

the EXCELSIOR

Brooklyn College Students Sign Petition Demanding President Michelle Anderson to Protect Them and Cut Ties with RHBC



126 have signed. Let’s get to 200!

Thanks to your support this petition has a chance at winning! We only need 74 more signatures to reach the next goal - can you help?

Take the next step!

 **Chris Omar** started this petition to President, Brooklyn College Michelle Anderson

Chris Omar started a petition on Change.org that demands Brooklyn College President Michelle Anderson to cut ties with the Residence Hall. PHOTO/ **Change.org**

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

A petition demanding Brooklyn College President Michelle Anderson to cut ties with the Residence Hall at Brooklyn College (RHBC) and to protect her students had emerged and is gaining attention throughout the campus.

On Monday, March 11, Brooklyn College student and filmmaker Chris Omar started a petition titled, “BC President Michelle Anderson: Protect Your Students + Cut Ties with the Residence Hall.” The petition, on Change.org, starts with, “Michelle Anderson, President of Brooklyn College, for her entire career, has been an advocate for sexual assault victims. Yet, has ignored a pervasive issue hovering over her own campus.”

An article The Excelsior

published in October about Christine DeLisser who says she was sexually assaulted at RHBC, is linked to the petition. To recap, in 2017, DeLisser was a student at Brooklyn College and was living in the dorms at RHBC. She claimed a maintenance worker gyrated toward her in the elevator and tried to kiss her in her dorm room.

At the same time the story was published, Omar released a video about DeLisser, titled, “The #MeToo Reality at the Residence Hall at Brooklyn College.”

After the story and video surfaced online, Omar said multiple students reached out to him sharing similar experienced at RHBC. He says it was clearly not a one-time thing.

The petition lists five demands for Ander-

son, which are as follows:

1. Pledge that Brooklyn College will immediately cease advertising for RHBC.
2. Pledge that the College will not continue any relationship with RHBC and their management moving forward.
3. Request that CUNY seek a legal remedy to have Brooklyn College’s name and likeness removed from RHBC’s name and building.
4. Issue a public apology to all past and present Brooklyn College students that were misled by the promotion on campus.
5. Work to secure alternative housing options for non-commuter students, Reinstate Student Life and Housing Coordinator to support students in need of housing, and for students living in

the Residence Hall regarding their rights as tenants.

One of Omar’s main concerns is the fact that Brooklyn College advertises for RHBC, despite having no authority over them. According to Tony Thomas, the Chief Legal & Labor Relations Officer, the contract between the College and RHBC that requires for the College to advertise, will at minimum run until 2020.

“Brooklyn College students do not want the school to continue advertising for RHBC. Privately owned corporations have no place on the grounds of public universities when federal protections such as Title IX have no jurisdiction over the predatory actions of the private corporation’s employees,” the petition states.

“President Anderson, if you

are the champion for sexual assault victims you say you are, start with the problems on your own campus.”

We reached out to the College for comment, but they declined to do so.

So far, over 100 people have signed the petition. Omar is hopeful and is expecting the number to rise in the next few days.

“Our biggest takeaway after several meetings with some powerful public officials in Brooklyn, was to create a petition,” Omar said. “It’s unfortunate that it has come to this, but it’s probably something we should’ve created months ago. I just hope change will actually come from this.”

To view the petition, click on the link of this story in our website, bcexcelsior.com

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Satire	News/Features, 3-4	Opinions/Arts, 5-6	Sports, 7-8
“A Star is Born” Review	Hazing at BC: Not Visible or Not Around? + more	Key to Success: Understanding Your Traits + more	A New Season Is Here for One of America’s Biggest Leagues + more

theEXCELSIOR

Editor-In-Chief

ZAINAB IQBAL

BUSINESS MANAGER

MILAN MATHEW

COPY EDITORS

SHANA MATHEW

PREEYA NINAN

SECTION EDITORS

FEATURES: M.A. RAHMAN

NEWS: MARCUS AYALA

OPINIONS: EDMUND ZHEN

ARTS: CARMEN SAFFIOTI

SPORTS: NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

LAYOUT EDITOR

SANDY MUI

WEB MANAGER

SANDY MUI

FACULTY ADVISOR

GEORGE RODMAN

117 ROOSEVELT HALL

718.951.5573

The Excelsior is funded by the Student Activity Fee and Advertising revenue and serves as a public forum for students and members of the Brooklyn College Community. Submissions may be edited for space, clarity, and good taste. We reserve the right to reject any submission. All submissions are the opinions of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the Excelsior or its editorial board. Calendar items must be emailed to layout@bcexcelsior.com. Submissions sent by any other method are not guaranteed to be placed in the calendar. Letter submissions must be received no later than 2:00 P.M. Friday to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition. Stop by the Excelsior's office, 117 Roosevelt Hall, every Tuesday during club hours for meetings.

editor@bcexcelsior.com

E

BCEXCELSIOR.COM

@BC_EXCELSIOR

@BCEXCELSIOR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! THE EXCELSIOR

BULLSPIT!

