

# the EXCELSIOR

## Students and Faculty Respond to Professor Langbert’s Statements on Sexual Assault



A BC professor is under heat by students after posting controversial statements on his personal blog. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

Hundreds of students and faculty rallied last Thursday, Oct. 4 to get Professor Mitchell Langbert fired from Brooklyn College following his statements on his blog post. “If someone did not commit sexual assault in high school, then he is not a member of the male sex,” the Associate Professor of Business Management posted on Sept. 27. A while after the post went viral, Langbert said it was meant to be satire. In fact, he updated his original post to include statements saying it was indeed satire. But students and faculty were not amused.

“We unequivocally condemn Mr. Langbert’s sexism, glorification, and promotion of sexual assault, and his calls for violence- as well as all legitimate threats of violence from any member of the campus community,” a statement by the Young Progressives of America (YPA) read. “Professor Langbert’s statements must be taken as a credible threat to the safety, security, and rights of the campus community, and be acted on swiftly.” YPA, one of the organizations that hosted the massive protest, listed some demands. Here’s what the demands include: Full public investigation of Langbert’s conduct during his tenure and ter-

mination of Langbert, in accordance with evidence from the investigation; a public statement from the college president and business department condemning his message; a mandatory, in-person, anti-sexual assault and sensitivity training for all Brooklyn College faculty and administrators; the opportunity for all students currently enrolled in his courses to drop or swap without academic or financial penalty; and a campus forum, facilitated by college president Michelle Anderson, to address the threat of sexual assault and violence on campus, and to respond to and review disciplinary policies for employee misconduct.

Shortly after the protest, Anderson (who attended the rally), released a statement without mentioning Langbert’s name. “I find his words repugnant to our values as an institution of higher education,” she said. “His remarks contravene our commitments to diversity, equality, and intellectual respect.” The Classics department at Brooklyn College also released a statement signed by many Classics professors, saying, “Brooklyn College faculty and staff need to step up as leaders who refuse to tolerate a culture of victim-blaming and shame.” Langbert is getting himself a lawyer because “there

are several First Amendment and contractual issues,” he told the Excelsior. He also said he has been receiving threats of sexual assault by students on campus. “It is ironic that a movement that claims to oppose assault has members that threaten me with assault. I wrote the blog as a satire,” he said. “There is no evidence that refutes my claim that the allegations about Kavanaugh are lies. I find the blog funny, and I still laugh when I read it. I’m sorry the humorless left wing is intolerant of alternative views, and I’m sorry that Democratic Party students are intolerant of those who do not agree with them.”

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THE EXCELSIOR

# Queer Play: The Strive to Properly Depict LGBTQ Characters

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Brooklyn College's LGBTQ Resource Center hosted the Queer Play "ReconFIGURED" in sponsorship with the Honest Accomplice Theatre (HAT) examining body identity.

The local theatre guild presented the original play concerning the expectations, conformities and other tropes queer and transgender persons face in "ReconFIGURED" at the Brooklyn College Student Center.

The product of the Brooklyn-based nonprofit group dedicated to raising issues of sexuality and femininity to the spotlight, HAT, and in sponsorship of a few organizations including the Brooklyn Arts Council, The Drama League, and the Alliance of Resident Theatres, "ReconFIGURED" has been the result of a long time anticipated conglomerated effort.

"We do primarily devised theatre based around issues seen as shameful or one dimensional, or portrayed in the media in some ways that are accompanying and often cis woman and trans people wish to see elaborated on," spoke Rachel Sullivan one of HAT's co-founders at the opening up the first act.

Emphasizing the sheer neglect, hostility and often indifference members of the trans community faced with close friends and family in relation to their personal qualms, Sullivan along with co-writer Maggie Keenan-Bolger had longed to wanted to showcase these issues to the public light such the deliberate misuse of a trans per-

ReconFIGURED's diverse and talented cast satitcizes society's every judgmental attitude and set expectations of vanity on women and trans persons. PHOTO/ Lillian Cole

son's preferred pronoun even amongst more liberal circles.

