

Investigation of USG President-Elect Calzadilla-Palacio and His Alleged Racist Comment Is Unanimously Moving Forward



An investigation for the USG president elect is moving forward. A hearing will take place on Tuesday. PHOTO/ Emily Beregovich

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

The election commissioners have met and though there’s a winner, there’s still an investigation. The Excelsior obtained a copy of the minutes from the Election Commission meeting, which show that there is evidence of new USG President-Elect Carlos Jesus Calzadilla-Palacio allegedly making racist comments and a hearing will take place on Tuesday.

Here’s how election investigations work. When someone files a complaint against another candidate, the complaint goes to the Election Commission. The Election Commission is comprised of

three people selected by the Student Government assembly members. On May 2nd, right after the winners were announced, the three commissioners got together for their meeting. At the time, the commissioners included Navin Rana, Kyle Larick, and Victoria Beraiah. As of now, Rana has resigned.

At the beginning of the meeting, the commissioners went over their conflict of interests.

According to the minutes, Larick is dating the treasurer candidate under Alyssa Taylor’s slate, and Rana is on the Speech and Debate team with Hamza Khilji,

Corrinne Greene, and Calzadilla-Palacio. Beraiah noted no conflict of interests.

Then, the commissioners individually went over the allegations. First, the allegation against Calzadilla-Palacio in which he allegedly spread racist rumors about Khilji saying Khilji’s family comes from “oil money,” and that is why Khilji won’t be accepting the full stipend. Khilji is both brown and Muslim. The commissioners noted that this was an Islamophobic comment.

In fact, Haris Khan, USS Chairperson & CUNY Trustee (the only student on the Board), who once

endorsed Calzadilla-Palacio, rescinded his endorsement three hours before the election was over.

“The current campaign season in Brooklyn College has also depicted some of the worst ways one could choose to campaign. From a Muslim candidate called ‘rich, whose father runs oil companies,’” he said. “It’s easy to say, we will stand up to the status-quo when candidates intentionally attempt to eliminate competition and engage in name-calling rather than solely focusing on promoting their vision for the office.”

“And regardless of the result of Brooklyn College’s

historic election for a unified student government, Carlos and his team owes his fellow candidates a sincere apology. Democracy is about bringing people together, and those values must start from the bottom up, in student government, district leader, and county committee elections.”

According to the minutes, Greene submitted a statement of support in which she also provided text messages

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THE EXCELSIOR

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with Calzadilla-Palacio and a member of his campaign. “In one of these text changes, the member of Carlos’s campaign remarked that Carlos and other members of his campaign had discussed using this rumor as a part of their campaign, but had decided against doing so,” it stated. But after the minutes of the meeting were released, Greene withdrew her testimony. She had provided her testimony to the Commission asking for anonymity, but the Commission did not listen. She also said she never asked for an investigation, though she did file a complaint on the WBCR incident that took place last week. Nonetheless, the Election Commission decided not to further pursue an investigation into that incident. “Students deserve accountability, and justice demands the truth regarding concerns deemed legitimate

enough to pursue investigating,” Greene said. “Not cooperating with/interfering with a fair investigation is, in my view, absolutely disqualifying. Any students who are subject to a fair investigation must cooperate fully and immediately.” She continued to say that though she is no longer participating in any further investigation, she will confirm that a candidate told her Khilji’s family was wealthy and owned an oil company in a conversation in March. “I’ve spoken with the person who made these comments and encouraged them to apologize—they have adamantly denied any wrongdoing/spreading rumors and have refused to do so,” she said. “I also urge a parallel investigation be conducted regarding the threats allegedly received immediately following the filing of a complaint about these rumors.” Nonetheless, the Election Commission has already agreed to move forward with an investigation against Calzadilla-Palacio who allegedly made those comments. “The Election Commission agrees that any evidence provided by Hamza must supersede his incentive

to create a false complaint about Carlos. With multiple people supporting Hamza’s claim that Carlos is behind these rumors and with a text exchange that Carlos’s campaign indeed did discuss using this rumors to strengthen their own campaign, the Election Commission unanimously agreed to move forward with an investigation against Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio,” the minutes read. Chris Omar, Calzadilla-Palacio’s press director, released this statement to The Excelsior in behalf of the president-elect’s campaign: “No, the rumor about Hamza was never discussed as a campaign strategy like the Elections Committee’s meeting minutes falsely state. We heard of the rumor, and shot it down immediately, considering there are multiple people on our slate who are friends with Hamza and knew that these rumors were not true.” “That text exchange was a private conversation submitted without our knowledge, for a separate investigation. The Election Commission incompetently ignored the witness’ request to remain anonymous and to not use the text message for Ham-

za’s case against Carlos. The message was twisted to fit a false narrative that our campaign was spreading and using these rumors as a political strategy. What was said in the message was that we heard of the rumor, and ‘agreed to never push it.’ Meaning before we ever heard this rumor, we had already committed to running a clean and positive campaign, not saying anything negative about our opponents.” “Our entire platform is based on standing up against injustice and prejudice of any kind. We never did and never would slander another candidate for political gain. Our goal right now is to protect democracy on campus after the students made their voices heard and overwhelmingly supported our vision for Brooklyn College.” Calzadilla-Palacio’s campaign blamed the Commission and said it was biased. After all, at the beginning of the meeting, Larick admitted a conflict of interest—he’s in a relationship with a member of Taylor’s campaign. But despite noting the conflict of interest, Larick still got to vote on a complaint against Taylor. “The Election Commis-