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

“A Star is Born” Review

BY RYAN GLEASON

As a film student, I feel I should watch as many movies as I can. I hadn't seen “A Star is Born” when it was first released and so when they decided to re-release it for a week following their best song Oscar win, I thought it was the perfect opportunity. I messed up. I didn't see it. But I already promised the editors a review so I am going to just guess at what I think the movie was about. The movie starts with Lady Gaga going to the south to farm more meat for a new meat dress. She misses her wild and outrageous style and feels with the current social climate, we could use some free flowing creativity in the world. There she meets Bradley Cooper doing his best Blake Shelton impersonation. Lady Gaga tries to enter a karaoke contest but the red-neck hecklers that live down



The movie starts with Lady Gaga going to the south to farm more meat. PHOTO/ Warner Bros Pictures

there are NOT HAVING IT. So they tell her she isn't talented in an attempt to get her to leave. They dye her hair brown in an attempt to ruin her image. She decides to give up music in general until Bradley Cooper tells her she is the bomb-diggity. They decide to write a song together and it is good!

Cooper starts with “Tell me somethin' girl, don't make it bad. Take a sad song, and make it better” and Lady Gaga is like head over heels for this. They duet and win the contest! She decides she doesn't need a meat dress; she just needs Bradley Cooper! What a great movie. So great. The greatest. I mean, I

bet it is great. I hope it's great. They won an award for best song so I'm assuming it's the greatest. Maybe I will watch it when it comes to Redbox. I am not one of those Netflix/HBO/Amazon Prime capitalist pigs! I'm grassroots! I am a simple man.

EVENTS LISTING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Finding the Hidden Job Market with BC Alumna and Career Coach Amy Geffen

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

1309 James Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

We Stand Against Hate - Equal Rights Amendment: Women and the 21st Century

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Woody Tanger Auditorium Brooklyn College Library

Lecture by Professor Julie C. Suk, Dean for Master's Programs, CUNY Graduate Center.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Study Abroad in South Korea Info Session

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

302S Whitehead Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Job Search 101 Workshop (Job Hunting)

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

1309 James Hall

WGST: Mae Mallory, the Monroe Defense Committee, and World Revolutions

2:15 PM - 3:30 PM

5th Floor - Student Center

A lecture by Dr. Paula Marie Seniors, with Safiya Bandele performing “Warrior Woman-Spoken Word inspired by Mae Mallory.

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Antonia Pantoja: Presente!

2:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Woody Tanger Auditorium Brooklyn College Library

This is the story of a visionary Puerto Rican leader, educator who inspired generations of young people.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

PORCH PLAY (A World Premiere) by Kate Kremer

2:00 PM - 3:45 PM & 7:30 PM - 9:15 PM

Studio Theater 250

Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

Described as a “tragic sex farce dealing with issues of consent and violation,” PORCH PLAY is dark, funny, gut-wrenching, and fierce in its exploration of the ever-shifting intimacies among a group of friends as they struggle with loss, trauma, and the quiet devastations of being in love.

MONDAY, MARCH 18 - FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Robert L. Hess Scholar in Residence Program with Jose David Saldivar

Various across Campus

See: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/centers/wolfe/hess/2019.php>

MONDAY, MARCH 18 - SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

We Stand Against Hate - History of Free Speech: The Vanguard Years at Brooklyn College

Exhibit in presidential cases at 2129 Boylan Hall.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

The Value of a Humanities Degree: Careers for Liberal Arts Majors

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

TBA

Come learn the value of attaining a degree in Humanities.

WGST: Housing Rebels: Black Women and the Right to the City

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Student Center

Keisha-Khan Y. Perry is an associate professor of Africana studies at Brown University, where she specializes in race, gender, and politics in the Americas, urban geography and questions of citizenship, intellectual history and disciplinary formation, and the interrelationship between scholarship, pedagogy, and political engagement. Her first book, Black Women against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil (fall 2013, Minnesota Press), is an ethnographic study of black women's activism in Brazilian cities.

