

the EXCELSIOR

USG President-Elect Calzadilla-Palacio is Guilty, Election Commission Says. His Presidency is Revoked.



The Election Commission has decided that Calzadilla-Palacio is guilty and his presidency will be revoked. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

The verdict is in. It’s almost 24 hours late, but it’s in. According to the Election Commission, USG President-Elect Carlos Jesus Calzadilla-Palacio indeed did make racist comments about candidate Hamza Khilji. He will be disqualified from being president. “We spent many days investigating this case and determining a final verdict based on the evidence we were presented with both at the hearing and via email,” the commissioners said in an email obtained by the Excelsior. “Based on all the evidence we have compiled, we held a vote last night to

determine the outcome of the case. The commission voted in the majority to find the defendant, Carlos Calzadilla, guilty of the violations brought forth against him on the basis of evidence provided by multiple sources who have worked closely with the offender in the past and present. We revoke the offender’s candidacy.” The decision was supposed to be announced at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 9th. The Election Commission did not respond to The Excelsior’s emails as to why it was being delayed. At about close to 5 p.m. on Friday, an email was finally sent out. “The offender shall have

the right to apply for eligibility to participate in USG one year following the conviction,” the email said. “Moving forward, the defendant now has the opportunity to submit an appeal if he wishes to do so. We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions you might have regarding our decision and regarding the case.” The entire fiasco began when Khilji became aware that Calzadilla-Palacio was spreading rumors about him saying Khilji won’t take the stipend because he comes from a rich family that owns an oil company. The comment was racist as Khilji is a brown Muslim man,

whose family does not own an oil company. At the Election Commission hearing last week, he noted that his family wasn’t even rich. The Excelsior had verified from three people that Calzadilla-Palacio told them about the oil comment directly. But when that was brought up at the hearing, Calzadilla-Palacio still denied ever making such comments. “As expected, in a majority decision, the Election Commission ruled against us in the investigation of these false allegations. It comes as no surprise considering their biased relation to the runner-up campaign,” Calzadilla-Palacio told the Ex-

celsior. “This is a dark day for democracy at Brooklyn College and we will be appealing the decision to CW-ERC, calling for a real, impartial investigation. We will not allow the students’ voice to be overturned. We were the democratically elected campaign by an overwhelming majority of students who voted, and we look forward to serving the undergraduate student body.” What happens next?

SEE “USG PRESIDENT-ELECT CALZADILLA-PALACIO IS GUILTY, ELECTION COMMISSION SAYS. HIS PRESIDENCY IS REVOKED,” 2

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CONT'D FROM "USG PRESIDENT-ELECT CALZADILLA-PALACIO IS GUILTY, ELECTION COMMISSION SAYS. HIS PRESIDENCY IS REVOKED," 1

Calzadilla-Palacio will appeal the decision. Decisions made by the Commission may be appealed to C.W.E.R.C. Decisions made by C.W.E.R.C may be appealed to President Michelle Anderson. Decisions made by Anderson may be appealed to the CUNY Board of Trustees. Accord-

ing to the election rules, the candidacy will go to the candidate with the second highest votes — Alyssa Taylor. "It feels nice seeing that accountability still exists on this campus. I want to thank the few, truly loyal, and real friends, that I had supporting me. They were extremely loyal and I couldn't have gotten through this brutal process without them," Khilji told the Excelsior. "I do want to reply to those who felt this was a waste of time or not the correct way to do things because of 'democracy.' First, the investigation

itself and following the rules are important to upholding democracy. Second, I keenly remember the multiple times on this campus that many of the same students against this investigation protested and rallied against professors who allegedly made racist remarks, asking to have them fired." "I would have hoped that those same students would stand up for the same cause in this difficult time, especially considering the importance of the presidential position in the new USG, but it was upsetting to see po-

litical alliances misconstrue fighting for the right cause." "This was never about me getting into office. It was always about holding people accountable, and it was very difficult because there were several times along the way I was told to give up, to stop wasting time, and to just let it go. I hope the message received from the result is that due process still exists and that if an injustice is committed, one should not be afraid to stand up for it because if one is, many more injustices will occur uncontested."

