and it is nice to acknowledge [a] more traditional salute to our country,” continued Villafuerte. “And to give people an authentic experience of Filipino culture.”

The Filipino national anthem was followed by an acoustic guitar and vocal performance of J.D. Pacamarra who sang both Filipino and English songs and later was joined by Villafuerte for a surprise duet.

The Dance Club at Baruch performed right after and left the audience cheering and shouting with excitement.

The authentic Filipino food was served to the audience as a part of intermission where rice, lumpia, pancit canton, sitaw and kalabasa and chicken adobo — also known as spring rolls, noodles and vegetable stew, respectively — were served on banana leaves to the audience.

“It was really fun, especially since we are not Filipino but we definitely got a taste of what the Filipino culture is through ‘Kamayan Night.’ I’ve always wanted to try it and I am thankful that Baruch offers these opportunities for us,” freshman Tomson Zhang said.

Students take a cultural adventure to AIESEC's annual Global Village

BY SHAHRAM RAHMAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baruch College’s chapter of AIESEC partnered with the International Student Organization to present Global Village on Oct. 22, in the Multipurpose Room.

AIESEC is one of the largest youth-run nonprofit organizations in the world, and they believe that “youth leadership is not an option, but our responsibility,” according to their website.

In Global Village, visiting students were given the chance to get to know the cultures of different countries, such as the West Indies and Bangladesh, through different activities.

After completion of at least eight activities, attendees would be presented with a multitude of food items that originate from the different countries.

Activities included trivia and simple questions to answer on paper about cultural backgrounds, among other engaging activities. Food included samosas provided by the Bangladesh Student Asso-

"The purpose of such said activities are for cultural organizations to expose their cultures, cultural backgrounds and how they are passionate for their culture."

— Paris Papadatos

ciation, beef patties provided by the West Indian Culture Club and different variations of kebabs presented from different clubs.

“The purpose of such said activities are for cultural organizations to expose their cultures, cultural backgrounds and how they are passionate for their culture. That way, it ensures for a better transmission of cultures,” said Paris Papadatos, a sophomore majoring in finance who is the vice president of finance for the New York City chapter of AIESEC and treasurer for Baruch’s chapter.

ISO is one of the largest clubs at Baruch, where its goal is to celebrate diversity and encourage international students take advantage of the various opportunities around campus.

“Global Village is AIESEC’s event that ISO is co-sponsoring, as we have close relations,” said Nadia Khan, vice president of ISO. “AIESEC gives out volunteer opportunities around the world, in different countries. ISO represents diversity at its finest, so we come together and celebrate every year.”

Global Village was appreciated by many because of the diversity of the cultures that were presented in unique ways, and the many representations of this diversity that really defined the “global” aspect of the “village” that was created by the collaboration of the different clubs. This included Hindi music and K-pop, among other foreign genres, playing throughout the Multipurpose Room and a dance performance.

“I brainstormed with the E-Board to see what kind of food would be most welcoming for everyone to eat and what kind of activities everyone would enjoy

doing. A lot of people don’t know about the Caribbean, so we figured a trivia is a good way to go,” explained Reann Wilson, a junior majoring in data analytics and the president of the West Indian Culture Club. “Beef patties, everyone loves, so we got a bunch of different variations for people who might have dietary restrictions.”

Chaamy Yapa, a freshman, works on the Incoming Global Talent team of AIESEC, and is more involved in the communication part of the partnerships between AIESEC and other companies.

“Appreciate all cultures and just enjoy life,” she said.

“I came here to support multiculturalism, and also for the food. Baruch College is a very diverse college. I think I read yesterday that there are over 110 languages at Baruch, and we all enjoy learning new things,” said senior Constantine Gonias, who is the vice president of the Socrates Hellenic Society and attended the event.

“Global Village” was designed to express the idea that the collaboration between different and unique cultural ideals is what makes up for most of the population, and not only in the United States is this idea dominant, but in other countries as well.

“This goes back to what AIESEC does, because it allows people to get leadership skills, life-changing experience if they go abroad and contributes to making the world a better place. Our mission statement is ‘peace and fulfillment through humankind potential.’ We are partnered with the United Nations and we support them in their 17 sustainability development goals through our volunteer opportunities,” Papadatos said.

WES hosts yearly ‘Battle of the Sexes’ competition

BY MAY KHIN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Baruch College’s Women Empowered for Success hosted its annual “Battle of the Sexes” on Oct. 24 at 12:50 p.m. as a competition between the sexes to raise awareness on gender inequality through games and fun activities.

There were three different games: one where contestants changed a baby doll’s diaper, another where they tied a necktie and, finally, a jeopardy game.

The boys won the first round, which left many spectators in surprise. “It broke a stereotype because the guys won and we didn’t win but that’s okay,” said freshman Elizabeth Chase.

“I was very confident that the girls were going to win. It’s a good surprise because there is hope that guys can actually help mothers or sisters or help out in the house.”

Senior Aymen Zouai said that his favorite part was, “The diaper changing because the guys won and usually we expect the girls to do that, men can do that as well.”

The girls won the second round of tying a necktie, but the boys took the victory home for the final round of jeopardy.

The questions for jeopardy were fair and unbiased to both sexes as they asked for three forms of birth control, tools to change a car tire, how long is an overall menstrual cycle, different types of haircuts and underwear for both sexes, smallest bra size and to identify the NBA’s most valuable players of 2019.

President of WES Nicole Aviles said she is ecstatic with the turnout of this year.

“It was worth it,” said Aviles.

“We held it to bring awareness to gender stereotypes. It is a conversation that is talked about but I wanted to emphasize it. To break the barrier of gender stereotypes.”

Aviles opened up about how she was treated as a child and wasn’t allowed to play with the toys that were meant for boys. Though she wanted to play the guitar, she got the drums instead, compared to her brother who got the guitar because he is a boy.

“He will always get the guitar and I will always get the drums,” said Aviles. “I wanted to break that barrier and bring it to the event.”

“I feel like we are living in a world where women tear each other down a lot and that’s the reason we are not progressing, we are kind of critiquing each other all the time,” continued Aviles.

“But if we support each other and are always there for each other, then we are empowering ourselves and progression will happen.”

Sophomore Jordanny Alvarado said he enjoyed connecting with men and women all throughout Baruch and building relationships on a deeper level.

“I learned that I need to work on my diaper skills and that women are very intelligent on the habits of men so that is very interesting to find out,” said Alvarado.

“In a general society, you wouldn’t really expect a man to know the women habits and you wouldn’t really expect a woman to know the men habits.”

Freshman Carolina Castillo said it was amazing to see that gender roles do not exist and surprising that the roles can be reversed as both sexes can perform the same duties regardless of their sex.

Macy discusses addiction in new novel, *Dopesick*

BY FARAH JAVED
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Beth Macy, the journalism department’s Sidney Harman Writer in Residence for this year and reporter of 30 years, discussed her latest novel, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America* with students on Oct. 22.

Macy has won more than a dozen national writing awards, including a Nieman Fellowship for Journalism at Harvard University, has three best-selling novels and wrote profiles for *The New York Times*.

Her conversation was part of the Harman Writer in Residence program that calls esteemed writers to campus every year to teach a master class. Before she began, Macy gave condolences for anyone present who had lost someone to the opioid epidemic, as this is the topic of her book. She explained how she accumulated stories from the officer who first reported oxycotin sales on the black market, the families of victims, crusading nuns and doctors and even drug dealers.

“Drug overdose [has] already taken the lives of 300,000 Americans in the past 15 years, and experts now predict that 300,000 more will die in just a few years,” Macy said.

She explained the rise of opioids in her home state of Virginia and how the influx of kids’ deaths due to it sparked her to investigate. Essentially, Macy preached an idea of “[embracing] harm reduction over tough love.” Instead of seeing drug addicts as lost causes, Macy encourages people to see them as human beings fallen vic-

tim to Big Pharma’s lies.

This became most clear from when she discussed Tess, an addict who was found murdered in a trash bin. Macy was so distraught over the loss that she said, “I put down my notepad and had to be a person first.”

She played a clip from her podcast on Audible, *Finding Tess: A Mother’s Search for Answers in a Dopesick America*, and as Tess began to explain “dopesick,” or withdrawal symptoms, Macy clutched her necklace. She listed ways to fight the opioid epidemic, such as expanding and improving drug courts so people can get treatment without the requirement of being arrested. She also mentioned that anyone can help. For instance, a 27-year-old lawyer fought and eventually succeeded in instilling a mandatory nine-hour session on treatment for people in custody, as well as job placement. Social workers also aid in the decision of whether or not someone should go to jail. Though the event was over within an hour, it lasted significantly longer as inquisitive students asked her questions ranging from “how is the crisis in America worse compared to other countries?” to how to become a nonfiction writer themselves.

When asked about the experience, student Catherine Goffman commented that though she knew of the opioid crisis plaguing America, Macy’s stories of it have the power to, “Wake you up, make you feel not just guilty but angry.”

Macy detailed not just the impact opioids have had on the nation and how she sought to expose it, but how to maintain objectivity as a journalist and still have a heart as a person.

Baruch's She's the First raises money to combat inequality and women's issues

BY ANGELICA TEJADA
STAFF WRITER

Baruch College’s chapter of She’s the First not only fundraises for girls’ education in low-income countries, but also helps out local communities.

The club’s agenda involves helping girls around the world and developing a sisterhood here at Baruch.

As an organization, She’s the First ensures that girls are being treated with respect and have the opportunity to receive an education.

“... In too many places around the world, girls are treated as second to the boys. They are denied an education, told who and when to marry and blocked from leadership. Educated and respected girls are the exceptions, not the norm,” it states on their website. Additionally, it says that they “team up with 12 local organizations in 11 countries, all of which ensure that girls stay on track to complete 12 years of education.”

The club started three years ago at Baruch and ever since, all of the fundraising and charity events have gone toward the international She’s the First organization.

“The club helps girls get an education that they otherwise probably would not have the ability to get,” said Vice President Katie Melendez Umana.

“That’s important because education means everything. My dad was never educated, and my mom didn’t finish high school so they’re very limited. ... to give someone the help to finish high school and hopefully get into college is major,” Melendez Umana



She's the First club fundraises for and supports girls' and womens' causes.

added.

Though the She’s the First club at Baruch is only a small part of a bigger organization, the club members got the chance to meet CEO Tammy Tibbetts at the She’s the First eighth Annual Summit, as well as other members of the organization.

“It’s cool to see how small efforts combine into one big effort,” said Regina Gagnon, president of Baruch’s chapter of She’s the First. “It is great being around a bunch of girls because girls are great and emotional and caring.”

