

## UCLA's 'Lunar New Year Celebration' shares Chinese traditions



PETER MORGAN | THE TICKER

The Baruch College United Chinese Language Association hosted its annual "Lunar New Year Celebration," complete with a traditional lion dance that was performed by the United Chinese Lion Association.

BY AMANDA SALAZAR  
NEWS EDITOR

Baruch College's United Chinese Language Association hosted their "Annual Lunar New Year Celebration" to celebrate the Year of the Rat with the school community on Feb. 11. It was a performance-filled night, with a headlining appearance from rapper MC Jin who many attendees said was the reason they came to the event. "I'm coming here because MC Jin is here," said senior Zi Tong, who explained that he's her idol. She patiently waited alongside all the other fans for his arrival, which was scheduled for the end of the event.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## February holds exciting future for three Baruch sports teams

BY ISAIAH HINTON  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A look ahead to the end of February signifies different things for different sports in the world of Baruch Athletics. Men's volleyball will be in the midst of their regular season while the baseball and softball season will begin sooner than expected. For basketball, the regular season will come to an end for both the men and the women. However, back in the present, the Bearcats have regrouped and stared down another busy week with resilience and tenacity after a first week of February marred by defeat. Their aggressiveness on the volleyball court and the basketball hardwood have translated to positive results and victories.

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## 'Sip and Paint' teaches self-love and kindness for Valentine's Day

BY JOSEPH DEIONNO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Baruch College Undergraduate Student Government hosted an event called "Bearcat Love: Paint and Chill" for Valentine's Day on Feb. 13 in which attendees painted, made their own lip balm and, most importantly, took time to love themselves.

"We wanted to teach people what self-love is and give them an opportunity to have a relaxing night before Valentine's Day," USG VP of Academic Affairs Briana Staten explained when asked what the main goal of the event was.

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## Iowa caucus primary vote counting fiasco explained

BY GABRIEL RIVERA  
STAFF WRITER

Feb. 3 marked the start of the 2020 Iowa Caucus and in turn millions of people across the nation eagerly watched for updates on which democratic candidate would gain a decisive edge in a competitive primary season. However, as the eventful day came to close, people were still puzzled by the lack of adequate results from the first democratic primary of the year. Nearly a week after the caucus commenced all votes were still not entirely accounted for.

STORY CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

## STARR hosts 'Career Fair' with potential employers

BY FARAH JAVED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The STARR Career Development Center's Career Fair took place on Feb. 7. Students clad in blazers and business attire entered the gym with resumes in hand, in the hopes of getting a job or internship.

This year's fair hosted 86 employers, including Citigroup Inc., Spectrum and the Catholic Charities Communities Services.

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## ISO celebrates Valentine's Day amid a water outage

BY GERALDINE TAVERAS  
STAFF WRITER

Baruch College's Newman Vertical Campus building water outage did not dry up student spirit when the International Student Organization teamed up with the Hindu Student Association and other clubs to hold "Valentine's Day Around the World" on Feb. 13.

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# Second annual 'Mister Asia' showcases talent and fashion



Baruch College's Vietnamese Student Association and F.U.S.I.O.N. held the second annual "Mister Asia" pageant on Feb. 13. It was largely a fashion show, with the contestants showing off both cultural and professional looks. There was also a talent portion, where people lip synched and did a group dance.





# ISO mixes Valentine's Day festivities with international culture

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"This was our first large scale event," ISO President Kamila Mirakhmedova said. "We were really excited and we wanted to bring the culture experience to students."

Attendees were given food passports as an opportunity to learn more about the clubs, as well as try different kinds of traditional foods. Foods like pad thai, lahmacun, which is also referred to as Armenian pizza, and empanadas with green sauce were a hit among students.

"The noodles were good but the empanadas and the green sauce were the best thing here," first-year attendant Judy Chen said.

"They gave us all a taste of culture," junior Gregory Antoine said.

Baruch's newest club, the Armenian Student Association, made its debut appearance after just being established. The club served pita and salted cheese, and teaching students how to play the traditional soviet game of Durak.

"ASA just got chartered. They wanted to get people to know more about Armenian culture and their

club and these events give them a platform to do that," ISO Vice President Nadia Khan said. "We love promoting other cultures and we love including everyone."

The Valentine's Day event is held annually by ISO.

"This is our Valentine's Day Around the World — usually we do this event every spring semester but it's known as World Bazaar," Khan explained. "This time around, we decided to add a little Valentine's Day twist. We did several things differently on Thanksgiving, we read out loud thank you notes; today we had anonymous love notes." Students were given papers, markers and stickers as an opportunity to write notes that get read out loud and delivered to a person in the room that they admire. Students had the choice of making their notes anonymous or not. "Students can shoot their shot," Khan said about the activity.

One of the notes read out loud said, "Dear Courtney, thank you for being a sweet vice president. Heart and love, Leanna."

"I didn't expect people to send so many notes. It was really great and I think this is just what people need on Valentine's Day," Mirakhmedova said.

The gathering was loaded with all sorts of Valentine's Day activities and performances by Lexington Music and ISO's performing arts club members.

Lexington Music covered songs by artists MKTO and Kehlani. President of Lexington Music, Feba George, and club member Peter Kim both took the stage as lead vocalists. Vice President Sam Abrole sang backup and treasurer of the club, Rafael Soto played guitar.

"We didn't practice enough but



Members of the International Student Organization pose for photos at their club's event, "Valentine's Day Around the World."

we made it work," Abrole stated.

Performances also included a dancing routine. Chair of performing arts and professional dancer Lauren Farrugia organized and choreographed this segment of the show. "I organized the performances. They're not all dancers, but I work with a really great team of people that give up their time to practice with me and that's really exciting," Farrugia said. A journalism major, Farrugia has been dancing since the age of eight.

"We practiced for three days. It was a very fun dance," ISO Secretary Nisa Kazar said.

Multi-cultural events are held at Baruch to bring people of all ethnic backgrounds together.

"We want to show students that New York City is still the big melting pot that it is. Especially in this political climate," Khan said.

In order for students to get a plate and forks, they had to go around the world to each table and participate in activities. A corresponding club member would then check off their food passports.

There were a variety of different games to try out; hopscotch, card games and chopstick games were the most popular.

Members of AIESEC were also tabling at this event.

"We represent AIESEC to try to work on achieving the 17 sustainable goals of the UN. Right

now, we are working more on quality education," junior Abdelali Seddiey said.

Throughout the event, club members urged students to sign up for volunteer and travel opportunities.

The vertical building's water outage — the water was restored during the final hour of the event — did not stop students from getting their Valentine's Day message across.

"We're surprised — even with the water outage in the building, there was such a big turnout," Khan said.

*Editor's Note: Feba George, Lexington Music's president, is a Ticker senior staff writer.*

"We want to show students that New York City is still the big melting pot that it is. Especially in this political climate."

— Nadia Khan

# UCLA's 'Lunar New Year Celebration' rings in the Year of the Rat

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Beyond MC Jin, whose legal name is actually Jin Au-Yeung, there was a traditional lion dance performed by Chinatown's United Chinese Lion Association, a few dances by a Baruch dance group called Made in China and songs sung by artists Katherine Ho and Michael Joon.

"Being a Korean rapper and singer, it was just nice to have a presence that, well A, was Asian and B, is going into a market completely devoid of a lot of Asian representation," said Timothy Chan, co-vice president of the club's Cultural Learning Program, who hosted the event alongside co-vice president Justin Jiang.

"It was nice to have him there to pave the way to see a lot of Asian people go into the music industry."

Joon, a singer, songwriter and rapper, performed a few original songs and raps, followed up by Ho a little later in the night. She sang covers, an original song and a few songs in Mandarin, including a translated version of Coldplay's "Yellow."

In addition to dancers and musicians, two UCLA-made videos were played, one being a Tik-Tok compilation of the club members dancing and the other a "Mean Girls" parody in which all of the characters had the same first names as in the movie, but they were all given Asian last names.

Games were also played throughout the night.

The first was a scavenger hunt in which six players split into three teams had to find items from people in the audience.

These items included an umbrella, a bubble tea punch card and a Muji brand notebook.

Later in the evening, a guessing game was played in which the

audience had to act out words displayed on screens and the players had to figure out what each word was.

Student Mohammed Rafeek won, though his opponent Alexis Montesinos played a close game.

The participants of both games were each given a prize, regardless of whether they won or lost.

The event, held in the Multipurpose Room, was co-sponsored by 18 other clubs and student organizations, including F.U.S.I.O.N., the Bangladesh Student Association and the International Student Organization.

Unlike most Multipurpose Room events, the room was set up with chairs all facing the central stage, likely because the emphasis was meant to be on the performances.

There were no tables and people didn't go out into the hallway to get food — boxed meals were brought directly to the audience.

Also unlike most Baruch events, the "Lunar New Year Celebration" was filled to capacity, with security cutting off the line and refusing to let people enter the room at some point.

As a result of this, a line formed out of the door, with people hoping to be let in as other students left.

Nelson Cao, UCLA's president, estimated that there were roughly 300 students in the event, with around another 200 stuck outside, making it the club's largest event of the year.

This likely occurred, in part or in whole, because many students came to see MC Jin, who did a short rap, faced off against Montesinos in a bonus round of the guessing game and spoke to the audience about his experiences as an Asian-American musician and as a father.



Students watch a traditional dance performed by the United Chinese Lion Association dance organization.

"Whatever you're doing, whatever you're pursuing, whatever your passion is, your dream is, man, I wish you all the best in it and even if your parents or your loved ones say to you, 'That's not the way, you respectfully tell them, 'I got you, I'll listen,' but always listen to your own voice," the rapper told the audience.

Students who attended the event said that they were glad they went.

"I loved the event, actually," said freshman Ritchie Chen. "It was a great time, a great experi-

ence. Usually going to these events makes everybody feel connected and like they all have something to relate to."

Others spoke about the performances that were done, such as accounting major Cindy Huang.

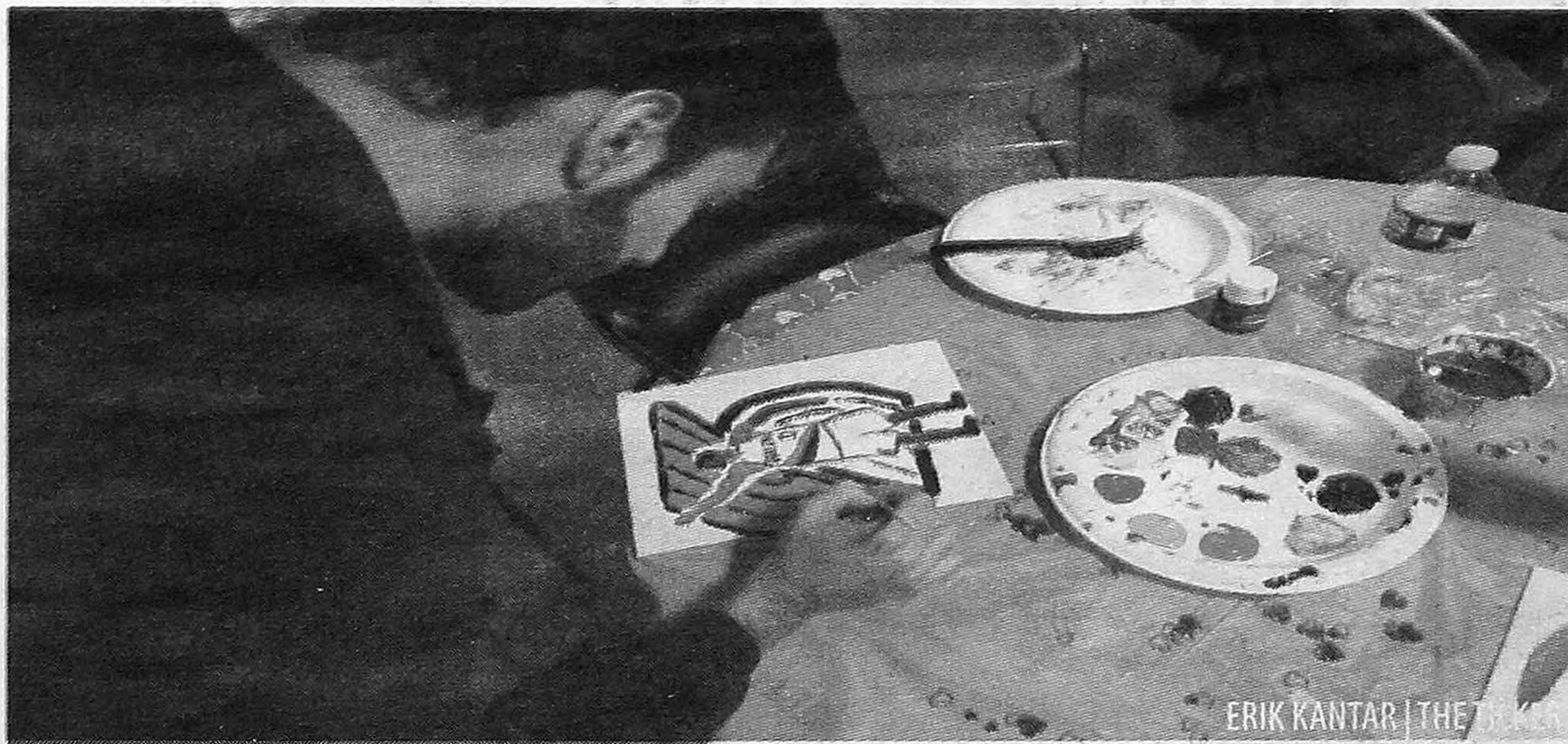
"Originally, no offense, but I haven't heard of them," she said of the guests. "And I wasn't sure if I would be interested in their performances, but overall it was pretty good."

Cao, the club president, spoke with *The Ticker* about the event.

"The event for Lunar is to basically emphasize family and culture ... It is the largest holiday in Chinese culture, so it's something that we wanted to represent and spread awareness of. That's the main goal, but we also wanted to give Baruch a night to remember," he said.

"The importance of Lunar New Year to me is, basically, being united, being in a family. UCLA is my second family, so being around all my peers and all the people that came, the performers, it really united us together. It made me feel like an actual family."





ERIK KANTAR | THE TICKER

## Self-love is for Valentine's Day with USG's 'Bearcat Love' artwork event

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While the event was in celebration of Valentine's Day, its main goal was to give students a chance to relax and focus on themselves.

"Valentine's Day is such a big commercialized holiday. It has a lot of showing love to other people but I feel a lot of people need to focus on how to show love to themselves," USG member Zariana Gonzalez said.

The idea of self-reflection and taking time to show yourself some love is a unique concept for a holiday that has sadly lost a lot of its true meaning.

The organizers of the event, all members of USG, saw this as an opportunity to do something a little different for Valentine's Day and for Baruch students.

USG began their event by putting on a quick and informative presentation about what exactly self-care and loving yourself are.

They also gave some tips on how to care for yourself better, such as treating yourself like you would treat a friend.

Immediately after the presentation, the attendees began to paint at their communal tables, using the brushes, canvasses and paints provided to them by USG.

"I didn't realize painting would be this fun," freshman attendee Brittany Monry said.

The tables in the Bearcat Den, where the event took place, were almost full for the duration of the event.

The organizers even had to look for more canvasses at one point.

"We ran out of canvasses," Staten said.

The event seemed to exceed the expectations of the organizers, by both the number of students who actually showed up and by how much the attendees enjoyed the activities.

This begs the question that anyone, especially future event

organizers, should be wondering when hearing about a successful event: How did these students find out about this event and what made them actually decide to come?

"I saw it on USG's Instagram page and I decided to go because my friends were here," junior attendee Tomasz Horczak said.

It is no surprise that Instagram helped get students to come to this event, but word of mouth and the location played a valuable part as well.

"A lot of good energy around here...everyone's talking and eating...having a good time, you know. Like I met some two new people today," said freshman Daniela Guaman, the event's organizer.

Monroy also saw that the event was happening on USG's page, but her friend asking her about it pushed her over the edge to actually see what it was about.

## APO hosts cookie-themed meeting for new members

BY CRYSTAL CHUNNU  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Baruch College's Alpha Phi Omega hosted a Valentine's Day themed cookie-decorating event during its second general interest meeting on Feb. 13 to help new members become acquainted with one another.

The "Cookie Lovers" event, planned weeks in advance during the winter break, featured heart-shaped cookies that were pre-made the day before the meeting, along with tubes of pink and red frosting for the 50 attendees to use while decorating.

"The goal of this event was to promote fellowship between the new members and the brothers that are already there," said Rifat Khan, Alpha Phi Omega's recruitment chair and a computer information systems junior. "We wanted to have a way to be creative, come together and talk while eating cookies."

The co-educational fraternity is founded on three pillars: leadership, fellowship and service, according to Jonathan Fung, an actuarial science major, and Alpha Phi Omega's president.

The cookie-decorating activity

"We wanted to have a way to be creative, come together and talk while eating cookies,"

— Rifat Khan

was a part of a recruitment event, as well as a fellowship event to help them bond with others.

According to Khan, APO's leadership events are designed to help people gain necessary skills for their careers.

The events members do for service, the organization's main pillar, allows them to volunteer and give back to the community.

Every APO event starts off with attendees introducing themselves and sharing fun facts — and this event was no different.

"It gets everyone a little more comfortable because everyone's a little tense, especially with people you don't know," Queenie Mei said, a sophomore recruit majoring in operational management.

Immediately after introductions, students were divided into two teams to compete in a finish-the-lyric ice breaker game before socializing with cookies.

When asked why she joined Alpha Phi Omega and came to the event, Mei said she was trying to get to know all of the APO brothers, develop lasting friendships and gain insight into new opportunities that she missed out on when she was a first-year.

Mei also got the chance to meet new people on campus that she said she would've never met if the brothers didn't introduce her to them.

"If anyone's ever too scared to join clubs, I think they should just go for it and then work up the courage to come to a few events," Mei said.

"Once you do it, there are so many great things you experience, things you wouldn't experience if you didn't join clubs and frats," she said.

## IVCF gives students safe place to explore religion

BY PATRICIA ALVARADO  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is a Campus Ministry Club with a mission to see life transformed, the campus was renewed and world changers developed.

InterVarsity has over 1,000 chapters at 650 college campuses across the United States.

Many of the club members said they came to deepen their own faith by joining, like senior marketing major Ruth Jean Lubin.

"I found a list of clubs at Baruch online and saw InterVarsity was exploring my own faith more and wanted to come give it a try," she said. Other club members echoed this sentiment.

"I think having that fellowship with other Christians when you're outside in the real world you're not in church is a good way to strengthen your faith, because you have people to keep you grounded and at your word and you're not as easily tempted by if you didn't have that foundation," said freshman Kaitelyn Boodoo.

One of InterVarsity's main events is "Feed 5K."

"Coming to Baruch the commute was hard, it was hard to make friends and it was hard to find a community here,"

— Abishek Johnson

"This past November we were able to have the CUNY Chancellor and Baruch President join us, it's our largest philanthropic event, where we give food and care packages such as beanies, toothbrushes things of that sort, to the homeless of New York City, while also providing Baruch students with Thanksgiving Dinner," said IVCF President Abishek Johnson.

"We also have Baruch Live which are week long events right before spring break like a basketball tournament, paint night, different type of events. Then every Thursday we have a large group meeting," he said. Seeing all the members together, is more of a family all deepening their faith together.

"A family of believers engaging with others regarding their relationship with Christ. I joined because I made the decision to fully believe in God and wanted to find a community that shared similar beliefs and then it turned out that we bonded over more than just faith," said VCF Treasurer Ardouin Ledain.

"Some of these people I could consider more than my close friends like I expect 30 years down the line to still be friends with them," said Ledain, who is a junior and finance major.

Club members said it is a welcoming environment for all members.

"Coming to Baruch the commute was hard, it was hard to make friends and it was hard to find a community here," said Johnson.

"But joining InterVarsity, helped me to find a community were people just wanted to spread love and positivity it was a club."

## Black excellence, original artistry meet in Black History Month 'Sip and Paint'

BY FEBE GEORGE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As part of Black History Month, Baruch College's West Indian Culture Club, along with the Black Student Union of Baruch, hosted a "Sip & Paint" event on Feb. 11.

Students were provided with art materials that included paint, paintbrushes, artist easels and canvases for their masterpieces.

Refreshments were served — as the name suggests — and included apple cider, Chick-fil-A sandwiches, chicken nuggets and chips. Attendees followed Baruch alumna Danae Henry as she walked students through the steps of creating the painting she was doing.

With a degree in entrepreneurship and a pastry arts business, Henry epitomized bringing art and business together in a fun and creative way.

She demonstrated her love for painting not only through her artistic skill but also through her knowledge of famous painters, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose art was featured at the event.

An American artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent, Basquiat passed away at the young age of 27 in 1988. He was a musician, graffiti artist and neo-expressionist painter.

"He went through a period in his career where all he was using was crowns in all of his paintings to depict black royalty, so that's the theme we tried to stay with for the paint and sip tonight," said Henry.

The attendees attempted to emulate his work in their own paintings.

"We're trying to channel that inner love of ourselves and portray



FEBE GEORGE | THE TICKER

The Bearcat Den was packed with students who came to "Sip and Paint."

it as art," said Reann Wilson, president of WICC.

At the event, students said they enjoyed socializing with friends and learning more about the art of painting.

"Making fun of each other's painting," said attendee Yestin Pierret when asked what his favorite part of the event was.

Others said their favorite part was the act of painting itself.

"My favorite was probably learning how to mix all the paints, learning how to actually brush, 'cause like you could paint, and then you could paint well," first-year student Jared Reese said.

The theme of this year's Black History Month is "Clarity & Continuity: Honoring the Past & Inspiring the Future."

"It's really good that everyone could share their own experiences, could share a piece of themselves

and not be isolated in Baruch," Reese said when asked to connect the month's theme to the event.