Hazing at BC: Not Visible or Not Around?

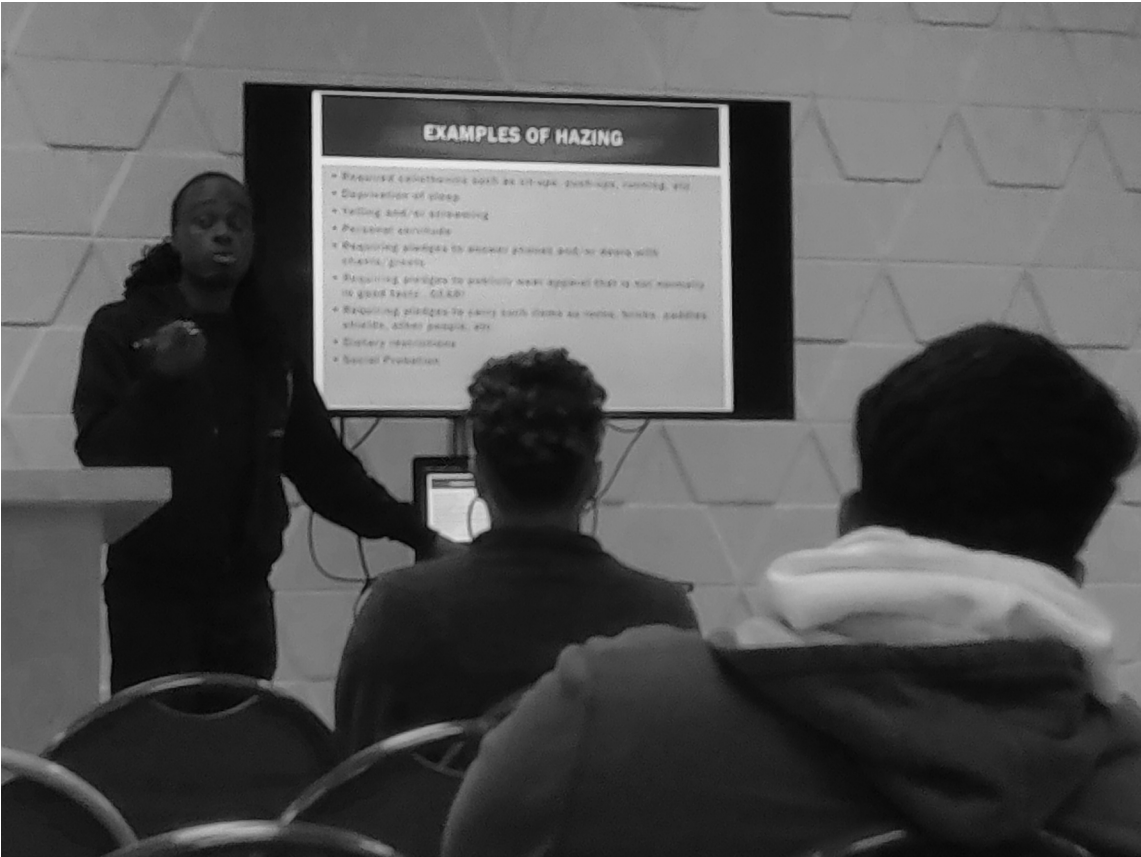
BY M.A. RAHMAN

Brooklyn College students and Greek organization members voice reservations on the BC Greek Council’s ability to combat hazing following one of their “Anti-Hazing” workshops.

The Greek Council, the presiding body that oversees the various fraternities and sororities at Brooklyn College held one of its routine “Anti Hazing” workshops that organizers say are designed to impart the tools and knowledge students need to identifies and halt hazing behavior along with other improprieties they might witness.

The workshop, which amounted to students watching various slides concerning identifying hazing, reporting it, CUNY Title IX, the CUNY Henderson Rule, along with other issues, was required for students in the process of joining any Greek organization on campus, bolstering roughly over a dozen students in attendance, a number organizers say is considerably smaller than usual.

“I feel like they’re more reactive instead of being active against this issue,” said Charlexia Rey, disgruntled in reference to the Greek Council’s ability



Andy Auguste, current interim director of BC Greek Life, explains to students what constitutes as “hazing” at BC. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

to combat hazing, having just attended one of their “Anti-Hazing” workshops.