EVENTS LISTING

<div><div>MONDAY, MARCH 18 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 31</div><div>We Stand Against Hate - History of Free Speech: The Vanguard Years at Brooklyn College 2129 Boylan Hall</div><div>WEDNESDAY, MAY 15</div><div>Monday Schedule - Snow Day Makeup</div><div>Conservatory Jazz Ensemble 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Topfer Recital Hall, Room 250 Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>WEDNESDAY, MAY 8</div><div>BCAA Annual Meeting and Student Awards Presentation 6:30 PM - 10:00 PM Brooklyn College Library</div><div>Conservatory Alumni Concert 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Don Buchwald Theater Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>Recent Conservatory graduates return to perform in the new Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. Donations to charities that provide legal aid to immigrants and refugees to the US will be welcome.</div></div>	<div><div>THURSDAY, MAY 16</div><div>The 23rd Annual Faculty Day Conference and Awards Ceremony Student Center</div><div>At this multidisciplinary conference, colleagues participate in an exchange of ideas about a wide variety of scholarly, artistic and pedagogical interests and concerns.</div><div>Conservatory Orchestra 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Don Buchwald Theater Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>Composer-in-Residence Orchestral Readings: world premieres of works by Christopher North and Eduardo Palacios, plus the Conservatory's Annual Awards ceremony</div><div>Composers Recital 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM Don Buchwald Theater Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>Acoustic works by graduating composers.</div><div>SUNDAY, MAY 18 – FRIDAY, MAY 31</div><div>We Stand Against Hate - RespondBC! Annual Art Exhibition Brooklyn College Library</div></div>	<div><div>MONDAY, MAY 13</div><div>Computer Music Showcase 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Topfer Recital Hall, Room 250 Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>Students of the Electroacoustic Music class present new original acousmatic and interactive electronic works.</div><div>WEDNESDAY, MAY 22</div><div>End of Spring Term</div><div>THURSDAY, MAY 23</div><div>Sonic Arts Concert 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Don Buchwald Theater Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>The sonic Arts Student Union will host dynamic trumpeter Nate Wooley performing Eliane Radigue's Occam X alongside his composition collaboration with Annea Lockwood, Becoming Air</div><div>SATURDAY, MAY 25</div><div>CUNY Gospel Choir Fest 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Don Buchwald Theater Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts</div><div>Choirs from numerous CUNY colleges join Brooklyn College's choir to perform along with special guests.</div></div>
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I Am Lost, But I'll Find My Way



Zainab Iqbal, who usually takes everyone's very awesome photos, was unable to take her own professional photo because she just recently bought a tripod.

BY ZAINAB IQBAL
THE EXCELSIOR'S
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I remember reading farewells of campus editors my first year of college. I re-

member wondering when my day would come. Well, four years later, it has arrived.

Four years ago, I was a scrawny freshman. The sum-

mer before college, I googled and researched every possible career option. I didn't know what I wanted to do at Brooklyn College. I remember briefly watching this show on Freeform called Chasing Life. It was about this woman who finds out she has cancer. She was also a journalist. She would spend her days in the newsroom writing stories. She would go out and report, and every time she did, I would think, "Wow this is so awesome."

I then started researching about this thing called Journalism. I was very intrigued. I realized it combined all of the things I loved to do. I loved to write. I loved to tell stories. I loved to ask questions. I loved to go run out in the street. I loved figuring out who did it before the mystery ended. I loved catching people in their lies. I just never knew there was a career for that. I decided, I'd go to the FBI. But it turns out, journalism is much cooler (especially in this administration, if you know what I mean).

When I entered school in the Fall, it was too late to enroll in a journalism course. But I was too excited. I saw that there were two campus newspaper, and I thought, "Why don't I write for one?" I remember I was standing

inside the WEB building. On a rack sat two stacks of papers—The Excelsior and the Kingsman. I remember looking at both of them and they both had advertised needing more writers. I remember thinking the name "Kingsman" sounds cool, but the Excelsior physically looks better. I picked up the Excelsior, brought it home, and emailed the editor.

In the spring of my freshman year, I started writing for this paper. I mostly wrote opinion stories; I don't know why. Soon enough, I moved on to writing campus features and even news. My first front page story was when I interviewed Borough President Eric Adams about smart guns. I learned the craft of journalism through other students—my editors. And then the following semester, I enrolled in a journalism class and didn't look back since.

Soon enough, I became features editor. Then managing editor. And now editor-in-chief. When I look back now, I came into Brooklyn College feeling lost. I was excited but I was lost. If it weren't for writing for the campus paper, I am sure I would still be as lost right now.

Campus news is the most

local form of local news there is. And trust me, I know local news. I have been working at Bklyner for two years now (you should subscribe). If it weren't for The Excelsior, I wouldn't have that job. Anyway, I think every journalism student should be writing for the campus paper. You are able to hold administration accountable. You are able to see physical change take place as a result of your reporting. It prepares you for the real world. And quite frankly, it's super fun.

My career began at the Excelsior. And I hope it doesn't end here. Like any soon-to-be college graduate, I am lost again. But like any human being, I'll figure it out. I am very grateful for my friends—those I have known for three years and those who I met and our souls connected just three weeks ago. I am grateful for my family. I am grateful for my professors. I am grateful for Bklyner. And I am grateful for the Excelsior, that allowed me to grow and make mistakes.

I do not know what the future will hold, but I know that by being around my gratefuls, I will find my way.

"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy." — Rumi.

Farewell From a Sports Writer—Turned Layout Editor and Web Manager

BY SANDY MUI
THE EXCELSIOR'S
LAYOUT EDITOR AND
WEB MANAGER

Wow, four years have really come and went. It certainly feels like ages ago when I would stay late on campus finishing up a sports story by 8pm on a Thursday. Or the time I stepped foot into the Excelsior's office for the first time to meet with former editor-in-chief Faraz T. Toor about an available Sports Editor position. I never did end up becoming The Excelsior's Sports Editor — and I don't even write about sports anymore (gasp!) — but the Layout Editor and Web Manager positions have been enough for me. And I'll always be grateful for the most important thing The Excelsior gave me — my love and passion for jour-

nalism. If I never joined The Excelsior, who knows where I would be in life? Maybe I'd still dream of becoming an environmental chemist...