According to them, in 2015, HAT distributed a survey taken by 1,200 people and found that the 'body' was the highest among the topics people wanted to see explored on stage.

The result was "ReconFIGURED", a play that among various other topics, explores the issue as "popular culture examines and often parades female and trans bodies as objects of desire or fetish" according to the Playbill noting the consequence to be that it "denies female and trans people their very existence as thinking and feeling beings."

The play itself comprised of a mix between a female and trans cast members, a choice befitting of the topic of concern that it strove to depict.

"I've watched this play three times already, it's excellent," said Charley Ryals,

a member of the LGBTQ community at the Brooklyn College viewing, believing that the play would resonate with anyone regardless of the sexual or gender preference.

"I've been wanting HAT to come to Brooklyn for such a long time now," said one anonymous BC student, hoping for more LGBT allied organizations like HAT to return to campus for event like this.

The story began somber and with decidedly grim tone showing how the social problems plaguing a LGBT teenager translated gradually into psychological one's as the occasional neglect for her wellbeing, recognition of her personal choices, and preferences even among her seemingly open-minded family still spurred a sense of ostracism.

As the play went on, characters explored their own inner struggles, as issues of

fat shaming, ageist attitudes, beauty standards, corporate influence along with many others went on to be explored.

For the audience, a quiet and respectful emptiness was given by them, many members of BC's own LGBT community, whom watched many of their own issues not fully well understood by people even close them be finally showcased before them.

The play was not all gloomy, comedic moment sparked throughout the play, not of which coming at the expense of a given person's attributes or traits.

At its closing, Professor David McKay, Director of the BC LGBTQ Resource Center remarked on his satisfaction of the event and the recognition of lingering issues that for many is foreign as it gains exposure to a greater audience and continues to do so as per HAT's mission.

## EVENTS LISTING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11  
**National Coming Out Day / Resource Fair / Out at work / HAT / Living History Dinner**  
**11:00 AM - 10:00 PM**  
**Student Center**

HAT & the Magner Career Center will facilitate a discussion centered on the topic of being out at work. HAT will be presenting an excerpt from their new work, A Chip on Her Shoulder.

**Bringing Your A Game at the Job Fair**  
**12:30 PM - 2:00 PM**  
**411 - Library, Fourth Floor**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12  
**Brooklyn College Fall Job/Internship Fair**  
**11:30 AM - 2:00 PM**  
**Student Center**

Meet employers from all industries are seeking candidates for full-time, internship and part-time employment opportunities.

**Conservatory Orchestra I**  
**7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts**  
**The Don Buchwald Theater**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15  
**Death and the Afterlife in the Ancient World (Stern)**  
**12:50 PM - 2:05 PM**  
**120 - Library, First Floor**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16  
**Be the Ideal NYC DOE Candidate**  
**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**1309 James Hall**

iThe NYC DOE office of teacher recruitment and quality will present information about the process of applying for teaching jobs in NYC public schools.



# A Brooklyn College First

BY RYAN GLEASON

History was made this past month on campus. For the first time ever in Brooklyn College’s history, an entire class didn’t show up for the first six weeks of school. Students, teachers, staff and administrators were shocked to hear the accounts of Greek Mythology Professor Marlon Archibald, who has worked at the school for 47 years this spring. The anger and confusion exhibited by the tenured professor is understandable, as his career is his life.

“I showed up every morning, 8 a.m. sharp and not one student was there. Every day. I received no concerned emails, absolutely nothing. I even posted on blacked board, the website, and nothing. I am so confused and to be frank, I am just sad,” said the 72 year old Classics professor. Due to his age, through his own admittance, and technological advancements, Profes-



Students protest outside the Brooklyn College Library. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

sor Archibald was unsure how to access his roster and somehow deleted it. The mystery may never be solved. It is unclear the motive of these students, as their absences will surely have severe consequences. No suspensions or expulsions have been issued so far.