Rey, a junior and Business Administration major said she was interested in becoming sorority member for the social activism value she sees in the sorority she was interested in, but finds the lack of hazing reports on campus to be suspicious.

“They say they have a zero tolerance policy but every college says that.. and they also say how they never had an incident but its the student who has to step forward,” she added emphasizing the possibility of underreported incidents.

According to Andy Auguste, the Interim-Director of BC Greek Life and the presiding presenter of the “Anti-Hazing” workshop, the purpose of the workshop was “for all the new members to come in and understand the basics of the hazing law, which they can refer to if god forbid they need to make a report.”

Adding, “its covering them (students) liability-wise, it is covering us institution liability-wise,” Auguste said, confident that students leaving the workshops are better prepared for circumstances involving hazing.

“There aren’t any hazing incidents on our campus that I know of, our student body doesn’t seem to be interested in doing any inventive craziness,” Rey joked.

Other students indicated that they still wanted more than to be done on the matter from the council.

“When you join Greek Life, You’re joining a family, even here in Brooklyn [College] you need to research whoever you’re planning on joining first,” Kardin Ulsse said, a senior and active member of Greek Life, before suggesting one club was more prone to being ‘hazing-happy’ than most others.

Remaining mum on whether he knows of any specific instance of hazing, Ulsse admitted to having heard the various rationalizations of hazing practices such as ‘it being a matter of tradition or it builds character amongst members’ to which he sharply responded, visibly irritated with much consternation in his voice—“that’s all nonsense, that’s the opposite of meaningful tradition or building a bond!”

The final slide of the “Anti-Hazing” workshop highlighted a famous quote from Dr. King saying, “the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy,” for some of the students in attendance, they asserted that the Greek Council themselves need to live up to this MLK quote and do more than conduct ‘an hour workshop on a serious problem.’

Welcome to the Bangladesh Students Association

BY MARCUS AYALA

The Brooklyn College Bangladesh Students Association (BSA) occupied the alumni room in SUBO to bring to us their first event. The “BC BSA Welcome Party” was designed to make everyone feel at home.

What better way to start off the BSA event than with the national anthem of Bangladesh, accompanied by the traditional Bangladeshi colors of green, red and black. The event was hosted by Treasurer of the Bengali Student Association, Jahidul Islam, the treasurer of BSA. And Jennifer Tasmia.

Islam quickly won over the crowd with his charisma that carried on to the event’s activities including musical chairs. Even with the technical difficulties the attendance was still in the dozens, filling every table. Students from all over the CUNY system including, City Col-



Board members of the Brooklyn College Bangladesh Students Association kicked off the club’s launch with a welcome party. PHOTO/ Marcus Ayala

lege, City Tech, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and Kingsborough Community College were in attendance. The night went by with Islam and Tasmia keeping the crowd entertained with their back and forth jabs at one another.

According to BSA vice president Ahsan Zahid, he had felt very alone with he first came to Brooklyn College and wanted a way to make friends, which is how BSA was formed.

“It’s always better to have friends,” Zahid said.

He wanted better social connections not just for him, also for his fellow Bangladeshi people.

The event was also attended by those who wasn’t of Bengali descent. Carolyn Canales who is a freshman at Brooklyn College isn’t of Bengali descent, while her best friend is. Another student that wasn’t of Bengali descent that attended the event was Nazmul Khan. Khan is a sophomore and Computer Science major.

He found out about the event through his Bengali friend and didn’t regret his choice to attend. Khan said “It feels great socializing.” He got to meet new people, which he enjoys, he said.

Zahid said “We fought a war for our identity, for our language, for our culture, it’s important that we keep apart of it even in America.”

Dr. Spencer and the Fight to Commemorate the Women of Civil Strife

BY M.A. RAHMAN

The 2018–2019 Visiting Endowed Chair of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST) at Brooklyn College and Visiting Associate Professor in History, Dr. Robyn Spencer indicated her intentions as Chair of WGST to establish a focus on the reexamination of the history and list of contributions black women have made for various social struggles.

Accomplishing this, Dr. Spencer has enlisted a few invited professors as lecturers to discuss this topic via the “Challenging Erasures: Re-inscribing Black Women’s History in New York” lecture series. Dr. Spencer has also written a new book: “The Revolution Has Come: Black Power, Gender, and the Black Panther Party in Oakland” which chronicles the strifes endured by members of the Black Panther Party, particularly women.