Another student reflected on the theme as it relates to looking forward and growing from the past.

"I think to me personally it means acknowledging everything that happened in the past, and what's still needs to be done, knowing the mistakes that not only has society done towards us, but we've also done to ourselves, correcting that and making sure that the future has a better way, that future generations have a better life and an easier life of succeeding than what we have now," attendee Milen Yimer said.

Upcoming events for Black History Month include "Take Care of Yourself: Emotional Check-in," "Afro-Beats Dance Class," "Black Excellence Gala" and many more.



# Black Student Union discusses natural hair types and styles

BY DIANA SHISHKINA  
MANAGING EDITOR

Baruch College's Black Student Union hosted "Curl Fest" on Feb. 13, an event dedicated to celebrating hair of all kinds.

Hair is an essential part of one's personality and style, and for black students at Baruch and worldwide, it's also an essential part of their identity.

"We wanted to showcase black people's hair and really embrace it and learn ways you can take care of it and stuff like that as well," BSU Treasurer Jenebou Sylla said when asked why the club decided to host the event. "It's a chance to highlight our culture."

"I always come out to the BSU events because it's just such a sense of community," Yestin Pierret, a first-year majoring in finance, said. "I also wanted to know more about how to take care of my hair and how to treat it."

Students started the event with a meal of chicken, Caesar salad, mozzarella sticks and soda.

After facing some technical difficulties, the event kicked off with ice breakers.

Attendees were asked to stand up, introduce themselves, share their favorite hair style, talk about their hair journey if they had one and finally share a hairstyle that they really love but that can really damage hair.

Those who shared mentioned a multitude of styles that they tried — perms, wigs, protective hairstyles, curls and weaves, just to name a few.

The next part of the event was a game of Kahoot!, titled "How well do you know your curls?"

The game asked players 13 questions about different ways to properly care for hair, what

different hairstyles are called and what certain hair conditions are called.

Most attendees knew the answer to most, if not all, of the questions, but a few that divided the room were, "What is the best state in which to detangle your hair?" and "What are braids under your wig called?"

The winners of the game won a hair bonnet and a voucher for hair products.

The next part was a discussion part about hair controversies.

Event attendees debated whether to use hair grease and whether to flat-iron hair before braiding.

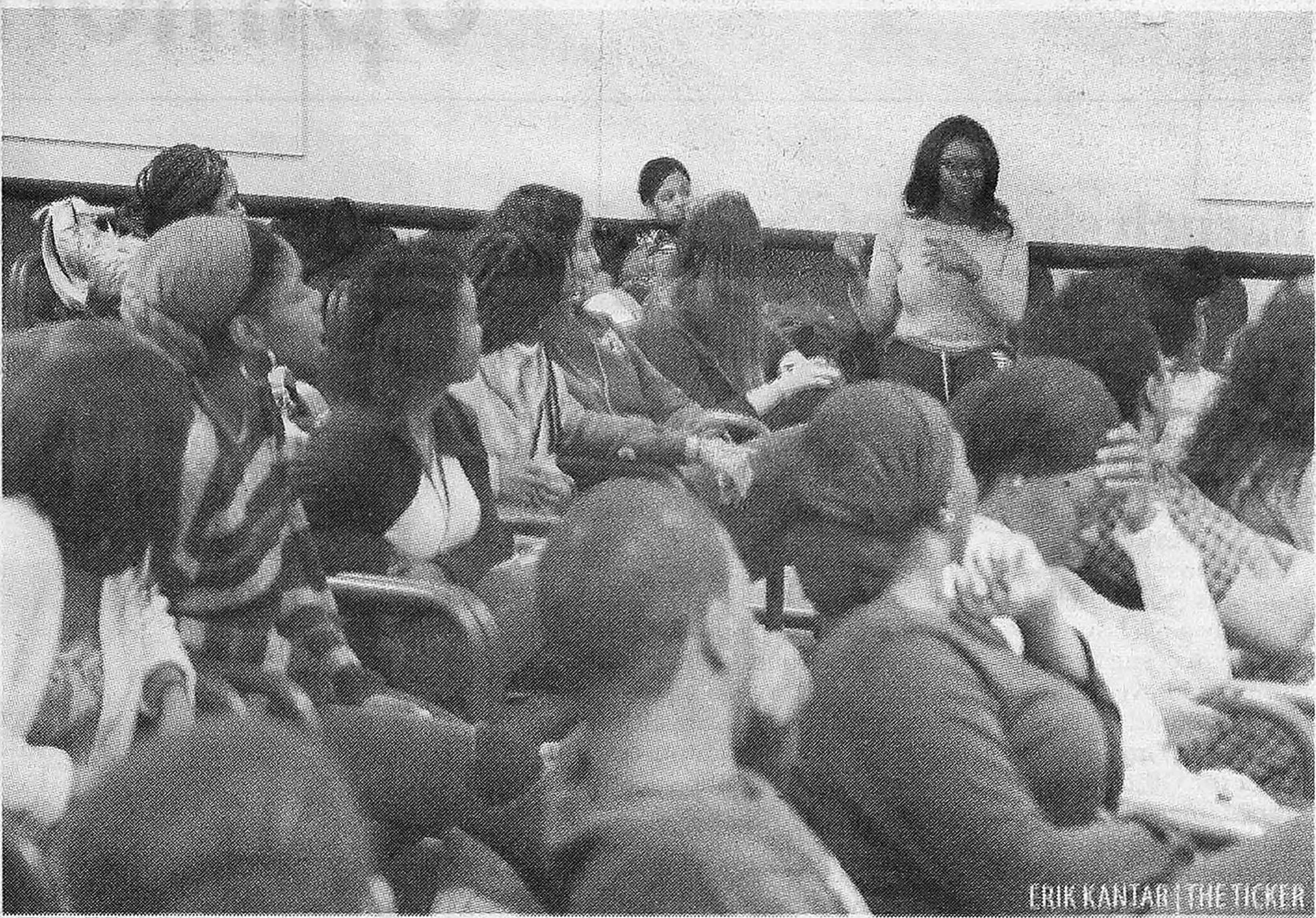
One notion that came out of the discussion was how rampant discrimination is among hairstylists when it comes to styling black hair.

Besides prices for hair braiding constantly rising, some stylists charge fees just for washing or straightening the client's hair in the process.

This contributes to young people of color growing up thinking that their hair is an inconvenience, and "Curl Fest" aimed to break down these stigmas and help everyone embrace their hair, no matter how it's styled.

The penultimate part of "Curl Fest" was called "Story Time." Attendees were prompted to answer how long have they been wearing their natural hair, what challenges they have faced and what have they learned throughout their hair journey.

Common sentiments included how certain students' families did not embrace their natural hair and conditioned them to style it from a young age, and how once students did embrace their natural hair after trial and error, they felt much happier and comfortable



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A student shares her thoughts on one of the topics discussed at the Black Student Union's "Curl Fest" event held on Feb. 13.

in their own skin.

The final part of the evening event was a braiding challenge.

The room was split up into four groups. Each group had one braider, one model, and other students cheering them on.

The braiders had just a few minutes to create a neat braided hairstyle.

This perfectly ended an event that was all about coming together but also embracing oneself and one's culture.

"I think it means everything to me," Pierret said, when asked what his hair means to him.

"If my hair is not looking good in

the morning, that means I'm probably going to have a bad day. But like, I think it's a little piece of my culture and my personality and just representative of who I am. Just being proud of my skin color."

Earlier in the evening, Pierret shared the story of how he grew to embrace his natural hair after years of trying different styles, cuts and textures, such as a Neymar-like mohawk and waves.

"I love it. It's a lot of talking and a lot of community. I feel like we're just hanging out and stuff. It's more friendly, it's like a gathering," Pierret said when asked about what he thought of the event.

Sylla echoed Pierret's sentiment.

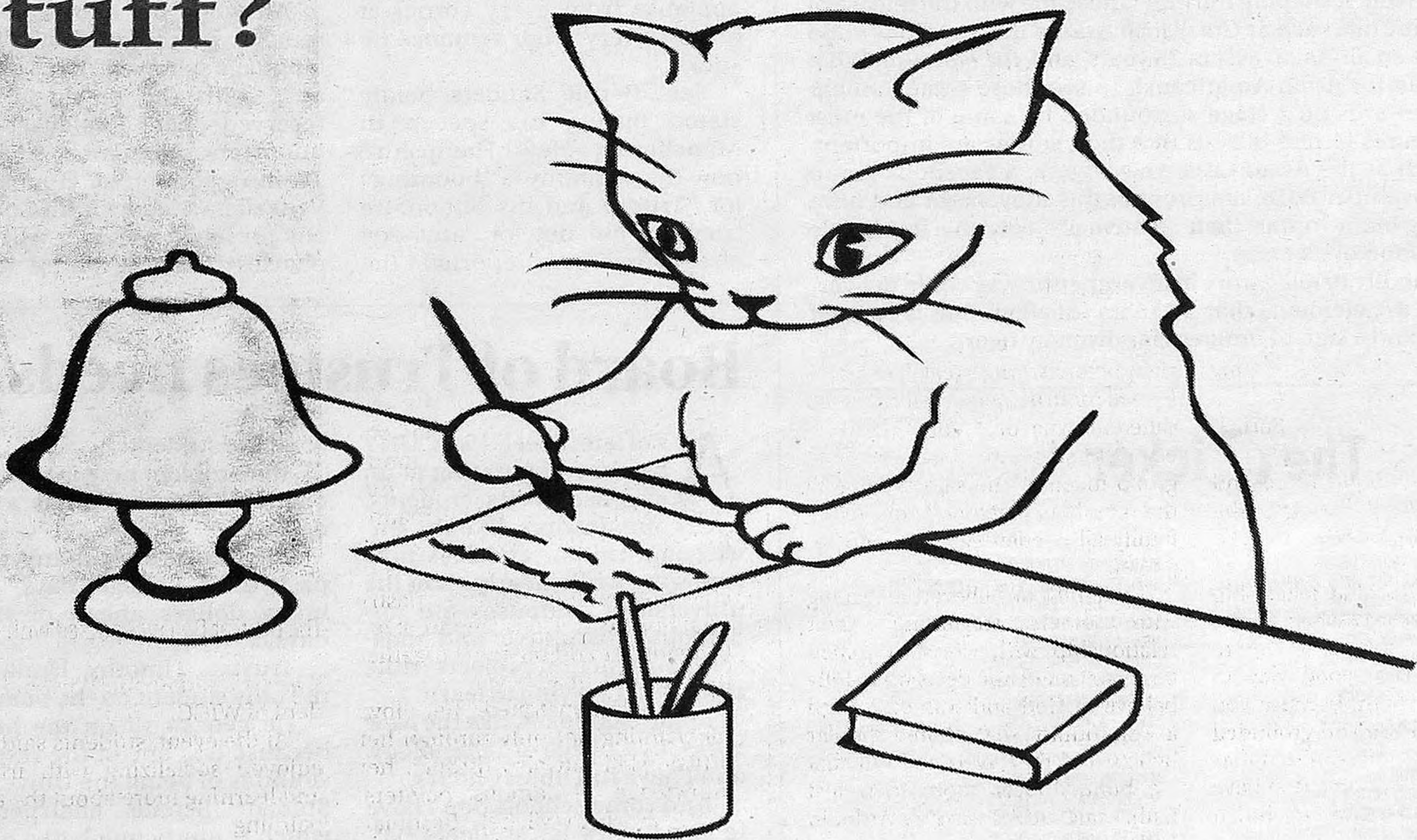
"I love it, everyone is showcasing and embracing their hair," she said.

"My hair means to me — it's my crown," Sylla continued. "My hair means everything to me because it's my identity. So, when I go home and I look at myself, I'm just like ohmigod, I'm a baddie."

Throughout the entire event, Sylla encouraged all attendees to share their hair stories and discuss how experiment with their hair impacted their lives.

"Hair is an individual journey," Sylla said.

## Got the right stuff to write stuff?



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# Opinions

FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

## Baruch should inform students about helpful food programs

Baruch College and CUNY as a whole have been working hard to combat food insecurity within the student population. A Fall 2018 survey of students across all 25 CUNY campuses found that 48% of respondents had dealt with food insecurity in just 30 days leading up to taking the survey. According to a study from Temple University, 36% of students surveyed had suffered food insecurity.

Food insecurity — when someone lacks access to safe or healthy food or is experiencing hunger due to the inability to afford food — is clearly a big issue for CUNY students, many of whom are people of color or come from low-income backgrounds. Thankfully, CUNY campuses have been making efforts to provide all students with access to food or food vouchers. At Baruch, three offices participate in the Grab and Go program, in which students can pop into either the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of Student Life or the Office of Health and Wellness to pick up a bag that contains enough food for three meals.

No proof of need is necessary and it is open to all students on campus. Similarly, Hillel, has a small food pantry of its own and offers it to students in need of some meals. Hot meals are also offered every other Wednesday in the Bearcat Den, dubbed the “Hot Lunch on the Go” option. Students who can’t stay to eat the food can take a meal with them.

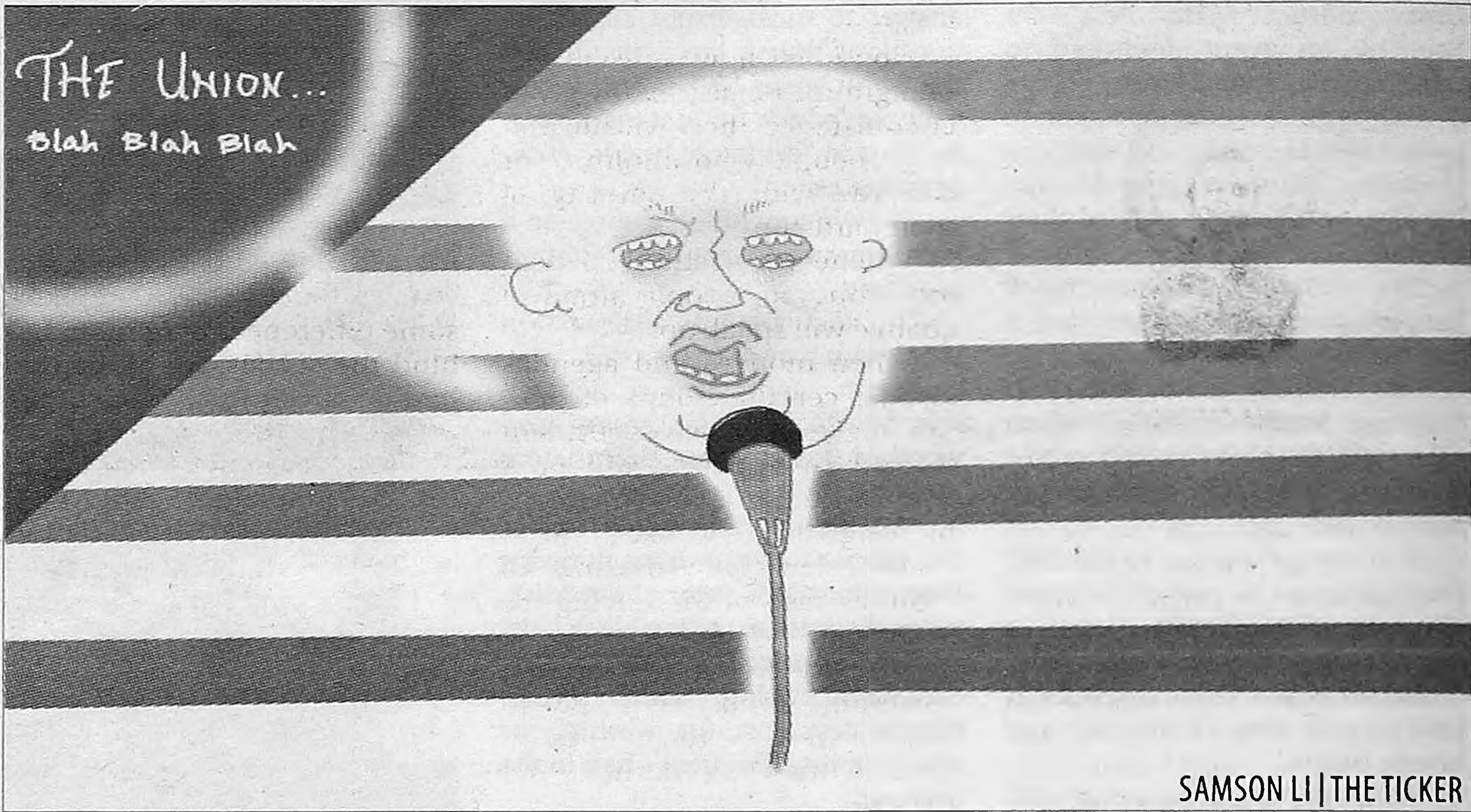
This program is funded by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation. Food vouchers are also available for eligible students through the Student Emergency Fund, to be used at Hidden City Café and Gramercy Grill. Depending on the student’s level of financial need, they can receive multiple vouchers. CUNY also recently unveiled a new Food Insecurity Program, which will provide students at specific campuses with stipends to use at their school cafeterias worth up to three \$10 meals a week. While all of this is great, these programs might not have quite as much reach as CUNY intends for them to have. CUNY should do more to promote these programs by including them in the daily CUNY Brief email blasts.

## Social satire brings social progress

When *Parasite*, a social satire film, won four Oscars, including the coveted best picture award, Asian Americans around the globe took to social media to discuss their excitement as well as their overall feelings about the wins.

The Oscars have been under scrutiny in recent years for not giving out more diverse nominations and awards despite supposedly being an institution that bears the weight of international excellence in film. This has been remedied through renaming the best foreign language film category name to that of international feature film. Despite the overall lack of representation, Asian Americans have been actively reshaping the film landscape with the release of major cinematic hits such as *Crazy Rich Asians*, the first Hollywood film to feature an all-Asian cast in 25 years, and *The Farewell*. What does this mean for Asian Americans? To see those same familiar faces accept awards on a stage surrounded by some of the most prominent figures in film tells us that their stories are important. Platforms such as the Asian Creative Network, a Facebook group created in November 2018, are proof of this movement and have been inspiring many to start their creative projects on a local scale through a mission of diversity.

*Parasite*’s ability to tell a story in an authentic way while delivering it with all the elements that make an excellent film is in itself monumental and a sign of progress for diversity in art.



## Trump brags about his success at SOTU address, despite disapproval

Chants of “four more years” filled the chamber after President Donald Trump made his way to the podium to deliver his State of the Union address on Feb. 4. Just one day after, Trump was released from the chains of his impeachment trial.

As expected by most, Trump was acquitted on two articles of impeachment, concluding his historic impeachment trials. “The chamber voted 52-48 in favor of the president on an abuse of power charge and 53-47 on an obstruction of Congress charge,” as reported by the United Press International. The president’s speech the day before mainly addressed increased economic gains in America. He continued to show the world how undisciplined and untouchable he truly is, as most of the room continued in applause from every corner at almost every other sentence he spoke.

Sen. Bernie Sanders boldly stated during his speech in Manchester, New Hampshire how the economy is “booming” for “Trump and his billionaire friends,” but not for “anybody else,” Vox Media reported. The

Vermont senator went on to specify how Trump played into the emotions of hardworking American people while running for president in claims that the wealthy would not benefit from a particular tax plan. “He lied,” Sanders told the New Hampshire crowd.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made her stance transparent and defied the president for his bias tax cuts in favor of wealthy people. “We cannot forget that despite the dishonesty and division of the last few years, and that we heard tonight from the president of the United States, together we have boundless potential,” Whitmer said to the voters in New Hampshire.

The most epic moment came from Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who wasted no time ripping Trump’s speech immediately after his final sentence.

Although her efforts were to remain poised, Pelosi’s body language showed her annoyance with the president. She reserved her applauses for important moments, such as Trump’s support of Opposition Venezuela’s leader Juan Guaidó. His presence was met with applauses from the entire room.

Trump extended his support to Guaidó by calling him the “one true president” of Venezuela for working towards freedom in his country, NBC News reported. Another notable moment was when Trump announced Charles McGee, one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, who is 100 years old.

The delay of the Iowa caucus results, which were supposed to be released the day before Trump’s speech, created widespread confusion among the presidential campaigns.

This delay also influenced the State of the Union address in a way that perceived Trump and Republicans as the better party.

Trump held up *The Washington Post* newspaper as he posed for pictures with the front-page headline that read “Trump acquitted.” The president resumed his victorious day hours later in the East Room of the White House in the midst of yet another crowd of reporters.

The media captured Trump once again spewing out another pointless speech that he could have kept for himself.

-Brenika Banks  
Journalism '22

## Board of Trustees needs more students

As of late, it feels like CUNY has been operating at an expense to its students, with complications like the unwelcome tuition and fees hike emerging while nearly all of the university’s campuses are undergoing disruptive and massive construction projects while students are trying to learn.

Some campuses, like the New York City College of Technology, don’t have full library hours.

And some schools don’t have food pantries for students battling food insecurities.

Classes are getting larger, schools are getting more crowded and elevators don’t fully function at any of the 25 CUNY colleges.

However, things don’t seem to be improving

It can, in part, be blamed on the CUNY Board of Trustees, which is the governing body of the public university system.

Comprised of 15 trustees, one vice chair and the chairperson, the board, along with Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez and the CUNY college presidents, get to make decisions on behalf

of all the students.

The problem here is that only one of these trustees is a student.

The rest are all many years past their college days, and many dollars ahead of those days, as well.

Trustee Timothy Hunter is the only student on the board.

He gets to sit on the board because it is one of the responsibilities of being the University Student Senate chairperson, which is pretty much like being the president of the Undergraduate Student Government for all the CUNYs together.

The CUNY Board of Trustees votes on things that affect students and also professors.

Other than Hunter, the board members never really feel the effects of their choices.

The members vote on issues like tuition hikes and then pat themselves on the back for a good day’s work.