EVENTS LISTING

MONDAY, MARCH 18 –
SATURDAY, AUGUST 31
We Stand Against Hate - History of Free Speech: The Vanguard Years at Brooklyn College
2129 Boylan Hall

TUESDAY, MAY 7
Children's Studies 25th Anniversary Lecture Series V: Youth Organizing for Change
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
5th Floor - Student Center

Conservatory Jazz Ensemble
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Topfer Recital Hall, Room 250
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8
BCAA Annual Meeting and Student Awards Presentation
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM
Brooklyn College Library

THURSDAY, MAY 9
Join Brooklyn College at the Brooklyn Museum
5:45 PM - 8:15 PM
Off-Campus
See: <https://bcmuseum.eventbrite.com/>

THURSDAY, MAY 9
Brooklyn Electroacoustic Ensemble (BEE)
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Topfer Recital Hall, Room 250
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

FRIDAY, MAY 10
Brooklyn College Opera Theater
7:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts
Cost: \$15

SATURDAY, MAY 11
Faculty Recital: Hannah Selin, viola
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Topfer Recital Hall, Room 250
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

SUNDAY, MAY 12
Brooklyn College Opera Theater
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts
Cost: \$15

MONDAY, MAY 13
Composers Concert II
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

TUESDAY, MAY 14
FCY End-of-Year Blowout!
12:15 PM - 2:15 PM
West Quad
RSVP: firstcollegeyear@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Attention freshmen! You're almost done with your first year of college! Celebrate with FCY on the West Quad and get the tools and support you need to succeed during your second year! Food, music, campus resources, and lots of free stuff.
CURRENT FRESHMEN ONLY!

Staged Opera Scenes
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Rehearsal Studio, Room 367
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts
Cost: Free

Composers Concert III
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

sion has received several complaints from students about receiving emails from the Taylor/Milich campaign without the consent of the recipients. Additionally, it is alleged by multiple students that the Taylor/Milich Campaign received these emails from CLAS Student Government emailing lists,” the minutes stated. But they found no violations as “It is not stated in the Elections Act that CLAS Student Government cannot provide mailing lists.” In a 2-1 decision, the Election Commission dismissed the violation.

According to Omar, “The Election Commission is extremely biased and has every incentive to invalidate our landslide victory. It is a conflict of interest to have election commissioners, elected by the assembly as per CLAS election rules, to vote on a matter involving the person that elected them. The current majority of commissioners are close personal friends of the losing campaign. For this reason, the commissioners refused to investigate Alyssa and Ethan’s use of private CLAS email lists. The election com-

missioners were supposed to recuse themselves in matters pertaining to their candidate but the commissioners in question failed to do so and voted against an investigation. Therefore, we have no faith in the Election Commission’s investigation as their is a clear bias.”

Calzadilla-Palacio’s campaign has now gone to social media with the hashtag #ProtectTheVote, saying, “Our election victory has been threatened by an election commission with a clear conflict of interest.” They are calling on students to email Chairperson of the College Wide Election Review Committee (C.W.E.R.C) David Wells and Vice President of Student Affairs Ron Jackson to “protect our democracy at Brooklyn College.”

“We have full faith in the procedures written in our documents to conduct a thorough investigation of the allegations presented,” Taylor said. “We are confident in the commissioner’s abilities as students, who have maintained neutrality throughout the election season. The policies are strategically written to cover all basis of concerns

and it is our duty to let this play out in its own way.”

So what happens next? According to the Spring 2019 Campaigns and Election Rules for Undergraduate Students at Brooklyn College, once the election is over, a hearing will be held by the Commission where each violation will be presented, along with complainants, alleged violators, and witnesses. Once the Tuesday hearing is over, the Commission will meet in an executive session.

“The Commission shall then determine beyond all reasonable doubt by majority vote whether a violation has occurred. If such a determination is made, the Commission shall then immediately determine the applicable penalties.”

There are five possible campaign penalties.

1. Revocation of the offender’s candidacy. If the offender won election for office when the violation occurred, said office is to be awarded to the candidate with the next highest number of votes.

2. Permanent loss of eligibility from holding any offices, elected and appointed, within student government.

3. The offender shall have the right to apply for eligibility to participate in student government one year after conviction; and upon being denied may reapply for said eligibility on a yearly basis. Each application will be presented before the Commission in a public hearing.

4. The Commission shall keep written minutes of all campaign violation proceedings and issue written opinions explaining he circumstances surrounding each violation conviction. These records shall be delivered to the College Wide Election Review Committee, on or before the last day of the Spring semester.