“You lose a lot when all you know about the Civil Rights movement is Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Rosa Parks,” Dr. Spencer said, adding, “You also get a narrow vision of the

people you do learn about, people forget that Rosa Parks was involved in chronicling sexual violence against black women in the 1940s.”

By occasion this includes the lack of remembrance for the victims of unjust rules of the time, typically colored women so often forgotten of in these conversations like Eleanor Bumpurs or Claudette Colvin.

“You cannot tell me Rosa Parks was the first women to be arrested for not giving up her seat off a bus,” Professor Barbara Ransby said at one of the WGST lectures at the BC Student Center, making reference to the case of Claudette Colvin, a precursor of Parks that was looked over by civil rights leaders as she was pregnant from a married man at the time of her arrested.

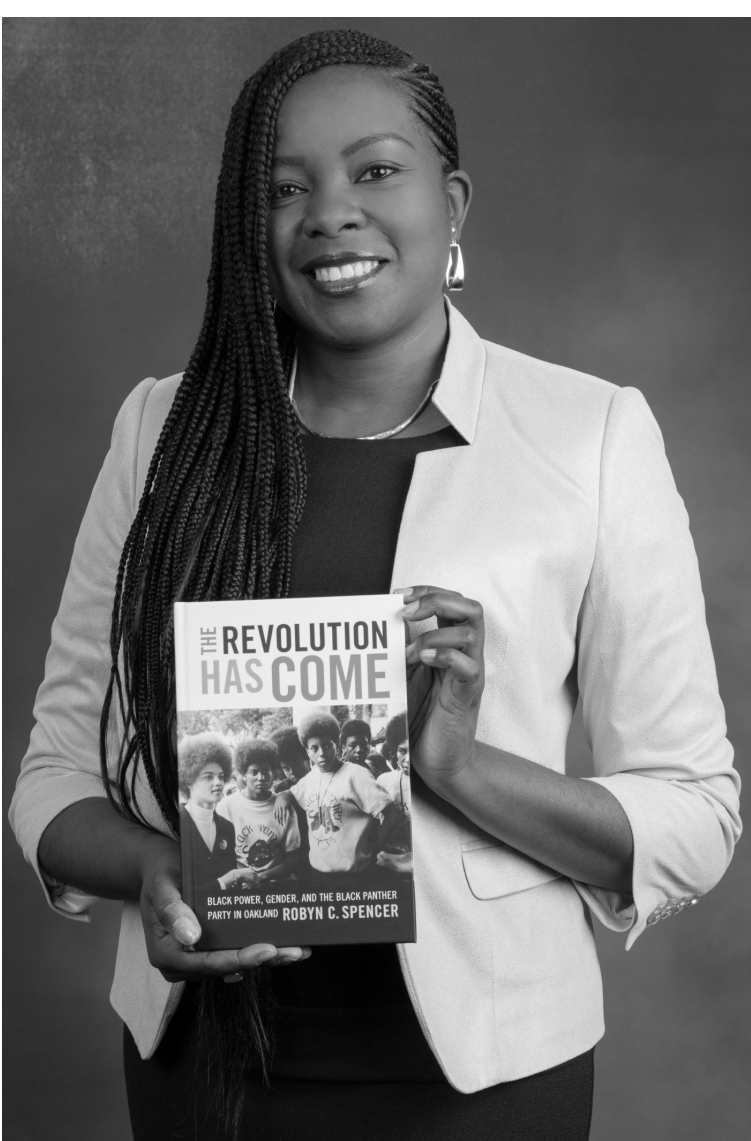
Dr. Ransby, a historian, writer, and longtime political activist, spoke under the “Making All Black Lives Matter: Reimagining Freedom in the 21st Century” lecture. In it, she placed an emphasis on identifying some of the predicaments that Dr. Spencer agrees has

stymied the conversation/ acknowledgment of certain individuals over others.

Dr. Ransby identified what she called “respectability politics” which is a kind of privileged behavior exuded by those well-off at the time for their own ends, which otherwise come to the detriment of those persons, typically of color not so well in circumstances. Bill Cosby and Barack Obama were two such names she identified that fell under such a category.

“It easy to point now at the now disgraced Cosby, but when he was famous he was telling other black folks to pull their pants up, stop giving their children unusual names and perhaps then we might stop feeling disheveled,” Dr. Ransby said, later adding that Obama had made less ‘civil’ reformers feel ostracized.