From there, it’s on the student to cope and deal with that vote and the consequences that come after it.

The people who voted on it

will never have to deal with the consequences of that decision, because they make decisions for a group which they are not a part of.

It is unethical to have a board of these detached people making decisions on students’ behalfs.

The board needs to have more student representatives to be able to more accurately cater to the needs and desires of students.

Yes, the board has many experienced professionals filling its ranks.

But these people are no longer in-touch with the students of CUNY and their needs.

Hunter himself can only do so much to fight for the rights of students — and one vote out of 17 isn’t much more than a statement.

If the one student on the board isn’t given any legitimate power or support, then he or she is just a consolation prize, rather than the voice of the students.

-Amanda Salazar  
Journalism '22

## The Ticker

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The Ticker welcomes comments, suggestions and information about errors from students and faculty members. Letters may be emailed to [opinions@theticker.org](mailto:opinions@theticker.org) or delivered to The Ticker office. Letters should be under 400 words, must be signed, and will appear, space-permitting. The editor reserves the right to edit letters and submissions for clarity and brevity.

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# USG thanks and celebrates student activists participating in CUNY rally

## THE USG REPORT



JOSHUA CASTILLO

I am beyond thankful for going to Baruch College. The diversity of our student body is something that anyone can appreciate. Our prime location in the city makes it ideal for ambitious students seeking opportunities to advance in their personal and professional lives. Additionally, the quality of education relative to its price makes Baruch especially appealing for students with working and middle-class backgrounds. I am one of those students. CUNY and Baruch have historically acted as symbols of socioeconomic mobility and we all know the difference that quality education can make in anyone's life. Because of this simple fact, it behooves any society to focus a significant amount of its resources on providing people with a means to move forward in the world. From that perspective, there is no "spending" on education. It is an investment. Any investment into educa-

tion is one that never goes to waste. No matter how stoically certain groups persist in any given circumstance, there will always be people who minimize or disagree with the severity of their hardship. Whenever radical ideas are proposed, people afraid of change will speak up. When motives and agendas against certain groups of people make themselves evident through time, people will enter with institutional fog machines, blowing thick smoke into a societal labyrinth, making an arduous task of identifying injustice. The Undergraduate Student Government hosted a rally to oppose the current attitudes towards funding Baruch and CUNY. Our CUNY Board of Trustees voted to raise our tuition, along with adding a \$120 "health and wellness fee." It seems the ambiguous language is intentional, done in an attempt to minimize negative reception, but to maximize what the money could be used for. Politicians, students and faculty attended to speak on their personal experiences within the CUNY system.

Overall, the rally was a powerful experience, but it should not end there, I hope everyone learned.

I heard stories about students taking out loans, cutting class to go to work and even deciding between a meal or a MetroCard swipe. Listening to their stories was inspiring. I have the pleasure of working with incredible people this year. Although we may have some differences of opinion behind the scenes, we all believe in the same principles that unify us as USG. Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Kimberly Kazdal is a powerhouse. She is committed to making a change in the Baruch community through the power of unifying people. Through our process of putting together this rally, I was nervous about its outcome because many Baruch students are not civically engaged and therefore might choose to not come out to the rally, especially on a weekday afternoon. However, we trusted her vision and everything went according to plan. Over 100 people attended and many chose to speak up after being inspired by the stories of others. Overall, the rally was a powerful experience, but it should not end there. I hope that everyone learned. Students will be called to support changes that will benefit our future generations.

Joshua Castillo is the executive vice president of USG. He can be reached at [joshua.castillo@usg-baruch.com](mailto:joshua.castillo@usg-baruch.com). His office is located at 3-276 in the Newman Vertical Campus.

# USS clarifies concerns about Caucus Weekend

CUNY students, along with the University Student Senate, have decided not to attend the annual legislative conference held by The Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Inc. due to concerns of money mismanagement. The NYSABPRL is the nonprofit arm of the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. Every year, for 46 years, the NYSABPRL hosts an annual legislative conference. "Historically, NYSABPRL has engaged the public at its annual convention, through the presentation of issue-focused workshops, and by collaborating with and lauding community-based leaders from every county, city, community and neighborhood across the State," the association's website states. Dubbed Caucus Weekend, the NYSABPRL has invited higher education student groups like USS to Albany for years. For the entire weekend, student senators from USS, along with local student government representatives, would attend to learn from and participate in workshops regarding public health, housing justice, higher education, environmental issues and more. This experience has provided many underprivileged students the opportunity to engage with lawmakers, learn from experts, all the while reminding the very same lawmakers to fight for higher education in the upcoming budget session. In the past few years, however, students at CUNY have read unsettling news articles detailing the NYSABPRL's alleged

mishandling of money. In 2019, students shared their concerns with the USS leadership. The Student Senate followed up with Caucus leadership to get answers, to no avail. Even more recently, Attorney General Letitia James has started an investigation into the nonprofit's alleged misuse of funds, according to an article written by the Times Union. While we can assume no guilt given that the investigation is still ongoing, our student-constituents have expressed skepticism and unease attending the annual gala, which occurs towards the end of the weekend. The gala in particular would require USS to pay student money to attend, which, given the current situation, would not be appropriate. For this reason, students have decided not to attend the annual gala. Instead, USS, along with local student governments, will attend the various educational workshops, participate in higher education panels and continue spreading the message to fully fund CUNY. At a time when lawmakers are riding the progressive wave in Albany, having passed historic rent laws, environmental protection laws and criminal justice reform, the time for Albany and New York City to have a free and fully funded CUNY is near, and soon this dream will become a reality. This Op-Ed was submitted to The Ticker by the CUNY University Student Senate. For more information about USS, log onto <https://www.usscuny.org/>

# New president's track record at past university raises student concerns

Last year, George Mason University hired Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh to join its law school faculty. In response, a group of outraged GMU students and a coalition of students who were victims of sexual assault, better known as Mason For Survivors, rallied against the school leadership for hiring a person famously accused for sexual assault. Students rallied and demanded for school leadership to terminate Kavanaugh's contract and asked for more resources to support students who experienced sexual assault and sexual harassment on-campus instead. One of the leaders they rallied against was then-provost and executive vice president, and now newly appointed Baruch College President S. David Wu. When asked about his opinion on Kavanaugh back then, Wu said, "it was the law school's decision to hire him and there was 'no reason for university administrators to override' that decision," as reported by *The Washington Examiner*. GMU hosted a townhall to address these concerns among other things. At this town hall, reported by *Fairfax County Times*, Wu added, "While all faculty hiring is a collective decision, individual schools and academic departments are primarily responsible for handling their own hires, and Mason's administration usually does not override their decisions unless there are legal

issues." Given Wu's comments, one wonders how much is too much sexual assault before he can no longer ignore the cries of survivors. Even if the ultimate decision to hire Kavanaugh was beyond the control of Wu's oversight, this was an opportunity to condemn the decision and take a stand with survivors. This was an opportunity to be a helping hand toward students. Instead, Wu sought to throw off the blame by simply blaming the process instead of acknowledging the pain. Even if the channels that Wu had access to at GMU were not formal channels within the hiring process, the CUNY Board of Trustees — which includes school leaders, faculty and a student — must still question Wu's involvement in the hiring process of Kavanaugh. It is hard to believe that Wu, who was the head of all major affairs happening within the university, had absolutely no sway to influence the decision by informal means. Furthermore, one must ask whether, as college president, Wu will override all future hires who have allegations of sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual violence. Does Wu want to set a precedent of valuing prestige over the trauma of survivors? Before Wu starts his tenure at Baruch, he must clarify his record as GMU's provost and executive vice president, including Kavanaugh's hiring, and what he now thinks about the private university's decision to work with the judge. At the height of the #MeToo movement, Baruch should have a college president who is willing to stand against sexual assaulters in both a legal and ethical standpoint. As a student of color, I applaud CUNY's commitment to having more diversity in its leadership. I am also proud that my institution will welcome its first Asian American college president — representing an institution attended by majority students of color. However, as a participant of the #MeToo movement, Wu's ambiguous record on Kavanaugh raises concerns from Baruch faculty and students who experienced or are strong advocates against sexual assault, sexual harassment and sexual violence.

-Jeemin Cha  
Public Affairs '20

# Not noble: Barnes and Noble faces criticism

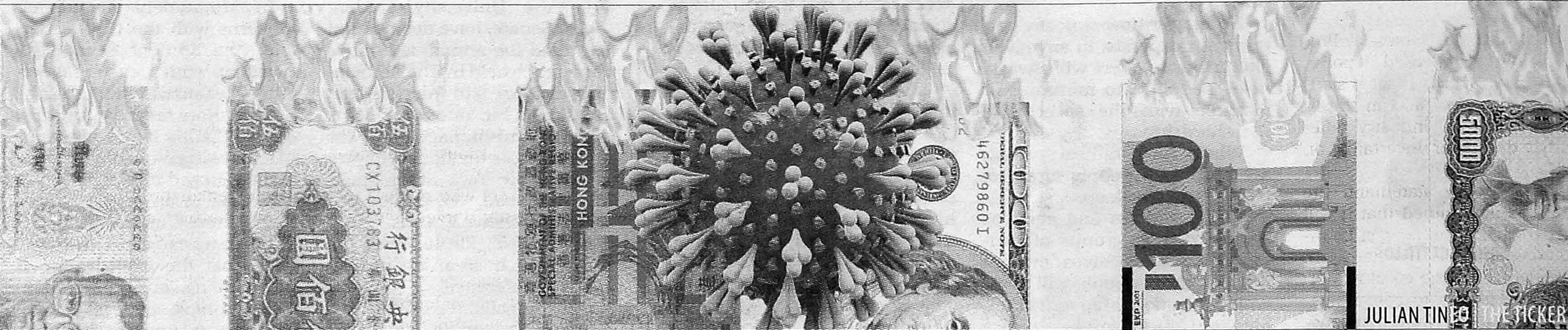
Barnes & Noble Inc. canceled its plan to change the covers of 12 well-known books to depict characters of color in celebration of Black History Month. The best part of the whole ordeal was that the decision came about after the plan received backlash on Twitter. Set to partner with Penguin Random House, Barnes & Noble was going to launch these books, coined as the "Diverse Editions," on Feb. 5. What makes the books "diverse" is that a person of color is now drawn on the cover, even if a book's words are written from a white character's experiences and perspective. This, of course, isn't how diversity should be celebrated and many people have expressed this same kind of sentiment. These covers are "deeply offensive, tone deaf, and exploitative," said Rod Faulkner in a Medium essay. "In fact, it is a form of literary blackface." While Barnes & Noble did cancel this plan, and it is a good thing the bookseller did, these kinds of initiatives should not be taken lightly. Using the image of a person of color in this way eliminates and devalues what it means to be a person of color throughout history and today. Many authors of color responded their disapproval of the proposed book covers launch on Twitter. One of them was author of 2017 best-selling young adult fiction novel "The Hate U Give," Angie Thomas. "Or here's a thought promote books by authors of color. Just a

thought," tweeted Thomas. These proposed book covers are, in essence, the same sentiment as adding one actor of color to an all-white cast for a movie and thinking that this is what representation should look like. This is where the lines on who exactly is being celebrated become blurred, because people of color are not being celebrated if their stories are not being told. The stories that were going to be sold with the new covers were ones that have white main characters, such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Moby Dick," which don't have anything diverse about them in terms of race and ethnicity. Barnes & Noble had planned to launch these Diverse Editions at their location on Fifth Avenue, just a few train stops away from Baruch College. The bookseller released a statement on Twitter announcing its cancellation of the whole project on the day it was supposed to launch. One good byproduct from the failure of this project was the discussions it brought about — while they aren't ones that celebrate diversity as Barnes & Noble intended, these discussions still matter and are important in recognizing which and whose narrative is being highlighted as a "diverse" project. Next time something is handed out in class or released by a large company as being a beacon to celebrating everyone, including people of color, it might be a good idea to double-check whether this is the best way of doing so.

-Angelica Tejada  
Journalism '22



# Business



## Coronavirus hurts the world economy: uncertainty continues

BY JULIAN TINEO  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

The outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan, China, has had economic repercussions within and beyond the nation's borders.

Chinese firms are forced to keep their factories closed while much of the nation's population stays home to avoid contracting the virus.

The businesses abroad must deal with the effects of a major supply chain partner being unable to operate normally.

While firms are gradually reopening, prolonged closures have negative impacts on a variety of industries.

Following the outbreak, Apple Inc. closed all its stores located in China. It was planning to reopen its retail locations on Feb. 9, but it extended closure indefinitely in early February.

As of Feb. 9, only 10% of employees have returned to work at Foxconn factories in Zhengzhou and

Shenzhen, where Apple's iPhones are assembled.

In Wuhan, there are five major LCD factories whose operations were disrupted when the Chinese government quarantined the city.

Resulting production cuts may force Chinese LCD producers to raise prices, according to IHS Markit analyst David Hsieh.

Factory closures are affecting more than just the tech industry.

While many automakers in China are in the process of reopening factories to resume vehicle production, the extended closure causes them to take more time to reach full capacity than previously planned.

Tesla Inc. expects to see a 1-1.5 week delay in reaching full production of its Shanghai-produced Model 3 cars due to the effects of the virus.

Hyundai Motor is idling all 7 of its plants in the country, citing a lack of parts from Chinese suppliers.

LMC Automotive, a provider of

automotive industry forecasting figures, expects auto production in China to decline by 3-5 % this year due to the disease.

The economically damaging effects of the virus' spread is reaching beyond the borders of China and into other parts of Asia in addition to the nation's trade partners.

With a world gross domestic product share of over 15%, hits to the Chinese economy are sure to be felt globally.

According to Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, a 1% sustained reduction in the real GDP of China can result in a 0.4% drop in world GDP, excluding China.

The world is expected to see a drop in GDP by 0.8% for the first quarter of 2020 and .3% for the year.

If world economic growth slows to a great extent, unemployment could rise and the risk of a recession could become uncomfortably high, according to Zandi.

Major slowdowns in Chinese tourism are impacting other parts

of Asia and the United States.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand estimated that tourism revenues in the country would fall by about \$3 billion due to reduced numbers of Chinese tourists, but is now expecting that figure to rise as tourists from other nations avoid travelling to the Asian region overall.

The United States usually hosts about 3 million tourists from China each year who spend an estimated \$6,700 per person per trip.

A heavy reduction in tourism can account for a drop in first-quarter U.S. GDP of about 0.2% according to Moody's Analytics.

The spread of coronavirus has led to a steep drop in demand for oil as production remains halted for Chinese manufacturers, and many flights to the region have been cancelled.

As a result, delegations from Russia and member states of The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries held an emer-

gency meeting to discuss cutting oil production in order to avoid oversupplying the market.

The groups extended the meeting after failing to come to a decision, though there are talks of cutting oil production by up to 1 million barrels per day until the market stabilizes again.

Some OPEC estimates forecast that demand growth could be cut by between 202,000 and 124,000 barrels per day for the rest of the year, according to the *Wall Street Journal*.

While progress has been made between Chinese and American negotiators in abating the trade war that has pressured the economies of both nations, China's preoccupation with the outbreak could provide new challenges for the country.

Fulfilling purchase promises made as a part of the recent trade deal made by President Donald Trump's administration could become more difficult for China.

## Career fair benefits business students, fails liberal arts majors again

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

At the start of the fair, hopeful students waited in line outside of the gyms, reviewing their resumes or practicing their elevator pitches.

Upon entering, lines quickly began to form, some even wrapping around the gym — like the one for Deloitte.

First-time attendees saw the event as a beneficial experience. Some said that it was a worthwhile opportunity to learn about new companies, talk with recruiters and try to stand out amongst a large competitive bunch of candidates.

"I think a lot of people make it out to be scarier than it actually is because at the end of the day the recruiters are also people and they are looking for hardworking individuals," said Frankie Dong, freshman at Baruch College.

Others did not find the fair to be as rewarding of an experience.

"I was very nervous to interview for internships, but actually there wasn't too useful information for me. Companies just told me to go onto their website and apply for an internship or job," said Crystal Dong, a senior majoring in business management.

This seemed to be a common grievance. Students waited on line, some for a few minutes and others for much longer, vying for a job or internship, only to find that they had just enough time to shake hands and drop off their resume — especially for popular companies.

With so many qualifying students eager to gain experience work, employers were also not given enough time to properly assess each candidate.

Some students felt that the list of employers was also not very diverse. The vast majority of companies were "finance or accounting, but not management," said Dong.



Baruch College hosted its biannual career fair on Feb. 7, with hundreds of students attending with the hopes of finding and securing a new internship or a job.

Sally Zheng, a current sophomore, agreed by saying "I feel like I saw more finance and accounting, rather than marketing."

The list of 86 employers neglected the non-business majors and seemed to focus mostly on accounting, finance and auditing. Though it did include internships for education like with New York Edge, there was an evident lack of internships or opportunities for majors like the natural sciences, law or journalism.

This also led to the few non-business-oriented employers having few students interested and no

wait time. This was the case for the CIA table, which very few students visited over the course of the fair.

The lack of representation for all majors resulted in most students coming from the Zicklin School of Business. While these specific business majors had more options, employers saw the general student population as having potential.

The employers choose to come to Baruch because "A lot of Baruch alumni have gone through the fellowship that we offer and we find that they go on to do great things in this field. They offer a great skill set and come from a background

that we look for," said Paramjot Kaur, representative of New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

Kaur explained that they do affordable housing and statement banking for the state of New York.

"We find that every Baruch student that comes to interview is impressive. Baruch kids are ambitious and hardworking and they end up going through our pipeline and joining the industry. This is one of the reasons why we recruit here annually," continued Kaur.

Most attendees felt that attending workshops at the STARR Cen-

ter was instrumental in preparing them for the fair.

It is also possible to schedule appointments before the career fairs to get personalized tips.

Through editing resumes to learning how to make a personal pitch and interview, the career center provides a means for students to become confident candidates.

At the end of the four-hour fair, it was clear that students left hopeful and smiling at the prospect of new opportunities and a chance to grow professionally.



# The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau loses power with new policy

BY ANTHONY TELLEZ  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau released a policy statement in which it set a standard for “abusive” acts in the financial services industry after nearly a decade of uncertainty on Jan. 24.

In the policy statement, the CFPB has determined that it will pursue legal action against financial companies if “the harms to consumers from the conduct outweigh its benefits to consumers” and “will generally avoid challenging conduct as abusive that relies on all or nearly all the same facts that the Bureau alleges are unfair or deceptive.”

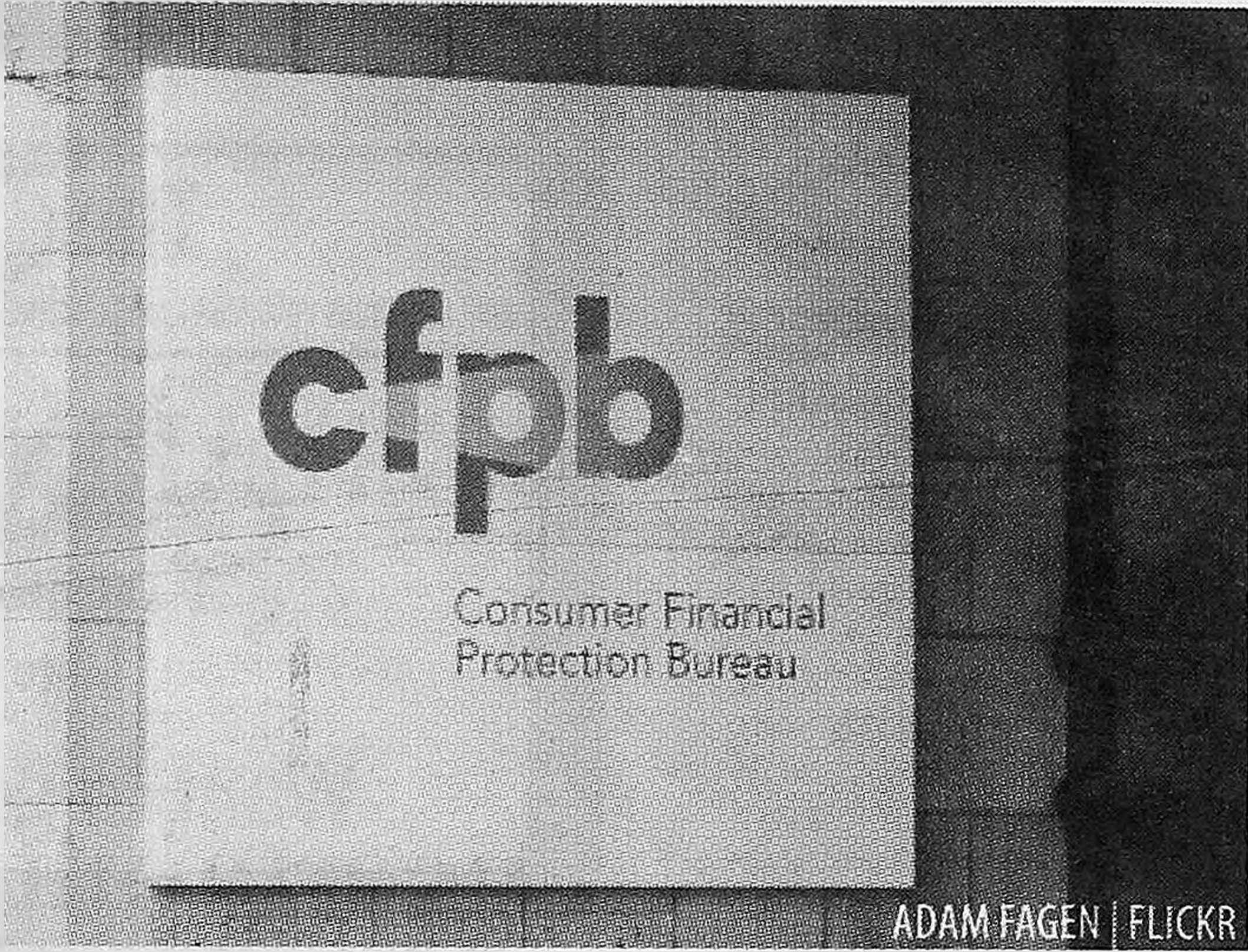
Another focal point of the statement is that the agency will not pursue certain monetary relief if the covered person was making a “good-faith” effort to comply with consumer financial laws.