5. Future Election Commissions can take into consideration previous infractions and this can choose to limit the involvement of an offender in future elections.

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.

“It feels nice to finally

have actual witnesses and testimony support me. There were many people who doubted me and called me a liar without full knowledge of the situation,” Khilji said. “I am choosing to leave a lot of what I have to say for the hearing on Tuesday, but I will say that it is disappointing that despite clear evidence and testimonies of wrongdoing, there still has been no form of an apology issued whatsoever.”

“I figured there would be a limit to the BS, but I guess not. Regardless of whether an apology is issued going from this point on, I believe that actions have consequences, and I will let the investigation process enforce justice as it deems proper,” he continued.

“I will continue fighting this until the truth comes out, and it certainly will whether it be now, or months later, because cheaters never win and winners never cheat. This isn’t about me coming into office anymore. It’s about setting the record straight and holding people accountable for their wrongful actions.”

Grab a Snack to Break Your Fast at Brooklyn College

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

Ramadan has arrived. It is the holiest month in Islam where Muslims fast every day from dawn to sunset. Yes, even water.

Ramadan will be taking place during the academic school year when students are in classes and are taking finals. For many students, the majority of their days will be spent on campus. Professors have to keep in mind that they might leave in the middle of class to pray or to break their fast.

The Islamic Center of New York University released a flier that lists ways professors can support their Muslim students. Some ways include extensions during times of late night prayers, reasonable allowances for accommodations of finals and exams given the struggle of a changed schedule and eating habits, efforts to minimize stress, permission to leave class to pray or break their fast, being mindful of evening programs conflicting with worship, and checking on students’ mental health and overall well-being.

For students who are



Ramadan is here, and the Brooklyn College Islamic Society and Muslim Women's Education Initiative (MWEI) is providing snacks for Muslims to break their fasts. PHOTO/ Pexels

stuck on campus during iftar (meal eaten after sunset), the Brooklyn College Islamic Society and Muslim Women’s Education Initiative (MWEI) is providing snacks for Muslims to break their

fasts. The snacks, which include dates, water, juice, and yogurt, will be included in rooms 0238 Ingersoll (Islamic Society office) and 0439 Ingersoll (MWEI office).

“I believe it's important

for us to give iftar on campus as Ramadan happens to fall during the semester and it is nearing finals week,” Bilal Khan, the president of the Islamic Society said. “Students have been fasting all day and

should have a place where they can collectively break fast with one another. Ramadan is all about the community coming together.”

BC Holds Debate for Local District Candidates

BY M.A. RAHMAN

A public forum was held at SUBO for attendees to meet and question a few of the candidates vying for the position Council Member for 45 District of NYC two weeks ago.

The Special election comes following the departure of former Council Member and now current City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, who previously held the District 45th NYC council seat, leaving said office vacant.

"I hope that we can continue to having events that create the opportunity to maintain Brooklyn College as a community space and not just as a school," said Corrinne Greene, Brooklyn College Chapter President of Young Progressives of America.

Acknowledging the event's low turnout among students, Greene, a BC student that moderated the panel, expressed a more hopeful attitude rationaliz-

ing that students might have been too busy to attend or are viewing the panel online.

The forum which featured a panel for the five attending candidates in included Hercules Reid, Adina Sash, Farah Louis, Victor Jordan as well as late show-up L. Rickie Tulloch, arriving just as the event came to a close.

Located in District 45, Brooklyn College along with many of its students/faculty remained a fixture of needed support for many of the candidates and thereby formulated a somewhat contentious event for the evening.

Facing an audience of roughly a little over a dozen individuals, mostly associates of candidates running, including some like Xamayla Rose who was not present at the panel, along with curious CUNY students, candidates opened up by speaking of their experience or connection to the CUNY system.

Highlighting their shared reservations for the CUNY

system, candidates like Reid and Sash drew on their firsthand experiences as CUNY alumni by pontificating similar talking points concerning tuition and infrastructure to show their sympathy and understanding of the frustrations students continue to have to contend with in the University.

Additionally, Jordan, a self-declared 'outsider' candidate drew upon his background as a current high school mathematics teacher, asserting himself to be better qualified in understanding the plight of education and educators in the City given his occupation.

"I entered this race because close friends encouraged me to do so," Jordan said before touting his occupational background and thereby the best champion for greater wages Professor's unions like the PSC and its member's are seeking.

Contrarily, Louis, the former deputy chief of

staff of then-Councilman Williams, spoke highly on the work she and Williams did to push CUNY to improve its resources for courses and professors.

Candidates unanimously agreed, former Councilman Williams was an inspiration to them and held in regard, at the moment no candidates as of yet has received his endorsement.

"You can be sure of one thing that I will do unlike Jumaane," stated Louis, "I will finish my term," she proclaimed gleefully to the cheers of some members of the audience, implying a pledge to avert from pursuing greater political offices during her time as City Council Member.