**Have something to say about Brooklyn College’s situation regarding Professor Langbert? Submit an op-ed to [opinions@bcexcelsior.com](mailto:opinions@bcexcelsior.com)! If you’d like to respond directly to one of our articles, you can write a letter to the editor, which will also be included in our Opinions section. Visit our website at [bcexcelsior.com](http://bcexcelsior.com) for submission guidelines regarding letters to the editor.**

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

*Last week, The Excelsior published a news story about Mitchell Langbert, a Brooklyn College business professor who wrote the following sentence in a post on his personal blog: “If someone did not commit sexual assault in high school, then he is not a member of the male sex.” Many students have expressed outrage and organized a protest last Thursday calling for Professor Langbert to be fired. Here are three students’ op-eds, published in The Excelsior, about the situation.*

## Fire Mitchell Langbert. Now.

BY ASSIBI ALI

Hello, October! In this final quarter of 2018, instead of cozying up and enjoying our pumpkin spice flavored delicacies, students are shifting their focus to protesting the employment of professor Mitchell Langbert. Langbert, an Associate of Business with our Koppelman School of Business, is facing severe backlash for a recently published piece on his personal blog that was made public on September 27th. If there’s any reason nobody has spoken on it until this week, I can assume it’s most probable that the only audience who enjoys his blog posts is himself!

Langbert had the outlandish idea to pen a satirical piece that proudly and openly supports Brett Kavanaugh, whose hearing he claimed to be a “travesty”. Inspired by “A Modest Proposal” by Dr. Jonathan Swift, Langbert unsuccessfully and distastefully makes an attempt to replicate the cynical, deadpan tone present in the aforementioned piece of Enlightenment literature. This blog post did not receive the critical response Langbert desired - although, I can’t see how he’s surprised. His disgustingly insensitive and abhorrent words are, unfortunately, reflective of the current political climate within the country, where survivors of abuse are plagued by men in positions of power who clearly possess little to no traces of empathy.

Langbert’s blog post comes in the wake of the allegations against Kavanaugh, who has been accused of sexual assault by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and numerous other women - who all unanimously remember him as verbally abusive and lacking in physical boundaries. Julie Swetnick, for example, has come forward to share her experiences with Kavanaugh in the 80s. She claims to have bore witness to his volatile behavior as he would



Students, alongside Young Progressives of America, protest for Professor Langbert to be fired. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

regularly press his body against other women while also attempting to remove their clothing without their consent. Deborah Ramirez, schoolmate to Kavanaugh at Yale University, vividly remembers seeing his exposed penis in her face at a freshman party in 1983. Kavanaugh and another male partygoer laughed it off while Ramirez bore the weight of the shame and humiliation all for herself. Kavanaugh,

Donald Trump’s SCOTUS nominee has denied each and every single one of these allegations, and for some odd reason, that signified an OK for Conservatives nationwide to dox Ford and send her death threats for her actions. An already ongoing conversation about rape culture in our political atmosphere has now been amplified by the masses of Americans who refuse to be complacent any longer to the horrible injustices committed by those who are in power.

I, as well as a vast portion of Brooklyn College, am calling

for the immediate firing of Mitchell Langbert. His horribly written satire is riddled with undertones that represent his sexist ideologies. He used his online platform to share a fatuous, revolting, insensitive message that I can assure you nobody asked for.

There are students on this campus that are fighting silent battles, processing their own trauma and experiences with sexual abuse. Langbert is supposed to be a trusted authority figure at Brooklyn College. What students would feel comfortable reaching out to a rape apologist? A man who empathizes with Kavanaugh because of the “defamation that he has suffered at the hands of the media...” but refuses to empathize with the victims? Republicans are calling for neutrality amongst Americans until the FBI investigation yields results, yet are not aware of their inherent hypocrisy. They have publicly picked a side before the investigation has even begun - the same behav-

ior they are condemning.