The club doesn’t “fundraise like hundreds of thousands of dollars but it all comes together to make one big significant effort,” added Gagnon.

She’s the First fundraises and attends local events to help out communities that need a helping hand.

Gagnon said that last year the club “did a volunteering event for a special needs community that was cool,” and she hopes the club will be able to do it again this year.

Apart from helping girls from

other countries, the members of She’s the First created a safe space where the members can bond and create a support system for each other.

Melendez Umana joined the club her second semester at Baruch after transferring and after attending her first She’s the First meeting.

“They were so warm and inviting and everyone still is warm and inviting to all of the new members. It’s not just one of us, it’s all of us,” she said.

Within the club, each member has the chance to advance and obtain different titles as their time in the club progresses.

Gagnon joined the club two years ago, during her sophomore year, starting as a general member, then became the executive assistant and is now the president of the club.

“It’s a great organization and everyone in the club is very laid back, it’s not super formal. It’s just purely for a good cause and it’s fun. It’s a good combination of both,” said Gagnon.

Baruch College's MSA raises \$1,470 during Charity Week



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Baruch's Muslim Student Association hosts a number of events for charity week including: Brother's Kabaddi, Sister's Spa Night, Panit Day, Kahoot/Jeopardy Night, Joke-a-thon, Brother's Game Day, Sister's Self Defense Class and the Charity Week Carnival. All proceeds go to save orphans and children in need.



JAHIL RUSH | THE TICKER



AMANDA SALAZAR | THE TICKER



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JAHIL RUSH | THE TICKER

Teaching for a combined 21 years, married professors call Baruch home

BY **AYSE KELCE**
BUSINESS EDITOR

Professors Christine Markussen and Jim Walsh’s story started at a horse barn in Atlanta almost 33 years ago. As husband and wife, they have lived and taught in several countries including Poland and China. The couple has been teaching in Baruch College’s management department for six and 15 years respectively, and Markussen has also taught in the law department.

Markussen retired from MetLife as the General Counsel for its sixty Global Operations, and Walsh retired from IBM where he taught executives in the management development field.

Walsh started teaching at Warsaw University after Markussen was transferred to Warsaw by MetLife to start a business in 1999. The couple also taught at Baruch’s program at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China in 2017.

When Walsh was teaching in Poland, the country was in an early phase of freedom after communism. He encouraged his students at Warsaw University to ask questions during his classes, and

some students ended up reaching out to the dean to make sure that it was acceptable.

“Because in Poland, students were used to not asking questions,” Markussen said.

After teaching in many different countries, the couple expressed that they still like teaching at Baruch the most.

“They’re hard working and, you know, so many balance work and school work and family and it’s impressive. The students here are really impressive. And for some of them, English isn’t their first language and still they’re here, and they’re determined, and they’re really working hard to understand,” Markussen said about Baruch students.

“I’ve taught at 13 different universities in 53 years and I would say these students [at Baruch] are the best. I just, the love of teaching . . . It’s like tennis, you hit the ball, they hit it back to you. If you hit it with a player and they don’t in the back, it’s not fun. But this is a back and forth,” commented Walsh.

Markussen’s favorite course to teach is Management in Multinational Corporations due to the diversity of students enrolled in the class and her personal background.

“I just love being able to talk about a business in an international context, and helping people prepare for careers overseas in other countries, and teaching managing in different cultures and leadership in different cultures,” she said about the course.

For Walsh, Management 3120 Honors is the most enjoyable course to teach, which he has been teaching for 15 years. “Some

call it Life 101,” Walsh said about the course.

He structures the course to directly help students with their future careers, focusing on how to build successful relationships in the workplace and how to set fulfilling and realistic expectations.

Markussen and Walsh both emphasized a real-world approach in their teaching styles.

“We both have a business background. We have that kind of practical business focused approach. It’s a business school, so we really want it to be a real world and not just theoretical,” said Markussen.

Their classes study Harvard Business School cases, and they encourage students to read resources like *The Wall Street Journal*. Both Markussen and Walsh came into Baruch as adjunct professors, but their views on the pay of adjunct faculty were different.

“We just both love to teach and it’s a way for us to give back. I think it’s, it would be very tough if this were our profession and we were starting out,” Markussen said.

“I mean, if you’re only an adjunct professor, I don’t know how you, how you live financially, but you know, we’re fortunate that we can do something that we love to do and the pay doesn’t have to be a consideration, but it’s an issue,” Markussen said. However, Walsh said that the professors are already aware of the pay when starting out as adjuncts.

“The pay is set by the market, that’s the way the economic market works. It is bad everywhere, including Poland and China. It is because the market sets the value,” he said.

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Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The Baruch reboot — campus TVs must get content revamp

Bernard Baruch sits quietly on a bench, facing students marching through Baruch College’s front entrance. He certainly has all the time in the world to pay attention to the TV that is perched two feet away from him, while students are busy rushing to class, grabbing a quick bite or fumbling with IDs. The TVs that surround Baruch are never discussed, they just exist like the wall of flyers that line the seventh floor of the Newman Vertical Campus — another marketing tactic used to draw attention to community events or club fairs.

In a society that prides itself on being technologically advanced, more can be done to revamp these TVs which are just becoming a simple technological platform for events that happen at Baruch.

A closer look at these TVs reveal some useful information, usually showcased with heavy text and visuals.

The TVs do cater to offering students information of what’s going on around Baruch, but students are consistently on the go, not having the time to stop and stare at long texts of information on the TVs. These TVs should first acknowledge the concept of brevity and keep information short, sweet and to the point. It would be wise to supplement this by showing breaking news around the school. A ticker that reads information to students on the screen is much more beneficial than an email. Some of these TVs are strategically placed by the second floor elevators, allowing more time for students to stare at the screen while they wait.

CUNY TV, CUNY’s official TV station, should also be streamed to the TVs at Baruch to further showcase the work of CUNY staff and students. The shows on CUNY TV are informative and the TVs at Baruch can provide closed captioning for students interested in catching a quick glimpse of a show, or showcase of some sort.

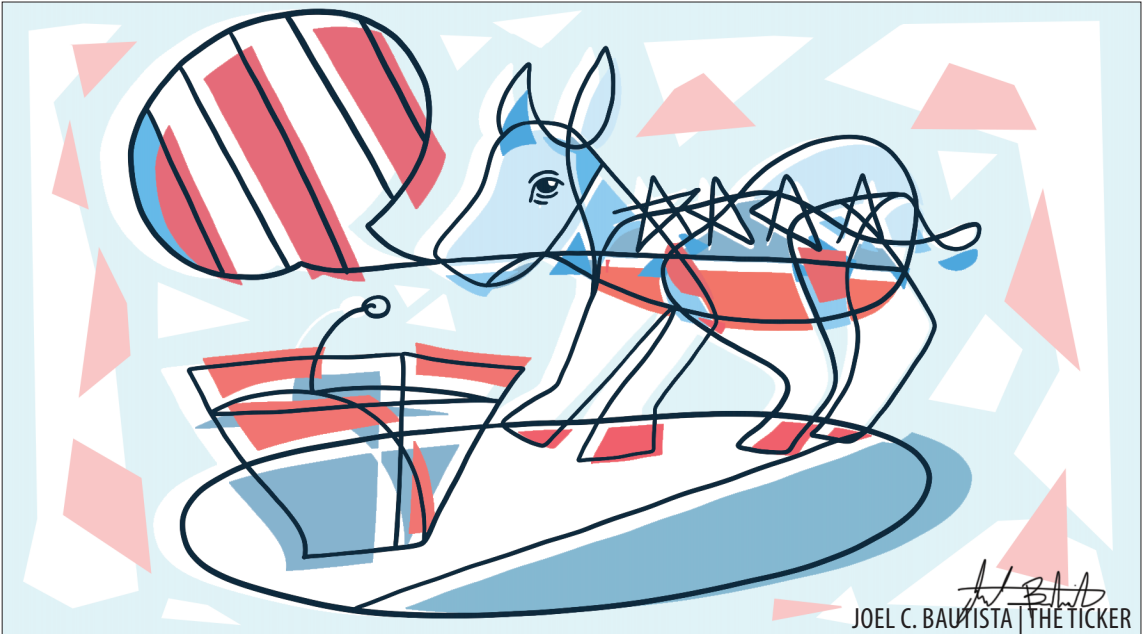
Finding more ways to highlight areas around Baruch, rather than just showcasing text information on the TV, can be channeled through a weekly broadcasting program if possible. Students would be both informed and entertained by students coming together to produce weekly content designed to keep students on their toes about new events, breaking news and highlights on certain clubs or programs.

Baruch needs to change the way it operates the TVs around the building if they want to create a lasting impression for both staff and students.

Absence policy highlights DOE faults

The New York City Department of Education prides itself on creating an environment that nurtures excellence and opportunity for students. The Equity and Excellence for All agenda, that launched in 2015, ensures that these goals are met — even if that means giving students easy access to a college diploma. New York City public school students can graduate without attending school, *The New York Post* reports. Students can miss out on the majority of classes throughout the year and still walk the grounds of commencement. This is all possible because of make-up assignments made available for students to complete, *The New York Post* also states. It is incredulous that students can make up a year’s absence with just one simple assignment. While this detriment of a policy excuses students who have had major inconveniences or conflicts preventing them from attending class, it does not excuse those who did not have such pressing matters. This policy however highlights the hidden faults of the public school system.

The push for excellence leads to increased pressure and sets unrealistic standards for students to meet in their already challenging courses. High pressure for excellence is now leading to low standards for graduation. The DOE should still continue to emphasize standards for excellence, but should eliminate the stigma of taking intensive and slower courses. Students will not feel as challenged and may actually attend class.



Bernie Sanders stands out as the clear winner of the fourth debate

The fourth democratic debate hosted by CNN and *The New York Times* expanded the stage to 12 candidates compared to the 10 last month, but most of the focus narrowed down to the top three candidates. A few things have changed since the last debate that shifted the dynamic this time around.

An impeachment inquiry has begun with former Vice President Joe Biden at its front and center, Sen. Elizabeth Warren caught up to Biden in some national and early state polls and Sen. Bernie Sanders made his first official appearance since suffering a heart attack that resulted in two stents being implanted.

For the first time, all 12 of the democratic candidates on stage unanimously agreed on backing the impeachment inquiries against President Donald Trump.

This led to Biden getting pressed about his son’s ties in Ukraine and put him on the defensive early on. “My son did nothing wrong. I did nothing wrong,” Biden said and deflected to his son’s statements on the matter. Walking away from the question he attacked Trump instead. The frustration that Biden voiced with Trump seemed to set his tone for the rest of the evening.

