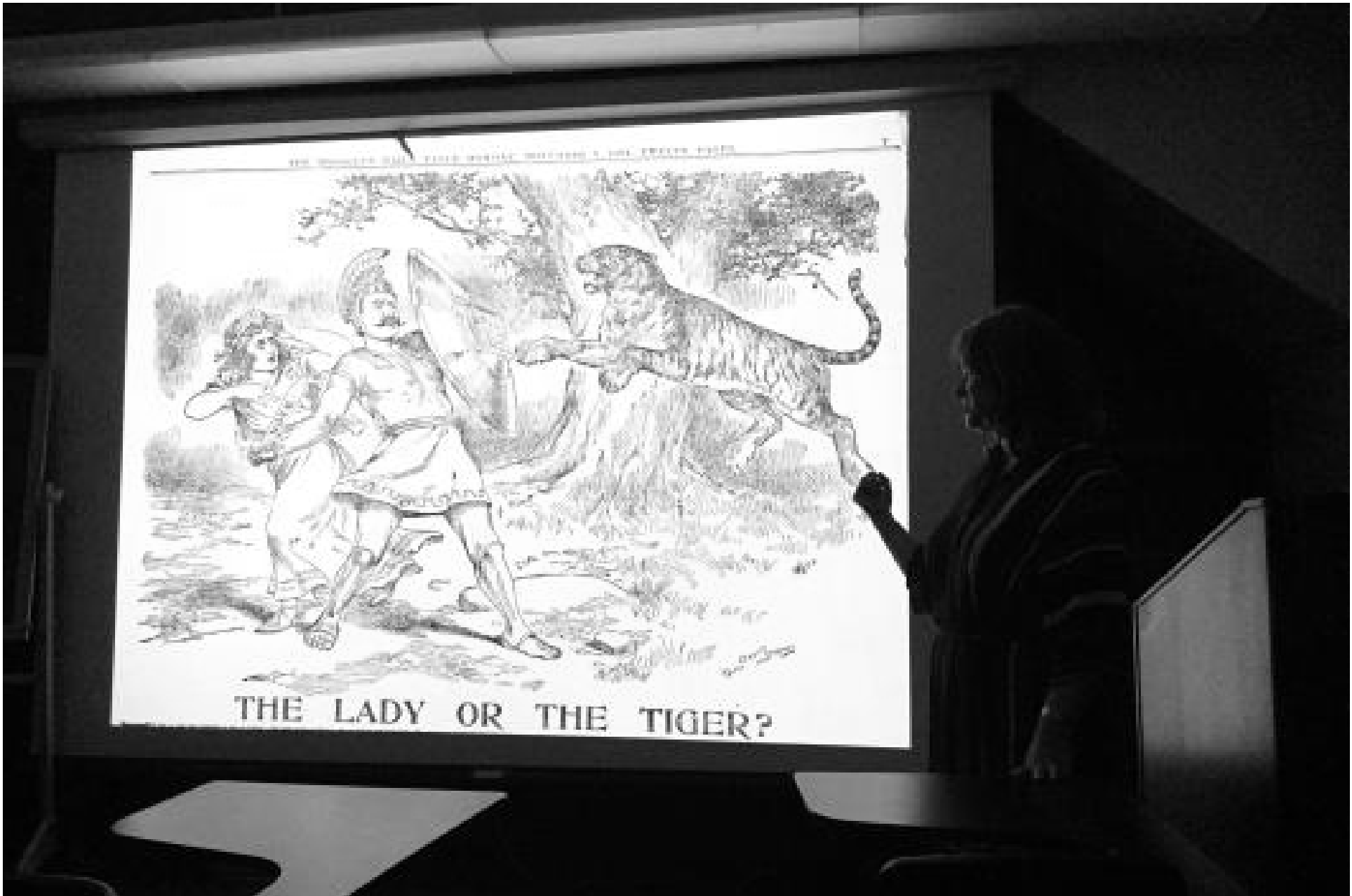


The Fight for the Look of New York



Professor Simon showcases one of many cautionary depictions of consolidation from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

BY M.A. RAHMAN

New York City, cherished for its history and iconic landmarks yet critiqued for its incessant class struggles, now has found its way incorporated as the subject of concern in one Brooklyn College professor’s latest art history project entitled “A Consolidated City? Urban Landscape, Image, and Identity Across the Outer Boroughs.”