The Excelsior has served as a place where I've produced some of my best work in so many different mediums. Many of my top writing samples — especially in the features and opinions sections — were published in the Excelsior. Doing layout for the last year has also been rather different, but a worthwhile learning experience — and I have Adobe InDesign skills to show for it. And, while its future remains up in the air with the merger of the Excelsior and the Kingsman, The Excelsior's e-newsletter will always be one of my main legacies during my time at Brooklyn College. I hope to

see an e-newsletter continue at the combined Excelsior-Kingsman, and when that happens, I'll definitely be first in line to subscribe.

Where am I headed next? Well, last week was my first week as a communications associate at WITNESS — an international nonprofit organization that trains and supports people using video in their fight for human rights. I'll certainly miss reporting, but you will likely see me stay in the journalism world — in terms of advocating for it. (I view WITNESS as a combination of citizen journalism and advocacy.) I'm excited to see where else my combined interests in journalism and advocacy take me, and I can't wait to share it with all of you when I return to BC.



This is a professional headshot of Sandy Mui, taken by Zainab Iqbal.

New BC Award Ceremony Credits Women of Color for Their Work

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Newly established Women of Distinction Award Ceremony seeks to raise greater awareness of the various accomplishments of black and minority women on campus for the varying passions of work deemed to be helping the advancement of colored women in society.

Students and faculty across campus filled the Jefferson Williams Lounge of SUBO to observe and celebrate the new award event devised by the combined effort of the Brooklyn College National Black Law Student Association (NBLSA) and Women of Color Club.

"There have been many other [award ceremonies] celebrating Black Women on this campus before," President of Women of Color Rebecca Lafond said before co-organizer and president of NBLSA Jessica Johnson added "... but this one is literally [about] appreciating one another, it's actually about having these awards, having performances and showing 'you're appreciated and you matter.'"

Consciously electing to be inclusive by commemorating a range of deeds partaken by nominees from activism to entrepreneurship for over a dozen colored female students of recent as well as members of the women col-



Keynote Speaker Chelsea Miller orates her experiences and struggles as a black woman involved in social change. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

or club along with a few faculties, the ceremony begun with a memorial to a now deceased activist and organizer of the past: Carrie L. Roberts.

Additionally, renowned activist, organizer and CEO of Women Everywhere Believe, Inc. Chelsea Miller was invited as the ceremonies keynote speaker. Miller, a graduate of Columbia University and once worked for the Obama administration on economic opportunity, chronicled her own experiences as a black woman striving to improve the fiscal and social conditions of the underprivileged.

"I was in my dorm in my Sophomore year of college with my best friend at the time and we're just brainstorming ideas and we're like 'why don't we create an organization that is able to empower girls of color?'" Miller narrated, elaborating on the origin of Women Everywhere Believe, Inc.

Upon concluding her speech Miller was presented the Women of Distinction Award for Appreciation by organizers beginning the ceremonies main concession.

In time other prominent awards such as the 'Shirley Chisholm Award for

Political Activism' found themselves in the hands of Nadia Presley who was commended for her work as VP of the Tau Tau chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho, program director of WBCR, Treasurer of the NBLSA, as well as her ongoing work as VP-elect of USG.

The praise from the occasion for remarkable accomplishments organizers found in award recipients was also shared with faculty members like Student Life Coordinator Christina Mia Vialva and Professor Robyn Spencer of the BC Women's Center with the

latter receiving the 'Black Women Mixer Award.'

"I love it, I've been active in Women of Color since I got started here, it was one of the first clubs I got started in, and ever since then I've been trying to get my face known, I made myself always be available when whenever they [Women of Color] needed my help," said Victoria Beraiah, a junior, Psychology major and recipient of the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award speaking appreciatively on her award.

The Lessons and Dances that Defy Historic Ostracism

BY M.A. RAHMAN

The Brooklyn College Puerto Rican and Latino Studies (PRLS) Department concluded its semester-wide multi-event cultural series "Puerto Rican Migration Then and Now Through the Lens of Contemporary Art" with an audience-driven exhibition in dedication to Bomba Dance.

According to PRLS Professor Reynaldo Ortiz-Minaya, Bomba, one of Puerto Rico's many genres of traditional dance and music, originated from the descendants of African slaves brought to the Caribbean Island with the inspiration for such unique tunes originating from spiritual songs.

"[Bomba] originated from religious sources and a lot of religious sources historically speaking were always the rituals enacted prior to slave rebellions and uprisings, the most famous one being the Haitian Revolution," Ortiz-Minaya said, elaborating on the origins of the stigmatism that came to be attributed to this style of music.