Sanders then redirected the conversation to climate and healthcare. No other candidate really tried to attack Biden as in the previous debates, a reflection of Biden’s diminished position in the race as a result of Warren’s surge in recent polls.

For the first time this year, Warren had to bat off multiple rivals at once. The focus of these attacks was based on Warren’s support for Sanders’ “Medicare for All” approach to health care. Even the moderators took part questioning Warren’s vagueness on her approach to health care, specifically asking her more than once if she would raise taxes on the middle class in order to get “Medicare for All” done.

While Warren didn’t answer the question directly showing that she has “a plan for everything except this” as Mayor Pete Buttigieg pointed out, she did evade the attacks by sticking to her guns that overall costs of healthcare would go down for the middle class. Warren was successful in her counter-attacks for the rest of the evening and at the end of the debate, it felt like she was the candidate to beat.

The frontrunners being placed on the defensive allowed Sanders to pull off a trifecta, making him

the clear winner in this debate. First, Sanders had to prove he was healthy coming off of his heart attack and he did so by being the Sanders we all know.

He pitched his “Medicare for All” bill as per usual while focusing on the pharmaceutical and insurance companies. Sanders attacked billionaires with the same energy we are all used to, proving he was perfectly healthy and hasn’t missed a beat since his hospitalization.

Sanders later put down the comeback of the night against Biden’s boasts that he knows how to work with Republicans to get things done. He staked out the ground that he needed to stake out by saying that he is for a political revolution trying to draw the biggest distinction between himself and the candidates.

Finally, his biggest win came shortly after the debates as he received endorsements from “squad members” Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, the young progressives with the loudest voices in the democratic party at the moment.

-Pat Sikora
Journalism ‘20

Check out USG’s ‘spooktacular’ events

THE USG REPORT



DAKSHATHA DAGGALA

There are about two months left in 2019. How will you be spending the last few weeks of this year? The Baruch College Undergraduate Student Government is spending those weeks planning more events to not only keep up not only our school spirit, but also our spooky one. As we head for 30-degree weather, scary costume planning and seemingly never-ending rain showers, we planned for other things students can look forward to this week!

You can look forward to events from our Vice President of Student Affairs Tony Chen, starting Oct. 29 to Oct. 31.

In order to cater to different interests within our approximately 15,000 Bearcat population, we

have events and activities planned just for you.

Come by and see USG on the 2nd floor lobby on Oct. 29 from 5 to 5:30 p.m. for giveaways and on Oct. 30 during club hours for Scream Puffs.

Also visit us in the Multipurpose Room on Oct. 31 from 6 to 9 p.m. as we celebrate Halloween with G.L.A.S.S. in costume and contests!

We also have our new Boo-ruch Halloween Art Contest. We’re accepting submissions until Halloween Day at 5 p.m. Students can enter individually or on behalf of a club for a chance to win a Bose Soundlink Micro or \$300 in co-sponsorship money from USG.

The artwork must include the Baruch Bearcat and the letters “USG” with a Halloween theme. Winners are announced through our Facebook and Instagram platform and will receive an email confirmation to redeem their prize. Submissions can be sent to bit.ly/booruchartcontest2019.

If spooky season isn’t your holiday, we have other exciting news you might like to hear. As we go through our days at this college witnessing the construction and

works in progress, Baruch will be welcoming a new addition to its infrastructure.

The student center is on track to open in time for the spring semester. Students will be able to access additional space to study, sleep or just sit in silence. Whatever floats their boat. In addition, the plaza is also set to finish around the end of spring 2020. While it may not seem like much now, we’re excited to say it will be a beautiful space for students to have a bit of tranquility in the concrete jungle of New York.

President Mitchell Wallerstein likes to say, “Try to find a piece of grass anywhere on campus.” With the plaza done, you can study outside underneath the shade of a tree without having to walk all the way to the overcrowded Madison Square Park. Keep your chin up, Bearcats; midterms might have hit us hard this year, but we’re almost at the finish line and there’s so much to look forward to.

Dakshatha Daggala is the president of USG. She can be reached at dakshatha.daggala@usgbaruch.com. Her office is located at 3-272 in the Newman Vertical Campus.

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Mentoring programs will lower dropout rate

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“Many students from low-income families described having to learn and decode a whole new set of cues and terms like professors’ ‘office hours,’ (many didn’t know what they were or how to use them), and foreign rituals like being invited to get coffee with an instructor,” Anthony Abraham Jack, a professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, recalled his time as a low-income college student in *The New York Times* magazine.

Also, as a first-generation student, he had to juggle school and four jobs because he needed the money.

A growing number of students are struggling to find time to study while working full time. “Students who work full time are unable to cope with school stress and homework pressure,” Baruch College undergraduate student Gurpreet Kaur said.

If no one cares whether students are staying on the right track or not, students who are exhausted from labor would feel the urge to drop out of school.

This is a sad reality, people start college in the hopes of earning a degree that will bring them a variety of possibilities.

However, reality can crush the dreams of CUNY college students. Seo Young Lee, an undergraduate at City College, said, “In order to solve our school dropout problem, we should foster mentoring programs for students.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, a non-profit organiza-

tion, has helped children realize their full potential through one-on-one mentoring relationships.

After 18 months of spending time with their mentors, according to the Public and Private Ventures study conducted in 1995, children were 52% less likely to skip school and 37% less likely to skip a class.

The goal of the SEEK program at Baruch is to equip students with the tools needed for success.

Through individual counseling, SEEK students are assigned with counselors who will guide them through a number of aspects of college life.

The program, designed to help students who are economically disadvantaged and academically unprepared, is an invaluable asset to CUNY.

The greatest benefit is that students can develop one-on-one supportive relationships with their mentors throughout the year.

However, it has its limitations as students must be a legal resident of New York State for at least one year prior to entering college and be a first-time freshman, or previously enrolled in a HEOP or EOP program to apply to the program. It is time to make sure that we shift our attention to students struggling to earn a degree, among other things.

Making mentoring programs accessible to more students is key to solving this long-standing issue of college dropouts.

-Stacy Kim
Journalism ‘21

DOT needs to advertise ‘Weekend Walks’ more

The New York City Department of Transportation holds “Weekend Walks” from April through December across the five boroughs. “NYC Weekend Walks,” as it’s called online, is not explicitly what it is stated to be — the event is more than just a walk. It can be a community party, movie night, concert and festival.

The program is arranged so “business improvement districts, cultural organizations, local merchants’ associations and community groups” can apply to host a weekend walk, according to its webpage . “Weekend Walks” is going on its 12th year in the city.

“This year, DOT is partnering with 56 community-based organizations to produce more than 120 car-free events covering over 14 miles of New York City streets between May and December,” as stated from the NYC DOT website, “Weekend Walks events feature car-free family-friendly activities and active lifestyle programming; it also supports local businesses.”

And while the walks are a great opportunity to bring the city’s occupants together, the event is far from living up to its potential. This is for the simple fact that is is not being promoted anywhere near as much as it should be.

While the program does have a page on the NYC government website, there’s not much else about it to get people interested and ready to attend.

A quick Google search turns up nothing but a site and an article on the program, with the rest of the search results addressing tourists about good locations in New York City to take literal walks, like the Highline and Governor’s Island.

-Amanda Salazar
Journalism ‘22

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Business

Job hunters face new challenge: Obtaining a graduate degree

BY YESENIA BARRIOS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As of August 2019, Americans owe a total of \$600 billion dollars in graduate school debt, making up 40% of all student debt in the United States, according to NPR.

After the 2008 recession, graduate school enrollment became more popular since those with a master's degree and a Ph.D struggled less than those with only a high school and undergraduate degree.

People with a master's degree earn 20% more than those with just an undergraduate degree, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A research conducted by the Urban Institute supports those statistics reported by the BLS, concluding that people with a master's degree have higher incomes and more opportunities in their careers and overall in life.

While having a master's degree is beneficial, national enrollment has reached a plateau and international enrollment has dropped. Two of the biggest factors for the lack of enrollment has to do with the status of the economy. Many people are entering the work force right after high school and skipping college and graduate school.

Secondly, those who want to borrow loans for graduate schools have no limits on how much they can borrow. Not only are graduate students stacking up tens of thousands of dollars, they are also being charged higher interest rates than undergraduate borrowers.

The average borrower owns more than \$57,000 for a graduate degree, according to Vox.

Having thousands of dollars in debt does not often outweigh the salary that having a master's degree offer. It all comes down to one thing — the profession one chooses.

In some professions such as healthcare, community and social services and education, a master's degree is no longer an option to pursue their career goals.

A master's degree has become the new undergraduate degree, meaning that a master's degree is an entry level requirement that does not often mean a significant higher income.

In New York State, just like in many other states, people have can choose between private and public universities, and the deal breaker often comes down to how much people are willing to pay and if having a degree from a prestigious school is worth the debt.

Schools like New York University, Columbia University and Fordham University are some of the most prestigious schools in New York and in the country, but attending these schools can have a hefty price tag.

According to NYU's website, a master's degree can cost \$20,000 to \$32,000 per semester depending on the field of study and that does not include an estimated total of \$35,120 in living expenses.

Similar to NYU, Columbia costs \$29,000 to \$37,000 per semester depending on what program enrolled, as its website states. Fordham's



prices are in the same price range, with students paying anywhere between \$25,000 to \$30,000 per semester.

The exact prices are often harder to predict since some fees are not included like living expenses or whether a person is going full time or part time.

In contrast to private schools, the City University of New York costs between \$5,545 and \$7,500 per semester.

Layla Abdullah is a 23-year-old graduate student at Fordham Uni-

versity pursuing her M.A. in social work. She is paying an estimated \$40,000 a year with \$10,000 being covered by scholarships and the rest being paid through loans.

"I don't think it is worth it but unfortunately, schools that are prestigious have a better look when I'm looking for jobs. Usually, social work jobs in NYC hire people from the top social work schools, such as Fordham, Columbia [and] NYU," said Abdullah through a phone interview when asked if she thought paying for a prestigious school was

worth more than attending a public university.

According to the Atlantic, Abdullah is right.

A 2015 research study found that people who attended Ivy League and prestigious schools do not share a significant difference in income compared to those who went to "schools that were in the middle of the pack."

Social sciences were one of the few fields that showed the significance of attending a prestigious school.

World Bank faces criticism after its failure to stop funding for fossil fuels

BY AYSE KELCE
BUSINESS EDITOR

A coalition of civil society representing 112 organizations sent a letter to the World Bank on Oct. 18, criticizing its funding for fossil fuel projects in contrast to its claims to take action and increase budget to combat climate change in 2018.