Apart of a greater art history lecture series, Professor Malka Simon, explored the differing generational attitudes and contentions that led to the modern makeup of New York City as it is known today- waterways, avenues and all.

“I’m going to talk today a little bit about my current research project which is [about] outer borough identity as it relates to landscape,” Simon stated confidently opening her lecture, promptly forewarning the prospect of confusion from the frequent art jargon throughout her lecture, which she reassures “I’ll explain if anyone needs me to.”

To understand the history of the city, Simon noted, it is necessary to examine NYC historically from its earliest of times since the 1898 consolidation and with it the struggle to combine many of the parts that constitute New York as it is known today.

With this comes facing one particular reoccurring problem: bias, a matter emphasized as she relied on the seldom surviving sources consisting of typically narrow perspectives from what is now Manhattan and with it literature in favor of consolidation evidenced in part by the routine use of the term ‘outer borough.’

An archaic term today, that according to Simon was used rather than to bemoan the persons and conditions in the early parts of modern boroughs today like Kings County (Brooklyn), was instead attributed to these early parts of modern boroughs physical dis-

tance from Manhattan and by extension distance to the business affairs from the financial capital of the country

In practice Simon contends, the relationship between Manhattan and Brooklyn even prior to consolidation was a ‘symbiotic’ one, believing the term ‘outer borough’ became more than an ascription of the distinctions between businesses of each respective borough which were often agricultural but also helped form their own identity.

“I would argue that the social landscape of the outer boroughs revolves around a struggle for autonomy, a struggle to say that we are

separate from New York City, a struggle to say we have our own unique identity,” speculated Simon.

Naturally, these contrasting outlooks found themselves at odds with consolidation especially from prominent spheres of influence throughout the region from political machines to newspapers, attitudes towards consolidation varied with many examples of hostility and support towards the notion as depicted in popular political cartoons of the day.

The political spheres understood that consolida-

SEE “THE FIGHT FOR THE LOOK OF NEW YORK,” 3

INSIDE THIS EDITION

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Satire, 2 Trump’s America Nursery Rhymes | Opinions, 3-5 Students Should Go to Public Safety After Experiencing Sexual Misconduct + more | Arts, 6 A Review of "Mid90s," the Movie | Sports, 7-8 Giving Up on Super Bowles + more |
|--|---|---|--|

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THE EXCELSIOR

BULLSPIT!

Bullspit! is a weekly satirical column by Brooklyn College comedian Ryan Gleason.

Trump's America Nursery Rhymes

A COLLECTION BY RYAN GLEASON

Tweet Your Tweet

Tweet Tweet,
Tweet your thoughts.
Tweet them all at once.
Tweet something mad,
Make people sad,
Tweet about your sons.
Tweet Tweet,
Tweet a remark.
Be content with what you said.
Tweet something mad.
Make people sad.
It's 3 A.M, go to bed.

Don and Kim

Don and Kim went up
the hill,
to compare the size of
their nukes.
Don came down, with a
great big frown,
Claiming it was all a
fluke.

Eric Trumpy

Eric Trumpy sat on a
wall
Eric Trumpy had a great
fall
All of the Secret Ser-
vice, looked at Eric with a
grimace
Because the wall was only
two feet tall.

Ring Around the Oval Office

Ring around the Oval
Office
A pocket full of scandals
Fire them and pay them
off
Do it all again tomorrow.