This would have a major impact on the agency’s ability to prove in a court of law if a company was acting in bad faith when abusing consumer finance laws.

These new sets of policies would make it harder for the CFPB to enforce its standards and some companies would be able to escape monetary penalties under the “good-faith” policy, according to Bloomberg Law.

In the same policy statement, “I am committed to ensuring we have clear rules of the road and fostering a culture of compliance – a key element in preventing consumer harm,” said Kathleen Kraninger, director of the CFPB.

Christopher Peterson, a former



special advisor to the office of the director at the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau who had worked with the Bureau’s enforcement took to twitter to criticize the new policies.

“Every American consumer deserves law enforcement that is creative and flexible enough to protect them from abusive financial practices. @CFPB’s policy will embolden the worst actors in consumer finance to be more reckless and indifferent to the welfare of their customers,” said Peterson in his tweet.

In its quest to be able to define the “abusive” standard, the CFPB held a symposium with eight prominent academics, both in government and private practice, to weigh in on the decision.

Among those eight academics, three had previously worked for top tier white-collar defense firms and one is still currently employed at one.

Critics of the “abusive” standard have long claimed that the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, enacted in 2010 following the 2008 financial crisis, did not properly define what constitutes the “abuse” standard and claim that it has made it difficult for financial institutions to comply with the law.

Since its creation, the CFPB has brought 32 enforcement cases with the use of the abusive practices, including cases against a company that scammed 9/11 first responders out of money that was intended to cover medical costs and an illegal tax-refund loan that targeted members of the Navajo Nation.

The CFPB is unique as it had the authority to pursue legal action against financial service providers whose services take advantage of the consumer and their money, as reviewed and deemed so by the Bureau.

# Real estate brokers take action against new laws

BY AYE KELCE  
BUSINESS EDITOR

New York State regulators announced new restrictions on broker fees collected from the tenants on Feb. 4.

The news surprised both New Yorkers who previously paid more than a month’s rent in broker fees and the brokers who made a living in a mostly unregulated real estate heaven called New York City.

While the tenants were happy to hear about the ban, the Real Estate Board of New York and other real estate groups sued the Department of State, according to *The New York Times*. After the backlash from the real estate industry, New York State Judge Michael Mackey temporarily halted the ruling.

“We are asking the court to recognize that the Department of State illegally overstepped its role in issuing its new guidance on rental brokerage commissions,” said James Whelan, president of the Real Estate Board of New York.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the Statewide Housing Security & Tenant Protection Act of 2019 and the Housing Stability & Tenant Protection Act of 2019 on June 14.

The acts challenged the legitimacy of concepts like returning deposits, application and late rent fees that needed more clarification for many tenants.

Expensive rent and broker fees especially scare the students who are looking for apartments on budget.

Valiantsina Shcherba, a sophomore at Baruch College, told

*The Ticker* about her apartment search last summer. She said that her search was based on no-fee apartments. “But if I were to pay a fee, I would have a much wider selection of apartments,” she said.

Even some listings in apps and websites mostly dedicated to eliminate the expensive middlemen failed to remain broker-free.

“So, having a broker’s fee definitely limited your choices if you couldn’t afford it. Seeing that it was illegalized was good news,” Shcherba commented on the ban.

Shcherba found an apartment where she did not have to pay a broker’s fee, yet, she had to pay the deposit and first and last month’s rent in order to move in. In addition to all of the prior payments, she was asked to pay an application fee.

“Application fee made it difficult to have adequate time to make a decision. If you wanted to secure a place you liked, you had to pay an application fee of over \$100 per person,” said Shcherba.

In fact, the application fees do not even guarantee that the tenants can rent the apartment. They are mostly used to run background and credit checks of the potential tenants, meaning that it is possible to pay a \$100 for each applicant and still not get the apartment.

According to the new legislation, landlords will no longer be able to ask for more than \$20 per person as an application fee.

The temporary block to implement the ruling left the tenants wondering if a cheaper apartment search can ever be possible in New York City.

# US fails to meet Trump administration's 3% GDP growth target

BY NICOLAS DOMINIQUE  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The U.S. economy for the second straight year hasn’t notched the 3% yearly growth target the president has set since taking office in 2016.

For 2019, the U.S. economy grew moderately gaining 2.1% for the fourth quarter of 2019. This was due to the current trade war between China and the United States, lower business confidence and investment, and cooling consumer spending.

Business investment fell by 1.5% in the fourth quarter of 2019. It was the third straight quarterly decline and the longest such stretch since the year 2009. This can be largely attributed to trade uncertainty and news headlines.

The National Association of Business Economists found that 84% of respondents, who were business execs, weren’t planning to further spend from capital budgeting despite reported accelerating investment retained earnings because of lower corporate taxes.

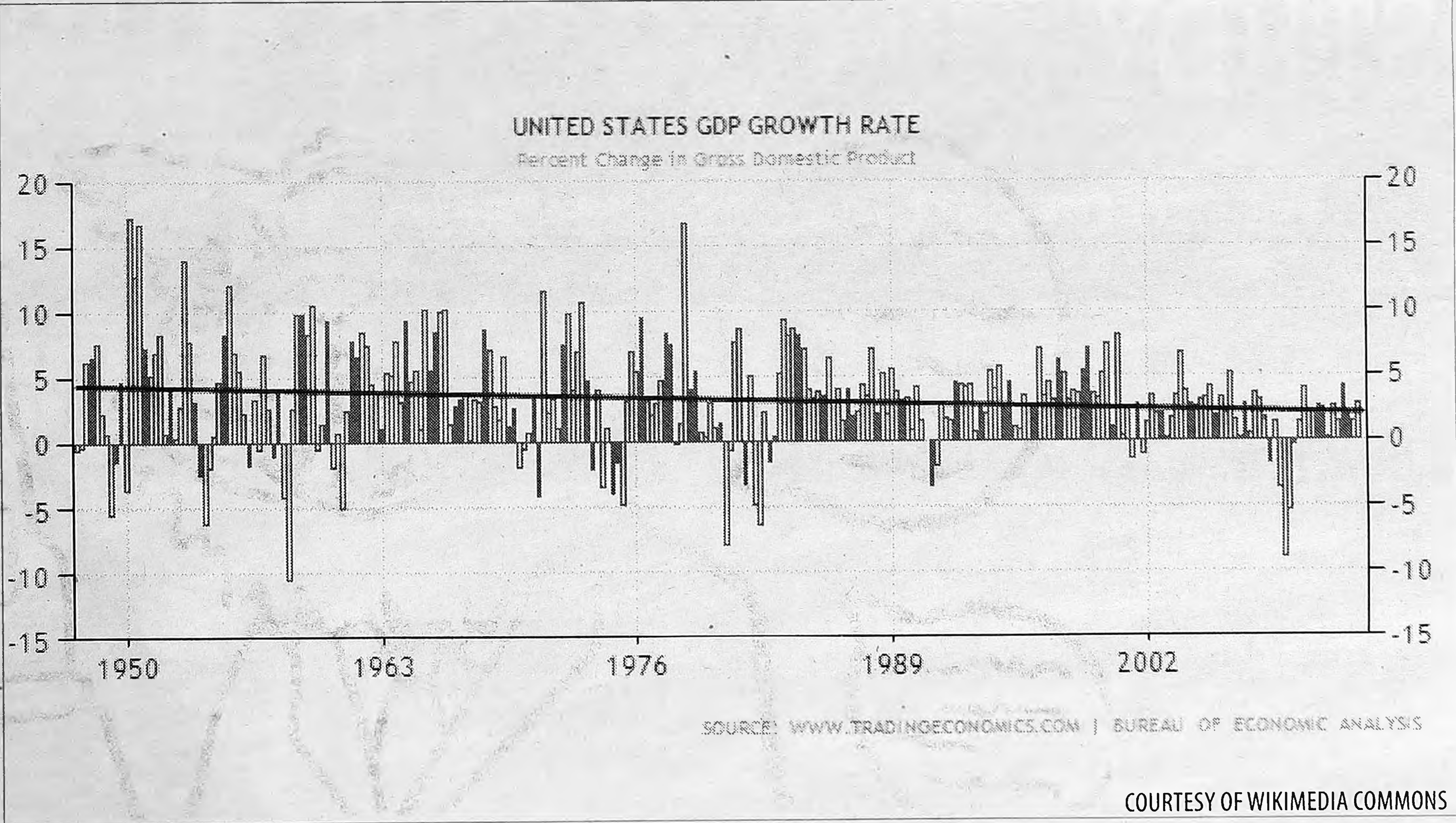
Boeing Co. suspended this month the production of its troubled 737 MAX plane. Boeing reported its first annual loss since 1997 on Jan. 29.

U.S. economists estimate Boeing’s biggest assembly line halt since the 1990s could slice at least half a percentage point from first quarter gross domestic product growth in 2020.

The spending done among consumers also fell from 3.2% to 1.8% in the third quarter of 2019.

This, if continually occurring, could have a more pronounced effects as consumption is two-thirds of U.S. GDP.

President Donald Trump highly covets his \$1.5 trillion cut legislation as a huge economic booster, but it has yet to reach his target. It



The table above shows the gross domestic product change rate of the United States by the years. U.S. economy grew at a rate of 2.1% for the fourth quarter of 2019.

has only been a temporary boost. 2018 was the best year in terms of reaching the 3% goal, with gained 2.9%.

The Department of Commerce noted that the year 2019 only had a 2.3% growth.

However, this is not inherently a negative thing. 2% growth is seen widely as a stable and moderate among economists.

Larry Kudlow, the current White House economic adviser calls it, “fundamentally healthy.”

He is very optimistic and has a strong position for better days just

like the president does.

Trump described last Friday’s report as “not bad” and had the notion that the economy is “set to zoom,” according to an article by the *Washington Post*.

This will likely be the norm for this decade compared to the fast-growing emerging economies occurring India, China and Brazil who will begin to take the world by storm over the coming years.

Some economists have been vocal about their disagreement with tax cuts.

The reduction of the corporate

tax rate to 21% from 35% in 2018, as well as shrinking the trade deficit, did not boost annual GDP growth to 3.0% on a sustainable basis. This has been due to low productivity and low population growth.

Based on historical data and trends, that there has not been a very strong correlation between corporate tax rates and business investment.

This is very similar to trickle-down economics which isn’t proven to work.

Apple Inc. most notably is known to use their tax break for

share buybacks, according to Reuters.

There have been many macro-economic events that rocked the world since 2020 began that also must be accounted for, such as the United Kingdom leaving the European Union, the emergence of the coronavirus and interest rates staying low by the central banks around the world.

It remains unknown what the future entails for the rest of this year, and only time will tell how the United States will fare in 2020 and the years ahead.



# Ticker Tape

A Financial Briefing by Baruch College's Investment Management Group



In recent weeks, all eyes in the tech market have been set on Tesla Inc. as it became the most valuable auto company in U.S. history. Tesla's stock has been rallying for the past five weeks — reaching its highest close at \$887.06 on Feb. 4.

In January 2020, the broader market slid into bear market territory as the outbreak of the coronavirus in China worried investors.

However, Tesla proved defensive and continued to rally as it announced record deliveries in fourth quarter 2019 and plans to continue expanding internationally in 2020.

The electric-car manufacturer is also on track to deliver its Model Y compact SUV before April of this year.

As the electric car manufacturer records some of its best weeks, short-seller investors have racked up \$8.4 billion in losses over the past five weeks.

A short-seller investor is one who borrows a stock and sells it, with the hope of buying the stock back later at a lower price and profit from the spread.

In the past, short-sellers have been able to profit off of their strategy because of Tesla's volatility.

Historically, Tesla has never posted an annual profit, missed financial targets and has been dragged down by lower mar-

gins as other auto-makers.

However, short-sellers are in losses this time around as Tesla shares have rallied 79% since January and 200% in the last six months. Although Tesla shares are rallying at their fastest pace since 2013, there could still be volatility ahead as Tesla's goal of international expansion depends heavily on its top foreign market: China.

On another front, the telecom industry is spurred by the Trump administration's attempt to create viable alternatives to Huawei.

To reduce and eventually eliminate reliance on Huawei equipment, the Donald Trump administration is working with U.S. technology companies to develop advanced 5G telecom networks in a market dominated by Shenzhen-based Huawei.

The aggressive push back against Huawei is driven by a proposed threat to national security; the Chinese company could be legally obliged to spy on foreign networks.

The prospect of the United States and its allies taking a financial interest in Ericsson AB and/or Nokia Corp. to create viable substitutes to Huawei has caused share prices to rise 4% for both companies in the past week.

Rather than investing in these companies itself, the Trump ad-

ministration could also prompt American companies to invest or allow tax breaks to support the telecom competitors.

Looking ahead in 2020, the edge artificial intelligence chip market is poised for growth as AI tech finds its way into an increasing number of high-end consumer devices and across multiple markets including sensors and robots.

Specifically, the sub-market of edge AI chips, parts of chips that perform machine learning tasks on-device rather than in remote data centers, is expected to outperform the overall chip and semiconductor markets.

The edge AI chip market has had a Compound Annual Growth Rate of 36% over the last three years and predicted sales of over 750 million chips in 2020, according to Deloitte.

Whereas previously AI computations were too intensive to be completed on-device, edge AI chips have made it possible all the while by being physically smaller, requiring less power and generating less heat.

Edge AI chips are innovating the chip industry as on-device computations are leading to efficiencies in speed, usability and data privacy.

By Karishma Malhotra

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# Arts & Style

## The 92nd Oscars breaks some barriers, but not expectations

BY MAYA ALEXANDER  
STAFF WRITER

The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony took place on Feb. 9, unofficially capping the long, arduous and fairly predictable 2020 award season.

At the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles, Hollywood's biggest stars convened alongside the lesser-known masters in the craft of film-making.

Sitting through a bloated Oscars telecast — running three hours and 32 minutes to be exact — viewers were treated to several seemingly disconnected moments from Janelle Monáe's enthralling opening number that highlighted many films which were overlooked in the nominations.

The most surprising and perplexing moments of the entire broadcast came after a clip montage, introduced by Lin-Manuel Miranda, that showcased the profound impact that songs can have in film.

Eminem then made a completely out of left field performance of his 2002 Oscar-winning song, "Lose Yourself" from the movie *8 Mile*.

Within the films that were nominated, there were several expected wins alongside some extremely gratifying and historical wins, the first of which belongs to Taika Waititi for best adapted screenplay for his film *Jojo Rabbit*.

Set during World War II, the film follows a German boy accompanied by his imaginary friend, Adolf

Hitler, as they discover a Jewish girl hiding in his attic.

Waititi became the first Maori winner of an Academy Award, taking pride in his indigenous New Zealand heritage at the end of his speech with the popular Maori phrase, "Kia ora" or "be safe."

Best animated short film went to *Hair Love*. The film lauded for its honest, compelling and charming take on the struggles of doing black hair, is just another step in the need for a diverse reorganization in the Oscar nominee pool.

The win for *Hair Love* is a win for the normalization of telling stories focusing on underrepresented communities.

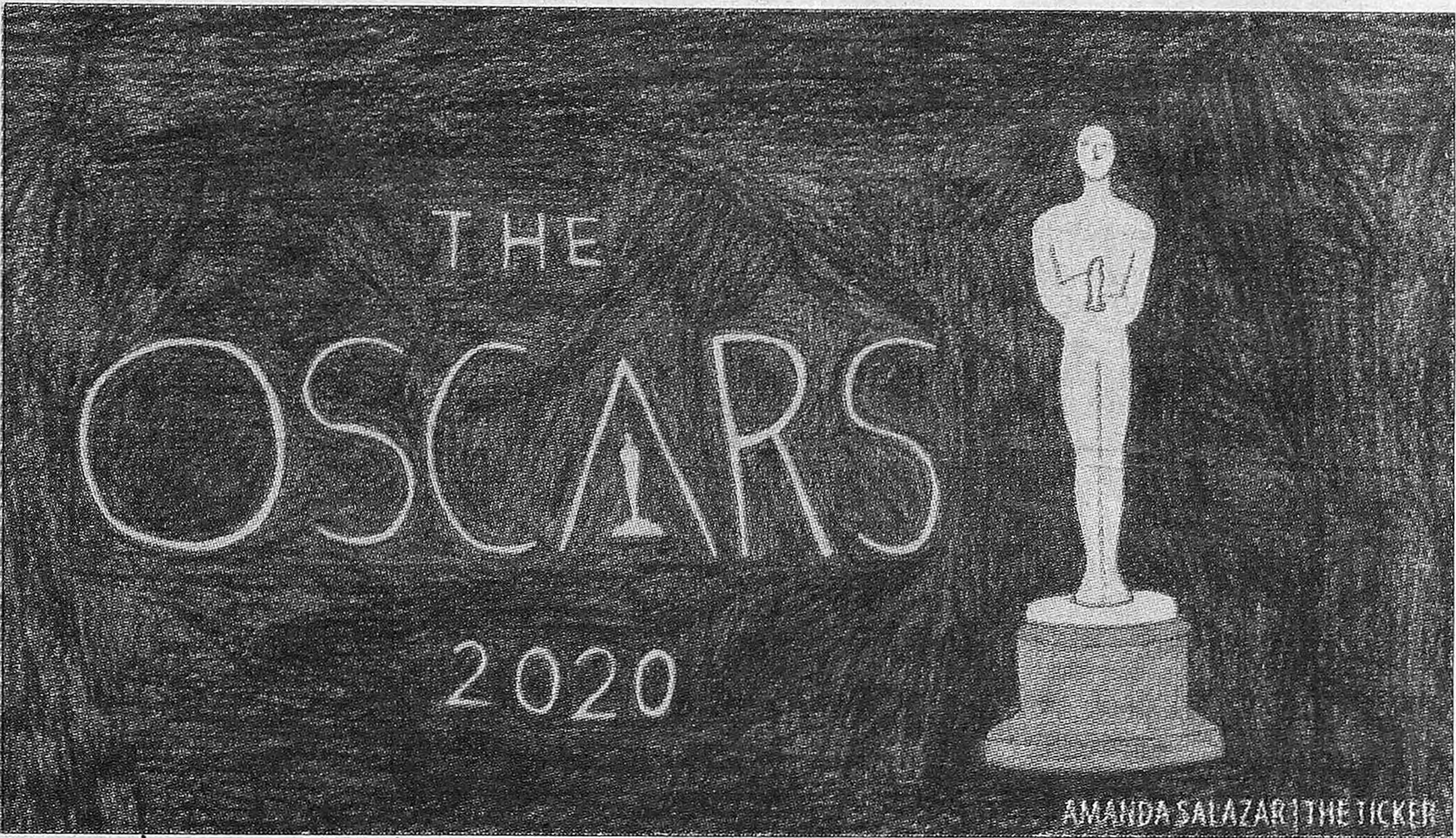
Sir Elton John and his longtime writing partner Bernie Taupin won for the first time as a pair for their song "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" from the summer blockbuster *Rocketman*.

The film's main actor, Taron Egerton, was one of the many possible Oscar contenders that were snubbed from this year's nominations.

Egerton's lack of recognition for his role as Elton John is especially burning since last year's best actor winner Rami Malek, portrayed another rock legend — Freddie Mercury, in a very similar sense.

On the list of those royally snubbed from any nominations was Adam Sandler for his role as New York City jeweler Howard Ratner in the Safdie brothers' crime thriller masterpiece, *Uncut Gems*.

Not only was Sandler not nominated for his acting performance,



but neither was the director duo of Josh and Benny Safdie, who rose to prominence in 2017 with their jarring and brilliant film *Good Time*, starring Robert Pattinson.

The acting awards were shrouded in predictability with favorites like Renée Zellweger winning best actress for her portrayal of actress and singer Judy Garland.

Following the trend of the award season, Laura Dern won best supporting actress for her role as a divorce lawyer in Noah Baumbach's *Marriage Story*.

Expectedly Brad Pitt won best supporting actor for his role as Hollywood stunt double Cliff Booth,

beating out veteran actors Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, both of whom were nominated for their roles in *The Irishman*.

Another unsurprising but big win came for Joaquin Phoenix who took home the award for best actor.

Phoenix marks the second actor to win an Oscar for playing The Joker character after Heath Ledger posthumously won in 2009 for best supporting actor in the 2008 film *The Dark Knight*.

The most fulfilling win of the night came with the biggest praise: best picture. The award was won by the film *Parasite*.

The South Korean film that

takes on the problems that stem from greed and class discrimination, had risen to become the most lauded film in the category.

The film and its director, Bong Joon-Ho swept in all major awards including best director and best original screenplay.

The film's win is a historical one as it is the first film in a foreign language to receive the award for best picture.

The win for *Parasite* hopefully marks a shift in the way the Oscars treat foreign films and the beauty that often arises in the introduction of different cultures in the language that is cinema.

## Makeup partnerships are changing the face of business and brands

BY RAVEN BOISCLAIR  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Within the past decade, new and innovative beauty products have been the source of buzz among makeup lovers.

The industry has garnered an increase of interest largely due to the rise of beauty YouTubers that rave and review various items and the accessibility of product through online commerce.

The beauty industry has become a whopping \$532 billion business and its reach within the ad space is unlike ever before, according to *Business Insider*.

As a result, companies that have previously had little to do with the beauty industry are tagging along for the ride, hoping to maximize profit from the sales powerhouse.

Popular corporations have always aimed to expand into various markets, yet these partnerships did not often veer too far from the markets that companies were initially known for.