Here is the First Amendment, as follows: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Freedom of Speech means Langbert has every right to post whatever he wants, whenever he wants. It doesn’t mean there can’t be consequences. For the students and faculty reading, are you going to be complacent with this behavior? What message does it send out to survivors on this campus if Langbert is able to retain his position? What message does it send out to the future students who look to Brooklyn College as the next step in their life? I don’t feel comfortable sharing a space with Langbert, who so proudly minimized the humiliating and agonizing pain that af-

flicts a portion of Americans throughout the country.

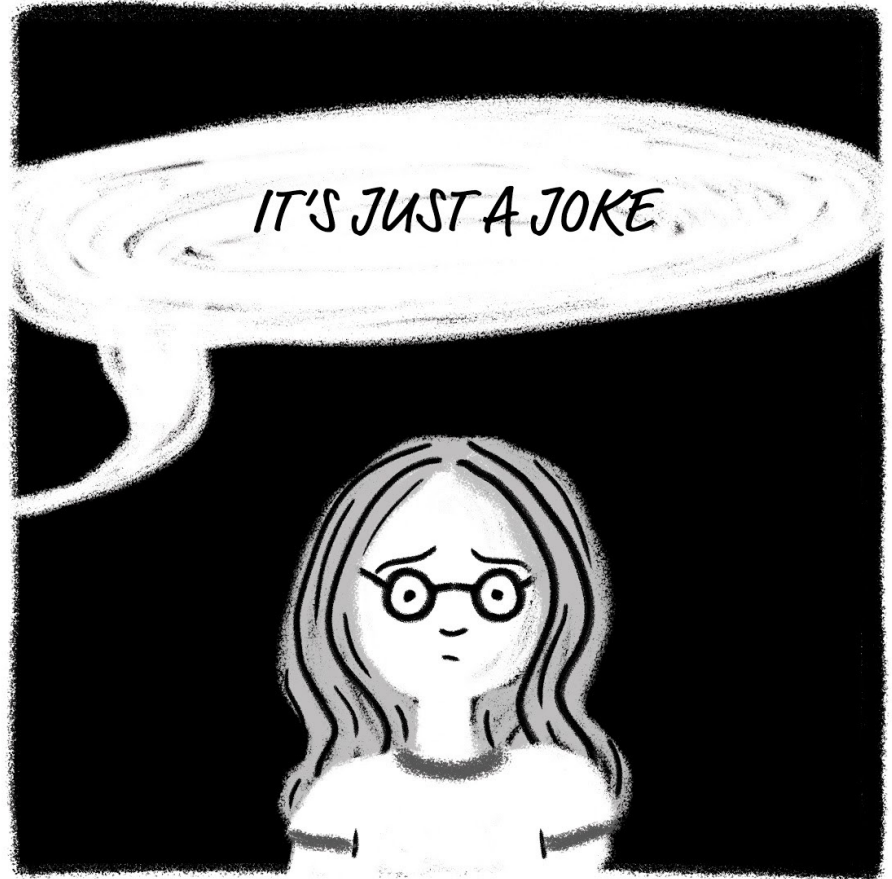
“If someone did not commit sexual assault in high school, then he is not a member of the male sex.” This is a red flag. Langbert had the gall to post this online and justify it under the grounds of “satire.” I’d like to know what thought processes led to Langbert saying to himself, “Wow, this is a good one.”

Mitchell Langbert, you are hurting thousands of people right now. You don’t care about protecting justice. You don’t care about ensuring the rights of the afflicted. You only care about protecting the group of adult men like you who seem to be too fearful to admit they don’t have a shred of empathy for victims of sexual assault. You’d rather project the voice of a beligerent, infantile, villainous man - probably so you can feel more comfortable with your ongoing obligation to being a sexist, homophobic rape apologist who deserves no place in an environment of higher education.

I’ll say it again, I do NOT want this man to be anywhere near me or the almost 20,000 students we have on campus. As documented by the Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Statistics, there are 321,500 victims (aged 12+) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States. It’s our duty to protect them and their individual right to feel safe.