Ortiz-Minaya, who begun and hosted the multi-event series focused on Puerto Rican culture, credits his interest in showcasing the achievements and predicaments of the distant US territory in an on-campus event in Fall 2017 in which he was able to invite current Mayor of San Juan,

Carmen Yulín Cruz to speak to students about the plight of residents on the Island.

Prior to the Bomba performance at the Performing Arts Theatre, students and faculty including PRLS Professors Antonio Nadal and Alan Aja offered their commendation and gratitude to Ortiz-Minaya for his work to bring greater exposure to various topics of concern and celebration regarding Puerto Rico to campus.

"Brooklyn College has always been the hotbed for student activism," Emeritus Antonio Nadal said before an audience of roughly two dozen mostly students and faculty, describing how decades-old struggles that

precede today's political climate are not circumstances the PRLS department has been unfamiliar with.

José "Dr. Drum" Ortiz, a charismatic, middle age gentleman the Bronx, self-taught percussionist of Afro-Caribbean rhythms thereafter presented himself with his various supporting instrument players to the audience, sternly notifying those present "you all seated better get your rest because that's all the rest your gonna have for a while," gaining chuckles across the room.

An advocate for Puerto Rican cultural arts, an organizer and educator of Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba, one of many tradition-

al pieces of music and art forms from Puerto Rico, Ortiz began by establishing the origin of his experience and interest in Bomba.

"The first time I heard Bomba, I was 42 years old," Ortiz said to the surprise of some members of the audience, describing how a sudden spark of interest in this type of music subsequently formed despite not having any extensive experience playing music.

Narrating his experiences, Ortiz notes that in short time he felt empowered to play the music that came from his community and lineage before shortly asking why such music has been historically shunned and forgotten of.

“The African Diaspora—I don’t recall listening to that [phrase] in the 60’s, 70’s and in the past decade there has been an increase in consciousness but somehow it discovered through our music” Ortiz said with frustration at the seemingly deliberate choice for society to overlook Bomba, depriving it of proper acknowledgment.

As Ortiz concluded his monologue, sounds of drums

crashing quickly took over the room and with it, Ortiz directed and encouraged the audience to indulge in the occasion by participating regardless of their dancing prowess or lack thereof.

Stepping forward to form a circle of participants as instructed by Ortiz, most members of the audience, both young and old joined in the excitement, before shortly being taken over with dif-

ferent emotions emanating from their faces: earnestness, gleefulness, restrained self embarrassment and so on.

Among Ortiz’s Bombayo musical posse was Melinda Gonzalez, the Puerto Rican Heritage Cultural Ambassador Program Coordinator from Hunter College, who along with Ortiz would direct the audience now turned chorus to gradually build their singing confi-

dence by way of translating the lyrics as they went.

“Think of the music as a blade of grass on the sidewalk, it’s not going anywhere,” Ortiz said to comfort members of the circle, promptly fully launching the music without interrupting, once again mostly consuming the room with visible jovialness.

“I thought it was great and a great introduction [to Bomba],” said Dr. Sal-

ly Robles from the BC personal counseling and psychology department, having partaken in the evening’s dance and chorus.

Herself Puerto Rican, Robles reflected on the grim history of the progenitors of the music, saying “to kind of resurrect this marginalized folk dance but taking it out of that marginalization and integrate it [into popularity], I think it’s great.”

The opinions expressed in the Opinions Section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Excelsior.

Summer Break? Go to Europe

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

With finals approaching rapidly after the cruel tease of Spring Break, let’s think of a happier time — life after finals. May I suggest a trip to Europe? The good part of Europe. Not the part of Europe that is so bad that people from there will hide which country they are from by saying “I’m from Europe” vis a vis an entire continent. We would never say we are from North America.

Before I get into this let me address some obvious push back I am sure is out there: If you want to go to Europe why don’t you do a semester abroad? This is something I fully support doing, but sometimes it doesn’t work for everyone. Some of us have to work. A semester abroad may also push back your graduation

date because you may not get to take classes needed for your major. Finally, some of us can’t bear to be away from our beagles for that long.

Another argument is that it is expensive. Well, yes it can be, but so is a night out. If you can save a \$600, you can take a trip abroad that you will never forget. I was able to get a flight to Dublin last summer for under \$400.

Finally, a former roommate told me that he will go to Europe when he is older and has a lot of money so he can “do it right.” Yeah ok, but travel is different at every age you travel in and you don’t want to miss the fun and romance that comes with traveling while young.

Needless to say, you need a passport. Some full-time jobs that you will be applying for after graduation will require one. So, it’s something you should get anyway if you are able to.

Being an American abroad is your right. You get to travel to a relative-



May I suggest a trip to Europe? PHOTO/ **Michael Castaneda**

ly safe country where few people speak English and navigate through your experience like a pilgrim. When you find other Americans there, or to a lesser extent Canadians, you feel like finding your long lost brethren. Then you can go home and tell everyone about it like you were the only person to have ever done that.

Once you picked a cheap ticket, you can choose to stay at a youth hostel. Hostels are cheap and safe to stay abroad. They are supported by the government to facilitate easy travel for backpackers. You can stay in a room with lots of people or have your own depending on what you want to spend. Breakfast and Wi-Fi are usually included.