In recent years, the beloved snack brand Cheetos collaborated with KFC on a KFC Cheetos Chicken Sandwich and tried their hand at concession stands, partnering with Regal movie theaters in distribution of fresh Cheetos popcorn.

Furthermore, the Hershey company and General Mills are collaborating this year to roll out cereal inspired by Hershey's Kisses and Jolly Rancher.

These partnerships can prove to be very beneficial to conjoining companies. Collaborations are "30 times cheaper than digital advertising" due to already existing audiences, AdNews reveals.

Additionally, creative campaigns regularly amass consumer attraction.

Unfortunately, brand conjunction does not always perform as

expected. Yum Brands' reported earnings demonstrate that KFC's same-store sales decreased by 1% following the release of the Cheetos Chicken Sandwich, resulting from a lack of consumer interest.

While taste-based collaborations may occasionally fall flat, there remains a plethora of other market opportunities for companies to explore.

Recently, Cheetos tried another collaboration venture with the well-known clothing brand geared toward young adults — Forever 21. Sweatshirts, joggers and windbreakers engulfed in orange flames and Chester the Cheetah — the brand's mascot — were available for purchase.

What captured the most enthusiasm amongst consumers, however, were newly released Cheetos-themed eyeshadow and bronzer palettes as well as an XXTRA Flamin' Hot lip gloss kit.

Social media was quickly ablaze with influencer and YouTuber reviews of these products.

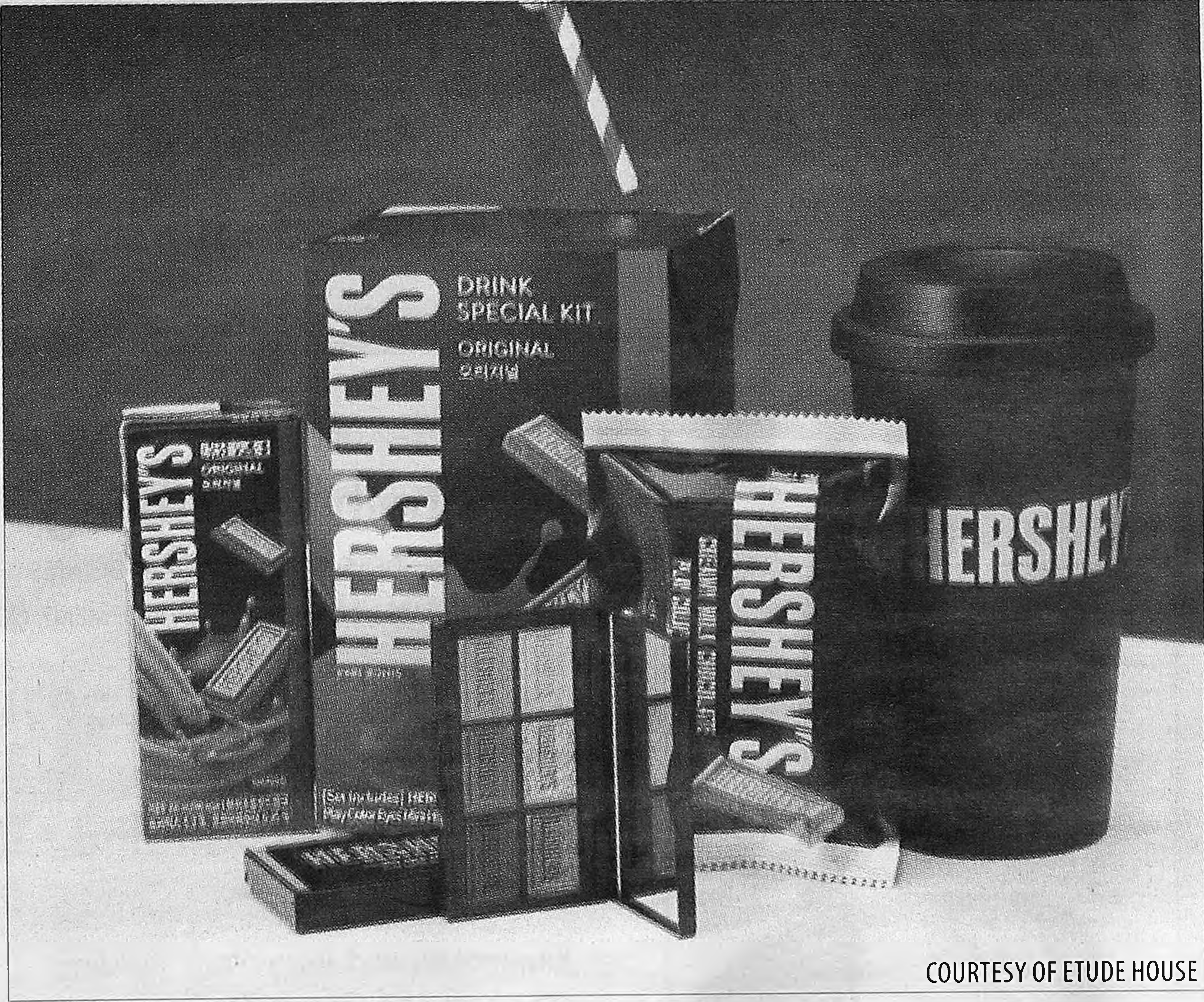
Forever 21 potentially rushed into their partnership with Cheetos due to competitors also partnering with similar types of companies and producing

It was evident that the enormous amount of attention toward these products came from the joining of both Cheetos and beauty fans.

Korean beauty collaboration trends have also caught the eye of shoppers in Asia and the West alike.

This past January, the Hershey Corp. coordinated with Korean beauty brand Etude House to create chocolate bar themed products.

Much like the Cheetos and Forever 21 partnership, the line featured two eyeshadow palettes, one with Hershey's Creamy Milk Chocolate bar packaging and the other mimicking the packaging of a Cookies 'N' Creme bar.



COURTESY OF ETUDE HOUSE

Two makeup brushes embossed with the Hershey's logo and two Hershey's chocolate-scented lip tint shades are also available.

As a result of the line's unique product and packaging design, it was met with stellar reviews for its "collector's item" quality.

It is not the first time that Etude House has dabbled in brand partnerships, formerly working with Kit Kat and Disney.

In a similar vein, Nickelodeon has dipped into the trend when collaborating with Hot Topic on a

VHS-tape-themed palette and a SpongeBob palette with the makeup brand HipDot.

Whenever a unique makeup collaboration is released, a flood of social media posts and reviews contribute to product sales.

Since these products are seen as collectables to their audience, it generates a demand for similar releases within the beauty industry.

Combining one interest such as a favorite childhood snack or television show with makeup and beauty joins the existing audiences of both

brands together, attaining more customers and potentially even appealing to those who wouldn't typically be interested in makeup.

It is probable that brand collaborations will continue to be a source of success for companies — beauty partnerships have not yet overstayed their welcome in the eyes of buyers and there are still many marketing avenues that may be attempted.

The world of brand expansion is vast and seemingly infinite with the next trend just around the corner.



# Video games: Their journey from our TVs to the movie screens

BY FARAH JAVED  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With the trend of video games becoming movies resurfacing lately, such as in *Sonic the Hedgehog*, it is interesting to look back at the history of video games and how they have progressed.

In doing so, it allows those new to video games to appreciate the source material and remind them why so many people choose to play video games.

Gabriela Peralta, a Baruch College digital communications major, believes "people play video games to have an escape" from real life.

"People refer to a variety of artistic mediums such as films, theatre or music as an escape, but gaming allows you to be in control," Peralta said. "By taking on the role of a character or playing with a team allows you to control the narrative and have fun."

Beginning in 1962, Steve Russell invented, *Spacewar!*, the first video game that could be installed and played on multiple computers, according to *History*.

The next revolution in the industry was the The Brown Box. Created in 1967 by Sanders Associates Inc., this was the first video game system that could be played on a television set.

The real turning point, however, was the creation of the first home video console. Deemed the "Father of Video Games," Sanders' Ralph Baer licensed The Brown Box system to Magnavox, an electronics company. Magnavox then sold the system to consumers.

This first home console for video games was known as the Odyssey. Instead of having to play multiplayer games on a computer or spend money in an arcade, an eager player could play at their own leisure from the comfort of their home.

The 1970s and 1980s were marked by releases of staple games still played today. From *Space Invaders* and *Pac-Man* to *Donkey Kong* and Microsoft's *Flight*, consumers furiously played and gave positive reviews.

This time period brought a rapid progression until the North American video game industry crashed in 1983.

Some of the problems included poor quality of products that did not meet consumer's excitement, an oversaturated market and competition in the United States and overseas.

One example of this is Atari's *E.T.* After Stephen Spielberg requested a video game be made of his movie of the same name, he and Atari negotiated for months.

The result was that the company was forced to produce the game in 36 hours, right before the Christmas season began. At first, the game was selling out in stores until consumers starting playing.

The object of the game was to help the alien E.T. look for parts in order to make a device to call his home planet.

Though seemingly easy enough, the game proved to be much harder, as there were glitches in the game. E.T. was unable to pick up any parts he needed, nor move from room to room. This game is now known as "the worst game ever made."

As North America faced a crushing blow, Japan was thriving with its newly introduced Nintendo. The company managed to popularize handheld gaming.

It released games like *Super Mario Bros.*, *The Legend of Zelda*, *Tetris* and *Metroid*. Eventually, it transitioned to designing game consoles, such as the GameCube, Game Boy, Game Boy Color, Nintendo DS in 2004 and Nintendo 3DS in 2011.

There was also the creation of



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

the Playstation and Playstation 2, with the latter being the most sold console of all time.

It had the admired features of the Playstation, plus the capability of reading CDs and DVDs. Over time, the Playstation 3 and 4 came out, along with the introduction of Microsoft Corp.'s Xbox.

Clearly, over the past decades, video games have rapidly developed beyond Spacewar! days.

As stories become richer and the playing community grows, these games are in a way, also becoming movies.

This is evident by releases of the *Super Mario Bros.*, *Street Fighter* and

*Mortal Kombat* franchises. Since then, *Tomb Raider*, *Rampage*, *Angry Birds*, *Assassin's Creed*, *Prince of Persia*, *Final Fantasy*, *Pokémon* and other video games have become movies, with the most recent being *Sonic the Hedgehog*.

Some, however, are not a fan of this trend.

"I hate video games becoming movies, because movies have time constraints and heavy budget constraints," Baruch E-Sports Association member James Leidy said.

"While, in a video game it can be as long as the developers want and it can really develop characters and have an amazing plot. Also, having

the player element impacts a story more significantly than a movie," Leidy said.

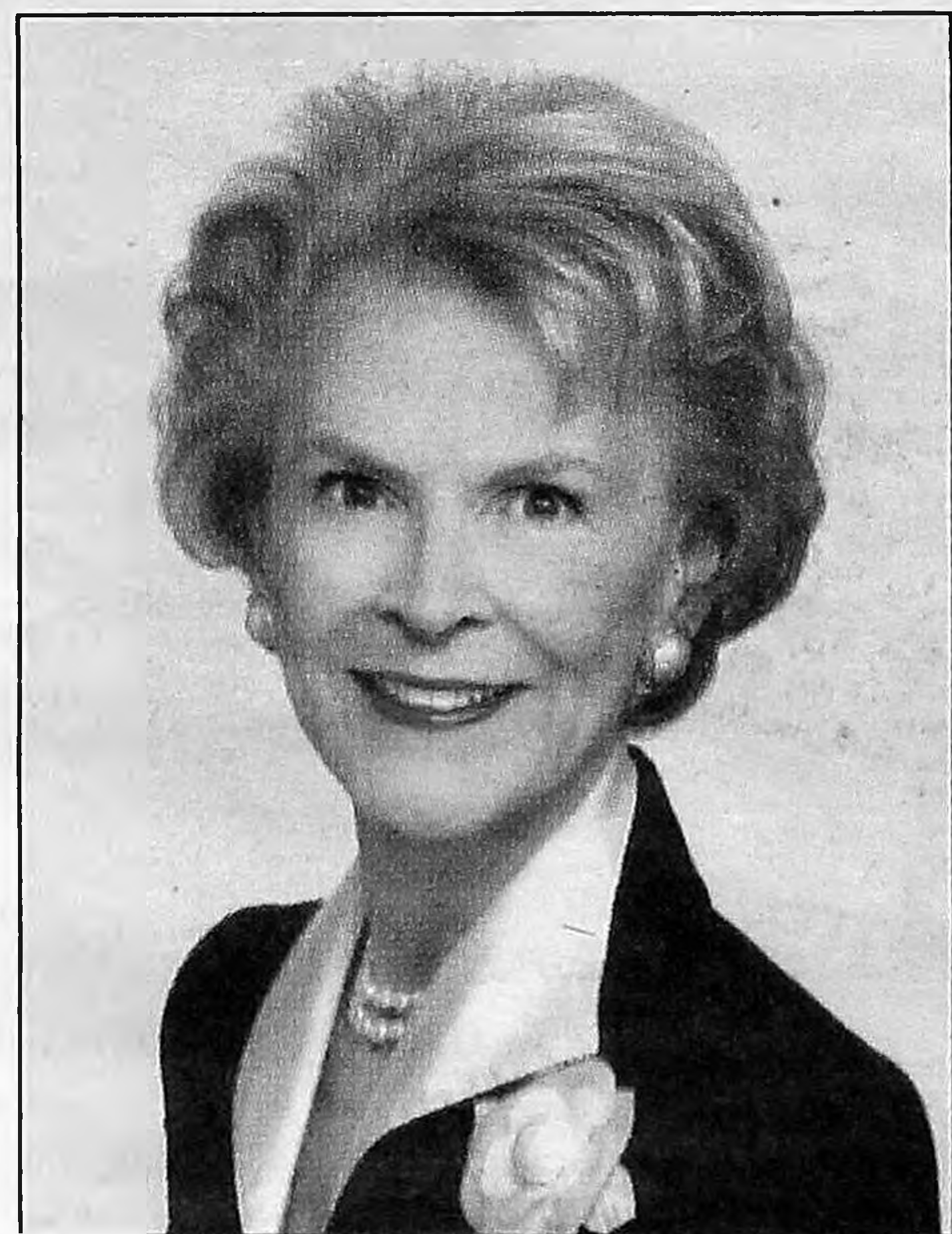
Sonic the Hedgehog is already such an iconic video game character, known for speeding away from the mad scientist, Doctor Eggman.

Since the start of video games, their intent has been to entice audiences through storylines and graphics, giving them the feeling of living vicariously through the characters.

With the release of the *Sonic* movie Feb. 14, video game fanatics will have to see whether one of their beloved games is accurately portrayed or not.

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# Science & Technology

## Want to brush up on language skills? Here are the best apps

BY FARAH JAVED  
STAFF WRITER

With the start of a new year and decade, 2020 brings the opportunity to make a New Year's resolution and actually follow through with it. One resolution people should consider is learning a new language.

It gives the chance to communicate one's ideas, learn about a foreign culture and can also be useful in a future job.

The task of learning a new language may seem daunting, however, it doesn't have to be like a high school Spanish class.

By taking language courses online, the student can control their pace and the amount of time they wish to allocate in their day towards learning. In the long run, learning a language pays off, as studies have shown it can increase attention spans, improve memory, multitasking skills and even strengthen one's native language. Studies also have shown that just 20 minutes a day is enough to learn a new language.

One program geared towards teaching Spanish is Language Zen. Although it is ordinarily \$500, the lifetime subscription is on sale for \$79. Language Zen acts as a tutor, assessing and targeting weaknesses while also teaching college level Spanish in the span of 25 hours. The more the program is used, the faster it is able to adapt to each student in order to teach them in a way that best suits them, as well as create challenges for them as they climb literacy levels.

For those who want more intensive courses specifically for beginners, there is the fast-track Spanish language learning bundle. The bundle is broken down into 65 three-minute lessons, which focus on grammar, sentence structure and learning the basics of Spanish. The course takes 15 hours to complete, with an online chat active 24/7 in case the user has questions or needs clarification. Normally \$995, the bundle is now \$19.99.

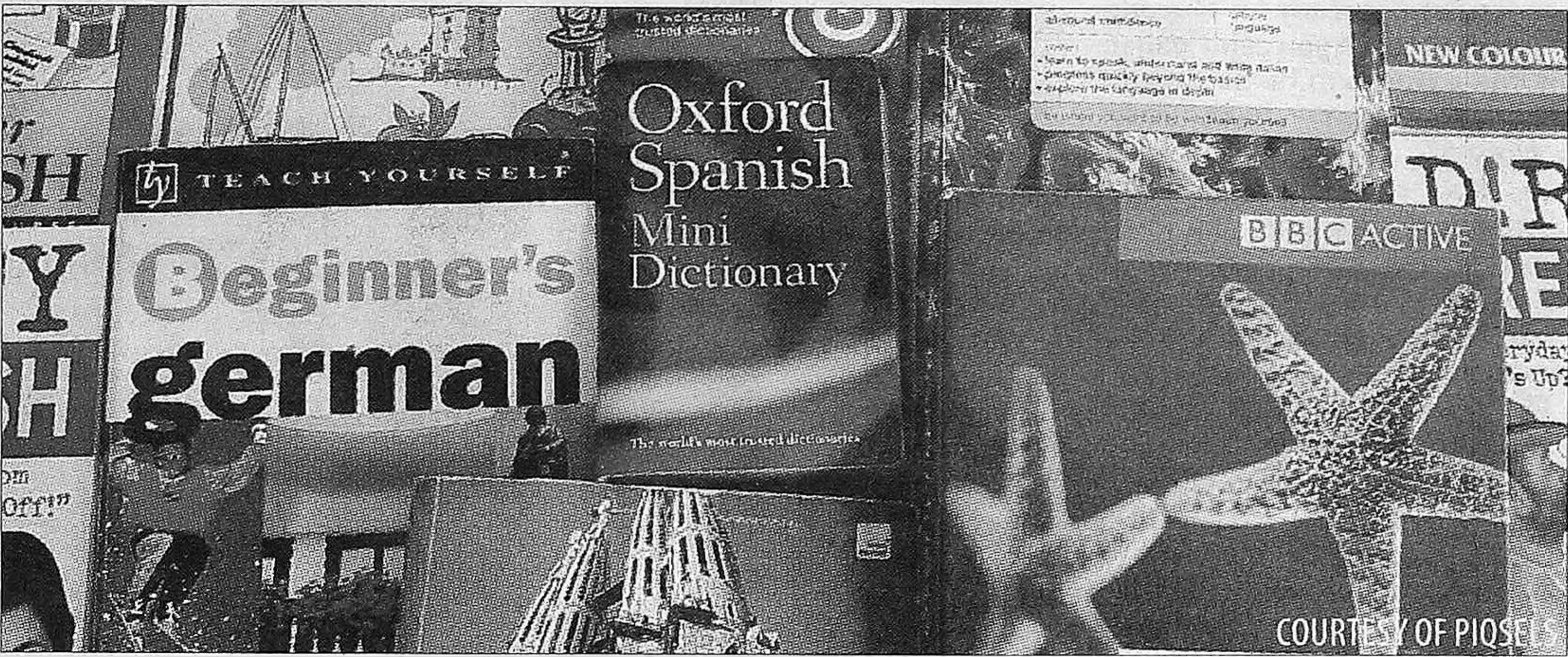
If French is of more interest, there is also the fast-track French language learning bundle. Similar to the previous bundle, this course aims to teach basic French in the span of 13 hours through 273 lessons.

This one also includes more videos than the Spanish bundle, which is useful for those that consider themselves to be visual learners.

For the same price of \$19.99, users can learn to have conversations, how to write and, in culmination of the course, read a story in French.

Some people want to go beyond 13 hours of French because the more one hears and familiarizes themselves with a language, the faster they learn it. That's why there is the complete learn French in 30 days bundle. It is identical to the previous French bundle in content and price, except there are 720 lessons to make learning the language last the whole month.

Some students don't thrive in a classroom setting, so there are alternative approaches to learning. HelloTalk VIP's lifetime subscription provides a unique language



experience by allowing users to teach other languages. For instance, someone who knows English can learn Arabic from a native speaker, while in turn teaching them English.

According to their website, this barter-esque system also includes more non-traditional ways of learning, like through "text, voice recordings, voice calls, video calls, and even doodles to help." If one wants to help someone while acquiring another bullet for their resume, this \$29.99 program is perfect for that.

Another unconventional approach to language learning is the Earworms MBT language learning bundle. This is especially enticing for individuals who choose audiobooks over reading physical books.

Following a similar principle, the program takes common words and phrases and makes them into

songs so that the language gets stuck in one's head. This bundle comes with a phrasebook, allowing language learners to translate the words they learn. The list of languages is broader, including Latin American Spanish, European Spanish, Italian, German and French.

Another resource called uTalk language education includes a lifetime subscription and Babbel Language. The lifetime subscription is a program that is focused on teaching vocabulary and phrases to make users more conversational, rather than formal.

They strive to make confident speakers through repetition and making individuals capable of conversing in a language casually. Though these programs introduce a focus on speaking, Mondly is a program better suited for correcting speech and speaking fluently.

The app actually only provides feedback when a user speaks correctly.

In this same category, there's also Rosetta Stone. Amassing thousands of popular reviews, it is also used by organizations like NASA and Calvin Klein.

This program offers 24 languages such as Spanish, English, Italian, Hebrew, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese and Irish.

The only difference between this program and the others is that it utilizes speech recognition technology, allowing users to not just learn to read and write, but also practice speaking.

Like Nelson Mandela said, "If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart," so why not take a few minutes this year to learn a language?

## Polling used to record results of the Iowa Caucus fails to deliver

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

The tumultuous state of the Iowa Caucus is still shrouded in mystery, as no one entirely knows why Iowa the first state to cast in votes for the presidential nominee, but also why they are one of the very few states who participate in a caucus system and not a cast-your-ballot system.