"I think it's a toss-up between his [Jumaane Williams'] former employee [Louis] and Hercules," observed William Stanford Jr., a Brooklyn resident from outside of District 45, wagering the candidate's cam-

paign exposure and the confidence evoked by the cheers of the audience as a measurement of their success.

"I'm worried about the renting conditions they raised," Masataka Kaji, a Queens resident, and a Kingsborough graduate said.

"If they don't do something about that I think people here are gonna be upset," Kaji added in reference to how some members of the audience raised the issue of gradual shortages of Section 8 Housing in District 45, matter candidates lamented was outside their purview as a federal matter.

"We invited every candidate to come to our forum," Greene said, elaborating "some of them had Union screenings, some came late, and so forth, we were glad of those that did make it because I think it shows who prioritizes CUNY and Brooklyn College."

Brooklyn College Got Talent

BY MARCUS AYALA

WBCR occupied the Bedford Lounge in SUBO to bring "Brooklyn College Got Talent." The event was designed to showcase Brooklyn College and its diversity with talents ranging from poetry, rapping, singing, and comedy.

A talent show is nothing without its judges and hosts. The host for the night was, Ivy Rivera of BET. The judges for the event were DJ Sure of Power 105.1, Rich Dollaz of VH1, and Theo Brown of eOne. Besides the judges, there were extra incentives with the winner getting a chance to win \$5,000 at CUNY got talent.

Rodney Budd of Thotpack was the opening act. Budd doesn't attend Brooklyn College. When asked about the judges he expressed how he liked that they gave constructive criticism without hurting feelings. Budd wasn't an official part of the contest so the judges didn't evaluate him. "When I was performing they wasn't judging me because I was the opening act." He felt like they could of still gave him feedback." He still didn't get discouraged and supported the rest of the talents.



Janine Vitiello stands before a panel of judges remarking on her performance. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

The first official act of the night was rapper Khywan Doe. Doe received more praise for this second song he performed for the crowd. The judges said it was "less beat and more rap driven."

Destini Donald, a transfer student in her second year preformed her raps early in the contest. She used her songs originally to lift her spirits through the tough times. She made that upbeat even if she wasn't in the best mind frame. Her performance went as planned, she even admittedly added an extra acapella. The judges appreciated her perfor-

mance. "Your spitting is crazy; I can tell you're from Brooklyn." All the judges agreed that she had talent.

Shaquana Henry, a double major in Business Administration and English used her poetic skills to win over the crowd. "I was going to go political, then pop culture." She did with her first poem "Locker room talk" being about the president and the times we live in, which connected with the crowd because of their disdain toward Trump. She drew the crowd in with her second poem also centered around Bobby Shmurda.

Kenyatta LeSeur, a master student with an Industrial/Organizational Psychology major and a concentration of group processes gave his say on the event. He believes the "judges were trying to be very objective. Their trying to take everything into consideration."

When asked about the turnout, "I did not expect to see this many people. Given the amount of chairs, they were expecting a big turnout." He was one of the many that came to support his friends and fellow students.

Sharon Davis, a double major in History and Ed-

ucation and Vice President of Woman of color gave her take on the event. "This is an opportunity to show how diverse we really are as a student base because we have students of all ethnic groups here right now."

A singer that caught the judges eye was Janine Vitiello. Vitiello is a sophomore studying Television and Radio. "It made my whole life because I've always pictured myself singing on American Idol and having Simon Cowell judge me."

The judges believed "All it takes is one good song." They explained how she had the voice and she needs the perfect song to showcase it".

Vitiello's mother expressed how her daughter had the drive from a young age. How daughter believed she was going to a star. "She's reaching for the stars and she's never stopping."

Some other acts from the night included comedian McFredy Antoine, rapper Val Johnson and the eventual winner rapper Derrick Livingston (D-Stone). Livingston got the judges on their feet, including Theo Brown who was rapping along. He's going to have the chance to win the grand prize.

BULLSPIT!

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

My Girlfriend Asked Me to Write This

BY RYAN GLEASON

As a comedian and writer, I have friends and family constantly asking me (or telling me) to put their jokes, stories, and observations into my work. It is incredibly frustrating and I am tired of being an outlet for bits and gags and long-winded tales. That being said, my girlfriend had some ideas for stories I should write for this column. And since she can give things my family and friends can't and shouldn't... I had to give in. So here are my retellings of her HILARIOUS stories that she INSISTED I put in this submission. My girlfriend and her friend went to the store the other day and when she got there, she had realized



My girlfriend had some ideas for stories I should write for this column. PHOTO/ Pixabay

she left her wallet at home. Hilarious! Am I right? I do NOT do the story justice. One time my girlfriend went out to dinner with her family, and her dad saw the waiter's name tag. The waiter had the same name as him. HAHahaha! I know I only told the story in two sentences, I don't know how she does it but when my girlfriend told that story it