“Overall my goal is really to encourage young people, this is a dire time in the news, it can feel like a time of disempowerment,” Dr. Spencer said referencing the ongoing conversation concerning contemporary



Brooklyn College Women’s and Gender Studies Chair Dr. Spencer holds her latest book. PHOTO/ www.brooklyn.cuny.edu

movements like Black Live Matter, adding “We want to show them [activists] precedent, that there is possibility looking in the past and they

can see how people dealt with the issues then, take from that and learn from it.”



Do you have a
#MeToo story from
your experiences
at Brooklyn
College to share?
Please email
editor@bcexcelsior.com. If
you prefer,
you may remain anonymous.

Key to Success: Understanding Your Traits

[illegible]

This sounds like I'm trying to sell you something, but I assure you that I'm not. If you have \$10.00 to spare, I suggest you try it out and if you don't, pull back from spending a \$6.00 drink or food and invest in this test where it's more worthwhile; you will thank me later. Now, this won't guarantee that you will find a job or you will like whatever job you get. But it will definitely help you understand other people's perception of you and help you understand more about yourself.



Mac DeMarco's "Nobody"

BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI

Popular indie singer-songwriter Mac DeMarco announced that his next album, "Here Comes the Cowboy," will be released on May 10th, 2019. Along with this announcement came the release of the first single of this album— "Nobody."

The slow sad ballad is accompanied by a strange and oddly comical music video of Mac DeMarco dressed as a "creature" in a cowboy hat and bathrobe. The release of the track was quickly met with controversy from Mitski fans who claim that DeMarco is stealing from Mitski, who in 2018 released her album "Be the Cowboy" with a featured single also entitled "Nobody." Despite the shared title however, the tracks have no similarities to each other, neither musically or thematically. DeMarco is planning a tour surrounding the release of his new album and will be performing in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on August 6th.



Mac DeMarco recently announced his next album. PHOTO/ Wikimedia Commons

The track itself is identifiably in DeMarco's style— atmospheric and dreamy. It begins with this simple tune on guitar, which has a bit of a country music vibe, and an underlying synth loop that continues throughout the song. The song quickly establishes itself as melancholy, yet relaxed— almost like a sad sigh. The first verse is "I'm the Preacher/ A done decision/ Another creature/ Who's

lost its vision" the entire song follows this style, sparse and minimal lyrics with ambiguous meaning. However, a possible interpretation is life regret that so many of us can relate to. The song does not feature any of DeMarco's signature falsetto high notes, while I wish he did include some in the song, it doesn't take away from the track's simple yet depressing beauty. The music video, which

was released the same day as the single, perfectly fits the mood and tone of the music. In it, DeMarco is dressed as some sort of strange creature in a robe and cowboy hat while smoking a cigar and singing. The makeup, while somewhat scary, makes DeMarco look cartoonish— almost as though he was some sort of children's book villain. The strange comedy of this visual is a nice contrast

to the song itself. While it doesn't take away from the grief in the music, it's a nice comedic break from the heaviness of the tune. The music video is really that simple— the background is just a black screen and there is no distinguishable plot or reason to this visualization.

Mitski fans were quick to notice the similarities between DeMarco's album and their favorite artist. Some announced their criticisms on Twitter. "When a man says your point, louder, in a meeting two minutes later" wrote one user in reference to the similarities. However, Mitski herself has dismissed these allegations against DeMarco "haha! I'm 100% sure mac & I just went fishing in the same part of the collective unconscious!" she wrote in a tweet "my god, why is everyone mad? i'm laughing!" So, in reality this seems to be the case of a Twitter witch hunt rather than actual plagiarism.

Captain Marvel and the Run-Up to Avengers

BY MICHAEL CASTENADA

Here we go again, another retro-movie set in a simpler time in America, Clinton Administration. Marvel takes us into another origin story of a character that most of us have never heard of or cared about. Then Marvel Pictures comes along with another installment of their telenovela, which is the Marvel cinematic universe. Unsurprisingly, AMC 25 in Times Square is almost sold-out of every showing and they are 25 theaters in the building; most of them screening this movie.

Believe or not, Captain Marvel mirrors another recent Disney film, Bumble Bee. It starts off showing us another planet with crowded tech that looks both cluttered and familiar. Soon after a space battle ensues, where the sole purpose is to isolate the protagonist and get her to the retro USA. Here starts the 90's soundtrack of music used in car commercials and other nostalgic gems aimed at Gen-Xers, such as unreliable dial-up internet connections, VHS, and pagers.