The cause of the entire debacle was discovered to be a smartphone app specifically designed to collect and record the results of the primary.

The app that was at the center of the commotion was created in November of last year by Shadow Inc., a company that has close ties with both the Iowa and Nevada Democratic Parties.

"Because of the delays in planning Iowa's caucuses, Shadow personnel didn't enter into a contract for the Iowa app until the fall of 2019, compressing an already tight timeline on a deal that paid relatively little — a bit more than \$60,000 so far — for customized technology services," according to *The New York Times*.

Regardless of the hardships Shadow faced in designing the app, it underwent several successful test runs and updates with officials from Iowa, the Democratic National Committee, and Shadow Inc. in attendance during the time leading up to the Caucus.

Hundreds of Democrats in the Polk County district of Iowa, however, began to discover issues with the vital app a week prior to voting.

"When precinct chairs reported issues, the state party referred them to a lone help-desk employee, who did not always respond to calls and emails."

With only a few hours before the beginning of the caucus, "precinct leaders received a final email about the app with an ominous in-

struction: 'If the app stalls/freezes/locks up: Close out of the app and log back in with your PIN. The app should save where you were. If it does not, please call in your results.'"

While the process of voting went composedly in nearly all precincts across Iowa, the complications arose when it was time to report the critical results.

Several precinct leaders had their app freeze while others had their app not properly process all of the data being submitted into it, said *The Huffington Post*.

After hours of struggling with the app, precinct leaders resorted to the emergency plan suggested to them and began to call the Iowa state party hotline number with their results, where being on hold for over five hours was a normal occurrence.

Among the thousands of precinct leaders trying to accurately report the results of their voters, the state party call centers also had to handle frantic calls from news outlets and representatives of the potential presidential candidates asking for updates.

The consequences of the failure of the smartphone app and the chaos over the phone lines that ensued are slowly becoming evident as *The New York Times* has reported several inaccuracies in the results that have been accounted for, claiming "at least 10 percent of precincts appeared to have improperly allocated their delegates, based on reported vote totals."

While the results of any presidential primary are incredibly vital to the national conventions for each party, the Iowa Caucus is historically known to hold a little more significance than the ones that follow.

Aside from being the first state to hold their primary, PBS notes



The app created by Shadow Inc. ran into many problems in calculating and totaling votes for the Democratic candidate in Iowa

the Iowa caucus often establishes the top candidates for each party that have the strongest opportunity to receive their party's nomination.

Moreover, six of the last seven candidates to win the presidency since 1976 won either the Iowa caucus or the subsequent New Hampshire primary.

A major reason why a large amount of coverage has been dedicated to the chaos developing in Iowa is because of a plea for more transparency that was made four years ago by supporters of Bernie

Sanders after his marginal loss to Hillary Clinton, who later went on to receive the Democratic party's nomination.

The increase in coverage over the caucus over the years, which has become a pivotal point for presidential candidates, left the Iowa Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee attributing the malfunction of the app and errors in voting totals to each other.

Democratic leader of Dubuque County, Iowa Steve Drazohal ac-

cused the Democratic National Committee "of hanging [Iowa] out to dry" and supported his own party's effort, stating it "was an extremely smooth, well-organized caucus."

While there is still an ongoing dispute between the two sides about who's to blame, the failure of the mobile app unquestionably had a detrimental impact on the accuracy of the caucus and will likely be the reason why many will be skeptical of the final results.



# Need more space in your closet? These gadgets will help you

BY FARAH JAVED  
STAFF WRITER

Nowadays, it feels like there simply aren't enough hours in the day. From balancing school and studying for that physics test you know you're not ready for to working a part-time job you can't wait to quit, there seems to be no time to keep a clean room — particularly, our closets.

In fact, some people might immaculately organize it, only to completely ruin their folded clothes while rushing to get ready in the morning like a real-life Tasmanian devil.

On top of the fact that we have so little time, clothing styles and trends have expanded as well. Take jackets, for instance.

From leather to military to cropped to bomber to denim, it's hard to make your envisioned outfit come to life with a limited amount of storage space in your closet.

If you struggle to have an organized closet, don't fret. Instead, here are some solutions to closet problems.

Growing up, seeing commercials for Space Bag were common and would feature a mother who would inquire, "Too much stuff and not enough space?" Her solution was the Space Bag.

This product was supposed to be the perfect product for making more space.

Simply place your folded clothes in the Space Bag, vacuum out the air by attaching your vacuum's nozzle to the hole in the bag, and watch as your bulky clothing flattens before your eyes.

Surprisingly, this product still exists today, but in the form of Vacwel bags. From clothes to blankets to pillows, the 2-by-4 inch plastic



bags make storage hassles disappear. They also keep out dust, odors and water, guaranteeing long lasting protection. Vacwel bags are also perfect for preventing closet avalanches.

We've all been in the situation when we need a quilt from the top of your closet, but manage to knock down every blanket underneath it too — and find that pen we were looking for two weeks ago.

Traditional hangers also seem to be evolving. For individuals who don't want to fold their jeans or get their dress pants wrinkled, there are hangers with metal clips which can be used for bottoms.

However, these clips are not always beneficial because they can pull at the waistline of pants or the neckline of shirts, stretching clothes out or making them look torn up.

Instead, one can buy a pack of CamsCorner pants stainless steel hangers that look like silly straws.

With a hook at the top, the hanger has five tiers allowing pants to be hung up without having to clip them. This allows you to optimize closet space by using less hangers rather than having millions of hangers next to each other waiting to get tangled.

Speaking of keeping hangers separated, according to thousands of Amazon reviews, House Day magic hangers are another useful organization tool for closets.

Essentially a metal rod with holes for other hangers to be hung within, it allows several items of clothing to be hung up at once on top of each other. The rod can hang vertically and horizontally, giving consumers more choices for where

it can be used in a closet.

For those with tons of pairs of shoes, space is definitely an issue.

Stacking them on top of each other simply scuffs them and leaves them dusty.

There are also individuals that buy \$300 sneakers who do not have the option to stack their shoes.

In addition, whether it's walking in the streets of New York, running across the sandy beach or camping in the rain — nobody wants to bring the outside on the bottom of their shoes to the inside their home.

Chairlin adjustable shoe organizer strives to be the solution. Designed to look like a guitar pedal, one shoe goes inside the pedal, and one goes on top.

The organizer is made of plastic, allowing it to be extended to up to seven inches. This also reduces the chances of

losing or misplacing a shoe, as the pair remains together.

At the end of the day, you may not want to spend money on organizing your closet. Some people may think it's a waste of time and resources to organize your closet just have it messed up in the morning again.

Glowing reviews from customers would beg to differ. These products are made of strong, durable plastics and steel, and are designed to give you the most space as physically possible and prevent clutter.

In a time where minimalism is thriving, these products are the beginning of getting on the trend of cleanliness in 2020. In the long run though, having a clean closet can be the difference between a panicked and peaceful morning, so why take the risk?

## Novelist Stephen King deletes Facebook due to privacy concerns

BY JENNA JARRAH AND CHELSEA UGARTE  
SCIENCE EDITOR & CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Famous novelist Stephen King has publicly announced via Twitter that he deleted his profile off the popular social networking site Facebook.

In his tweet to his 5.4 million followers he said, "I'm quitting Facebook. Not comfortable with the flood of false information that's allowed in its political advertising, nor am I confident in its ability to protect its users' privacy. Follow me (and Molly, aka The Thing of Evil) on Twitter, if you like."

The best-selling author voiced his concerns about how Facebook is doing next to nothing on combating false information, fake narratives and protecting user privacy.

King is not the only public figure to have parted ways with the popular social media site. Public figures such as actor Mark Hamill, singer Cher and CEO of Tesla Elon Musk have all voiced their concerns and dissatisfaction with the social network.

Ever since the 2016 presidential elections, Facebook has been under large scrutiny by journalists, politicians, celebrities and users alike for doing little in protecting people from the spread of "fake news" and data breaches.

Amongst all the scandals and lack of protections surrounding Facebook, it is no surprise that many are parting ways with the social media giant, which also owns Instagram and Whatsapp.

Platforms like Twitter and YouTube are creating new policies to combat areas that Facebook is neglecting. Twitter drew a stark contrast to Facebook when the platform announced its plans to create a new policy that will ban all political advertisement.

Not only is Twitter planning on banning political ads, but it also wants to distance itself from third-party advertisers' use of user's information.

Many people strongly suggest that Facebook's lack of protecting user privacy and allowing third parties such as Cambridge Analytica to use highly individualized political advertisements was a large contributing factor that led to President Donald Trump's 2016 presidential victory.

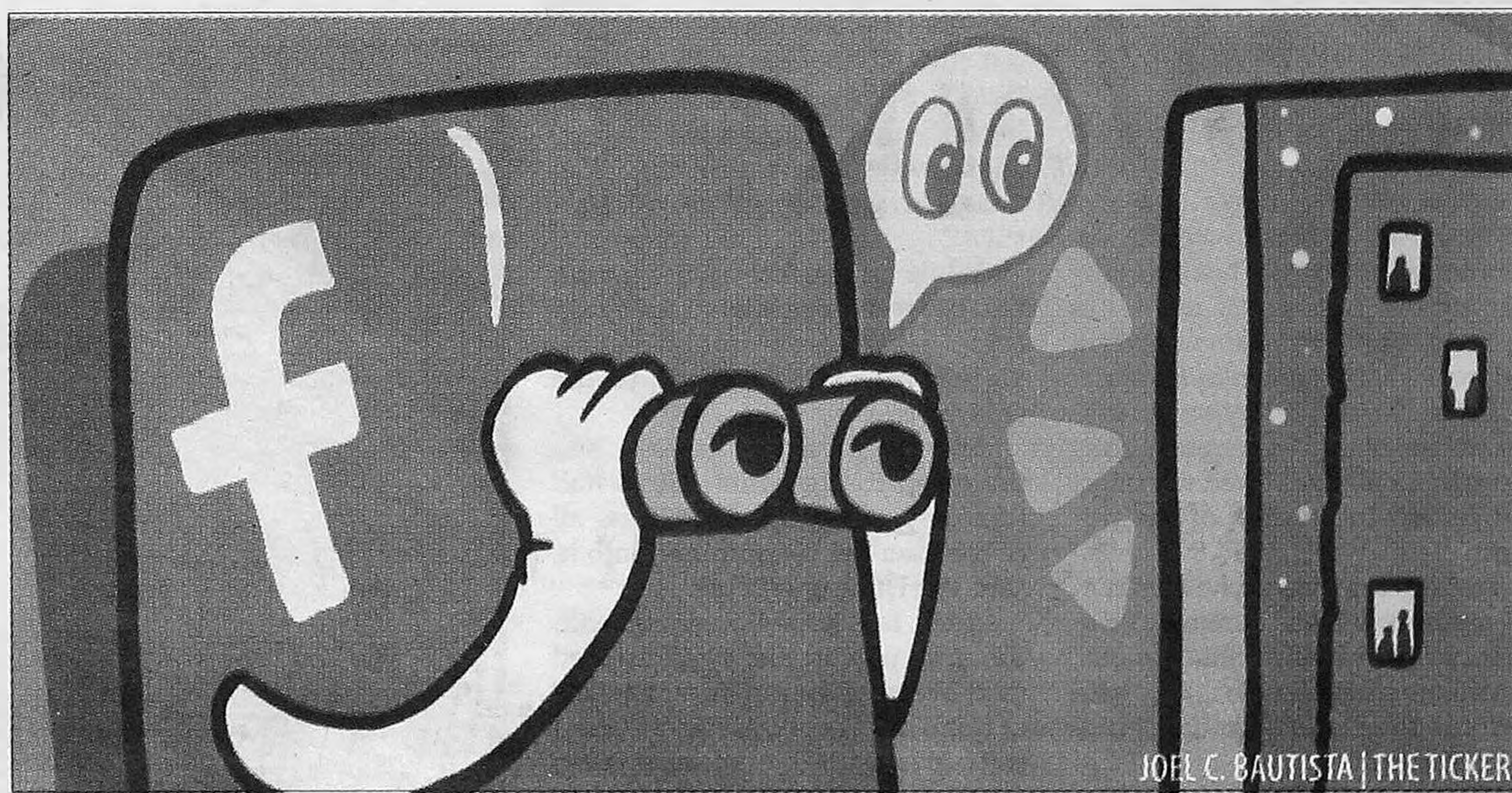
Not only has the tech giant allowed false information on the site about political news run rampant during the last presidential elections, it also allowed groups to form on the website and spread false medical information.

Anti-vaxx groups are among the many Facebook groups that are spreading medical misinformation focusing mainly on vaccines. This has caused great controversy as some users have praised the information posted by these anti-vaxx groups, while others are scrutinizing them for their lack of citing scientific facts.

Unfortunately, anti-vaxx groups are still active to this very day on the site and very little is being done to monitor the information they are posting. Users have voiced their concerns over Facebook's lack of securing users' data and privacy. Over the years, the social media network has been subjected to multiple data breaches.

In Sept. 2018, Facebook was subjected to a data breach by Cambridge Analytica which affected 50 million users having their accounts hacked and private information exposed.

The Facebook-Cambridge Analytica data scandal was a major political issue in 2018 when it was revealed that Cambridge Analytica had harvested the personal data of



millions of people's Facebook profiles without consent of those individuals.

Cambridge Analytica paid Facebook users anywhere from two to five dollars to take a personality test, while collecting data such as likes and personal information, as well as their friends'.

The results of the personality test were paired with data such as their likes to seek out psychological patterns. Using algorithms, the data was combined with voting records to create highly personalized political advertising.

The Cambridge Analytica scandal brought into light how third-party programs have easy access to Facebook user's info to collect and use for the third party's own use.

Another data breach occurred in 2019, where Facebook quietly confirmed 49 million Instagram users and 419 Facebook users' private information — including phone numbers — had been exposed on Amazon cloud.

"I think most online-savvy

Americans knew and understood that everything they put online was subject to review by analytics, but now everyone has gotten a big wake-up call," says Ava Roxanne Stritt, 54, a Facebook user and travel writer from Columbia, South Carolina.

Scandals like such have pushed many Facebook users to quit participating on the platform in protest.

Many users are just simply asking for the company to be more responsible with its users' privacy and to fact check the content of information that is being exchanged via the platform.

With that said, Facebook has offered a few solutions to fight the issues users have been more than vocal about by trying to give users control over what can be shared, seen and comment. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has publicly promised to do better by its users to keep their data safe from third parties.

"I am committed to getting this right," Zuckerberg said during his

testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

However, the social media website falls flat on its promises. Facebook has been criticized for "putting profits before patriotism," doing nothing to protect its users from falsehood in political advertisement, allowing Russian bots to spread misinformation and polarize American ethnic and political groups.

While many social media sites are doing their best to be more transparent and create better environments for its user base, social media sites always to some degree use personal data of its users to create revenue from its advertisers.

With that said, it's important that users of social media platforms should be more aware of the policies that jeopardize their private information, and thus makes them targets to million-dollar businesses.



# Using AI for criminal justice is innovative, but still has flaws

BY ISAAH HINTON  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Criminal justice systems, especially in the United States, are fundamentally about human judges and prosecutors making human decisions to punish human criminals. This amount of humanity can cause a myriad of problems. From the nightmare of bureaucratic incompetence to the biases that pervade the courts, the criminal justice system has seen instances in which it did not deliver justice to the victims.

One of the ways that police departments are trying to eliminate biases of race and gender is through the use of artificial intelligence.

Artificial intelligence is very common when attempting to “predict” something. Whether it is attempting to determine who will default on their loan or which team is most likely to score in basketball, AI is increasingly being used in almost every facet of society.

In policing, predictive algorithms are now being used to determine which neighborhoods are most vulnerable to crime, and which criminals that are most at risk of becoming repeat offenders.

Once the initial fear of a method other than human analytics being used to determine the likelihood that an individual would commit a crime subsides, the theory behind predictive-policing AI algorithms is logically sound. Simply put, AI algorithms use formulas and a number of criteria to generate an output, which in this case has to do with the litigation system.

Intrinsically, algorithmic processing is about using input data and running it through a series of criteria to determine an output. The inputs are data about a person that include race,

gender, where they are from and whether they’re a repeats offender. However, it’s still unclear how much weight each input has. Some examples of outputs that can be determined are different risk levels of whether a criminal will become a repeat offender or their probation sentences.

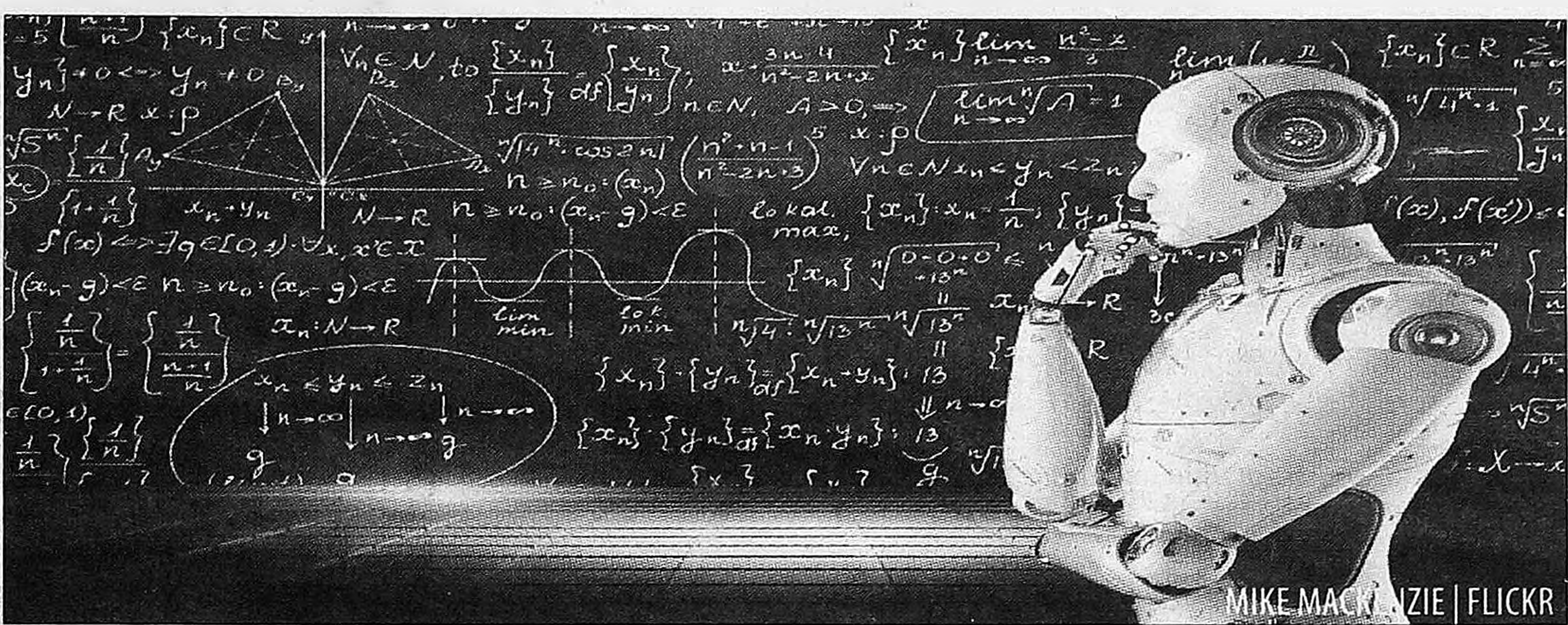
By using AI and existing data, police departments that are underfunded can save money by delivering officers to neighborhoods that need protection and reduce their overall burden. However, there are problems within every component of the systems in use across the country.

The inputs in predictive algorithms are inherently flawed, damaging the entire set of processes involved in making a decision. Simply put, if the data is biased, the output it generates will also be biased. One of the most common criticisms of policing in America is the prejudice that allows for African Americans and Latinos to be unfairly profiled and deemed more liable to commit crime.

Systematic racism is seen everywhere, from being pulled over to longer sentences for criminal convictions. Researchers from Stanford’s Computational Journalism Lab and the School of Engineering, concluded that black and Latino drivers are ticketed, searched and arrested more often than whites.

For example, when pulled over for speeding, black drivers are 20% more likely than whites and Latino drivers 30% more likely than whites to be ticketed. Black and Latino drivers are about twice as likely to be searched compared with whites.

This prejudice is especially prevalent in poor, urban communities. Some argue this is due to the anti-



quoted “broken windows” policy of urban policing, which dictates the immediate curbing of small crimes in an attempt to dissuade people from committing bigger crimes. However, the belief systems of the police officers can be biased, and the biases seep into the data that is being used.

This type of corrupted data, or “dirty data,” allows for the racial and economic predispositions present in the policing structure to become exacerbated.

A common misconception surrounding artificial intelligence as a whole is that the mere usage of AI is enough to dispel any bias and transform any result into an objective truth.

Bias is harder to dispel than policymakers and governments realize. We can conclude that if prejudice exists in the data, then prejudice exists in the whole system.

While biased data is an issue in predictive policing, another issue is the lack of transparency in the determination of the outputs.

The factors that are being used to determine sentencings and probation hearings are not public

knowledge, and the weights that these factors have in the algorithm are also unknown to the general populace. That being said, only the litigation system really knows how this AI system is being used.

According to Richard Beck, a professor of criminology and statistics at the University of Pennsylvania, and a developer of predictive policing algorithms in Philadelphia, “All machine-learning algorithms are black boxes, but the human brain is also a black box.”

Beck continues by saying, “If a judge decides they are going to put you away for 20 years, that is a black box.”

With the fact that no one really knows what is going on inside a human’s brain, the idea behind the AI algorithms is to increase transparency. However, with hiding the complexity of the algorithms behind the façade of the complexity of human thought, then the AI could be considered redundant and useless.