Freedom of Speech also means Freedom of the Press and I’ll be using every platform accessible to demand the proper reparations occur. I stand with Christine Blasey Ford, Julie Swetnick, Deborah Ramirez, and every victim of sexual assault who has to experience firsthand that America does not care about survivors. Do you?





*Jill Hinton*

## Mitchell Langbert is a Liability

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

Like it or not, Mitchell Langbert is now the face of Brooklyn College. This is not because of his academic work, but for a blog post where he claims that sexual assault is a requirement for the male sex.

At the same time, Langbert is hiding. He hides behind the premise that this is a joke. He hides behind poor writing. He hides behind language that is solely used by far right ideologues. He hides behind the fact that Brooklyn College gets little attention from the rest of the world, then he

tells us he is iconoclastic.

So, the Constitution guarantees that no one can be arrested for speaking their mind and this is known as free speech. However, that doesn't mean you can say whatever you want without consequences.

I am a Brooklyn College student and I also work for a publicly traded company. I have been told, in no uncertain terms, that I am a representative of my company whether I am at work or not. I am not allowed to misrepresent my company on my own social media without

penalty, including the possibility of termination. This is ubiquitous in the industry. They can't take me to federal court, but they can fire me. New York State employment law states that any employment can be terminated by either party at any time without notice or reason required. Further, if my company felt I had become a liability for its shareholders, there would likely be legal action taken.

Where you went to college counts. People talk about it for the rest of their lives. Look no further than Brett Kavanaugh. I am both

a Brooklyn College student and a Brooklyn College alumnus. This college degree is listed on my resume and on my LinkedIn page. It is part of how I market myself and it affects how much I get paid. Mitchell Langbert lowers the value of our degree and hence decreases our leverage in salary negotiations where everything counts. In short, this will cost us money.

This is not because he expressed right wing views on his blog, which he uses to promote himself as an academic. Look to the piece written by Bret Stephens,

former editor of the Jerusalem Post, in the New York Times for an example of a cogent piece of writing in support the current Supreme Court nominee. Instead what Langbert did was to self-publish a poorly written diatribe that could believably have been written by a child and makes everyone associated with Brooklyn College look bad. Since the story went national, it is likely the salient impression of Brooklyn College people will have for some time.



# Professor Langbert Should Be Fired

BY KEVIN LIMITI

At Brooklyn College, we should hold a professor’s conduct and speech to a higher account. These are people who have been deemed responsible and well learned enough to instruct others.

But Professor Mitchell Langbert’s post was not designed to be instructive, inspirational, or otherwise educational. It was an opinion that was expressed with the sole intention of shocking people, which has had the effect of making women on campus feel extremely uncomfortable.

Brooklyn College should not be a place where women feel threatened. By choosing to defend his position as being necessary to protect freedom of speech, the administration has likewise chosen to ignore the possibility that women who have been victims of sexual assault may have to interact with Langbert on campus, knowing the inflammatory things he said.

Regardless of what position the administration takes on this—especially considering the complicated process that would need to be undertaken to fire a professor on



A student holds up a sign during last Thursday’s protest. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

tenure—Langbert’s defense of his posting is completely nonsensical and bizarre.

“If someone did not commit sexual assault in high school, then he is not a member of the male sex.”

What is the over-arching point of this sentence if it is satire? Satire is defined as “the use of irony, sarcasm, ridicule, or the like, in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice.” Yet, his statements seem rather consistent with his views on the Kavanaugh

debacle that our country is currently embroiled in, even using similar language between his post of “satire” and his non-satirical viewpoint on Democrats.

For example, he writes in the “satirical” blog post, “The Democrats have discovered that 15-year-olds play spin-the-bottle, and they have jumped on a series of supposed spin-the-bottle crimes during Kavanaugh’s minority.”

He then writes in his lat-

est blog post about Kavanaugh: “Tom Fitton on Fox Business News claims that an FBI investigation will be incapable of revealing additional information concerning Kavanaugh’s 15-year-old spin-the-bottle activities.”