Urgewald, a nonprofit environmental and human rights organization based in Germany, released a report on the World Bank Group's investments targeting fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil.

On Dec. 15, 2018, WBG announced new climate targets for 2021 to 2025 during the 24th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties in Katowice, Poland.

"We at the World Bank embrace climate action. Since 2015, the World Bank Group doubled our climate finance from \$10 billion to \$20 billion, exceeding our 2020 targets. ... Our new targets for the next five years are for the World Bank Group to finance \$200 billion to help countries undertake ambitious climate action. ... It is up to each one of us to do everything we can to address climate change. If we do not, our children and grandchildren will not forgive us," said Kristalina Georgieva, Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank, about WBG's future plans.

However, the recent letter addressed to the World Bank revealed current numbers that contradicted the environment-friendly remarks and plans promised by the WBG.

The letter brought attention to the \$12 billion in project finance for 88 fossil fuel projects in 38 countries, funded by the WBG, in addition to the assistance in devel-



opment of fossil fuels through policy programs in at least 28 countries, including the development of coal in six countries.

"We call on the World Bank to play a leading role among MDBs by committing to end all support for fossil fuels by the end of 2020, and signal the immediate shift to a carbon neutral world that is necessary to stabilize the global climate," the letter said.

The signatories of the letter called on the World Bank to end the funding for fossil fuel projects, phase out lending for fossil fuels and devote at least 40% of finance to climate by 2020.

They also demanded the private sector arm of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation, and its financial intermediaries divest from all fossil fuels, not just coal.

Civil society representatives who contributed to the letter reacted to the current fossil fuel

projects funded by WBG.

"The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been spectacularly slow to wake up to the reality of climate change. The Bank continues to fund destructive oil and mining projects in the Global South, that not only fuel the climate crisis and escalate inequality but rob women and indigenous people of their lands and livelihoods," said Wangari Kinoti, policy advisor on women's rights in ActionAid International.

Augustine Njamnshi, coordinator of the African Coalition for Sustainable Energy and Access, also condemned the actions of the WBG by saying, "Beyond the greenhouse gas emissions of fossil fuel business lays the heavy health, social and cultural burdens that local communities carry on their backs. The World Bank cannot afford to continue to invest in a sector that negatively impacts the lives of these communities."

Don't hope for miracles, just Grow with Google

BY GABRIELA PERALTA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Grow with Google is a program created by Google that provides free training classes for a variety of topics such as businesses, startups, helping veterans, kids and students.

By registering online with a Google account, it is possible to sign up for these classes that can help with growing a business, creating and editing resumes and even using YouTube ads to help promote businesses, all for free.

The classes take place at the Grow with Google Learning Center, right next to Google's Headquarters in New York City.

Their classes focus on a multitude of things such as encouraging local businesses to build online presence and find new costumers and teaching job seekers and students' skills in the current evolving economy, according to their website.

There are special skills targeting veterans, teachers, developers and startups as well.

All of the classes are about an hour and a half of practical learning experience. Laptops and notebooks are provided for all of the attendees.

There are different categories of workshops, targeting different audiences such as small businesses, educators, youth and students, startups and entrepreneurs and general audiences.

There are also courses taught in Spanish.

Most of the courses are introductory with only youth and students, the startups and entrepreneurs sections, which contains

a limited number of intermediate courses. There is also a small business section that has one intermediate and one advanced course.

Under the courses recommended for job seekers, there are five courses offered: Create a Resume using Google Docs, Power Your Job Search with Google Tools, Digital Skills for Everyday Tasks, Manage Projects More Effectively with Online Tools and Build a Compelling Presentation.

Digital Skills for Everyday Tasks is one of the courses that focuses on using the Google Suite Programs, such as Google Docs and Google Sheets, to create tasks like to-do lists and planning events.

It is an introductory course, but the participants are given room to expand in the class if they know more than other students.

The course focuses on effectively planning meetings and events on Google Docs using the template gallery.

It shows the students how to modify templates to suit their tailored needs.

It is also possible to request group sessions for school administrators and educators.

With the rise of tech industry and people who are interested to learn more about it, Grow with Google provides training and resources to highly diverse attendees.

The courses are based on very general skills, however, it is possible to learn something new and exciting during every class.

For people from many different backgrounds, ages and professions, Grow with Google can be a tool for self-development.

Saudi Aramco delays IPO again after attacks

BY NICOLAS DOMINIQUE
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After the Saudi oil attacks on Sept. 14, Saudi Arabian Oil Co. had once again delayed its initial public offering launch.

An IPO was originally planned for 2018 but it never was released. The lack of transparency over the size of the country's energy reserves had caused skepticism about the potential sale and the value of Saudi Aramco.

It is expected to go ahead and proceed before the start of the new year 2020. "It is a last-minute decision," said one senior Saudi official.

A few things needed to be fine-tuned including financial figures for the third quarter, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

In response to the attacks, the United States and Saudi Arabia have stepped up efforts to jointly protect the kingdom's oil production and held talks about connecting Saudi missile defenses to U.S. systems.

The U.S. military is also deploying an additional 2,000 troops, two squadrons of jet fighters, three new antimissile systems and other equipment to Saudi Arabia in an effort to better prepare the kingdom to counter Iran.

Saudi Aramco's IPO was valued at a targeted \$2 trillion. The company's impact on the global economy is fierce and swift.

The previous attack briefly knocked out half the company's daily oil production which led to the largest surge in oil prices in a decade.

U.S. oil futures jumped 14.7%, settling at \$62.90 a barrel. It was the biggest spike since January

2009.

Futures of Brent crude, the global benchmark, settled up 14.6% at \$69.02 a barrel, as stated in a CNN article.

Saudi Aramco eased the market anxiety very quickly after restoring full production of oil. The company said it produces 10 million barrels of crude oil per day on average.

Despite all this, many investors and analysts have varying notions and opinions of the company's value.

As of Aug. 12, its profit was \$46.9 billion due to weaker global oil prices down by 12%, according to a CNN business report.

To put this into perspective, Apple generated a profit of \$31.5 billion in the first six months of its fiscal year.

This IPO is not just to bring capital into Saudi Arabia, but to invest and develop other industries and jobs for a growing youth population.

This economic diversification is to keep the nation at the forefront of an increasing interdependent world.

The crowned Prince Mohamed bin Salman first announced plans for a listing in 2016 as the centerpiece of his sweeping economic and social reform program, known as Vision 2030.

Vision 2030 is built around three primary themes: a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation.

These tenets and more can be explained in greater detail at the Saudi Arabia Embassy Site.

Saudi Arabia is known as a nation rich in oil, now Prince Salman wants to expand upon that narrative with the aid of Saudi Aramco.

'Amazon's Choice' fails to impress online buyers due to flawed ratings

BY FARAH JAVED
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In 2018 alone, Amazon's share of the U.S. e-commerce market hit 49%, according to Bigcommerce.com. This is more than Amazon's top three competitors combined, with eBay at 6.6%, Apple at 3.9% and Walmart at 3.7%. Despite Amazon's power in the e-commerce market, there is a doubt about its integrity.

With its Prime membership, fast delivery and extensive offering of over twelve million products, Amazon is the leader in online sales nationwide. With reviews of products, star ratings from one to five and even photos from consumers, Amazon has branded itself as a trustworthy and dependable company.

It is so trusted in fact, that when Amazon began labeling products "Amazon's Choice" in 2015, its revenue tripled. This label, however, has been shrouded in mystery, as Amazon refuses to reveal what exactly makes an item qualify.

The Business Insider details that Amazon gives a generic answer: products have a low return rate and high ratings and they're more popular than other items. The title "Amazon's Choice" brings an increase in revenue, as in the mind of the consumer the product is better than any other product in its category.

No one knows the actual algorithm Amazon uses to give the title, according to CNET.

The all-so-honest reviews have proven to be a sham. Complaints across message boards and Twitter reveal that upon opening a package from Amazon, some consumers see a message plastered on one



of the cardboard flaps. The message varies in wording, but essentially says that in exchange for writing a five-star review of the product, the third-party seller will provide a gift card. As a result, these consumers write reviews praising the product and recommending it to future consumers.

This marketing tactic proves only to be useful to the third-party seller, who rises to the top of their category as "Amazon's Choice." Three other perspectives need to be considered: the consumers, Amazon's and other businesses on the website.

Primarily, the consumers who write good reviews do not always receive the promised reward from the sellers. The ones who write honest reviews find that the third-party seller attempts to bribe them with free products or gift cards in order to remove the reviews. Consumers fall victim to the excellent reviews and buy something like a phone case, but they end up unsatisfied with their orders, as first reported by BuzzFeed News.

This then affects Amazon, as consumers burned by the company with these bad purchases and conflicting appraisals grow less inclined to order from Amazon.

The company has a policy that does not tolerate bribery, and yet

the products with strings attached are still labelled with the moniker of "Amazon's Choice," even after being reported.

Ultimately, businesses that do not have the "Amazon's Choice" label bear the brunt of this apparently rigged system. For example, a search for hangers leads to AmazonBasics Velvet Suit Hangers, shown with the "Amazon's Choice" label. Right below it, a consumer would see Utopia Home Premium Non-Slip Velvet Hangers, without the label.

Both are made of the same materials, look the same and are about the same price, yet the latter has fewer sales than the former.

This shows that within a category, businesses selling products without the moniker are negatively impacted sales-wise and generate less traffic, even if their product is just as good or even better than an "Amazon's Choice" branded product.

Evidently, the algorithm that determines which product deserves the label is unjust, as it continues to deem products that use bribes for reviews as worthy, while companies with honest marketing are left in the dust. With its failure to regulate business practices on its site, Amazon is clearly no longer in its prime.

Netflix maintains dominance over its many streaming competitors

BY STACY KIM
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the emergence of new streaming services like Disney+, Apple TV+, NBCUniversal's Peacock and WarnerMedia's HBO Max, Netflix, which has served for years as a leading media-services provider, is at risk of losing its subscribers.

Netflix, founded in 1997, has had its dominance in the streaming industry. As one of the few services at the beginning of streaming, Netflix's original content successfully had its subscribers engaged and provided access to expensive and licensed content.