Finally, the outputs are flawed as they do not take human opinion into account. Of course, one cannot argue against a computer, but sometimes there are arguments

that need to be made.

If a convict has shown genuine remorse for his actions and has not become a repeat offender, will the computer take that into account even if they come from a “high-risk” environment? Another argument that could be made is the power of the software.

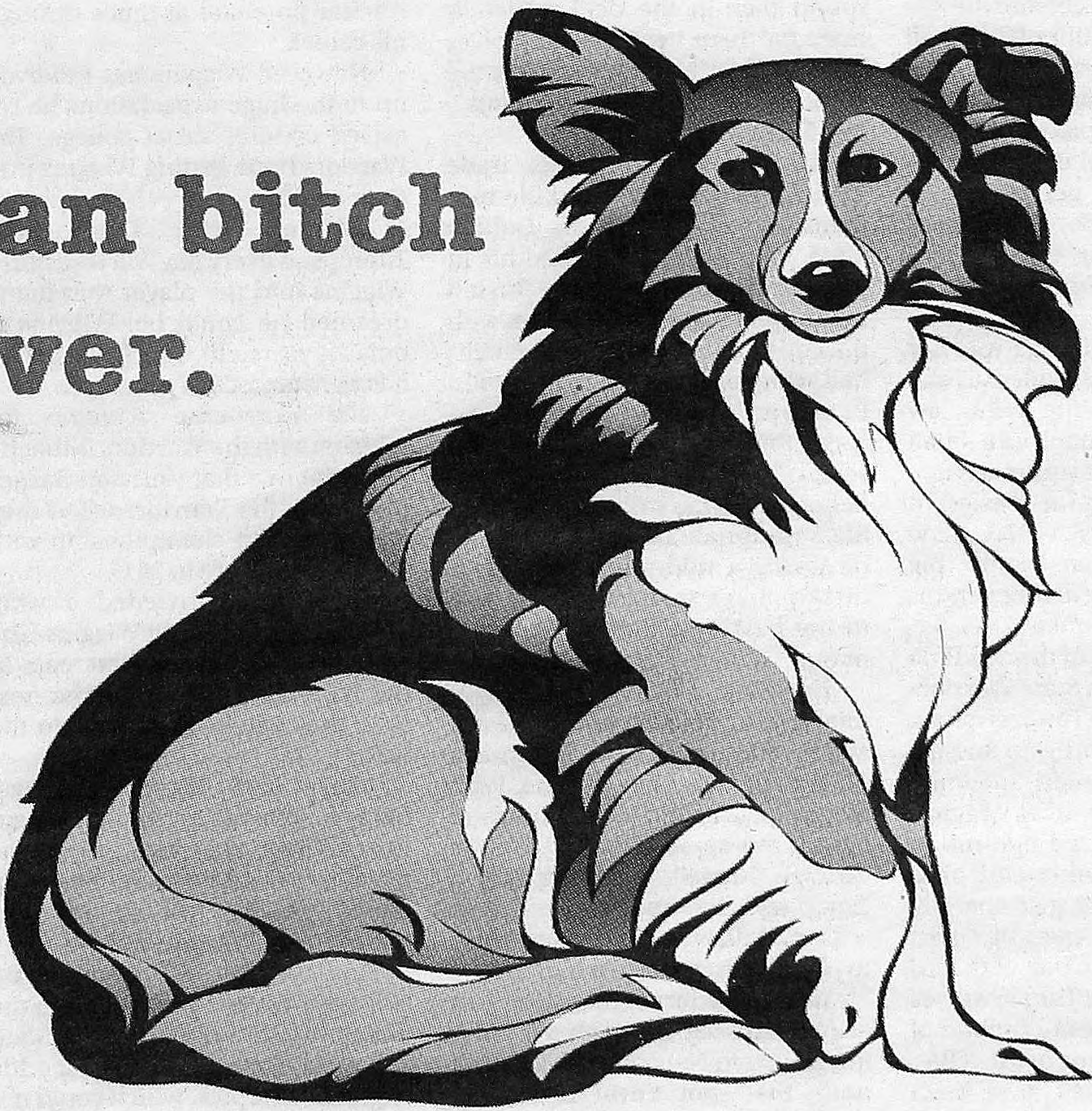
Will predictive-policing algorithms become the definitive authority on criminal sentencing, or will human interaction still be at the crux of the criminal litigation system?

While predictive policing algorithms sounds like something ripped from a sci-fi film — it has, see *Minority Report*, starring Tom Cruise — it leaves a lot more questions than answers. Artificial intelligence has seeped into society seamlessly, affecting every aspect. However, the question of the necessity of AI needs to be asked when it is adapted into a polarizing sector like criminal justice.

Technology is all about increasing convenience for the user. However, will convenience become dangerous when algorithms determining policing and prosecution methods? Only time will tell.

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# Sports

## Deadline Dilemmas: Teams struggle to find the right pieces for future successes



GSANKARY | FLICKR

While there are numerous teams in contention for the NBA championship, most of this year's trade deadline deals were facilitated by teams that are in the process of rebuilding and upgrading the roster for the future.

**BY KYLE MCKEE**  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The NBA trade deadline, which takes place one week before the All-Star break, is vitally important to all NBA teams. Whether a front office is trying to add what they believe to be that "missing piece" that puts them over the edge, trying to save some money and get cap-space relief, or to plan for the future, every team is trying to achieve a goal. This past deadline featured all of that.

Although the deadline was not as insane and star-studded as the most recent time, the NBA saw rapid player movement in a small timeframe. With last summer's free agency period being the craziest in NBA history, the 2020 NBA trade deadline did feature some big moves that will have an impact this year and years to come.

The biggest trade of the deadline featured the Golden State Warriors and the Minnesota Timberwolves. Golden State sent D'Angelo Russell, Jacob Evans and Omari Spellman to Minnesota for Andrew Wiggins, a 2021 top-3 protected first round pick and a 2021 second round pick.

Minnesota finally gets the guy they have desired since this past summer in Russell, to pair with Karl Anthony-Towns. The Timberwolves got what they believe to be one of the next dynamic duos in the NBA.

Towns and Russell have been close friends since childhood, when they played together on the AAU circuit, and have always talked about playing together in the NBA. Now the two will have that chance in Minnesota, entering the primes of their careers, with Towns only

24 years old and Russell turning 24 this month.

Additionally, Minnesota did not have to include their 2020 first round pick in the deal, which is huge for them because the Wolves have the fourth worst record in the NBA, which will likely net them a top-5 pick.

For the Warriors, this trade made perfect sense. From the moment Russell arrived in Golden State, the media questioned his fit into the Warriors system. Russell thrives in a half-court offense, with the ball in his hand, receiving high-ball screens. In high pick-and-rolls, Russell is lethal.

If the opponents switch the screen, Russell can easily beat the defender off the dribble and make the appropriate read, whether that be taking a mid-range jumper or three-pointer, taking it all the way to the basket or finding the open man.

However, Russell struggles mightily on defense and he is not a great spot-up shooter which is a must in the Warriors offense. With Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson out for this season, the offense ran through Russell. However, when Curry and Thompson return next season, it does not make any sense to play all three of them together.

The Warriors managed to acquire Russell last summer from the Brooklyn Nets in the sign-and-trade that sent Kevin Durant to Brooklyn.

The Warriors got Russell just to flip him into something that will be useful to them in the future which turned out to be Wiggins.

The 2014 first-overall pick is a career 20 points-per-game scorer

for a Timberwolves team that has made the playoffs once in his six seasons in Minnesota as an 8th seed in 2018. Wiggins has flashed All-Star potential at times through his career.

However, Wiggins has not lived up to the huge expectations he received coming out of college. The Warriors hope getting Wiggins into their culture.

Working with Curry and Thompson every day will transform Wiggins into the player that many dreamed he could be. Wiggins is only 24 years old, which means he has not entered his prime yet.

The worst-case scenario for Wiggins with the Warriors is that he plays the role that Harrison Barnes played for the Warriors when they won their first championship with their current core in 2015.

The Warriors needed a wing and they found one in Wiggins. The Warriors may be the worst team in the NBA this year, but come next year, they will be right back in the mix.

Curry and Thompson come back healthy from injury, Draymond Green will be back in his usual form and by then, the newly added Wiggins will be fully engulfed in the Warriors system.

Additionally, Golden State will have a very good pick in the upcoming NBA draft. Golden State will most likely have the best odds to get the first pick, which could net them James Wiseman, the 7-foot-1 center from the University of Memphis, who many believe to be the prize of the upcoming draft.

The second biggest move of the deadline was a three-team deal between the Timberwolves,

the Miami Heat and Memphis Grizzlies. The Heat sent Justise Winslow and Dion Waiters to Memphis and James Johnson to Memphis. In return, Miami received Andre Iguodala, Jae Crowder and Solomon Hill from the Grizzlies. Memphis also received Gorgui Dieng from the T-Wolves and Minnesota received James Johnson from Miami.

This trade puts Miami into contention to represent the Eastern Conference in the NBA Finals. They may not be at the Milwaukee Bucks' level, but they are right behind them, along with the Toronto Raptors. Come playoff time, anything can happen. The Heat got two players that will make an immediate impact with Iguodala and Crowder.

This trade gives the Heat arguably the best bench depth in the league. Both have a considerable amount of playoff experience, especially Iguodala and they are exceptional "three-and-D" players that fit right into the Heat culture.

More importantly, the Heat believe Iguodala, who has not played a minute this season, can be the guy who can guard the opposing team's best perimeter defender.

If Iguodala can get back to the form of years past that won him NBA Finals MVP in 2015 because of his defense against LeBron James, the Heat have a legitimate shot to win the championship.

The other big deal of the deadline was a four-team blockbuster between the Atlanta Hawks, Denver Nuggets, Houston Rockets and the aforementioned Timberwolves, who were by far the busiest team at the deadline.

Atlanta received Clint Capela and Nene from Houston. Houston received Robert Covington, Jordan Bell and a 2024 second-round pick via the Golden State Warriors from Minnesota.

The T-Wolves received Malik Beasley, Juan Hernangomez, Evan Turner, Jarred Vanderbilt and a lottery-protected 2020 first-round pick via the Brooklyn Nets. Finally, Denver received Gerald Green, Keita Bates-Diop, Shabazz Napier, Noah Vonleh and a 2020 first-round pick via the Houston Rockets.

The Rockets are planning on playing "ultra-small-ball" by trading away Capela. Covington, who is 6-foot-7, is the tallest player in the main rotation for the Rockets. It feels like a make-or-break year for Houston.

After several years of coming up short in the postseason with their current core led by James Harden, the championship window will close sooner than later. If the Rockets get eliminated early in the playoffs, big changes could be coming to Houston.

Other deals worth noting include the Los Angeles Clippers getting Marcus Morris Sr. from the New York Knicks in a three-team deal; the Cleveland Cavaliers trading for Andre Drummond; and the Philadelphia 76ers getting Alec Burks and Glenn Robinson III from the Warriors.

By acquiring Morris, who averages over 19 points-per-game and shoots 44% from three-point range, the Clippers have made it clear that they are championship contenders with their already loaded roster, led by Kawhi Leonard and Paul George.





DEN'S GOSTEV | BARUCH ATHLETICS

Baruch's men's volleyball and basketball teams recorded very strong performances, with both teams winning two games this week, while the women's basketball team fell short against first-place Brooklyn College.

## Men's volleyball and basketball teams headline strong week

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

On the volleyball court, the Bearcats swept the Bard Tri-Match, defeating the Bard College Raptors and the Regis College Pride in straight sets.

Although both matches showcased dominant performance by Baruch, the first game against Bard saw nine errors committed by the team, compared to Bard's 8.

However, that is the only negative that can be drawn from this match, as virtually every player had a solid game.

Middle hitter Meni Musheyev had six kills and two blocks, while team captain Stallone Shankar had a game-high 13 assists and 4 aces.

In their second match, the Bearcats were utterly sensational, as the team only committed three errors, compared to Regis' 24. Also, the Bearcats helped limit the hitting percentage of the Pride to triple zeroes. Shankar had 28 assists as a setter, while Steven Lopez and Artem Zinkin combined for 19 kills.

The Bearcats bumped their record above .500 with the two-match sweep and will ride this wave of momentum into their next match against their toughest opponent in their young season, the defending Division III National Champs, the SUNY New Paltz Hawks.

Shifting to the hardwood, the Bearcats had two games each in quick succession. Baruch traveled to Queens to take on the York College Cardinals, and while the women were defeated, the men snapped their three-game losing streak.

The Bearcats started the away game slow, falling behind by eight late into the first quarter. Although

the Bearcats were slow offensively, the ladies were aggressive and played tight defense throughout the first half, forcing 14 turnovers in the opening 20 minutes.

The defense was the focal point of the game plan, as assistant coach Olivia Colbert attested to after the game, "We've been trying to get them to be more aggressive, we preach that defense wins games, and I think in the last few games they have showing a lot more effort on the defensive end, being able to force a lot of turnovers."

Baruch headed into halftime with a slim one-point lead that evaporated in the second half.

A barrage of plays in the paint designed to use York's size were on full display and the ladies going cold from the field spelt doom for the Bearcats, losing 61-47.

Nia Dawson led the team with 12 points while collecting six steals and Daniela Zirpolo scored 11 points and snatched five rebounds off the bench in a losing effort.

The men saw better fortunes against York, but started the game slower than they would have liked, down eight early in the first half. However, with about seven minutes left in the opening half, everything clicked for the Bearcats.

Shots were falling, the play was more free-flowing and Baruch went into halftime up 9. Speaking about the first half of the game, Coach John Alesi commented on the resilience and play of his team, "York came out really strong and I was pleased with how our guys handled the initial wave."

We went into the game looking for better offensive execution and less putting the ball on the floor

and I thought we did a good job with it."

The second half was blue all the way through as the Bearcats shot with greater efficiency, connecting on more high-percentage shots, and generating turnovers.

The Bearcats walked away 82-71 victors, with Adnan Bajrami scoring 28 points while collecting five rebounds. Captain George Smyth Jr. and big man Nathaniel Ormond combined for 12 rebounds in the Bearcat win.

The men's good fortune continued into their game against the Brooklyn College Bulldogs. From virtually the first tip, the Bearcats took the bull by the horns and never relinquished control of the game.

It seemed as if the entire team was shooting flames, with Baruch shooting close to 60% from the field in the game.

One negative was the three-point percentage in the first half, as the Bearcats only made three shots from downtown. However, the second half saw more success from the beyond the arc, as Baruch made six shots out of nine.

The Bearcats took control of the paint, outscoring the Bulldogs 40-22 and outrebounding them 34-25.

The final whistle saw Baruch enjoy another win, defeating Brooklyn College 86-73. Ryan Graziano had a career-high 18 points off the bench in the win, and Michael Richards led the squad with 20 points while contributing three assists.

On the victory, Coach Alesi praised the Bearcats' play on the inside throughout the game, stating, "Brooklyn, for as good as they are, are a little undersize, so we wanted

to make sure we had a presence on the inside and have some scoring at the rim, draw some fouls at the rim."

Controlling the pace of play throughout shot selection was also key for the Bearcats, remarked Alesi, getting to the rim with off-ball movement and cutting rather than relying on lapses in Brooklyn's defense.

Alesi also talked about the impact of his bench not only this game, but throughout the season, saying, "That's been the strength of our team all year. We are the type of team where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. We've been getting great bench contributions all year."

"When you look at our advantage over other teams in the conference, it is the quality of players 1-15, I think we have good players across the board," Alesi remarked about his squad.

The Bearcats improved to 14-9 and will celebrate Senior Day against the Lightning of Lehman College before closing out the regular season against the Dolphins of the College of Staten Island.

Although the postseason is fast approaching, Coach Alesi says that his squad does not feel any pressure being the defending conference tournament champions.

"I think we are a completely different team. We haven't spend any time talking about last year's team because we are not last year's team," Alesi said.

The focus for Coach Alesi remains on taking every game as they come, putting the best possible product on the floor.

"Through good play or bad play,

it has always been about trying to get us playing our best right now, which I think we are on track to do," preached Alesi.

While the men had good fortune this week, the ladies were not as fortunate, as they faced first-placed Brooklyn, undefeated in conference play.

The ladies played a good game, attempting to take away the size of the Bulldogs through speed and athleticism, as well as great defense.

Throughout the game, the Bearcats let Brooklyn shoot from downtown at a high rate, as the Bulldogs finished with 32 attempts.

Giving up low percentage shots was preferable to losing the battle in the post and the paint in order to keep Baruch in the game.

Through the first three quarters, the game plan worked to perfection, keeping Brooklyn within striking distance.

Spahiu and Dawson generated many scoring opportunities, with the latter putting in a tour de force, finishing with a double-double of 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The shorthanded Bearcats fought like lions throughout the match but were unable to contend with the size and shot of the James' sisters for Brooklyn, losing 83-68.

Spahiu finished with 12 points and 8 rebounds, senior Sameera Ahmed had a solid game, finishing with 16 points while missing only three shots, and Frances Snyder added 10 points in the losing effort.

The Bearcats fell to 13-9 and will finish the season against Lehman for Senior Day at home and away at Staten Island against CSI.



# Women still winning: USWNT qualifies for the 2020 Olympics

BY JENNA JARRAH  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

The U.S. women's soccer team beat Mexico 4-0 in Carson, California on Friday night, earning them a place in the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

This feat keeps their record qualified for every major tournament.

Samantha Mewis and Rose Lavelle scored two goals in the first 14 minutes, to which Mewis added a brace.

Substitute Christen Press added to the onslaught in the 72nd minute—five minutes after she entered the game—ending in a victory for the U.S. team.

Though they qualified, the road ahead for the USWNT does not look easy.

They must form an 18-person team, which is down from the 23-player squad they boasted at the 2019 World Cup.

Second, if they win at the 2020 Olympics this summer, the United States will become the first nation to hold a World Cup title followed by an Olympic title the next year.

Seeing that the 2016 team came up short in the Olympics, the pressure for the 2020 team is higher than ever.

In Rio, where the 2016 Olympics were held, the United States unexpectedly lost to Sweden in a quarterfinal shootout.

It was the first time the Americans were not able to reach an Olympic final.

"I remember not leaving the field for a long time," Crystal Dunn, who plays as a defender on the U.S. team said last fall. "The tears couldn't come out of my eyes be-

cause I didn't even want to believe that we were knocked out of the tournament."

"We had to bring it in for a huddle. And I can't even remember the words that were said in the huddle because nobody was probably listening. Everybody was like, there's nothing that could be said that's going to make this moment feel any better than it is right now," the defender remembered.

"We know the pain that we felt in that moment. And since then we have worked so hard to never have that feeling ever again," Dunn recounted.

Julie Ertz, who earned the title of "U.S. Soccer Player of the Year" after last summer's World Cup triumph, echoed Dunn's sentiments.

"If it wasn't for 2016," she said, "I don't know if I'd be on the podium in 2019."

Fortunately, it looks like the women's team took that defeat and turned it into positive energy and motivation, allowing them to win the World Cup back to back in both 2015 and 2019.

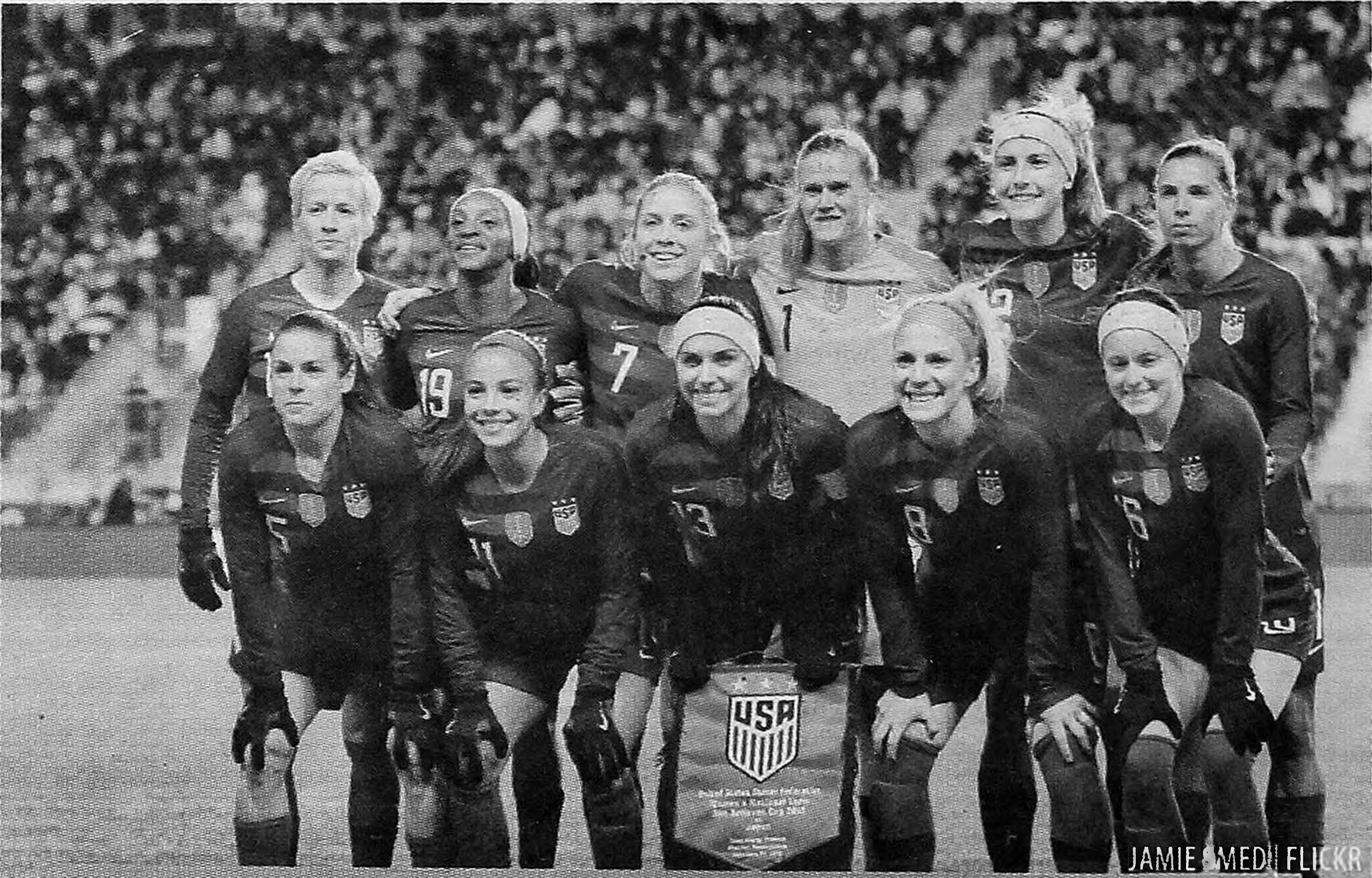
Their recent win against Mexico atones for that humbling experience in Rio.