His usage of describing the alleged attempted rapes as “spin-the-bottle activities” is quite telling in this instance. Are we supposed to take it that both of these articles of satire? But even as satire, he fails. There

doesn’t appear like there is a larger subtext to be understand here other than what he repeats again and again

His last-minute edited explanation of satire flies in the face of what satire actually is. You can find no trace of Jonathan Swift in his post and his claim that is in the tradition of Swift’s Modest Proposal is ridiculous. His suggestion that Brooklyn College students simply don’t understand and that “more time should be spent with Horace and Swift, and less time on political indoctrination” insults their intelligence and reeks of a kind of intellectual entitlement.

Professor Mitchel Langbert’s blog post wasn’t offensive by accident but by design. It is not, as Langbert might claim, in the spirit of Jonathan Swift. It was more like in the spirit of online trolling. Unfortunately, Langbert’s position as a professor makes his statement more than just an attention grab but a feasible threat to student safety and security. The administration needs to do the right thing and fire him.

**Do you have a #MeToo story from your experiences at Brooklyn College to share?**

**Please email [editor@bcexcelsior.com](mailto:editor@bcexcelsior.com). If you prefer, you may remain anonymous.**



# LeBron James and the Lakers

BY ELIJAH HAMILTON

For the first time as a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, LeBron James hit the floor of the Staples center for the team’s first preseason game.

Throughout their first exhibition preseason game against the Denver Nuggets, there seemed to be a constant sense of renewal in the air. Coming into year 16 of his career, few would have thought that LeBron James would don purple and gold for the Lakers, but in 2018, the king of the NBA will now be the king of L.A.

In previous seasons, James has become accustomed to carrying teams on his back and into championship contention, often breaking records while doing so; his new mission in the city of angels is to revive a Laker franchise that has lost its winning ways.

The Los Angeles Lakers is a franchise that is known for its rich lineage and historic significance in the NBA, as well as professional basketball. With 16 championships spanning over 71 years, winning has become synonymous with the Lakers franchise.

However, in recent seasons, the Los Angeles Lakers



LeBron James made his preseason debut as a Los Angeles Laker last week. PHOTO/ USA Today

have transitioned from being the most prestigious, winningest franchise to becoming a doormat for the rest of the league. The franchise hasn’t lived up to the high standards it tends to be known for.

Last season the team won just 35 games. Though it was a year of improvement for the Lakers, it was obvious that these weren’t the Lakers that many were familiar with.

The big summer free-agent acquisition that the franchise has desperately searched for finally arrived this past summer when James signed a 4-year, \$154 million contract with Los Angeles. Now James is determined to help usher in a new era for a franchise that has not seen much winning, and while doing so, pad his already incredible legacy.

For many, James on the Lakers almost feels like a match made in heaven.

The best player in the league and the most popular franchise in the NBA are together in an effort to bring a historical franchise back to prominence and bring an NBA finals trophy to a part of California that isn’t Oakland.

James joining up with the Los Angeles Lakers also

sends a message to the rest of the league that the Lakers are a serious contender in the West once again and are looking to raise the franchise’s 17th championship – the first one since 2010.

The Lakers are better by proxy with just LeBron’s presence alone, however, James will be surrounded by a supporting cast of young and exciting players like point guard Lonzo Ball and forwards Kyle Kuzma and Brandon Ingram. There is also a group of savvy veterans with championship experience including Rajon Rondo, JaVale McGee, and x-factor players like Lance Stephenson and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope.

So far in the preseason, we have gotten a small taste of James effect in playing for the Lakers. He improved the play of his other teammates by means of unselfish passing and setting the tempo for the rest of the team on defense.

Also, James has managed to make the team more effective in the open court, showing flashes of the “Showtime” Lakers of the 1980’s.

We can count the many NBA moments that were surrounded by the purple and gold, and now with LeBron James at the helm of the Lakers, it is safe to say that there are many more on the way.

The Lakers play their first regular season game against the Portland Trailblazers on Thursday, October 18.