EVENTS LISTING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Memorial for Prof. Edwin Burrows

12:55 PM - 8:45 PM

Woody Tanger Auditorium

Memorial symposium for Prof. Edwin Burrows of the History Department

Information Session: School Counseling & School Psychology M.S. Ed

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

242 - Brooklyn College Library

Meet with faculty and admissions representatives to discuss the School Counseling & School Psychology M.S in Ed programs, admission requirements, and the application process.

Music for Strings II

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Recital Hall, Room 250

Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

NYPD "All Majors" Intern Program

10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

242 - Brooklyn College Library

Coop Recruitment

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

242 - Brooklyn College Library

Learn about apprenticeship program with COOP. Learn tech and media skills that employers want and need.

Music for Winds II

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Recital Hall, Room 250

Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Discussion about book: "Boss of Black Brooklyn: The Life and Times of Bertram L. Baker"

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

242 - Brooklyn College Library

Associate Professor Ron Howell of the English Department's Journalism Program will be interviewed by Brooklyn College Alumnus Paul Frangipane about Howell's book, "Boss of Black Brooklyn: The Life and Times of Bertram L. Baker."

Social Justice for the Children Lecture Series IV: Social Justice + Mathematics = an Equation for Youth-Well Being

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

5th Floor - Student Center

Dr. Kari Kokka, the guest speaker, is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education who focuses her research on student and teacher perspectives of Social Justice Mathematics and longevity of STEM teachers of color in urban schools at the University of Pittsburgh.

Journalism Alumni Speak About Work and Life in a New America

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Woody Tanger Auditorium

Come listen to Brooklyn College Journalism alumni talk about the work they do and how they are handling the current political environment. One is a radio producer; another is a writer/administrator; another is a writer/photographer/videographer; another is a Democratic political operative; and another is a top city official.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Voice Departmental Recital

7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

312 - Roosevelt Extension

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 - JANUARY 10, 2019

Beyond Vertires

Brooklyn College Library

The second edition of the Haitian art exhibit entitled Beyond Verti?res with introductory remarks by Dr. Michel Philippe Lerebours, from 4 pm to 6 pm in the lobby of the Brooklyn College Library.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Gospel Choir

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

312 - Roosevelt Extension

The Conservatory hosts this Brooklyn College club as they present songs of joy and praise.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Student Recital

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM,
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Rehearsal Studio, Room 367

Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

CONT'D FROM “THE FIGHT FOR THE LOOK OF NEW YORK,” 1

tion, Simon pointed out, did not mean abdicating all regulatory power from local councils to the Mayor’s office.

As questions continued, students demonstrated deep interest in the topic of construction regulations in New York particularly as

it relates to ongoing matters affecting New Yorkers like gentrification and rent.

Cautious and tight-lipped to offer her own opinion on the matter of gentrification or speculating what the long-term future landscape might look like, Simon made it clear she understood why such matters of great concern to some students.

“I thought it was inter-

esting,” said Jazmin Nunez, a senior art history student and politically motivated student writing on the issues plaguing her neighborhood,

Shifting to more stern tone Nunez spoke about the infrastructural problems affecting her Brooklyn neighborhood and how she found Simon’s lecture insightful in regards to the cities history of neglect and corruption.

Shifting to more stern tone Nunez spoke about what she found to be most revealing in Simon’s lecture: the city’s self-entangled bureaucracy and history of corruption helped explain to her how her neighborhood’s sewage could be left within the state of neglect for so long.

“I want people to take away that art history isn’t just about looking at works of

artwork even though that’s important, it has so much more to teach us about politics, social relationships, everything basically through the lens of these objects or buildings,” Simon concluded.

The second part of this Art History lecture series will examine South African Female Ceramists on November 27.

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

Students Should Go to Public Safety After Experiencing Sexual Misconduct

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

When a student is sexually assaulted or harassed, their first instinct might be to stay silent. After choosing to stay silent for a while, the next thing they might do is go to the Title IX office to file a complaint, which is advertised all throughout campus. But, if the traumatic incident occurred off campus, Title IX can be very blurry.