Everyone there will be looking to meet and talk to new people. Even if you were traveling by yourself, you will quickly make friends and dates. It’s likely that you will be going to the tourist attractions or will learn about ones you never

thought of. Then you will see the same people from your hostel there whether you planned it or not.

However, there are a few things to watch out for. Aussies and Kiwis do a one to two year trip around the world before going to college. Needless to say, these are not poor children. They are good fun but could out drink your run-of-the-mill frat boy. Watch out because it may be more than you have expected. Another thing to watch out for are Hostel Lizards which are guys in their mid-early-20’s that never want to leave the hostel. Often they manage the lesser ones for a free stay and pocket money. They usually have issues with their parents and are constantly on the lookout for new young girls who they can take under their and into the beds.

Once you’re there you pretty much spend as much money as you would while you are in Brooklyn. In some places, things cost less. The

great thing about being in a foreign city is that normal things become bigger deals. You are at a cafe, except you are at a cafe in Paris. It sounds much cooler. Museums are often free as they are paid for by the government.

Many people will tell you that once you set foot in Europe you should go everywhere. If you have the time and money, it’s a great idea. There are low-cost airlines like Easyjet, affectionately known as “Sleazy Jet” and there is the Eurorail. Being cheap, I would advise against this. One, this will not be your only trip abroad. Once you go, you will get the bug and then go as often as you can. You might be even turned into one of the annoying people who open a conversation with a new person with “Do you like to travel?” Another reason to stay put on a short trip is that there is a lot to see and experience. Your Instagram page will thank you later. If you are in a big city like Par-

is or London, you can take months just getting to know it. Imagine those people who go to New York for the first time and go to Times Square and confidently say “Ok, I’ve seen New York. I’m done.” Don’t be that guy!

Do be careful as any other place can be unsafe. I was in Turkey once and was heading to Shul, only to find out that a bomb had gone off 20 minutes earlier. There are places in France that make the dangerous parts of East St. Louis look like Disneyland.

Still, there is an upside of going to Europe while learning a Eurocentric curriculum. Go to Delphi after reading about the Oracle of Delphi. If you love Harry Potter, Oxford is just over an hour away from London by train. You will feel like you are in Hogwarts.

Whatever you do enjoy yourself. And of course, have a great summer.

Jack Ma’s Toxic Vision of Work Ethic

BY EDMUND ZHEN

One of China’s richest billionaires stirred up a controversy over his vision of what good work ethics are. Jack Ma, the founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba, took it to social media to endorse the taxing workload of a 12 hours shift every day, six days a week under the name “996” (9 AM- 9 PM 6 days a week). A strong believer that hard work equates to high levels of happiness, he claims, "I personally think that 996 is a huge blessing," he said to CNN. "How do you achieve the success you want without paying extra effort and time?" Though his concept of it is nothing more than a cliché and undoubtedly hard to challenge, the benefits of leisure time seem to escape from his rhetoric. By endorsing this “996” work schedule, it perpetuates the bureaucracy’s willful neglect towards the toxic working conditions in China. Let’s take Chinese Apple workers at the famous “iPhone City” in Henan as an example. A daily work



Jack Ma stirred up a controversy over his vision of what good work ethics are. PHOTO/ Flickr

schedule recorded by Business Insider goes like this:

- Wake up at 6:30 a.m.
- Head to the factory at 7 a.m.
- Eat breakfast and start working at 8 a.m.
- Take an hour for lunch. Most people eat at the canteen inside the campus, but some head to vendors outside because the food is better.

- The shift ends at 5 p.m., but most will work until 8 or 10 p.m.
- After work, eat dinner with friends or play video games until 10 or 11 p.m. Then go to sleep.

In this duration, a worker can work over 1,700 iPhones every day, doing the same thing for 12 hours in an assembly line that stretches over hundreds of people. Do-

ing so in long periods of time is in no ways healthy, especially social and creative animals like us. There is a plethora of scientific research that backs it up, also proving that constant work and stress levels will lead to mental issues and physical deficiencies. It is too often large companies and governments exploit their workers/people for the benefit of their own and

leave them powerless against anything. With technological advances and artificial projected to be more sophisticated in the coming years, more and more of those injustices will be severe and consistent until low-level jobs such as assembling or restocking, etc., are completely replaced with machinery. With that in mind, it is even more pressing that companies and governments should pay more attention to allowing workers to have more time to pursue whatever it is they want to do. Like what Jack Ma said, “If we find things we like, 996 is not a problem. If you don't like [your work], every minute is torture.” If we have in mind that the current trajectory shows machinery will take over in the next few decades, it would be wise for the workers now to have the chance to elevate their skill sets in order to better serve the society in the future. Whether this is something the Chinese government sees or not, long-term-gain is always better than short-term.