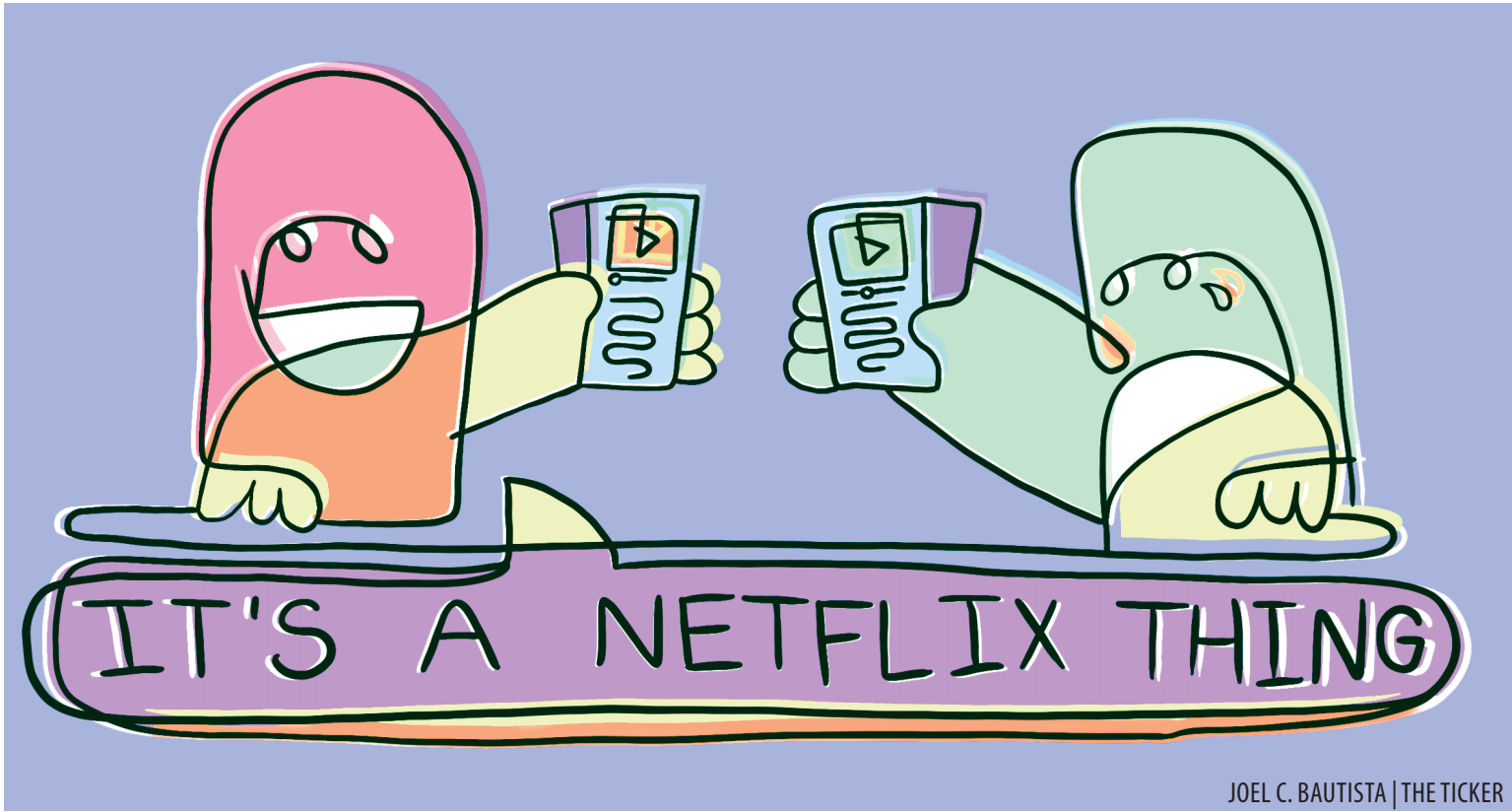
As cable television lost its customers, Netflix gained more subscribers. However, emerging streaming services — which some providing similar services for a lower price — are creating a much more competitive atmosphere for the service.

Despite the growing number of other service providers and rising competition, shares of Netflix increased in the last quarter. The company projected to have 802,000 domestic paid subscribers but achieved only 517,000 domestic subscribers. Due to intense competition, the company's third-quarter results fell wide of analysts' expectations despite the increase in share price.

"Many are focused on the 'streaming wars' but we've been competing with streamers (Amazon, YouTube, Hulu) as well as linear TV for over a decade," Netflix said in *The Washington Post*.

They added that "with so many firms now looking to provide premium video content to consumers, it's a great time to be a creator of content."

Critics argue that Netflix will soon lose the game as the pricing of its competitors — such as



JOEL C. BAUTISTA | THE TICKER

Apple TV+ and Disney+ — is far below Netflix's standard \$12.99 package. In January, the company announced an increase in subscription fee. Netflix's subscription plans respectively increased between \$1 and \$2.

However, very few people are actually cancelling their Netflix subscription despite services like Apple TV+ and Disney+ available at \$4.99 and \$6.99.

Despite what the company had said about competing with streamers, Netflix, overwhelmed with rising competition, admitted that the competition has hurt its subscriber growth. Netflix recently acquired the streaming rights to 'Seinfeld,' paying more than \$500

million for the sitcom.

A day after, Warner Media's HBO Max paid approximately \$1 billion to acquire the streaming rights to "The Big Bang Theory" and "Two and a Half Men." Amid the heightened streaming war, Netflix invested \$15 billion on content this year while it invested \$12 billion last year.

The key is to lure as many subscribers as possible into Netflix. Fifty-nine new offerings are expected to be streamed on Netflix next month and 43 original programs will be added.

By offering \$2 billion in debt, the company will fund the creation of original content and focus more on content spending.

There have been growing concerns about Netflix's longevity. Apple and Disney will be launching its streaming service in November, and AT&T's, Warner Media and Comcast's NBC Universal will follow next year. Disney+, which will be released on Nov. 12, will offer 7,500 episodes of classic Disney TV shows, 25 original series, Marvel movies, National Geographic specials and 30 seasons of "The Simpsons."

More strikingly, the company has proclaimed that it will no longer license its content to Netflix. Melissa Cobb, Netflix's animation chief, said in *The New York Times* that "About 60 percent of Netflix's global audience watches the

service's content for children and families on a monthly basis." At this rate, Netflix will lose its subscribers.

Stephan Paternot, co-founder and CEO of Slated said, "I do not believe it's at all the end of days for Netflix, they're just not years ahead of the competitive curve anymore. Netflix will be one of the five or so streaming services that make it through this period," according to Forbes.

Although faced with the intense competition, this new competition could foster the development of the company, which is now challenged with bringing original content that attracts subscribers while achieving desired revenue and subscriber growth.

Arts & Style

Amazon primed to enter music festival scene with Intersect

FARAH JAVED
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On Dec. 6 and 7 Amazon.com Inc. will be holding its first music festival, Intersect, in Las Vegas. It is presented by Amazon Web Services, a sect of the company dedicated to technology.

Since 2012, Amazon has hosted a private celebration, and “Intersect was born out of the massive after-party for AWS’s annual re:Invent conference.” This year, Amazon has decided to make the event open to the public.

Amazon has begun expanding into the music scene.

Most notably, on July 16 Amazon streamed a huge concert for Prime Day with actress Jane Lynch hosting. Although famous stars performed, the much-anticipated event found itself with lackluster reviews.

One journalist hated the experience so much, he said, “As Alexa launches into an original rap about Jane Lynch, I can feel my soul scream to be delivered back into the ethereal mush of the pre-born realm, to begin again brand new.”

The event was widely recognized by many as a giant cringey advertisement for the company. Evidently, this did not deter Amazon in the slightest.

Lasting two days, Intersect will include an array of artists across all genres from indie to rap like Kacey Musgraves, Snail Mail, H.E.R., Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Japanese Breakfast and JPEGMAFIA.

On top of this eclectic assort-



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Amazon was started in Seattle by Jeff Bezos as an online bookstore and has expanded to become an online retailer, streaming service and grocery service.

ment of guests, Amazon will also feature an enormous video game arcade, a dodgeball stadium described as post-apocalyptic, a ball pit with over 200,000 balls and it will showcase a light show programmed by a female-led team with 500 Intel drones.

The event is sponsored by Coca-Cola and Intel, with the former providing food and drinks along with world famous caterers like Wolfgang Puck.

Amazon’s sudden decision to host a festival has prompted people to ask what the purpose or ulterior motive for it is.

According to an Amazon press

release from Oct. 16, the company simply aims to provide an entertaining experience for its fans.

The Vice President of Worldwide Marketing at AWS, Ariel Kelman, explained that “Music has been an uncanny unifier of people over the years. We’ve built a pretty amazing and unusual live music experience at our annual AWS conference that attendees have loved; and with Intersect, we’re excited to extend this unique event into a two-day, public music festival.”

The public, however, will have to pay a steep price to attend. General Admission tickets are \$99 for one day and \$169 for both days.

A VIP two-day pass is \$249 and a VIP+ pass is \$849. The Intersect website does not entail what the difference between VIP and VIP+ is or what each pass entails.

In fact, there are no photos of what the festival may look like on the website.

Instead, there are photos from past Amazon conferences that were not open to the public.

Though Amazon describes the event as a fun musical experience set to be bigger than Coachella, the event has not received much positive press.

Performers announced to perform weren’t made aware that

Amazon was hosting the event or even knew they were hired by the company. American DJ, The Black Madonna, who was set to perform furiously tweeted, “This issue is not just ideological for me, it is a moral and ethical transgression against my work, my faith and most importantly the people I stand with.”

She went on to discuss how she was not asked to perform, and that AWS has business dealings and ties with ICE, which she does not support.

With backlash from performers and high prices, curious viewers will have to wait until Dec. 6 to see if the festival is a success.

Jimmy Eat World continues its legacy with new record *Surviving*

GABRIEL RIVERA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Oct. 18 marked an impressive achievement for American rock band Jimmy Eat World as it released *Surviving*, its 10th studio album in its 25 year career.

The album’s main focus is answering the question of “[am] I going to do something different or am I going to continue even though I hate who I am right now?”

This is a question that frontman and guitarist Jim Adkins proclaims as “the difference between surviving and truly living” in a post on the band’s Instagram page.

With *Surviving*, Jimmy Eat World has outlasted many of its emocore contemporaries of the 1990s and secured its spot as one of the most notable groups to come out of that era.

Not only was the band one of the pioneering groups in the scene, with groundbreaking albums such as *Clarity*, but the Arizona native group were also one of the first to break through to the mainstream with their seminal 2001 release *Bleed American*.

Since then, Jimmy Eat World has continued to build a diverse discography while never shying too far away from the emocore roots exhibited in its debut.

While the milestone of having ten full albums is an impressive accomplishment for any group, the achievement is even more extraordinary for Jimmy Eat World considering the turbulence the group faced with record labels in its earlier years.