Christine DeLisser claims she was sexually assaulted at the Residence Hall at Brooklyn College (RHBC) last year. At the time, she was a Brooklyn College student (and has now graduated). After staying silent for a while, she finally gained the courage to speak out. With the help of Andy Auguste, the Coordinator of Residential Living at the time, and Chris Omar, a filmmaker documenting sexual assault at RHBC, she said she went to the Title IX office and met with Patricio Jimenez on October 11, 2017. DeLisser claims that Jimenez gave her sheets to fill out.

According to DeLisser, she never heard back, besides hearing the College’s Title IX office could not do anything because the College has no jurisdiction over RHBC. She says she was never updated on anything. She doesn’t even know if an investigation was conducted.

Experiencing sexual assault is very traumatizing. It is not something you can easily put in the back of your mind. Which is why I am confused as to why Title IX did not investigate DeLisser’s complaint. (whether or not it was formal). Saying that the College “does not have jurisdiction” over RHBC is not a good enough excuse. Stu-



Does Title IX help? PHOTO/ Wiki

dents go to Title IX because it’s familiar and because it is advertised all throughout campus and RHBC.

This is all why I believe students should go to Public Safety first after experiencing sexual misconduct, whether or not it happened on or off campus. There’s a detective in the Public Safety office that specifically deals with investigating crimes such as sexual assault. I spoke with Donald Wenz, the chief of Public Safety, who said that a student’s

problems are their first priority. And according to the officer, it does not matter if the crime took place on or off campus. They will do a full investigation while keeping the student updated.

“Public Safety is on campus 24 /7. Not true of other offices. The earliest Public Safety is informed and gets involved the earlier an investigation can begin and even perhaps apprehend the suspect. Public Safety will assist in reporting crimes to the Police Department and

will assist the victim with all available resources and services such as escorts, assist with filing charges, inform the student of rights etc.,” Wenz said. “We have on staff a Special Victims Investigator who has been trained in assisting victims of sex crimes, sexual harassment and harassment. In Title IX cases, we will forward all preliminary findings to the Title IX Coordinator and Student Affairs, if appropriate, for follow up investigations. Even if the crime did not

take place on campus we will assist the student who is the victim. Copies of all reports filed by a student will be given to the student on request.”

After being sexually assaulted, a student should not have to continue to walk on campus in fear. Nor live in RHBC in fear. If Title IX is prioritized on campus in dealing with sexual assault concerns, so should Public Safety.

Major in a Hard Science

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

“If you produce things that are rare and valuable, good things are likely to follow.”

This is the mantra of Cal Newport - Georgetown University computer science professor, “Study Hacks” writer, and author of five books about academic and career success. This correlates well with Malcolm Gladwell’s book Outliers that asserts the 10,000-hour rule to achieve world class expertise. Both conclude that it takes a ton of time and hard work to be good at anything. Those who have succeeded, not through inheritance, have put in the work. It follows what Richard Feynmen said decades earlier: there are no magic people. Everyone can achieve what he did by just working hard and studying.

So what does this have to do with picking a major? Plenty.

Let’s assume that there is a good portion of Brooklyn College students who are not trust-fund babies going to college for fun and that not all students have a Ph.D. program lined up after graduation. That leaves a portion of the student body that just wants to get a good job and move on with life.

This is a relatively hard time to pick a career because the job market is in flux. Many of the people who are supposed to guide us have not been in the job market in its current state. Some of the newer changes include outsourcing - taking jobs away from this country and moving them to lower cost



Majoring in a hard science is something you can't go wrong by. PHOTO/ Getty Images

centers in another country. There’s also insourcing - the highly-abused H1B program takes jobs away from US citizens and residents and gives them to people from other countries who work for a lower pay and have little incentive to ever leave a position lest they lose the sponsor of their H1B visa. Then there are full time jobs that have been made into temporary positions. Next is automation. More and more machines now perform the jobs a person used to do. Machine learning and smarter robots will only add to this. We are in the midst of a large scale tech-

nological and global shift.