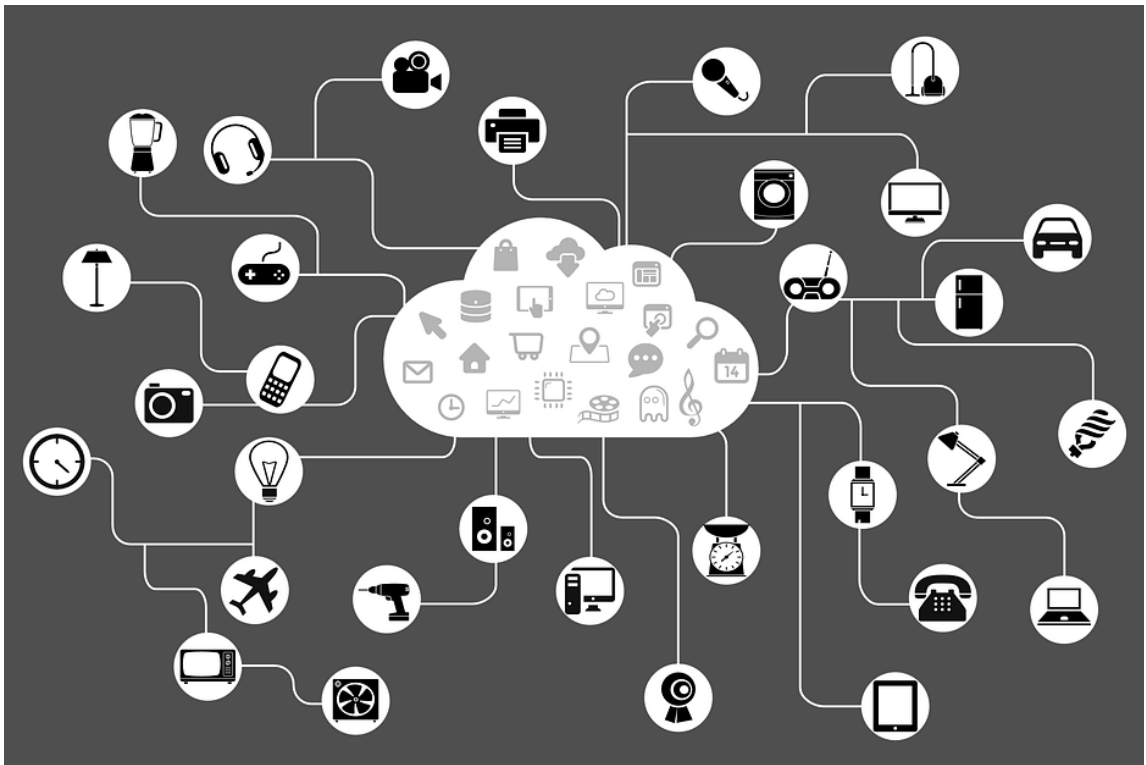
took her 27 minutes. She should be the comic, not me. She told me this story last week before bed. So I had the night to let this sink into my brain and really absorb the humor it held. So my girlfriend told me about how she watched a video on Facebook and it had an ad for Burger King in the middle of it. Then, later that day, she had Burger King. These were the funniest stories you have ever heard amiright? My girlfriend told me I JUST HAD to submit these whacky and unreal anecdotes. Hilarity insanity! Tune in next time for when I write out the hilarious jokes my Mom has told me "to put in my act." I mean... her birthday is coming up so... I might as well.

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

What Will the Internet of Things Mean for Cybersecurity?

BY KATLYN LEE

Figures released show that by 2023, cybercriminals will steal a total of 33 billion records each year. Cyber-crime is not only increasing in numbers but also in expenses, with sobering information showing that the cost of data breaches has risen by \$3.86 million and each individual breach incurs an average cost of \$148 dollars. The question of tech security cannot, therefore, be separated from the larger hulking concern of cybersecurity. It is partly due to these pressures to revamp and reinforce cybersecurity, especially as innovations like machine learning are being put into play. But even as machine learning is heralded as a revolutionary approach to cybersecurity, we should also recognize the leap in technology that is the Internet of Things (IoT). Some may argue that the IoT, in fact, may offer a lasting solution to cybersecurity, while others believe it will only make things worse. **The Internet of Things and Cybersecurity** There have already been a number of concerns arising from IoT with weaknesses in the system making it eas-



Tech security cannot be separated from the larger concern of cybersecurity. PHOTO/ Pixabay

ier to breach. Equipping all technological gadgets from refrigerators to cookers with a working internet connection seems like a brilliant idea (and it is), but it raises concerns when considering how secure this connection can be and what it could mean for the people linked to these various gadgets. The question becomes how to mitigate risks as opposed to overhauling the entire concept of cross-linked connectivity. However, while there are multiple avenues we can opt for to mitigate the risks, such as the use of VPN to protect our security, deep learning or the use of hardware authentication, we will need to first understand what the pitfalls are associated with IoT so we can respond using appropriate measures. **The Rise of Trojans** It would be a mistake to approach security solutions for IoT the same way we approach traditional internet security because the landscape is significantly different. Most of us are familiar with malicious viruses and how they attack our computers by corrupting our files. However, the significance of viruses changes completely from an IoT perspective. One of the most dangerous of these viruses is a recently discovered form of a Trojan. The virus is equipped with the ability to disable IoT devices and make them virtually self-destruct by overwriting critical parts of their firmware and rendering them useless. To add to this, it is still not clear