Throughout this drive down memory lane, we



Captain Marvel mirrors another recent Disney film, Bumble Bee. PHOTO/ IMDb

have the next installment of our modern-day classical American mythology, Captain Marvel who is hitherto known as Vers. She's just the same cocky hero in any Dragon Ball Z episode, but a girl. And what a girl! Brie Lawson easily fits in the collection of Calvin Klein underwear models who are The Avengers. She looks great in every shot and her hair and makeup never waver throughout the movie, even in space, which proves that she is truly one of the most

powerful marvel superheroes.

The movie also stars de-aging technology on Samuel L. Jackson. I would have loved it if they had made Mr. Jackson look like his character in Pulp Fiction; afro et al. It would have been fitting in a movie that had as many homages as it had Nick Fury dad jokes. Movie homages that stuck out to me were Top Gun, The French Connection, Terminator, Memento, Indiana Jones, Scott Pilgrim vs. The world, Star Wars Episode II,

Attack of the Clones. Look out for an aircraft that looks a lot like the Republic attack gunship from the Clone Wars, which is an homage to another Samuel L. character, Jedi Master Mace Windu.

Once all of that was set up, Vers and Fury start their buddy action comedy story. They do buddy stuff and have action buddy moments.

I hope I am not giving too much away. I remember that people I met who really embraced the racial hatred from the Donald

Trump presidential campaign were really sensitive about Star Wars spoilers.

Let's move forward.

Once Vers has her moment of self-actualization and the plot twists were carefully spoon-fed to the audience, we have the big battle at the end that we all knew was to come. I am happy to report that if you liked the psychedelic ending of Spiderman into the Spider-verse you'll love this. The best part of the movie comes towards the end when our hero has to face her former mentor in battle. Here she shows she has learned the greatest power of them all, which is self-respect.

As far as hints to End Game, there wasn't much, but I am sure that YouTube will dissect every frame. There are two bonus scenes at the end of the movie, once during the credits and another after the credits.

Overall, this movie is miles above than any Fantastic Four movie, Iron Man Sequel, or the second Amazing Spiderman with Andrew Garfield.

A New Season is Here for One of America’s Biggest Leagues

BY CESAR HERNANDEZ

The 2019 Major League Soccer (MLS) season has kicked off this month. America’s highest tier soccer league is back for its 24th year and hopes to keep growing in all forms. After yet another enticing season in 2018, the league introduces its 24th team FC Cincinnati who in the USL (second division) averaged attendance numbers comparable to MLS. Last year, we saw a growth in viewership, attendance, merchandise sales, etc.

Local teams such as the New York City FC that play in Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, and New York Red Bulls who play in Red Bull Arena in the outskirts of Newark, will try to add on to their successes from the last couple of seasons. New York City FC placed 3rd place in the Eastern Conference in 2018, while their cross-town rivals NY Red Bull’s topped the Eastern Conference and also finished with the best regular season record in the league. Both New York teams made deep runs in the playoffs but got eliminated to the eventual champions Atlanta United.

New York City FC started their 2019 season with an away 2-2 draw to Orlando City SC on March 2nd, who in the off-season signed Portuguese star Nani. The New York City FC hopes to repeat



Local MLS teams such as the New York City FC (pictured above) will try to add on to their success. PHOTO/ Getty Images

the successful performances that their strong team brought them throughout last season. Captain Alexander Ring, attacker Maxi Moralez, and goalkeeper Sean Johnson, top players in the league at their positions, will hope to guide the team to an Eastern Conference Final or even MLS Cup run. This will come after the departure of superstar David Villa, who was replaced by top money signing Alexandru Mitriță (Mee-Dree-Tsuh).

On the other side of the Hudson River, the New York

Red Bulls opened the season with a 1-1 draw last week against the Columbus Crew. They hope to achieve much more than a record-breaking regular season but for once in a long time, try to make the MLS Cup final and chase their first ever cup win. The core that has brought them success will be critical in maintaining form. Some of the leagues best, such as striker Bradley Wright-Phillips, goalkeeper Luis Robles, and Defender of the year Aaron Long will hope to stay in-form.

New York teams have served to be powerhouses of the league and will have to compete with teams around the country who seem to be full of depth like never seen before. The Champions, Atlanta United, have blown not only American sports fans away but soccer fans all around the world. They’ve managed to make the new Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta into an American cathedral for sports. The support from their fans comes to an astonishing degree which acted as a cata-

lyst for their championship run last year. They hope to repeat the same in 2019, as over the off-season, former MVP Josef Martinez signed a new multi-year contract deal. The same player who scored 34 goals in 34 games setting a new record for most goals in an MLS Season. His success in the playoffs earned him the MLS Cup MVP credential, after scoring one of the goals that brought Atlanta’s sports championship drought to an end.