I was watching an executive at Barclays PLC (yes, the same Barclays as Barclays Center) speak about the Barclays Investment Bank’s business model. He described it as a software company. They develop bespoke software products, give it away for free, and make money when it’s used. This is no different than any other technology company. He further went on to tell the audience that less than 10% of global trading of financial products is done by a human. As skillfully described in Michael Lewis’ Flashboys, trading is done electronically

and within the milliseconds.

So what kind of skills are needed for these types of jobs? Computer science is an obvious first thought. At this point, no top executive will be able to run a company without at least a baseline understanding on how computer systems work.

So should we all run out and major in computer science? Not necessarily.

If you are interested in computers and like to code, then absolutely. However, there are other skills that might be more useful. The main criticism about CS students when trying to solve a problem is that computer scientists find a solution and stop there. They have very little interest in understanding the underlying issues. In my albeit limited observation of successful people and their college majors, physics has been the winner. Physics majors tend to look at the world with the mindset of “how did that happen?” and with rigorous mathematics, it’s a power discipline. Mathematics, chemistry, and biology majors have the same cache.

It used to be that having a bachelor’s degree from an American University really meant something. Non-western degrees just didn’t count. Now, any college degree counts. Most of these colleges will not even make it on the Shanghai ranking of 1000 colleges. It only has one college from In-

dia in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2018. European degrees often don’t have the liberal arts requirements that US colleges do. Sadly, unless you went to a brand-name college, which Brooklyn College is not, then you are thrown in the pile with everyone that says they have college degrees from around the world.

None of this is to say that a college degree is not worth the time and energy. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, those with a college education earn more money and are less likely to be unemployed. What I am saying is to major in something that lets an employer know that you have worked hard and can handle difficult material.

Some might say that they want to have a career in what they majored in. Well, according to a 2010 Federal Reserve Bank of New York study, only 27% of college graduates have a career that is closely related to their major.

I had the first interview for my current job while I was studying for my abstract algebra final. It was a phone screening with the Managing Director of the New York office. I was in a pretty secluded spot in the library, so I took the call there. I told him about the class. We spent most of the call talking about group theory. Not too long after that, I began working for that company. Score one for math.



PHOTO/ Pixabay

The Democrats Have Reclaimed the House Majority. Where Does America Go From Here?

BY FINN MAYOCK

October 6th, Tuesday night, in a midterm election with unprecedented turnout, Democrats managed to flip enough Republican congressional seats to retake the majority of the house. However motivating this success was to the Left, after two long years of political domination by the Republicans, the Democratic victory was not earned without casualties. Republicans managed to retain their stranglehold over the Senate and managed to clutch three new Senate seats, further tightening their grip on the legislative branch.

Charismatic and promising Democratic candidates such as Andrew Gillum in the Floridian governor race and the ever-popular Beto O'Rourke in the Texas Senate race suffered heartbreaking defeats. That evening, the President seemed to discount the loss of the House, and on Twitter remarked "Tremendous success tonight. Thank you to all!" After the midterm election that concerned citizens had looked hopefully towards since the polls closed in 2016, the House and Senate are firmly opposing. Where does America go from here?

The Trump train grinds to a halt here. Well, it officially grinds to a halt in January, when the new election winners finally take their place in their respective positions. After January, we will almost certainly see a stop to a lot of the political success that Trump had enjoyed with the majority body of lawmakers firmly in his camp. With-



Where does America go from here? PHOTO/ Getty Images

out that majority, there's no doubt that far fewer bills are going to pass from the house, however, this does leave the promise of some genuinely bipartisan laws still being moved forward (yes, they do still exist!). It's safe to say that most Democratic leaders would rather have little get done rather than an advancement of Trumps radically right wing agenda. But perhaps a more interesting result of these past elections lies within some of the house committees, where Democrats are likely to start ruffling some major feathers in the Trump administration.