to researchers how the virus is spread in spite of the fact that there are approximately 500,000 infected devices. **The Verdict** Trojans are not the only threat to cybersecurity in the internet of things. However, it is an illustration of just how deep the pitfalls are when implementing IoT. We must recognize that IoT is surely the technology of the future and rather than abandoning it, we must move on to ask how we can address the issues as they crop up. There are a number of suggestions that have been put across by experts on how to deal with security threats. The first and most important step is doubtlessly to attempt a comprehensive understanding of the threat landscape. This will allow us to design dedicated solutions to the threats as they arise. IoT, like all revolutionary technologies, has its drawbacks but to do as some suggest and write it off for good is both nearsighted and premature. While it is true that it does pose a great security threat, it is not true that this issue cannot be addressed and solved by the great technological minds of our century.

At the Heart of Gold, Tribeca Film Festival 2019

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

At the Heart of Gold, directed by Erin Lee Carr, flows in a mostly steady stream like Eminem or Logic with barely any noticeable breath between phrases. There is not as much punctuation as a Kendrick or Drake. For the most part of the movie, it watches like a cathartic scream. It reminded me of a scream you might hear in mixed into a Pink Floyd album.

This is a documentary about the victims of Larry Nassar, a USA Olympic national team doctor convicted of sexually assaulting girls who were mostly minors. Two hundred and fifty women gave statements during his trial and Michigan State University, who was an employer of Nassar, settled a 500-million-dollar lawsuit for 332 victims that came forward. The time period is roughly 20 years that Nassar got away with his crimes against children.

He was also convicted of having 37,000 child pornography images on his computer. Interestingly enough, this is not considered to be a lot.

The one thing I often forget when I hear about a conviction like this is, as horrible as it sounds, I think “well that’s it, that’s all of it,” but I often forget that this is just what was found. What about old computers, external hard drives, et cetera? Inductively speaking, it is hard to believe that this is the entire collection or the total number of girls he has harmed. Instead, the subjective probability is high since this is just a subset. Let’s face it, we may never know the true number of girls assaulted by Dr. Nassar.

So, how was he able to get away with it for so long? There were complaints but no one believed, acted on, or even listened to these girls. McKalya Maroney, whom you might remember as the Olympic Gymnast with a smirk (there was a famous picture of her with President Obama doing the smirk) was assaulted by Nassar in 2011 in Tokyo. He had actually been molesting her for years and she told people out loud in Tokyo but no one did anything. This was reported in the Chicago Tribune and other places.

Maroney was not featured in this documentary, but similar stories were told.



"At the Heart of Gold" is a documentary about the victims of Larry Nassar. PHOTO/ HBO

Overall, this was a hard documentary to watch. It’s only 88 minutes long. In an age where an average movie is two-plus hours, the film length was appropriate because not everyone can stomach this type of subject matter, which is a horrible thing say. But remember, hundreds of women will have to live this for the rest of their lives, and I can barely take 88 minutes of it.

I remember when I first saw this on the news. It had about 35% percent of my focus. There were about 20 seconds of attention that I gave every time there was a development in the story. All I knew was that there was a man, who I now recognized as Nassar, had sexually abused gymnasts. I knew it was bad because it stayed in the news over a long period of time. That was my gauge of it.

It’s easy to not look at something so horrible because it challenges our perceived control that everything is alright. Do you hear me? Do you feel me? We turn off to this type of story, not because we are bad but because we are just trying to get through the day.

This movie focuses on the victims and their stories and not much about Nassar as a person. As the filmmakers said in the Q&A at the Tribeca

Film Festival, the movie about Nassar is for someone else to make. There has been a movement post-#MeToo to focus on the victims of crimes against women but not the perpetrator. What happens is the victims become unimportant details in a narrative which unintentionally turns the criminal into a celebrity, if not a legend. This is why there are Son of Sam laws, which state that criminals are not allowed to make money off their crimes. We see this coming up in the retelling of the Jack the Ripper tale, where the lives of the five women who he murdered are now being told instead of having him as the focus.

The movie itself is a well-edited collection of archival footage and interviews enhanced by Bryan Sarkinen’s brilliant cinematography.

The downside of the movie is that stylistically; it can get a bit heavy-handed. The music is too dramatic that it distracts from the women’s stories. I found myself struggling to listen to the interview over the music. Toward the end of the movie, there are some moving shots of the women being interviewed, which I think is meant to show power but instead, it feels uncomfortable. It ends with a Sia song that was too

over the top to be effective. At these times it took the audiences’ attention away from the subjects of the film and refocuses it on the filmmaker.