The band members were on the verge of quitting their music dreams entirely after being dropped by their record label subsequent to the commercial failures of their second and third studio albums, *Static Prevails* and *Clarity*,

despite the latter amassing a cult following and critical acclaim years after its release.

Faced with the threat of fading into obscurity in 2001, the quartet, with barely enough money to record in a studio, pieced together the aforementioned *Bleed American*, an album that garnered massive praise and made a breakthrough into mainstream media with songs such as “The Middle” and “Sweetness.”

While the 10 tracks on *Surviving* do not deviate far from Jimmy Eat World’s usual style of songwriting, there seems to be a shift in the narrative of the songs.

Rather than being amid the emotional ups and downs like it was on previous releases like “If You Don’t, Don’t” and “Work” for instance, the band is now reflecting on past experiences and offering its wisdom on tracks such as “Love Never,” “Diamond” and the title track “Surviving.”

This shift from vulnerability to maturity demonstrates the lyrical growth of the band, one that correlates to the many hardships Adkins has overcome in his tenure of songwriting and performing.

In an interview with *Billboard’s* Chris Payne, Adkins speaks about how the process of songwriting for him used to be unconscious and how he used to simply be a passenger in his body, “Accepting things about [himself] that weren’t really true.”

Adkins, who is now nearly seven years sober, admits that writing and performing sober is “100% better” and allows him to hold onto a newfound “sense of self-awareness.” This self-awareness is also incorporated into the theme of some tracks, including “Delivery,” “One Mil” and “Recommit.”

With *Surviving*, Jimmy Eat World stays true to its emo roots



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Jimmy Eat World announced “Survival, The Tour” in the United Kingdom and the United States, which began in early October.

throughout, but does get experimental on some tracks, such as the catchy pop tune “555” and the jazz infused outro to “All the Way (Stay).”

Coupled with the usual heartfelt lyrics, the album also has some heavier moments as well, with the fast paced “Criminal Energy,” the standout guitar solo in “Love Never” and the rocking, six minute finale to the album “Congratulations” being some of the best tracks the album has to offer.

Adkins, in an interview with *Rock Sound*, attributes the heavier aspects of the album to the idea the band had of “less is more” in regard to recording the instrumentation of *Surviving*. Adkins goes on to say that this mindset is “how [the album] got started.”

Surviving is another noteworthy contribution to a discography that

has only grown over the last two decades and has shown no signs of slowing down.

While trying to find what it means to truly live, Jimmy Eat World cultivates a sound and genre that the group trademarked in the early 90s into a set of catchy tunes that treads a fine line between experimentation and producing music that the original fans of the band will love.

Yungblud defends his generation on *The Underrated Youth*

ANA DURAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Twenty-two-year-old Doncaster native, Dominic Harrison or better known by his stage name, Yungblud, is back with a new EP titled *The Underrated Youth*. This EP is a follow up from his 2018 debut album *21st Century Liability*.

Known for his loud and ram-bunctious songs that do not fear calling out society’s injustices and wrong doings, as well as political standpoints, Harrison has used *The Underrated Youth* EP to somewhat slow things down and just explore everything he has encountered in the past year.

His debut album, *21st Century Liability*, was a collection of songs that were angsty and rowdy.

Each song made sure to yell in your face and point out what was wrong, whether it be how society believes that they have to keep control of “Psychotic Kids.”

This album was an introduction to what Yungblud is as a whole. Harrison always emphasizes the idea that Yungblud is not just him as an artist.

“Yungblud has become 50% me and 50% my fanbase. We’re almost at a movement of people with similar or the exact same ideologies. It’s not a fanbase and an artist,” he explained in an interview with *Substream Magazine*.

He has always been an artist who focuses both on protesting for what is right as well as creating a safe space for those who feel as though they do not fit in anywhere else.

His new EP, *The Underrated Youth*, strays away from its predecessor by not being as turbulent and rowdy.

This EP shows a different side to the loudness and expresses topics such as hope with a softness that



Yungblud defended his image and message in *NME* earlier this year, saying that, "The biggest misunderstanding about me is that I’m just a bratty, gobby, idiot."

was not as present in his previous work.

The six songs that make up the EP also serves as proof that Harrison is not focused on one particular style of music but can mold into different genres and not be boxed into just one category.

Track one of the EP titled “Braindead” channels early grunge and is reminiscent of bands such as Green Day, with hints of the early work of the Arctic Monkeys.

“Parents” is more of a pop-rap

track calling out the elder generation for thinking that they are always correct when, in reality they might not be correct at all.

Yungblud is no stranger to collaborations seeing as he has collaborated quite a few times with artists such as Machine Gun Kelly, Halsey and Travis Barker of Blink-182.

This time, he teamed up with Imagine Dragons front-man Dan Reynolds on the song “Original Me” about the times in which one is

left feeling defeated due to certain mental health issues.

“Waiting for the Weekend” showcased Harrison’s vocals beautifully through an acoustic song that brings to mind Alex Turner’s work for the soundtrack of Richard Ayoade’s 2011 film *Submarine*.

Harrison has previously stated that he looks up to Turner as one of his musical inspirations. The title track is a heartfelt ballad to those who feel like rejects and reassures them that there is hope in the future

for them despite current issues.

Altogether, *The Underrated Youth* EP serves as a collection of songs that work together to share the optimism that lies in the hands of the members of Gen-Z no matter what elders says.

“We genuinely give a fuck about the world and the place we live in and what is right and what is true. This EP says the future is going to be bright, simply because we’re fucking in it,” says Harrison in an interview with *Billboard*.

Post Malone perfects his ‘genre-bending’ in *Hollywood's Bleeding*

ANNA CIMITILE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

From performing at the Playstation Theater in 2017 on the "Stoney Tour" to headlining Madison Square Garden for two nights this October with his newly released album *Hollywood's Bleeding* on the "Runaway Tour," Post Malone's career and rap presence has increased immensely.

Malone's recent release of *Hollywood's Bleeding* has influenced critics and listeners so heavily that Malone received the most American Music Award nominations for 2019 including but not limited to, best rap artist and best rap album on Oct. 24.

Post Malone's newest album *Hollywood's Bleeding* tuned in listeners to unexpected collaborations and reconstructed their ideas on his rap sound compared to his other albums, *Stoney* and *Beerbongs and Bentleys*.

Within 17 tracks, Malone decided to implement elements of other genres, or what he calls “genre-bending,” in order to create his desired sound.

The album starts with its title track, “Hollywood's Bleeding.” In the beginning of the song, listeners hear Malone singing alongside the guitar as though he was singing at his own funeral. This song describes the brutal loneliness of a striving musician living in Hollywood as seen in the lyrics, “Dyin in our sleep, we’re living out a dream we only make it out alone.”

Additionally, he highlights how living in Hollywood makes you susceptible to being used by others for personal gain. Listeners start to realize Malone's unfortunate truth of living in the spotlight and how it was never what he expected it to be.

“Allergic” and “A Thousand Bad Times” took Malone’s album to

another level by using pop-based sounds to carry the song. When describing “Allergic” at his performance at Madison Square Garden on Oct. 14, Malone stated “this is the weirdest one off the album.”

“Allergic” expresses a fight between Malone’s perception of his relationship with his partner but adds how he always goes back to her despite knowing it’s not good for him to do so.

Malone follows this theme of dealing with the bad in life with the pop ballad “A Thousand Bad Times.”

Malone expresses how no matter what bad might be surrounding him, he knows he can handle it since he’s not even dead yet, as expressed in the lyrics, “Cause I can take anything that you give me (what you give me), it’s gonna take a lot more to kill me.”

“Circles,” the leading pop-rock ballad, was originally given to listeners as a single in late August 2019 but was eventually provided on the record.

This song highlights Malone’s desire to run away from his partner but feels that there is an endless return to each other no matter what.

Listeners of Malone’s previous record might suggest that this song alludes to his “Stay,” however, “Circles” poses an opposite perspective where Malone wants to run away instead of staying with his partner.

Fans were also excited to find artists Future and Halsey to be featured on the track “Die For Me.” This song is a first for both Future and Halsey to release with Malone. Additionally, Halsey is known for her indie-pop sound, however, on “Die For Me” she decided to rap alongside both Malone and Future.

By utilizing both Halsey and Future’s voices for background vocals, Malone portrays the hurt felt within relationships from false promises.



The most anticipated collaboration on the album is the song “Take What You Want From Me” featuring Ozzy Osbourne, lead singer of the rock band Black Sabbath, and Travis Scott. Listeners hear Osbourne sing the chorus alongside an electric guitar.

As the song proceeds, fans are reminded of the electric guitar throughout both raps of Malone and Scott. Then, to finish the song, Malone sings “take what you want, take what you need” alongside an epic electric guitar outro.

This song teaches listeners that although people can act like snakes and take whatever you give, you ultimately have control over what you want to give when you want to give it.

Malone then included SZA on the album in the next song, “Staring At The Sun.” As the song starts with the ignition of a match, listeners begin to understand Malones perspective of being blinded by love.

Interestingly, Malone allowed SZA to sing in perspective of Malone’s partner as she sings in contrast to the lyrics “But girl, what

I can promise is I’ll let you down, so don’t put up a fight, you’ll get lost in the light” to which SZA replies, “Cause I can count on you to let me down, I won’t put up a fight, I got lost in the light (oh).”

As things get caught in the fire they burn — which is essentially what the song is alluding to and what Malone resists to make his partner want in their relationship.

The shortest song on the album is titled “Internet” and only around two minutes long.

With classical music touches, Malone expresses his hatred of the internet singing, “Well, fuck the Internet, and you can quote that, whoa.”

In this song Malone also draws into the paranoia he experiences from being online which alludes to his song “Paranoid” featured on his previous album, *Beerbongs and Bentleys*.

Even so, Malone tells listeners that he does not want to be aware of the Internet since it only allows negativity to brew as sung in the lyrics, “Insta love well if ignorance is bliss, then don’t wake me up.”

Although this song is the shortest, it adds substance to the album because of how draining being famous is not only in person but as an online presence.

Songs earlier in the album provided hyped rap from Malone however, in “Myself” Malone has listeners reflect with him on all that he has done as it follows along to the idea of the American dream.

As Malone reflects on a previous relationship and raps about wishing he was there himself in order to experience it all over again.

Additionally, he lets listeners know the overarching need for more — money to spend and ability to not care about anything at all — in his future.

Malone even shows his need for more as he ends the song by singing, “No I can’t get enough, oh, oh, oh, oh.”