Maryland Democrat Elijah Cummings is poised to take over control of the House Oversight Com-

mittee, a powerful board that has the power to look into the conduct and use of funding by government officials. Formerly chaired by Trey Gowdy, the House Oversight Committee has glaringly avoided several indecent spending scandals within the White House, such as Ben Carson, Betsy DeVos and the most recent embattled Ryan Zinke. While Gowdy was reluctant to investigate any misdoings by these cabinet officials, we can be sure that Cummings will not be so hesitant to wave his subpoena wand. Furthermore, since election night, there has already been talk of a likely subpoena for President Trumps tax returns. The document

long desired by Democratic leadership has been closely guarded by the President, and may provide damning insight into the President's personal finances, and could put Trump in legal jeopardy.

The trouble for Trump certainly doesn't end with the House Oversight Committee. Adam Schiff, a California senator that has been aggressively outspoken against Donald Trump and has persistently questioned his ties to Russia will ascend to the Chair of the House Intelligence Committee. This committee, formerly led by close Trump supporter Devin Nunes, has had a disappointing year, with the premature and undeniably weak closure of the Committees investigation into Trumps potential ties with Russian individuals. We can be certain that Adam Schiff is going to re-open this case and pursue it vigorously. Furthermore, with the departure of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, and the inevitable instatement of a non-recused official capable of tanking Robert Mueller's efforts, there's no doubt that the independent investigation into potential criminal conduct by Trump is in serious jeopardy. Crucial legislative protections for the Special Counsel, something Democratic Senators and Representatives have both called for, will likely

be re-introduced as a result of the Democratic takeover. The question is whether January will be too late to save the Special Counsel.

It may not have been a blue wave, but the American people have certainly voiced for a change in the political status quo in this past election. The Democrats won't have an easy time in Congress and will be certainly fought tooth and nail for any aggressive inquiries into the Trump campaign. The Republican held Senate too, is likely to clash heavily with Congress, and with the exception of bipartisan laws, such as the past opioid legislature, you can expect to see less results from the Trump administration than the past two years.

Despite this, the left has gained crucial oversight of the White House, and will be in a position to tame some of the wilder advances that the President has made. With the return of Mueller's public investigation, we can expect to see a further unveiling of the prosecution into Trump campaign officials, and potentially draw closer and closer towards impeachable action against our President. The playing field is ever so slightly more level with the Democrats in the House, but there is still a long, tumultuous road ahead for the Democrats. for assault. That's a promise.



The Republican held Senate is expected to clash heavily with Congress. PHOTO/ Getty Images

A Review of "Mid90s," the Movie

BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI

Mid90s is the latest film from studio A24, known for its artistic and emotional films like *Moonlight*, and directorial debut from comedic actor Jonah Hill. The film follows adolescent Stevie (Sunny Suljic) and his older friends in mid 1990s Los Angeles as they skate, drink, and mess around without a care. The film is deeply nostalgic, so much so that even if you did not live through the 90s nor been to Los Angeles it can still feel as though you are looking back at your own childhood. The film is authentic to the core; making good on its title, it delivers pop culture references, fashion, and social attitudes of the time period. The rawness of the film makes it truly enjoyable— including moments of adolescents that are relatable to anyone that has been through it.

The film begins with a shot of the hallway and a long pause, and then suddenly Stevie is violently pushed against the wall by his older brother— this scene really brought me back to my childhood. Despite the abuse Stevie suffers at the extent of his older brother, Stevie hopelessly admires him, going into his room to see all of his rap CDS, Jordan's, and weights. But this idolization is met with silence or abuse, eventually leading Stevie to find new



"Mid90s" features plenty of uncomfortable yet honest moments. PHOTO/ A24 Films

role models. His new friends are high school skaters, Ruben (Gio Galicia), Fuckshit (Olan Prenatt), Ray (Na-kel Smith), and Fourth Grade (Ryder McLaughlin), who teach Stevie the ropes about “becoming cool.” The rest of the film is essentially about Stevie trying hard to impress his cool new friends by doing increasingly dangerous stunts. Even though this film was about the dangers of peer pressure, it doesn't come off in a preachy-health class manner. Rather, Stevie is every adolescent who tried to fit into a new group of friends.