All these things are minor though. What I like the most of about the film as a piece of work is how organic it felt. From the time it starts till everything unravels, there is a brilliant minimalist approach to storytelling that where the audience goes along for the ride; a sad, angry, and hurtful ride, but it’s an unforgettable experience.

With the arrest and conviction of Nassar (in which he will in jail for the rest of his life), the movie ends with a triumphal moment. I wonder how much of a triumph was it. This man who molested young girls multiples a day, sometimes 800 times in a few years, needs to go away forever. We believe that if someone was sexual inappropriate once, they should be punished. I am not sure why we think that. Maybe because we see that on TV or because it is written in the law. Like Harvey Weinstein or Bill Cosby, it took countless assaults for any actions to be taken.

One annoying thought that came to mind during this movie was that the three states where this scandal takes place are Texas, Indi-

ana, and Michigan; three states that voted for Donald Trump in 2016. It reminded me of an analysis done on women who support Trump. In a nutshell, women who supported Donald Trump were not swayed by his remarks on women, the #MeToo movement, his racism, et cetera, because they were looking out for their own best interest; by supporting a platform that protects bad male behavior. These women are more likely to have traditional families where the male is the sole breadwinner. If a man is in danger of losing his livelihood because of his behavior, then his wife and children’s livelihood go with it. If there is more of a culture that protects successful men in those states, then I believe Nassar most likely benefited there too.

I spoke to the director, Erin Carr. She said that she would want Brooklyn College students to take this film as a hopeful film that people can stand up and be heard. She also said that she only gets six hours of sleep but hopes to get more. I know is a non-sequitur, but I wanted to throw that in.

At the Heart of Gold: Inside the USA Gymnastics Scandal is now showing on HBO.

2019 NFL Draft: Recap Winners/Losers/Steals

BY ANTHONY DYCE

Now that the 2019 NFL draft is over, it's time to review the teams that are winners, losers, and walked away with some potential steals taken later in the draft.

Typically, front-office executives want to draft for need or look for immediate starters. First rounder's are selected to be starters with All-Pro or Pro Bowl potential. There are situations where a team prefers a quarterback and that sits behind an established veteran quarterback to grasp ropes of an NFL quarterback.

Despite the intention to land cornerstone assets within top 32 picks, the draft includes gems throughout the later rounds. For instance, Tom Brady a sixth-round pick in 2000. The 13-time Pro Bowler has MVP awards and six Super Bowl rings. He is arguably the biggest draft steal in NFL draft history.

Drafting isn't just about taking the right players; it's about a team using its resources well.

With that being said, here are some winners, losers and the teams who stole players in the draft.

Winners

The Arizona Cardinals selected QB Kyler Murray with the first overall pick. This was a no brainer as he was the best quarterback in the draft and it made sense for both sides. Murray, the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, will be under the tutelage of a head coach Kliff Kingsbury who



Kyler Murray was the first overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft. PHOTO/ Getty Images

admired Murray publically. Kingsbury's offensive scheme is ideal to his skill set as he will be able to implement Murray's vision, arm, talent, anticipation, and unique athleticism to make him the face of the offense.

The Buffalo Bills drafted DT Ed Oliver with the ninth overall pick. Oliver not only has the potential to be an important piece in the Bills' defensive scheme but also has the potential to be the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year (ROTY). Oliver will have the ability to make an immediate impact replacing longtime Buffalo Bill Kyle Williams. The Bills defense was rated number two last season and has the chance to be even better this year.

The Washington Redskins prior to the draft were rumored that they were trading up to get QB

Dwayne Haskins. But they remained at their position selecting him with the 15th pick. Haskins threw for 50 touchdowns and eight interceptions in his one season at Ohio State. He has a chance to be a franchise quarterback and the opportunity to start at quarterback in his first season.

Losers

Dave Gettleman and the Giants took Duke QB Daniel Jones with the sixth pick. It was a stunner particularly because they had another pick at 17 to get their quarterback. Also, there were good defensive players still on the table. Jones was third-round talent based on other mock drafts. Jones threw for 52 touchdowns and 29 interceptions for his career at Duke. What makes things even worse is Jones was selected in top ten of the draft

and will sit behind Eli Manning this upcoming season.

Houston Texans picked OT Tytus Howard from Alabama State with the 23rd pick. Howard feels like a reach for the Texans as there were better tackles still on the board. He will be starting at LT to protect Deshaun Watson who took 132 hits and sacked an NFL high 62 times this past season.

The Seattle Seahawks with the 29th overall pick traded DE Frank Clark to the Chiefs, traded the 21st pick to the Packers and took TCU pass-rusher L.J. Collier with their 29th pick. Collier fits the defensive end type of Seattle with his massive hands and tackling ability to kick inside, but for the Horned Frogs, he started only one season. There were however more skilled defensive players on the board.

This pick must work in favor of the Seahawks as this is a position of need for the team.

Steals

The Browns didn't technically have a first-rounder, but in our eyes, they got a top-10 pick here. They drafted CB Greedy Williams from LSU with the 46th overall pick. Williams' speed and length pairs nicely opposite from Denzel Ward, and they'll be able to match up with whatever a receiving corps can throw at them.