As Post Malone continues his Runaway Tour which is expected to finish by the end of November, listeners and concert go-ers get to experience a mix of *Hollywood's Bleeding*, *Beerbongs and Bentleys* and *Stoney* in person.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame announces nominees for 2020 induction

MAYA ALEXANDER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The ballots for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame's Class of 2020 has officially been released, and artists, music journalists, music historians and classic rock fanatics are all butting heads to decide which five lucky artists will be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

The Class of 2020 nominees showcases an eclectic mix of 16 artists who have made their mark on genres ranging all the way from hip-hop to pop to glam rock.

Standout first-time nominees include Dave Matthews Band, Pat Benatar, Thin Lizzy, T. Rex, Whitney Houston, Soundgarden and The Notorious B.I.G, while music legends MC5, Chaka Khan and Todd Rundgren return to the ballot.

To be considered for induction, artists, including performers, composers and/or musicians, must meet two eligibility requirements: their potential induction year must fall 25 years after the release of their first commercial recording and they must have exhibited what the hall would deem an “unquestionable” display of musical talent and excellence. Their contributions will have had a significant impact on rock ‘n’ roll’s development, evolution and preservation.

Since it began inducting artists in 1986, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has been open to inducting artists from a wide array of genres other than rock, such as country, R&B, funk and blues by popular vote.

However, in recent years, the hall has been considering artists stemming from pop and rap and hip-hop genres, which has caused massive controversy and fervor in the rock community.

The Hall's first class of inductees included heavy-hitters like Chuck



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Whitney Houston and Judas Priest, alongside the other 16 nominees, represent the breadth of genres that the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has celebrated since 1986.

Berry, Elvis Presley, Sam Cooke, James Brown and Buddy Holly, whose contribution to rock ‘n’ roll are unquestionable.

But recent inductees such as N.W.A. from the Class of 2016, Tupac Shakur from the Class of 2017 and Janet Jackson from the Class of 2019 have caused a wave of controversy that’s polarized critics and fans alike.

Some believe that these artists have rightfully earned their spots, while rock purists believe the only performers that should be included in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame are

artists that keep the sound of rock music alive.

Others, like Ice Cube, a member of N.W.A., have suggested that rock culture transcends genres.

“Rock ‘n’ roll is not conforming to the people who came before you,” expressed Ice Cube during N.W.A.’s induction acceptance speech.

“But creating your own path in music and in life. That is rock ‘n’ roll and that is us.”

As of the Oct. 21-Oct. 27 week, four-time Grammy Award winner Pat Benatar is leading the “Fan

Vote” category with 177,844 fan votes.

Benatar, who is a pioneer of the punchy and gritty pop-rock sound, made her mark in the music scene with her song “Hit Me with Your Best Shot.” Released in 1980, the song reached No. 7 on Cashbox and No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100.

Following closely behind with 151,578 fan votes is Soundgarden, who introduced the world to the grunge music genre.

The genre would become a symbol of youth culture of the early 1990s.

Going strong with 151,578 fan votes, Soundgarden’s induction would also help to commemorate the end of the band’s run after the death of its lead singer, Chris Cornell, in May 2017.

As the years rock ‘n’ roll on, fans have slowly been changing the way they define what rock can look and sound like.

And despite all the backlash, every artist that was nominated for The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame’s Class of 2020 has proven to the world that they have made an impact on music history.

Maleficent no longer *Mistress of Evil*, finds heart in newest Disney movie

FARAH JAVED
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Amidst the new unconventional box office releases like *Gemini Man* and *Jojo Rabbit*, Disney continues in its live-action craze with *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*.

In this sequel to the 2014 mixed-reviewed *Maleficent*, Disney has deviated from its source material once again.

Maleficent first appeared in *Sleeping Beauty* as the main villain but this all changes.

Following the end of the first movie, Aurora and Maleficent rule over the Moors, with Angelina Jolie reprising her role as Maleficent and Elle Fanning as Aurora.

The set design ranges from detailed, colorful forests to the dazzling castles that offer an eye pleasing display that adds to the fairytale aura.

This is notable in Aurora’s laced, flower-lined dresses and intricate crown. Even Maleficent’s attire, though completely black, changes from dark and long fabric to a more lacey and flowing kind as she learns to live with humans and be herself.

Though there are nods to the original *Sleeping Beauty* story, such as Aurora’s dress changing from pink to green to blue, the story itself is entirely different.

Instead of being an evil sorceress, Maleficent is a misunderstood fairy. Director Joachim Rønning steers the audience to sympathize with her, because she is the last of her kind — misunderstood and judged by humans.

Moreover, a staple of the original film is the presence of the three fairies Flora, Fauna and Merryweather, who act as loving mater-

nal figures for the motherless Aurora.

In this sequel, they are reduced to being ditsy and dumb nuisances for Aurora as she conducts the kingdom.

In fact, Maleficent’s bird, Diablo renamed Diaval, is more likened to being Aurora’s family and is helpful in both finding Maleficent and fighting the war against humans.

The film is supposed to focus on Maleficent, as she is the protagonist, but more screen time is devoted to Queen Ingrid, Aurora and Prince Philip.

Queen Ingrid is the villain, so it makes sense for her, but Aurora and Philip essentially serve as detriments to the plot.

Aurora reveals to the Queen that iron is Maleficent’s weakness, and during the war sequence, Maleficent sacrifices herself to save Aurora. All Philip did was propose to Aurora, otherwise he is non-essential to the story.

The movie’s goal goes amiss in failing to explain two crucial points of the story; Maleficent’s finding of her own kind and the Queen’s backstory.

For the former, it is unknown how Maleficent didn’t know her own people were in hiding or what happened that made her believe that they are dead.

For the latter, the Queen briefly mentions that she wants the Moors dead because they killed her brother. This doesn’t explain, however, why she is willing to have her son, Aurora and husband die in her quest.

This movie is a rare instance where the CGI and acting are so good that it compensates for the nonsensicalness of the movie. Jolie makes the viewer question if she is

really in the wrong.

Michelle Pfeiffer brings both grace and venom in her role as Queen Ingrid. Fanning conveys a naivete yet sense of compassion, paralleling Lily James in the *Cinderella* live-action remake.

The minor moments of humor peppered in, like Maleficent practicing how to not smile scarily, bring a level of relatability to an otherwise outlandish story.

The only unwatchable part of the film is its climax, the war between the Moors and humans in *Black Panther* fashion.

Cameras panned in too closely on every character showing grunts and glares. In trying to make the fight more intense, the actual fighting scene fell flat.

As Queen Ingrid stood vulnerable on a roof, her army fired balls of poison at the fairies, causing them to disintegrate.

This weapon of choice is far-fetched, but forgivable for such a fantastical storyline.

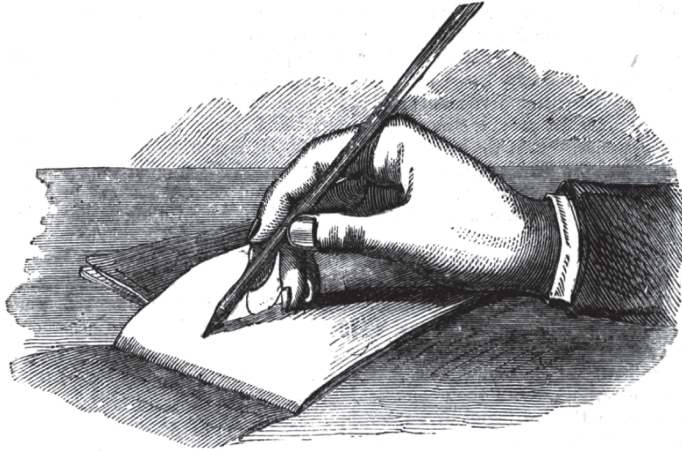
Ultimately, in true Disney fashion, an emotional happy ending and a wedding make up for the weak war. Philip and Aurora are truly in love, and even Maleficent gets her happily-ever-after. Just for the sheer fact of wrapping up loose ends, even the Queen is turned into a goat.

The audience understands that the true mistress of evil is the Queen, representing a loved figure that is truly evil on the inside, contrasting with Maleficent’s bad reputation but golden heart.

This unique and unexpected switch adds to the non-canon additions of Maleficent’s story.

In the end, Rønning accomplishes his mission of showing that no one is truly evil or truly good.

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Science & Technology

People might require less sleep in the future due to gene mutation

BY ISRAEL CATALAN
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Pulling an all-nighter leads to a groggy morning the next day, but scientists are wondering if that feeling can be a thing of the past.

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, found a rare genetic mutation of the gene *ADRB1* in the DNA of a man and his son.

The two individuals, who remained anonymous, are able to sleep very little and but feel no repercussions afterward. Scientists are now trying to replicate the effects of this gene mutation into a pill. While researchers believe that the pill will not be ready for public use in the near future, it is interesting to consider what could happen if it was.

A medication such as the one that scientists are looking into would change the way people do work and interact with each other socially. One claim is that people would encourage others to take it, and there would be immense demand for it on the market.

Another claim is that the workday would increase, and employees would have to stay at work longer. The pill could also potentially yield benefits to those suffering from diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Ying-Hui Fu, a neurology professor at UCSF, states that the father and son are able to rest more efficiently, which leads to shorter sleep time. While the average per-

son needs around eight hours of sleep, both of the men only need roughly four to six hours to feel rested. Another interesting part of the subjects is their optimism and constant need to be active.

Fu also explains how most people who get less sleep think they can work through it but are actually hurting themselves.

"Your performance is skewed, so you don't really know your performance is not as good," she stated. In exchange for bad sleep, people tend to sleep when they can, at small intervals.

To test the effects of the mutation, scientists developed it in mice and recorded their sleeping behaviors.

Mice are troublesome subjects, as their sleep regularity is different. Some would sleep a little and others would sleep up to eight hours. However, the gene mutation still affected the sleep patterns of the mice; the animals needed less sleep, and their memory improved.

Neuroscientists are scientists who study the brain, and they are still trying to comprehend the necessity of sleep.

According to an article by Neuroscience News, scientists cannot pinpoint exactly why people need sleep every night. Nick Frank, a professor from Imperial College London who studies biophysics and anesthetics, states that there are many sleep theories.

Sleep can be tied to conditions such as obesity, heart disease and the processing of memory in the



JOEL C. BAUTISTA | THE TICKER

brain. Frank's group of researchers focuses on obstructive sleep apnea, a disorder found in older patients.

OSA is a condition in which patients have an upper airway collapse, meaning that patients do not get enough oxygen from breathing. This can lead to problems with the heart and lungs, as well as be fatal to the person who has this condition.