PHOTO/ Getty Images



# Bell Ending Holdout Only Hurts the Future of the NFL

BY JOE LEO

Le'Veon Bell announced in Week 3 that he will end his holdout and join the Pittsburgh Steelers in Week 7 on their bye week, following a contract dispute over Bell's long-term future with the Steelers. This comes on the heels of Earl Thomas' season-ending leg injury in Arizona. Thomas wrote an article for the Players Tribune in early August giving insight on his holdout and his demands. Thomas argued that the reason he cannot give his all on every play is because he has no financial guarantee that his team, the Seattle Seahawks, would take care of him or have him be a part of the team's future. Following the injury, Thomas voiced his displeasure by flashing the bird to his own sideline as he was being carted off.

Both Bell and Thomas have been two of the loudest voices in the fight to get guaranteed contracts for the entire NFL. However, ending these holdouts only gives the NFL more negotiating power when it comes time to sit down and make a deal. Ending the holdouts empowers the NFL and reinforces the players' need to show up for work, showing that the players don't truly have a choice in the matter.

Due to the hard salary cap, players can only get a certain percentage of the money in a contract, with the rest of the announced contract number being incentives. Also, if a player doesn't play games, they don't get that game's check and lose



Despite holding out from the start of the season, Le'Veon Bell is expected to rejoin the Steelers after their week 7 bye. PHOTO/ Getty Images

out on getting said money, which doesn't happen in any of the other major sports.

Thanks to the Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) study conducted by Boston University last year, the concern for player safety on and off the football field, during and following a player's career, has become more vital to the people who suit up and play on Sundays. This only furthers the need for guaranteed money for players who have shown serious physical and mental ailments in the years following their playing careers on the football field.

These holdouts opened the door for the guaranteed money conversation that is a runaway train charging

down the tracks. Even with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) ending in 2021, the dialogue has already started on guaranteed contracts. When the CBA ends and the NFL and NFLPA sit down to iron out the new bargaining agreement, guaranteed money will be the single issue that will take the longest to reach a compromise. Having these holdouts end doesn't allow current players to make an effort to balance the power dynamic. This will have to wait until the labor talks. The only way the players will make the game of football better for future generations is not by breaking records or winning Super Bowls but by standing up to the owners

and getting these contracts.

This dispute over contracts parallels the empowerment movement that NBA players have faced over the past few years. When LeBron James switched teams, he made a self-empowerment career move and went from the Cleveland Cavaliers to the Miami Heat. James got eviscerated for going against the grain of how NBA players went about their business. Instead of the rest of the NBA looking at James from afar, they joined in on the self-empowerment movement and took control of their careers. Not only has James' decision changed the landscape of the NBA but it has also changed the way that front offices go about contracts in general.

In order for NFL players to get their wishes and not have to worry about playing through injuries and damaging their bodies for the rest of their lives, when it comes time to come to a new CBA, the players must stand their ground and not budge on this subject. The best thing the players can do is drag labor talks out and miss games. If the owners' wallets are being affected, they will have to reach the demands of their players and show them the respect that should already have been in place. If there is no football for a half of season, or even a

full season, it will only make the game of football better.

With the spotlight put on the league by President Trump last season, the NFL has been subjected to controversy that is unprecedented and impossible to ignore. President Trump changed the conversation around football, and it will be for the betterment of the game if the players stand tall with their demands. For many football fans across the country, all they want is to return to a point where all we are talking about on Sunday is the game itself and forgetting the extracurricular activities. In order for that to happen, like martyrs before them, these players must do what is right for themselves and the future generations of football players. This is also a cry out to the owners who are looking for ways to better the product on the field. If you don't lowball players and give them the money they rightfully deserve, more players will be like Earl Thomas and give their all on every play without question.

The framework for a better NFL is attainable. It's just a matter of time to see if it will actually become a reality or if it will continue to be a pipedream. This dispute will dictate the future of football forever, and that is guaranteed.



Earl Thomas, who suffered a season-ending injury, has been another loud voice in the fight to get guaranteed contracts for the entire NFL. PHOTO/ Getty Images