Mid90s is saturated with displays of toxic masculin-

ity, but that isn't so much of a critique of the film but rather an authentic view of the subculture of that time. During one of his first encounters with his new squad, Stevie says thank you to his new friend Ruben (Gio Galicia) who utterly rejects this with disgust and tells Stevie that saying “thank you” is gay as fuck. The toxic masculinity is so over the top that it is hilarious at times, but this is the way that most teenage boys of the time behaved. While most of the scenes in this film are mostly carefree and stupid fun, there is one scene that is uncomfortable to say the least. An older girl

named Estee (Alexa Demie), who's between 16 and 18, takes Stevie, who's between 11 and 13, to have sex with her. Depending on the age gap, this could be considered statutory rape and at the very least predatory. But Stevie's reaction to this isn't what you'd expect of a victim. Rather he proclaims to have enjoyed it and brags to his friends about it. His friends, of course, praise him for his loss of innocence. It's unclear whether or not this was a glorification of sexual abuse or an honest portrayal of it. Since there is really no directorial voice in this film it leaves viewers to come up

with their own opinions.

Viewers are ultimately going to take away what they want from the film. This is due in part to how voiceless it is. There is very little manipulation in as far as making one of the characters the voice of reason (or the writer). This movie can be seen as a promotion for drugs, nihilism, and misogyny, or it can be seen as a daring portrayal of adolescence and its dangers. For some this ambiguity is frustrating, but the only way to find out if you'll enjoy it is by watching it yourself.

LOOKING FOR

NEWS,
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WRITERS

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Giving Up on Super Bowles

BY JOE LEO

Ever since his introductory press conference, I have been a Todd Bowles defender—even saying that Bowles would be the head coach that would deliver gang green a Super Bowl title. When Bowles was announced as the successor to Rex Ryan, there was a sense of hope in the hiring, a new chapter and a fresh page. That hope was immediately validated in Bowles' first season in 2015-16 with a 10-6 record, with the future looking bright. The defense looked like the defense that helped the Jets go to back to back AFC Championship games and the offense was historically good—with Fitzpatrick setting the touchdown record and both Marshall and Decker getting over 1,000 yards receiving. Then everything changed.

General Manager Mike Maccagnan changed the direction of the team and blew it up after only one season. Since then, Bowles has been 13-28 as he has tried to build up a culture from scratch. In doing that, the Jets have assembled a hint of an identity in 2018. After two seasons of building through the draft the defense has shown throughout the season that with more reps as a unit and



I've always been a Todd Bowles defender, until everything changed. PHOTO/ New York Post

added veteran help, it can become a dominate force in this league again. On offense, that's another story.

Since the historic season by Fitzpatrick Bowles has been handed the likes of Geno Smith, Bryce Petty, Josh McCown, and Christian Hackenberg. That group of quarterbacks is suspect at best until the selection of Darnold in this past years' draft. Darnold has struggled

at times in his rookie campaign, but various people around the league see something in Darnold and believe he could be an above average quarterback in the NFL one day. So, I ask you again, why would you fire Todd Bowles?

Everything that has been wrong with this organization over Bowles' tenor as coach has been out of his control. Maccagnan who is supposed to have the back of his head

coach has dropped the ball on numerous occasions when putting a team together for Bowles to coach. When given good talent Bowles can be a borderline play-off coach. When he is not, he has taken some time to find his footing and navigate what he wants the identity of his team to look like. Why would you scrap the work and start fresh again? That totally defeats the purpose

of drafting Darnold because you would stunt the growth of a then second-year quarterback. Maccagnan and the Jets would be insane to fire Bowles after this season leaving Darnold in the wake of a change in coaching philosophy and offensive systems.