Why Digitization Will Never Take Over Printed Books

BY EDMUND ZHEN

In the contemporary era where everything seems to be succumbing to digitization, there is one who still holds resistance against it. Printed books. One would consider that a shocking thing to say since books were among the first to be digitized, but that’s not entirely what I meant. Even though almost all books have a digitized version, printed books will never be an obsolete thing for mankind unlike in 30 to 40 years, cassette tapes, vinyl players, or even CD’s will be erased. Unlike those, books offer experiences unreplaceable by anything.



Books offer experiences unreplaceable by anything. PHOTO/ Pixabay

history, and experiences. It can also be the perfect gift to others as it is never constrained by battery percentages, Wi-Fi/network connections, or laggy phones. Being a tangible object and regardless of its age, it retains an unrivaled sensorial feeling and revitalizes unique recollections; the good old

times, a work of craftsmanship in its structure, or, the nostalgia offered by children’s books or fairy tales. Joe Queenan, a writer for *Wall Street Journal* experiences it the same way. "People who need to possess the physical copy of a book, not merely an electronic version, believe that the objects

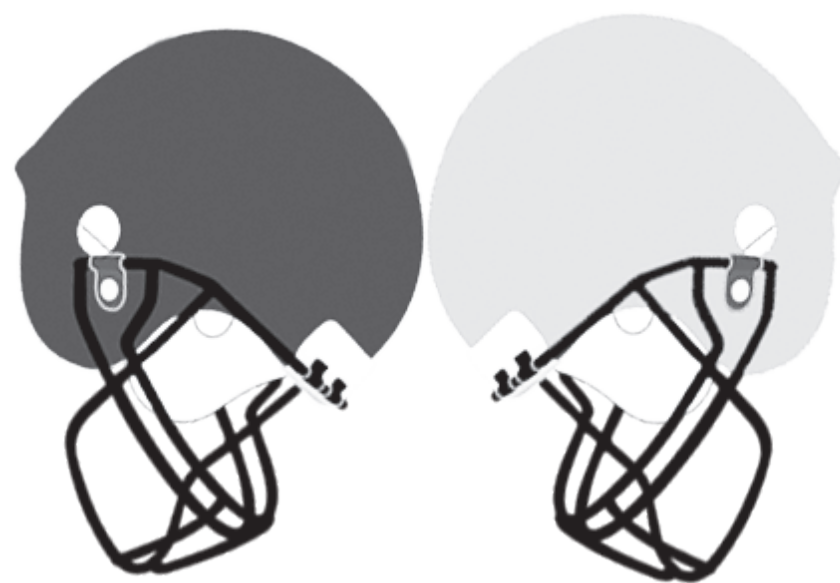
themselves are sacred. Some people may find this attitude baffling, arguing that books are merely objects that take up space. This is true, but so are Prague and your kids and the Sistine Chapel." Printed books also do more than just tell us a story; they help a lot with our self-expression. It is like what American nov-

elist Walter Mosley said, “a man’s bookcase will tell you everything that you’ll ever need to know about him.” It is a completely different thing seeing someone read “Fahrenheit 451” than seeing someone who is reading Stephenie Meyer’s vampire romance novel "Twilight." It’s not enough to just read the story, it has to surround us and be shown off to the world as another way to express who we are. That said, here are some of my personal favorites: *Airborne* and *Skywalker* by Kenneth Oppel, *Sons and Lovers* by D.H Lawrence, *12 Rules For Life* by Jordan Peterson, *How to Win Friends and Gain Influence* by Dale Carnegie, *Rich Dad Poor Dad* by Robert Kiyosaki, *Siddhartha* by Herman Hesse, *Mere Christianity* by C.S Lewis.

Head To Head

Where two writers produce two different opinions about one topic. Who do you think is right?

The issue: Who is the Best Point Guard in the NBA?



Nicholas Williams: The point guard position has evolved over the years. We are witnessing so many great point guards in this day and age that contribute a lot to a team's success. A guard can no longer be a pass-first player but must be an all-around player as well as a dominant shooter and scorer in today's NBA.

The best point guard of this era is the man who has revolutionized and changed the point guard position for the better, and that is Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry.

When we talk about revolutionary players, we mean players who have changed the way we think about the game of basketball, how to defend, what offense is the best, can a miniature point guard be a number one option on a team? Is shooting really that valuable of a skill?

Stephen Curry is a winner. He has changed the way we think about guards in today's NBA. Curry is a three-time NBA champion, two-time MVP, six-time All-star, NBA scoring champion. Curry is also apart of the 50-40-90 club, an exclusive club to players who were able to shoot 50 percent from the field, 40 percent from three-point land, and 90 percent from the free throw line. Only seven other players are in this club.

Ever since the 2012-2013 season, Curry burst onto the season as a big-time player. He has led his team to numerous NBA finals appearances. Curry has revolutionized the point guard position due to his ability to shoot the basketball from anywhere on the court. His game is so scary that players have to guard him from half court because Curry can pull up a three-pointer from beyond the three-point line.

His game opens up so many options for his team, he spaces the floor for his team and forces players to defend him up close, this creates driving and dishing opportunities for his teammates. He is an unselfish player that even though he is a scorer, he is an exceptional passer. Also, if Curry gets hot, he is impossible to stop. He has the ability to drop 50 points on

any given night. Curry has one of, if not the best handles in the NBA.