The United States moved on to face Canada, who claimed the other spot in the Tokyo Games with a 1-0 win against Costa Rica, in the championship game of CONCACAF's Olympic Qualifiers.

In the final game, the U.S. faced off with Canada in the qualifying final where they won 3-0.

The game was surprisingly scoreless at halftime, putting extreme pressure on the fierce rivals.

Then in an 11-minute window, the floodgates finally opened for



The U.S. Women's National Team continues their winning ways, taking their dominance into the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

the Stars and Stripes as the United States took advantage of a few errors made by the Canadian team and scored two of the three goals.

"Scoring first is important in every game, especially against Canada," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said after the game. "Like I said, in the first half, throughout the whole game, they were very organized and very disciplined. It's one of the best teams in the world. Top 10 team in the world, it's not going to be easy."

Andonovski also addressed the playstyle and intensity of the World Champions, adding, "the first half,

we were not patient enough, not sharp enough, but the second half, we came out with a little more energy."

"We moved the ball a little faster and our rotations were a little bit clearer and more precise, which resulted in the goal and once we scored the first, I felt pretty comfortable we were going to score another one," the coach remarked.

As for the third goal, the U.S. used their superior talent to their advantage, scoring a "team goal."

The win improves the U.S. record against Canada, as this marks the 50th time the United States has

defeated their North American rivals.

In his first competitive tournament, coach Andonovski is very thrilled to be qualifying for Tokyo.

"It's exciting," Andonovski said. "It's very important for a team that just won two World Cups back to back, that those emotions and that motivation is something that's the hardest to get back up again."

"I was just glad to see that the emotions are there, that the motivation is there to make it happen. We are moving in the right direction and I'm very happy with the stage we are at," Andonovski said.

# Xtreme Football League makes strong statement in opening week

BY ISIAH HINTON  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Violence, sex and mayhem. While those three words would be apt for a high-speed thriller movie or the stage of World Wrestling Entertainment, they were the three principles behind WWE owner and CEO Vince McMahon's darling project, the Xtreme Football League.

In 2001, the XFL was launched to mix the world of wrestling and the realm of football into a package that can fill the void for spring football left by the NFL.

The XFL was a massive failure for many reasons, the chief of those being the lack of professionalism around the league.

The league was formed quickly, and teams only had 30 days to practice and generate enough cohesion to call themselves a team beyond the fact that they wore the same jerseys.

As a result, the play on the field could not compensate for the controversy the league generated, with McMahon under fire for appealing to male viewers' base desires in a last-ditch attempt to stay relevant.

After just one season and the infamous "Million-Dollar Championship Game," the league folded into the cesspool of other failed spring football leagues.

However, McMahon always believed that the XFL could have succeeded and all it needed was time and support.

Because of this, he decided to attempt what many, including himself, have failed to achieve.

In 2018, he announced the return of the XFL, promising a fast-paced, professional and fun football league.

Teams now had two years to prepare for their debuts, the rules

of the league solidified and the overall quality elevated.

The XFL is designed to change the way football is played. Even though that statement sounds extremely corny, the league's alterations to the flow of play are designed to minimize injuries and increase the pace.

On kickoffs, blockers line up on the receiving team's 35-yard line and cannot rush until the returner touches the ball.

In addition, all kickoffs must pass the 20-yard line of the return, otherwise the kicking team will get penalized.

Instead of extra-points, teams will now have the option between one, two and three-point conversions.

The game clock runs continuously, and the play clock is limited only to 25 seconds. Also, the officials are mic'd up to increase transparency in decision-making.

Not only does the league boast new and innovative rules, but it also boasts reputable names.

At the helm of the league is commissioner Oliver Luck, an experienced and knowledgeable football executive who is well-respected throughout the league.

The coaches of the debutante league have an extensive football pedigree, with former Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops helming the Dallas Renegades and Super Bowl-winning offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride taking the reins of the New York Guardians.

The league is not short on notable names with former Ohio State quarterback Cardale Jones assigned to the DC Defenders and former Pittsburgh Steelers signal-caller Landry Jones drafted by the Dallas Renegades.

One week into their debut season, the XFL has drawn the attention of many people, optimistic of



ILLEGITIMATE BARRISTER | WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The debut of the new Xtreme Football League saw plenty of fan interest and the promise of a league with long-term stability.

the potential of the league.

In the inaugural game, the DC Defenders defeated the Seattle Dragons 31-19, in front of close to 20,000 people in Audi Field.

Jones was the star of the game, completing 16 passes for 262 yards and two touchdowns.

In addition, Jones showcased his ability to create positive yardage out of broken plays, a skill he was praised for in Ohio State.

In MetLife Stadium, defense was the story as the Guardians lived up to their name.

Registering 3 forced fumbles, 2 interceptions and 5 sacks, the Guardians shut down the Tampa Bay Vipers, led by former Georgia quarterback Aaron Murray, by a

score of 23-3.

Another star for Week 1 of the XFL was Houston Roughnecks quarterback P.J. Walker.

Walker completed 23 passes for 272 yards and four touchdowns to lead Houston to a 37-17 victory over the Los Angeles Wildcats.

Walker's feet were also the topic of praise, as he was able to step up in the pocket and fire down the field.

The last game of the week was a low scoring affair, as the St. Louis Battlehawks defeated the Dallas Renegades 15-9.

Quarterback Jordan Ta'amu was extremely efficient in the victory, only registering seven incomplete passes out of 27 attempts.

The verdict on the XFL is still to be decided. Television deals with ESPN, ABC and Fox Sports, as well as ticket revenues that have exceeded the total revenue of the defunct Alliance of American Football, suggests that the league has some staying power.

An average of 3.12 million viewers tuned in to the league, which also speaks to the successes of their marketing.

The first week of XFL 1.0 also drew high ratings, but this iteration of the league does not have the reputation of the original.

If the first week is any indication, the XFL might have carved out its niche in the realm of football.



## Should dancing even be considered a sport? The answer is up for debate

BY JENNA JARRAH  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

Dancing may seem easy to the untrained eye, but that is the beauty of the art form.

The harmonious movements combined with explosive energy and coordination, as well as the timeliness and muscle memory that dancers must have are a testament to the grace of dance.

However, like a sport, the beauty does not come without a price.

The long hours, which can easily be eight to 10 hours, dancers spend each day perfecting the craft, on top of going to the gym to stretch their muscles as a supplement to their training and to prevent injuries.

Dancers generally rehearse for about 30 hours a week, but all dancers go to hours of classes before rehearsals to perfect their craft and maintain their form and technique.

Many can spend up to 10 hours a day at the gym to condition their bodies and prevent injuries and will stretch for an hour or more on top of their training.

Dancers generally work nights and weekends, as many performances are scheduled then.

The commitment dancers show is enough to qualify dance as a sport. Dancers are, after all, athletes.

Few know how hard their job is, but there is now data to prove it.

The Occupational Information Network, a national organization supported by the U.S. Department of Labor, researched and gathered data to determine the 20 most

physically demanding jobs in the country.

They categorized the professions based on the level of strength, stamina, flexibility, and coordination required.

ONET collected information to assign a score between 0 and 100, with 100 being the highest score for each of these factors, and how important each characteristic is to the job.

However, ONET discovered that dancers scored the highest, averaging a combined score of 97 out of 100 for overall level of physicality.

Dancers scored 100 out of 100 in the stamina, flexibility, and coordination categories, and 87.8 out of 100 for strength.

Athletes and other sports competitors finished third with a score of 90.4, while fitness trainers and aerobics instructors, positions that dancers must have to supplement their income, ranked at number five. Choreographers, another dance-heavy profession, made the list at number nine.

Though the fight to categorize dancers as athletes is still highly contested, one fact worth mentioning is the existence and prevalence of dancesport, or competitive dancing.

Dancesport applies to different types of ballroom dancing, and events are grouped by age and experience.

There are two governing bodies, the World Dance Council and the World DanceSport Federation, the latter of which was recognized by the International Olympic Committee over two decades ago.

While dance is starting to receive recognition as a sport, they make about less than half as much as other athletes.

The average salary for a dancer is about \$43,100, while the salary for an athlete is more than double that of a dancer, averaging about \$87,100.

This disparity is present even though dancing is more physically demanding, and the athletic needs for dancers continues to grow each year.

It is an unfortunate truth that the difficulty of the profession of dancing and dancers themselves is often underestimated.

While we all enjoy watching dance, whether it be traditional ballet or more modern forms such as hip-hop, we often forget that behind all that beauty is many long hours of grunt work and a complete dedication and love the art form.

Many sports can be defined as an art form if done perfectly, "poetry in motion" if you will.

The concept of sport is defined as an athletic activity that requires skill or physical prowess. In addition, a sport must also include a sense of competition amongst its participants.

It is the same with dance, as its athletes must use every ounce of physical ability to create graceful movements and to entertain the audience.

With the advent of governing bodies and recognition by the IOC, the competition in dance is growing, and the argument could be made that dance should be treated as a legitimate sport.

## Become a Photographer

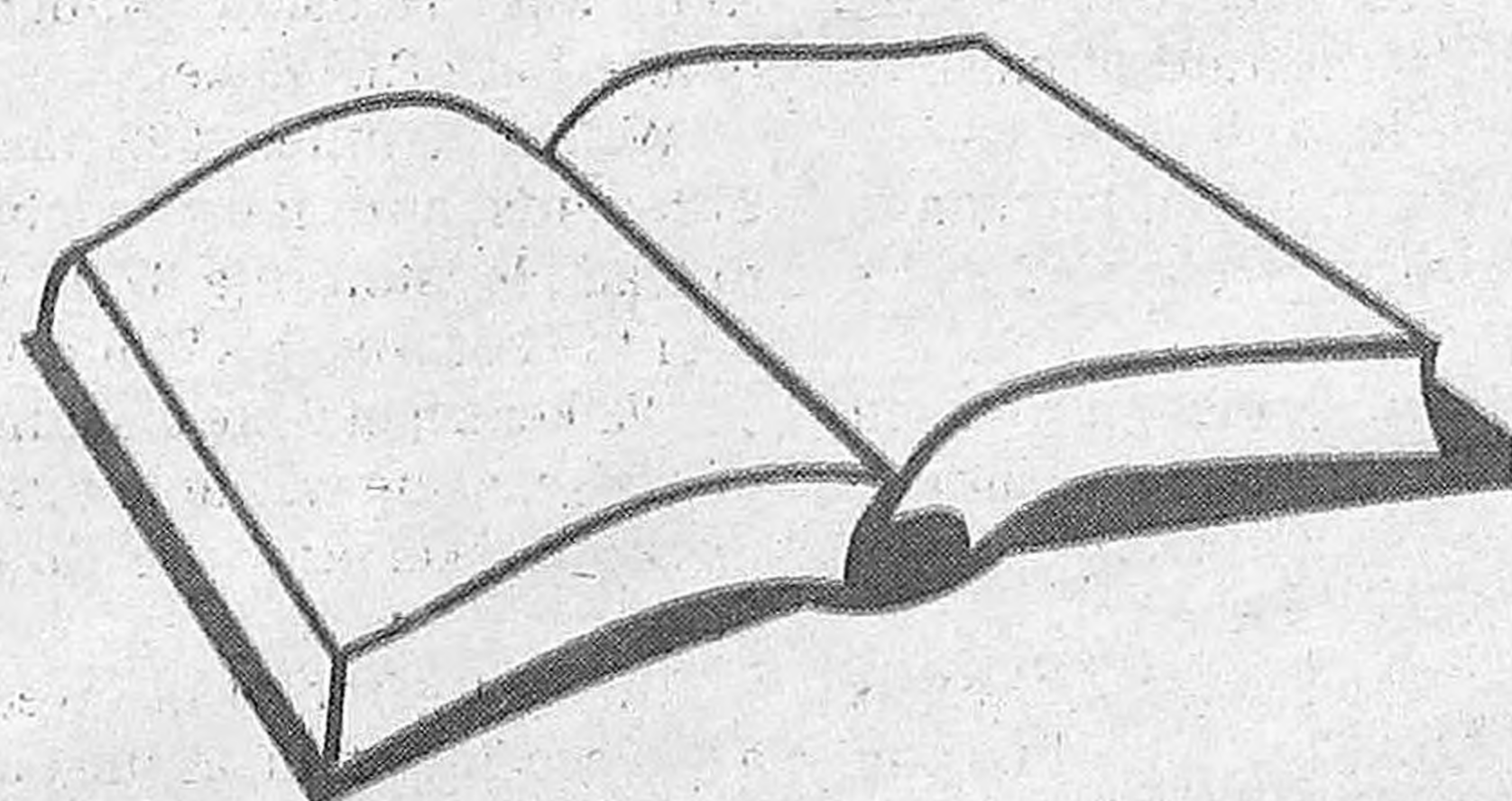
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# Baruch Weekly

## DOUBLE TAKE ADVICE FOR STUDENTS BY STUDENTS

**DEAR DOUBLE TAKE:**  
How do I stay healthy while dealing with all of my responsibilities?

It's important to remember that mental *and* physical health are equally important. If you're managing your health on top of all your school and work responsibilities, you should feel great about being responsible and productive throughout your day. If you find you aren't where you want to be mentally or physically, it might help to evaluate your current routines and make changes that can make you happy. I've found great success in meditating and doing yoga before bed or after waking up. Meal prepping is also a great way for me to control what goes into my body; it isn't difficult and it helps me save a lot of money. My go-to recipe is pre-cooked chicken breast from Perdue paired with quinoa. I also bake potatoes in the evenings while I do my homework and other work. There are a lot of ways to improve your health and I think doing so should be a primary focus of everyone, especially college students.

**JULIO HERNANDEZ**

While self-care can be easy to ignore in the face of the assignments, deadlines, and exams that make up the lives of most students, making an effort to be physically and mentally healthy is of utmost importance. There is no fad diet or quick-fix solution that will suddenly make someone healthy. A balanced diet paired with regular physical activity and mindful practices can go a long way in improving one's outlook and perspective on life. While there is no one-size-fits-all approach to personal health, I've found that doing things with intention has helped me feel able to take on challenges I encounter. I encourage you to think about your reasons for doing the things you do day-to-day and see where you can improve.


**JULIAN TINEO**

Submit a question to the Double Take team via Google Form on The Ticker's Facebook page, or email [doubletake@theticker.org](mailto:doubletake@theticker.org).

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

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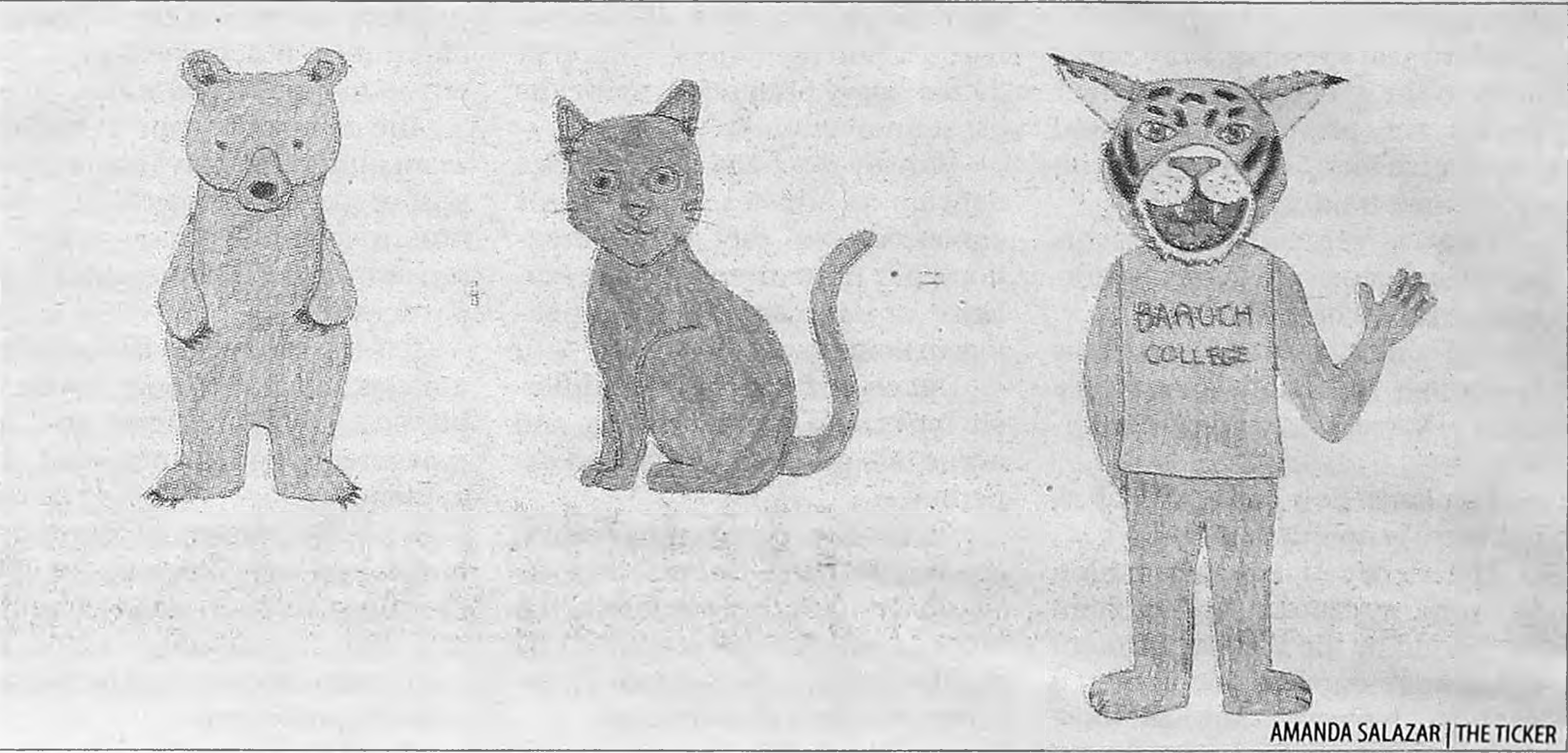
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\*Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus 12% tax, 4 days. Single occupancy and minimum deposits may apply. Act on speed! \*Taxes: 1.6% to cover the international security fee for the 2020-2021 season and 1.6% to cover the 2020-2021 season. \*Not an offer.

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION: ISSUE #2

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AMANDA SALAZAR | THE TICKER

**Starr  
Career  
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Center**

# Career Spotlight

[baruch.cuny.edu/careers](http://baruch.cuny.edu/careers)  
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Baruch College Starr Career Development Center

## SAVE THE DATE

**Creating Your Own Major: The Ad Hoc**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., NVC 2-190**

*This workshop is designed for students who are interested in combining courses from several departments into a unique and coherent major.*

**Wall Street Careers Panel**  
**Thursday, Feb. 20, 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., NVC 14-220**

*Learn about careers on Wall Street from a panel of industry experts and Baruch alumni.*

## SCDC TIP OF THE WEEK

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

*"When you are interning, it is really important to ask good questions, take notes, and be attentive towards all of your responsibilities. You are not expected to remember everything the first time something is told to you, asking questions will definitely be appreciated by your supervisor!"*

- Michael Kalish, Associate Director

## INTERNSHIP UPDATE

### S&P Global

#### 2020 S&P Global Ratings – Compliance Internship

This is a great opportunity to learn about the operations and impact of an iconic global financial services firm in a high profile Compliance and Risk function. The 2020 S&P Global Ratings - Compliance Internship is an ideal opportunity for a student interested in financial services, law, regulations, operations and business. This is a flexible role with opportunities to work across multiple functions including advisory, regulatory reporting, compliance exams and investigations, training, policy drafting and risk. Key responsibilities include supporting other functions within compliance and risk on special projects, supporting the Compliance Policy Officer with policy drafting, review and approval projects and reviews of training materials, preparing reports for Compliance senior management and assisting in development of new reporting templates.

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### MACKEY SHIELDS LLC

#### 2020 Summer Intern – Paralegal

Founded in 1938, MacKay Shields has become a fixed-income leader and credit market specialist managing roughly \$132 billion of assets for institutional investors and other financial service providers across the globe. In 1984 MacKay Shields became a wholly-owned subsidiary of New York Life Insurance Company, a premier financial services provider and one of the country's most highly rated insurance companies. Our summer internship program provides students the opportunity to challenge themselves, grow, and explore careers within an investment management firm. The primary function of this position is to assist the firm's Legal team with maintenance of its document management system. The ideal candidate is an individual interested in being a paralegal at a financial services company whether as a career or a starting ground to law school with very strong analytical and research skills, has strong written and oral communication skills, a disciplined, responsible personality with attention to detail, has a high energy level and strong work ethic, is a team player with the ability to work independently, is highly motivated and creative with natural intellectual curiosity and is highly proficient in a range of advanced PC skills.

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