The upper Jets management should not take their anger out on the head coach, rather the General Manager. Bowles himself hasn't been bad considering the job that he thought he was taking in 2015 and the job he has now. Also, why extend Bowles at the beginning of the year if you didn't believe in the direction he was taking the team? Darnold hadn't played a game yet (or was even drafted) when Bowles got the extension; so if the plan was to draft Darnold all along, Bowles had to be in the plans for this organization in the offseason.

Too much of these rumors stink of desperation from a front office that is upset the rebuild they forced upon this team isn't going well. It's time for the Jets front office people to allow Bowles to continue the development of Darnold and molding this team, and when Darnold is ready to take the leap, then they can look at the state of the head coach. If it's the other way around, the Jets will just bang their head against the reset button not knowing the implications of what they are doing for the long run. There could be a long road ahead for gang green.



PHOTO/ USA TODAY

The Wild Wild East

BY AUSTIN SANTIAGO

When LeBron James decided to sign with the Lakers in July, NBA fans were ecstatic just thinking about how action packed the Western Conference would be, and rightfully so. However, there was a lot of speculation as to how mundane the Eastern Conference would become. With the best player in the world jumping ship to the other conference along with the majority of NBA All-Stars, many fans wondered: what was there to look forward to in the east? Well, as it turns out, a lot.

With the first month of season in the books the Eastern Conference has proven to be nothing short of must-watch basketball. Though the Western Conference has the star-power, the Eastern Conference of the NBA is rich with storylines. In the north, the Toronto Raptors are currently the top team in the east thanks to the play of Kawhi Leonard. Leonard, who was the target of off season scrutiny due to his refusal to play for a San Antonio Spurs team that saw him as the future of their franchise. Sporting an average 24.4 point per game, Leonard is proving that



Despite LeBron James moving west, the NBA's Eastern Conference is jam packed with excitement. PHOTO/ Associated Press

he is a self-made superstar and that the Spurs uniform had nothing to do with it. Though the east does not have as many established stars as the west, it does have something that many fans deem just as valuable, young teams with limitless potential. Teams like the Celtics, Bucks, and Pacers offer ros-

ters of young talent that has been given ample time to play and show us that the future of the NBA is bright. But perhaps the biggest ticket in the east can be found in the city of Philadelphia. The 76ers are the hottest they have been in years due to the outstanding play of center Joell Embiid, with an average

27 points, 13 rebounds, and 2 blocks a game, the superstar center has become the catalyst for this young Sixers team and has served as the ambassador for Philadelphia sports due to his larger than life personality. This past weekend, a new storyline developed in Philadelphia that brings a whole new meaning

to the term “Trust the process”. The 76ers traded for star shooting guard Jimmy Butler. Butler, who was involved in a very public dispute with his former team, the Minnesota Timberwolves, is sure to bring passion and character to a team full of colorful characters.

Sixers forward Ben Simmons had this to say on the teams’ newest acquisition: "A guy like him who can come in, score the ball, veteran leadership, experience -- he's going to fit in here. Our culture is winning, playing together as a team and playing hard. I think he's going to bring that." Simmons told ESPN reporters in the locker room on Saturday. It appears that while many NBA fans were focused on the lack of star power in the east, they forgot why exactly a lack of superstars could be a great thing. With nothing but young teams in the east, the entire conference is up for grabs.

Eight playoff spots are any teams for the taking and these young players will have to give 100% every night in order to be playing post-season basketball. As NBA fans, we shouldn't worry about seeing a superstar every night, we should be concerned about seeing players leave it all on the court, it's the purest form of basketball and the eastern conference has become a haven for just that, pure basketball.



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