Even if Curry is off, his presence on the floor is still valuable. He can heat up at any second with his ridiculous shot making ability. Curry has really revolutionized the point guard position for the better. Point guards must know how to shoot and must be more of a focal point for there team.

Other point guards in the NBA have not seen the success that Curry has had. He has accomplished more in his career than guys like Kyrie Irving, Chris Paul, and Damian Lillard. These are all great point guards but they are not at the level Curry is on right now. Lillard may be the closest and has a case as the best Point Guard in the NBA, but he has not led his team to the promise land yet.

Curry is the glue that keeps the Warriors rolling, without him, the success the Warriors have seen would not have happened. Curry has proved his worth after recently just closing out the Houston Rockets in six games after his teammate Kevin Durant went down with an injury in Game Five of the series. People instantly wrote Golden State off, but never count out the heart of a champion that is Stephen Curry.

Shooting is so valuable and the shots that Curry is able to pull off is honestly more remarkable than the tough fade away jump shots that Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant did. Curry isn't better than those guys, but his shot-making ability, especially from three-point range, is remarkable. Curry has the whole package from step-back threes to floaters in the lane to tough finishes, he is truly a remarkable player and will go down in history as such.

Conrad Hoyt: Damian Lillard is the best point guard in the NBA, and at this current juncture, it is not particularly close. Though coming back to earth after his first-round series, Lillard has still been exceptional these playoffs scoring from everywhere on the floor, dishing off passes to his teammates in places they can succeed, and leading his team in ways that the other top point guards have not.

Before I start listing the other top point guards, let me just say: James Harden is a superstar facilitator and player, but he is not a pure point guard. He came into this league as a shooting guard, and that is where I am going to classify him.

Damian Lillard vs. Russell Westbrook was the prime jewel of the first round. The two players have had some history, and the trash talk in the series did not disappoint. Many people would have argued Westbrook was better than Lillard going into that series. Those people can surely not say that now.

Last season the Trail Blazers were the third seed and were completely decimated in a sweep by the New Orleans Pelicans. Lillard himself was shut down by Jrue Holiday, and the shadow of that postseason loomed large over the Trail Blazers this whole year. With another lost series, Lillard was on the verge of creating a reputation of being a star in the regular season but just average in the playoffs.

Instead, he came out in the first round and absolutely showed up Russell Westbrook, hitting shots from beyond thirty feet at a ridiculously high clip, culminating in a walk-off, buzzer-beating, 37-foot three-point shot to close out the series in five games, making Lillard the only player in NBA history to hit two series-clinching shots in his career.

As for the other top point guards, Lillard has been far more consistent as a leader this postseason. The Celtics are one game away from elimination, and Kyrie Irving's back to back poor shooting nights with 7-22 and 8-22, respectively, have

not helped matters. The Celtics all season were a team brimming with talent and promise, but could never put it together. Chemistry issues were cited as a cause for this, and Irving was not "the man," like he said he wanted to be when he left Cleveland. He deserves more blame for the Celtics' failures than anyone.

Finally, for Steph Curry, probably most people's pick for the best point guard. In Game Three against the Rockets, he had one of the worst playoff performances we have ever seen from a superstar. He shot 7-23 from the field, 2-9 from three, and missed a wide-open dunk that would have cut the lead to three with 20 seconds left on the clock. After this game, experts started looking into Curry's past playoff performances in big games. He has had a lot more duds than one would expect from a player of his caliber.

Worse than this, the Rockets have been religiously attacking Curry in the pick and roll, and with the Rockets' floor spacing, he is left helpless on an island. The Warriors have been relying on Durant all postseason, and Lillard has no one close to the caliber of Kevin Durant.

When Portland's starting center Jusuf Nurkic went down with a season-ending surgery at the end of the season, many experts expected Portland to lose in the first round yet again. Instead, Lillard has rallied the troops and led by example, to get the Trail Blazers within one game of the conference finals. Lillard is a better leader than any of the other three superstar point guards, and right now, he is as good a defender, and a better shooter and scorer. If he continues scoring, leading his team, and adding to his arsenal of attack, the sky is the limit for Lillard.

MLB's Biggest Season Surprises So Far

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

The lengthy 162-game Major League Baseball (MLB) regular season is bound to consist of eye-openers that teams and their respective fanbases fail to anticipate. With more than a month into the 2019 campaign, underdogs have made some noise, while favorites continue to deal with hiccups along the way.

First, the incumbent World Series champion, Boston Red Sox.

The Red Sox, who turned out to be the last man standing when all was said and done last season, have struggled to replicate their 2018 success thus far. Starting pitcher Chris Sale has dealt with issues that have negatively affected his velocity, former AL Cy Young award winner Rick Porcello is far from that, and 29-year-old Nathan Eovaldi underwent elbow surgery that'll keep him on the injured list for several weeks.