The Patriots found a draft gem in DE Chase Winovich who was selected 77th overall in the 3rd round. He's smart, tough, versatile and could rush against the pass. Winovich registered 53 pressures: 5.0 sacks, 14 quarterback hits and, 34 hurries. He was equally productive versus the ground game and came up with a stop on 34 of his 288 run-defense snaps. He definitely fits the mold of the Patriots way and compares to former Patriot Rob Ninkovich.

The Cardinals drafted WR Hakeem Butler in the fourth round 103th overall. He provides upside in Kliff Kingsbury's offense. The Iowa State product (6-5, 227 pounds) is built to be an outside game-breaker. He landed in the right spot to polish his route-running. Butler will be able to learn from future Hall of Famer Larry Fitzgerald.

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Can Kevin Durant Return to Oklahoma City Thunder in 2019 NBA Free Agency?

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

In the 2016 NBA off-season, 10x All-Star Kevin Durant shocked the entire world when he decided to leave the Oklahoma City Thunder and sign with the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors were just coming off two finals appearances and the core of Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson, and Draymond Green already achieved a championship back in the 2015 NBA Finals and was out for revenge after falling to a Cleveland Cavaliers team led by LeBron James back in the 2016 Finals.

Durant's decision drew plenty of media attention as well as sparked disappointment and anger from the Oklahoma City Thunder fan base and general fans around the league. Fans labeled him as a "snake," "cupcake," and a "coward". His former teammate Russell Westbrook found out about Durant's decision the same way the fans did which caused some tension between the two. They jawed and butted heads at each other multiple times in some of the games that they played against each other.

But time heals all wounds

As the years went by after Durant's decision, it seems all may be forgiven between the two superstars. Westbrook and Durant seem to be on good terms as they showed supporting gestures of handshakes and hugs after their games. Durant described their relationship to be "all love." Durant has always been linked to the Thunder and was even present at Nick Collison's



Come this summer, Kevin Durant will have a big decision to make in free agency. PHOTO/ Getty Images

jersey retirement earlier in the year. Durant even referred to Oklahoma City to be "home" on Portland Trailblazers shooting guard CJ McCollum's podcast.

Durant still has some unfinished business with the Thunder, leaving the team after suffering a defeat by the hands of the Golden State Warriors in the 2016 conference finals. The question arises of if a possible reunion between the Oklahoma City Thunder and Kevin Durant could happen in the 2019 free agency?

Durant, in his time with the Warriors, went on to capture two NBA Championships as well as two NBA Finals MVP's in back to

back years. Durant finally captured the championship he had been chasing his whole career and is looking to add a third championship to his shelf. At this point, leaving a situation where you are the best player on the team and winning championships would be foolish.

With the clash of Durant and teammate Draymond Green early on in the season, it seems that Durant may have his foot out the door in Golden State. There have been numerous rumors that Durant may be interested in joining the New York Knicks with Celtics' star Kyrie Irving. Durant accomplished what he wanted in his career, so venturing off to a new

team and lifting them to a championship such as the Knicks would be the biggest accomplishment of his career.

Some believe that Durant can join one of the Los Angeles teams, Celtics or even the Brooklyn Nets are an option. There is a likely scenario where Durant stays in Golden State, but if Durant has his mind already set on departing why not go back to the team where you started it all with, the Oklahoma City Thunder. Durant doesn't have that label of being ringless as he has scratched off that accolade. He can return to OKC and finish what he started with that team.

In the scenario that Durant joins OKC in free agency, the team would be complete and the Thunder would have everything to be championship contenders. The core of Westbrook, Paul George, Steven Adams, and Kevin Durant sounds like a dream come true for Thunder fans.

This scenario does not seem all too likely and this is due to OKC not having the cap space to make this happen. Westbrook, George, and Adams are the top paid players on the team. With Westbrook and George earning over 30 million a year, there is no flexibility that the team has to bring in Kevin Durant unless they trade one of those three guys.

Westbrook and George are the untouchables. For the chance to pull this off, OKC would have to commit to Nerlens Noel being the starting center for the future as they would have to shed the contracts of Dennis Schroder, Andre Roberson and Steven Adams in a trade.

Durant will be looking for a big payday in free agency and teams such as the Lakers, Nets, Knicks, Clippers have the cap to give Durant big-time money right off the bat. The Thunder would have to be creative in how they could shed contracts and land Durant. It's definitely possible but would just mean letting go of some of their current role players.

Durant's decision comes down to how satisfied and happy he is. It doesn't make sense leaving a situation where he is winning championships in Golden State unless he is unhappy with the team.

Durant may possibly be interested in rejoining the team that drafted and molded him at some point in his career but the odds seem low due to OKC's lack of cap flexibility. But from history, we have learned that the NBA is unpredictable and a scenario such as this doesn't sound too far-fetched.



In 2016, Kevin Durant left teammate Russell Westbrook (pictured above) to join the Golden State Warriors. PHOTO/ Getty Images