Many more teams around the Eastern and Western Conference hope to make a run for the MLS Cup in 2019. The likes of LA Galaxy who are being led by Zlatan Ibrahimovic, DC United with Wayne Rooney, 2018 Western Conference champions Portland Timbers, along with other consistent performers like the Seattle Sounders, Sporting Kansas City, Los Angeles Football Club, and Toronto FC; bring talent on the field and remarkable support in the stands encapsulated in some of the most state of the art stadiums the sport has to offer in America. The 2019 MLS season can be kept up to date on ESPN and FOX Sports 1 from March until November. MLS can also be kept up to date by attending local venues at the Yankee Stadium and Red Bull Arena on match days.



The New York Red Bulls (pictured above) topped the Eastern Conference in 2018. PHOTO/ USA Today

Stop The Hate! Trae Young Will Be a Star

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

The point guard position is the most difficult position to play in basketball. The point guard must be an on-court leader, playmaker, and someone that makes their teammates better. For a young point guard coming out of college, it takes time to adjust to the NBA game.

Atlanta Hawks rookie point guard, Trae Young, was off to a rough start at the beginning of the season, having numerous low point performances, low shooting percentage games and losing plenty of games. Young was quickly labeled a “bust” as the player he was traded for in the draft, Luka Dončić, was already putting the league on notice with his efficient play and helping the Mavericks win games.

The Atlanta Hawks were not built to compete this season. The roster still needs more talent to be able to compete. For Young’s success to happen, it wasn’t going to come right out of the gate but gaining experience in games to play up to standards, given the limited talent on the roster.

Every point guard struggles and needs time to get better, for example, D’Angelo Russell, Kyle Lowry, Mike Conley, Stephen Curry, Goran Dragić, Steve Nash, all these players went through a drought in their careers but was able to improve



Trae Young was off to a rough start at the beginning of the season but recently found his way and is pushing more of his case for Rookie of the Year. PHOTO/ USA Today

and get better with time.

Trae Young needed time!

Luka Dončić was blessed with playing in a system with a championship coach in Rick Carlisle and having pieces around him to succeed, Young had none of that.

In a quadruple overtime game against the Chicago Bulls on March 1st, Trae Young dropped a career-high 49 points. This was one of the more remarkable games Young has had this season.

For the month of February, Young averaged 23.3 points and 9.3 assists on 41 percent shooting from the field and 43 percent shooting from three-point territory. He put up seven double-doubles in points and assists in that month alone. Young is getting more and more confident with his game and is looking like a future star in the league.

“That was a fun game to play, probably one of the most

fun games I’ve played in my career,” Young said after the game against the Chicago Bulls. “I’m proud of the way we fought. We came up short but I love the way we fought.”

Young recently recorded his first triple-double in a game against the Brooklyn Nets pushing more of his case for Rookie of the Year.

Young is a great scorer, his ability to shoot from anywhere makes the defense collapse on him even if he’s

having a cold night. Similar to guarding Stephen Curry, the defense picks up on him at half court, he spaces the floor well and with this ability, it gives room for him to put up double-digit assist games. Young is already a great playmaker and it doesn’t matter if you lack other NBA skills, playmaking goes a long way and is valuable for any team.

Young has drawn comparisons to Stephen Curry, but his play is more similar to that of Phoenix Suns legend Steve Nash. Ironically, Steve Nash is a player that Young idolized growing up. Young is only 20 years old and will continue to get better as the years go on. He is averaging close to 20 points and eight assists on the season with a field goal percentage of 41 percent, three-point percentage of 33 percent and free throw percentage of 81 percent.

Young was the right pick for the Atlanta Hawks and Luka Dončić was the right pick for the Dallas Mavericks. They are both the top rookies of this draft class and will be future all-stars in the NBA.

The Luka-Trae battle will be fought for years and years. Two players who were drafted for each other on draft night is a story many NBA fans will be following beyond this season. Maybe one day they will compete at the highest level in the NBA Finals.



Trae Young was quickly labeled a “bust” as the player he was traded for in the draft, Luka Dončić (pictured above), was already putting the league on notice with his efficient play for the Mavericks. PHOTO/ Associated Press