Although their hurlers



The Boston Red Sox have struggled to replicate their 2018 success thus far. PHOTO/ Associated Press

are floundering, the Red Sox have a lot of time left before they begin to panic. However, after committing to Sale and shortstop Xander Bogaerts long-term earlier this year by offering contract extensions worth \$265 million combined, Boston should certainly get their money's worth while they can.

Second, the surprisingly good Minnesota Twins.

The Twins, believe it or not, have a sneaky lineup that can eradicate an oppos-

ing team's pitchers, which is what they did when they swept their six-game season series against the Baltimore Orioles after hitting 23 home runs. But their starting rotation deserves most of the credit for the team's early-season success as Jake Odorizzi, Jose Berrios, and Martin Perez have produced beyond measure.

In their first 24 starts combined, the trio has thrown 15 quality outings for the Twins, who have a

legitimate shot to overthrow the Cleveland Indians. In addition to their starters, players such as Blake Parker and Jorge Polanco continue to thrive in their roles.

Last but not least, the oddly, yet savvy Tampa Bay Rays.

To put it simply, the Rays know how to play baseball, especially after getting rid of their cornerstone pieces in Evan Longoria and Chris Archer.

The Rays finished the 2018 season as a 90-win ball

club. Unfortunately, they were just another team as the AL East division featured two powerhouses in the Red Sox and New York Yankees, though that hasn't stopped them from taking advantage of their opponents' downfall to start off 2019.

If you glance at Tampa Bay's roster, you aren't going to see any household names other than last season's AL Cy Young award winner Blake Snell because they're notorious for turning nothing into something with players that include center fielder Austin Meadows, Yandy Diaz and Jose Alvarado. The Rays are ahead of the pack in the AL East as they continue to utilize the opener experiment, yet it'll be interesting to see how they maintain this momentum as their ace Tyler Glasnow, who is 6-1 with a 1.86 ERA through eight starts, is expected to miss significant time because of a mild forearm strain.

Are The Houston Rockets Actually Done?

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

The Houston Rockets were eliminated from the playoffs after losing in the second round to the Golden State Warriors in six games. The Rockets lost to a Warriors' team without arguably their best player, Kevin Durant.

In Game Six, the Rockets' star players in Chris Paul, had 27 points and 11 rebounds and James Harden, had 35 points and eight rebounds on the night. These players did play to the best of their abilities but they ran into the greatness of Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson.

Should the Rockets blow up this team and start over?

In all honesty, the Warriors are just an overall better team and the Rockets simply just can't beat them. In the NBA, that just happens, there is just a better overall unstoppable team that dominates everyone. The 90's Chicago Bulls are clear examples of this. Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing never won a ring because they ran into a Michael Jordan led team. This is what the Rockets are currently facing as they have now lost four playoff series in five years to the Golden State Warriors.

In Game Six against the



The Houston Rockets should look to retool the roster and move around pieces. PHOTO/ USA Today

Rockets, Curry and Thompson simply just got hot. When these guys are hot and hitting on all cylinders, there is really nothing you can do about it and that's exactly what happened in Game Six. Once Curry is hitting ridiculous contested threes against some great defense, there is nothing you can do about that. Once Thompson is just knocking down shots and Green is being a playmaker, there is little you can do but just pray that this team starts to get cold.

The Houston Rockets aren't necessarily over, but the team should look to retool the roster and move around pieces. Clint Capela must develop an offensive game,

he needs to be able to take the basketball and just dominate in the post. Capela is a great defensive talent, but this series really exposed how limited his offense truly is when he isn't catching lobs or wide up dunks from pick and roll setups.

The Rockets really missed Trevor Ariza in this series, they need to pick up a consistent three and D player in free agency. Bringing back Trevor Ariza or targeting Rudy Gay, Kelly Oubre, Danny Green would really help this team moving forward.

Chris Paul needs to prove why he is a hall of fame point guard. Paul has been rather disappointing this year mostly due to his in-

juries and inconsistent play. Paul is running out of time, he isn't getting any younger and his best days are ahead of him. He must be more of a reliable consistent scorer in the playoffs and same goes with Harden. The reason the team lost was due to the poor decision making from these two players. They made mistakes late in games that usually they would never make. One notably being the Harden offensive foul on Green at the 2:24 mark in the fourth quarter of Game Six. This ultimately led to the scoring outburst of Curry and Thompson to close out the game.

The Rockets relied heavily on isolation play which

made it difficult for them to get consistent runs. They need to evaluate their future going forward and that means looking at Capela and Paul. Harden alone has proven he can get this team to the playoffs. It is up to these three to be consistent in the playoffs to bring a championship to Houston.

The team does not need to be broken up. When you have the talent of Harden on your team, you can definitely win a championship but you have to have the pieces to help him get to the promise land.

The 2019-2020 NBA season may actually be the best time for the Rockets to push for a championship. If the rumors are true and Kevin Durant leaves Golden State as well as Demarcus Cousins leaves, this will wound the Warriors going forward. If the Rockets are able to retool the roster and bring in more talent, the Western Conference will be theirs next season.

The only problem the Rockets are facing is that they keep running into this juggernaut Warriors team, if that team falls, the Rockets will have the best chance to win a championship.