The pill that the UCSF researchers propose might not be available during the current generation's lifetime, but it could help many. As more and more research is done, scientists come closer to solving present issues with sleep.

For students in the future, a pill

could relieve stress and reduce tired mornings. While the distribution of such a pill is still unknown, and will be for many years, it could provide benefits to all.

During the research, Fu stated that if her team had more funding, the studies could be continued. A barrier such as funding is common. According to an article by Vox, 270 scientists were asked what thing they would change about science if they had the ability to.

Many of the scientists said the same thing: science is a conflicting research organization. Some claim that because of impediments such as lack of funding and time, researchers are not able to answer the truly meaningful questions posed to them. There are also claims that subject matters that can help humanity are not being researched enough for these same reasons.

As problems arise for many people, it is clear that there are researchers willing to help solve them. The research group at UCSF has gotten closer to answering many college students' pleas for more time during the day, and theorized a pill that can reduce sleep and treat illnesses.

While the pill is possible in the far future, it is still important now to maintain a healthy nine hours of sleep.

Jessica Meir and Christina Koch lead first all-female spacewalk

BY DIANA SHISHKINA
MANAGING EDITOR

Oct. 18 marked a milestone for both NASA and for all women who dream of one day conquering planets other than Earth — two astronauts completed the first all-female spacewalk.

The astronauts, Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, went out to replace a broken power controller outside of the International Space Station.

The mission, albeit unplanned, was successful and lasted over seven hours.

This spacewalk was revolutionary in a field that is still being dominated by men.

Even though this was Koch's fourth spacewalk since she started training as an astronaut in 2013, this was her first spacewalk with another woman.

Meir also began her career as an astronaut in 2013, which is known for being the first year that inducted an equal amount of men and women into the NASA class.

Currently, there are 12 active NASA astronauts who are women, out of 38 total.

"We are trending in the right direction," Meir said, in a CNN article about the spacewalk.

"There are more females and more diversity in general in STEM fields that has led to a higher percentage of women in astronaut classes. To me, that kind of gender equality and inclusion is the way to get the job done for a successful mission."

While not a hazard to the space station itself, the broken power unit was the cause of other, scheduled spacewalks to be postponed.

Astronauts, including Koch and Meir again, could now replace all of the old batteries that



NASA

Astronauts Jessica Meir and Christina Koch became the first all-female duo to complete a spacewalk. The event has been lauded as a step in the right direction for NASA.

power the space station with lithium-ion ones.

Both women also hope to become some of the first female astronauts on the moon.

Notable events that happened during the walk included a five-minute call with President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence.

The president congratulated the two astronauts on their historic achievement, and called them brave.

He lauded them for being the first women to take a spacewalk outside the station, but Meir corrected him and mentioned that there have been other women who have done this before, but never without a man.

A big point of discussion surrounding this spacewalk and female astronauts in general is what

kind of physical characteristics are needed to complete spacewalks, do repairs in space and wear the generally bulky and constraining spacesuits.

An earlier all-female spacewalk, which was supposed to feature Koch and fellow astronaut Anne McClain, was planned for earlier this year in March, but got delayed to lack of proper-fitting spacesuit components.

A common misconception that is starting to get cleared up now is how spacewalks and repairs are meant for men to complete, due to their strength and size.

But this is not necessarily true.

"These repairs and tasks can be performed by anyone in the astronaut corps, that's for sure," former NASA deputy administrator Dava Newman said to The Verge. "That is if they're in the right suit."

Newman is currently working on a new spacesuit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Spacesuits basically imitate small spaceships around a person's body.

They have to be flexible enough to allow human movement and work, but also strong enough to provide enough pressurized gas inside the suit in order for humans to be able to function in space.

Current suits used by the International Space Station have been around since the 1970s, and they feature a shell-like component that fits the astronaut's torso.

The other parts of the suit then get attached to this shell. Improperly fitting torsos could be the difference between a successful space mission and a failed one.

While there are plenty of torso sizes available for spacesuits, there

are not as many smaller ones, because the 1970s design took bulky technology inside the suit into account.

However, NASA is working to produce new spacesuit designs, which would offer more torso sizes to accommodate a larger variety of body types, and will hopefully be easier to move around in.

The organization hopes to accomplish this by the next moon walk, planned for 2024.

It takes lots of strength and training to get comfortable enough to wear the current NASA spacesuits and do a spacewalk, but with six years of training, Koch and Meir were up to the challenge.

With this unprecedented spacewalk, more doors will open up to present and future women interested in conquering space, the moon, Mars and the rest of the galaxy.

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Baruch Weekly

DOUBLE TAKE ADVICE FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS

DEAR DOUBLE TAKE:
How do I survive midterms?

Don't forget your human needs during midterm season. You still need sleep, a good diet, exercise and a social life. While it may seem logical to sacrifice some or all of these things in order to spend more time studying, it's important to remember that your ability to retain the information you're taking in depends heavily on your mental and physical health. A 15-minute walk can benefit you more than an extra 15 minutes of reading a textbook while tired. Staying stress-free during hectic times is a hugely valuable skill that will help a lot during midterms even though there's no course for it.

JULIAN TINEO

Midterm week can be compared to the playoffs of any sport; everything you have or haven't done so far doesn't matter if you can clinch victories at the perfect time. For better or for worse, many classes are built around your ability to take tests well instead of your ability to retain the knowledge on the subject. I personally have found the most success in studying intensely two days before my test and moderately the day before it. On the day of the test I focus on getting a lot of rest and simply reviewing a few more topics, though this approach may not work for you depending on your course and study experience. One of the most important things you can do to help with your test is to avoid getting stressed. If you go into a test with the mentality that you've already been defeated then you definitely won't do well. Figure out what works for you to make a plan, then stick to it. Instead of memorizing steps and answers from examples, understand why you perform specific steps so that you can interpret each question and the topic as a whole. This kind of critical thinking is essential for a great test score.

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.

SUDOKU

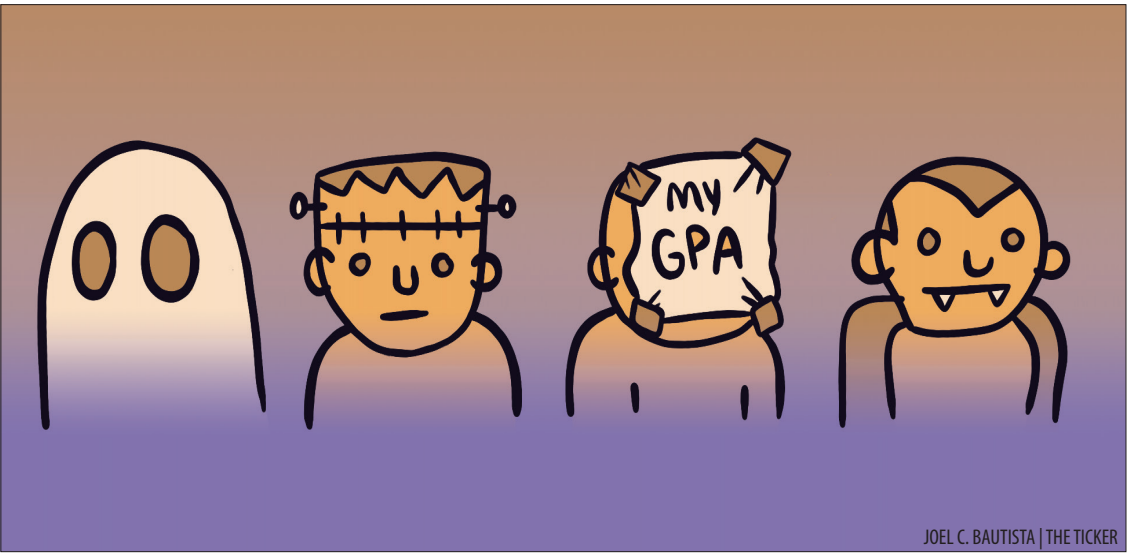
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SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE #7

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Starr Career Development Center

Career Spotlight

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SAVE THE DATE

Diversity Pipeline Career Programs Panel and Networking Event
Tuesday, Oct. 29, 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., NVC 14-220

Learn about prestigious internships, fellowships, leadership; professional development programs for underrepresented students.

Networking Etiquette Workshop
Thursday, Oct. 31, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., NVC 14-250

Hear from Terri Thompson, Owner of Terri Thompson Presents, and learn the 4 golden rules of Networking.

SCDC TIP OF THE WEEK

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

“Don't be afraid to ask questions at your interview. The questions you ask can often leave longer lasting impressions on recruiters than the answers you give during the interview. Company culture, intern training procedures, and whether or not internships can be converted to full time roles are always good questions to ask.”

– Michael Kalish, Associate Director

INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Google

BOLD Intern – Summer 2020

The Building Opportunities for Leadership and Development (BOLD) Internship Program is a paid summer internship for rising undergraduate seniors that are interested in business careers in the technology industry and full-time job opportunities at Google. We've designed our program to expose historically underrepresented students in this field to career opportunities in the industry and to prepare all entry-level talent to be ambassadors for diversity, equity, and inclusion in their careers. To start the application process, you will need an updated CV or resume and a current unofficial or official transcript in English.

Roles Include Sales, Services and Support, Marketing and Communications, People Operations, gTech, Finance and others. Minimum Qualifications include being in the third year of a full-time BA/BS degree program with the ability to complete an 11 week program beginning in May or June 2020.

Preferred Qualifications Include a passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion, analytical skills and an interest in taking on business problems, interpersonal and organizational skills, with the ability to navigate an ambiguous environment and interest in the technology industry and Google's business among others.

Starr Search ID: 129556

SCOTIABANK

Equity Research Associate – Summer 2020

At Scotiabank, research is a key driver of our Global Equity platform. Our department of over 100 people, the majority of whom are senior analysts and seasoned associates, is dedicated to providing our clients with superior coverage in specialized industry sectors complemented with a high level of service. We spend time understanding our clients' needs and ensuring that our recommendations are suitable for their investment criteria. Research Associates play an integral role in the Equity Research department by providing crucial assistance to one or more Equity Research Analysts. Research Associates gain hands-on experience in performing financial analyses such as market comparisons, company valuations and financial modeling.

As part of the Global Capital Markets group, the Research Associate Program is designed to provide co-op undergraduate students with exposure to various elements of the investment industry. Research Associates are responsible for assisting the Research Analyst(s) in the analysis of industries and companies. The successful candidate will develop a good understanding of the financial markets, the factors that influence stock prices, and how these factors impact the particular pricing of a stock.

Starr Search ID: 129418