

the EXCELSIOR

VOLUME XXXII ISSUE VI WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018 WWW.BCEXCELSIOR.COM

Students Rally Against CompSci Professor Who Said All Undocumented People Should Be Deported



Carlos Jesus Calzadilla (middle) organized a rally against Professor Rohit Parikh who posted that undocumented people should be deported. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

In February, computer science professor Rohit Parikh posted on his Facebook page, “I do believe that everyone who is illegally here should be deported.” Yesterday, students rallied against him demanding that action be taken by the Brooklyn College administration. “Hispanics are GOOD people, gentle and nice and not at all criminal,” the post reads. “But are they really the population which America needs for the rest of this century when more and more education is required?” According to Carlos Jesus Calzadilla, president of the Young Progressives of America (YPA), that post means that the US needs less Hispanic individuals. “This creates a hostile and unsafe environment for Hispanic and undocumented students and staff which threaten the values of Brooklyn college,” Calzadilla said. “He igno-

rantly makes the assumption that all Hispanics are Mexicans and that they are undesirable immigrants.” We reached out to Parikh, who said, “While I can understand their feelings, I want to draw attention to two things I said.” “Our planet now has more than 7.5 billion people and it is in danger. That means both the planet and our species,” he said. “I do not think these problems can be solved by massive immigration into developed countries. Making more of the planet livable and cutting down on our fossil fuel consumption is the only way forward.” Parikh highlighted the fact that his original statement in his post said, “I do believe that everyone who is illegally here should be deported but that the US should support them, in their home country, for a period of one to three years depending on need and circumstances.”

Students are not taking any of it. Student Maya Garcia rallied against the professor, saying, “I knew the professors [in the Puerto Rican and Latinx Studies (PRLS)] cared about the students and their work more than any other professors on this campus. To see how underfunded my department is a disappointment and also saddening. I’m here today standing with my undocumented brothers and sisters.” Calzadilla listed five demands he wants the Brooklyn College administration to fulfill: President Michelle Anderson to swiftly condemn Parikh’s comments and stand with students, mandatory racial sensitivity training for all faculty and staff, more funds for PRLS, a center for undocumented students, and an investigation on Parikh. Brooklyn College is home to many undocumented students. At the rally, students held their posters

(written in both English and Spanish) and chanted outside the Library. “We need our rights. Puerto Rico is in crisis. PRLS is in crisis,” student Isaiah Rivera said. “Undocumented students are in crisis. Where is our representation? Where is our justice? Where is Michelle Anderson?” Unlike at the rally calling for the firing of Professor Mitchell Langbert, Anderson was not in attendance. Computer and Information Science department chairperson Yedidiah Langsam argued otherwise. He told The Excelsior that there have been no complaints against Parikh from students. “There are a substantial number of conservative faculty that share his belief that the college should not be a sanctuary for illegal immigrants,” he said. “You may disagree, but it is not blatantly racist, and none of his students have ever ac-

cused him of teaching with-in a hostile environment.” “He has every right to express his opinion in the N.Y. Times, certainly not a bastion of conservatism. You are certainly entitled to your opinion, as is everyone within the Academic Community. A college community which only provides a one sided view would provide you with a poor education indeed.” If the First Amendment allows professors to voice their opinions on social media, it also allows students to rally outside the Brooklyn College Library. Parikh says, “I am 81 and will be 82 next month. Others will have to worry about this matter. It seems I can only get into trouble by offering my thoughts.” Students at the rally say, “Sí, Se Puede, Sí, Se Puede, Sí, Se Puede!”

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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.

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THE EXCELSIOR

Ruffling Some Feathers with SJP

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Following a rough two year-long hiatus from campus, members of the Student for Justice in Palestine (SJP) organization at Brooklyn College and other interested students convened a meeting to discuss topics concerning the group. They discussed mainly how to maintain SJP's image while engaging with students in spite of the hostilities and preconceived notions looming over the organization.

A highly controversial organization, SJP's members spoke candidly about the intimidation and bullying they faced previously on a regular basis.

"Students who have been a part of SJP or have been a part of any other group have seen the ways that this campus oppresses students' voices," said the Vice-President of SJP at Brooklyn College, whose identity could not be given for fear of intimidation from other students on campus.

She expressed her frustration towards CUNY for putting the group's e-board members "on trial," suggesting there is administratively sanctioned hostility towards SJP pointing at past incidents involving Muslims students being surveillanced and arrested by the NYPD.

In her view the few repercussions for threats made by students towards SJP members served as further validation for her concerns.

For many SJP members

Members of Brooklyn College's Students for Justice in Palestine view the organization as any other social justice movements and are looking forward to working with other likewise groups on issues like combatting over-policing. PHOTO/ SJP

like her, they concur that the group's biggest predicaments are not only confined within campus but rather beyond it; persistent lawsuits that are levied against the organization on the basis of spreading "anti-semitism" on CUNY campuses by various Zionist organizations such as Canary Mission.

NYS legislatures also have proven to be some of the biggest quarrels for the group to overcome as many of them threaten CUNY to cut funding to the 'extremist' organization.

The general intent of these typically pro-Zionist groups like Canary Mission is to coerce prospective students and faculty from supporting groups like SJP by way of flagging, thereby diminishing SJP's image for any perceived "anti-Israeli" or "anti-Jewish" remarks or actions.

Their website boasts an extensive list of various profes-

sors, organizers and ordinary individuals that have shown solidarity with groups like SJP and says, "Canary Mission documents people and groups that promote hatred of the USA, Israel and Jews on North American college campuses."

The implications are vilifying persons for their dissenting views and are effectively censoring them in college campuses of all places where it may be of little surprise that such views prevail.

"People like to lump Hamas with all the Palestinian people, but not everyone that's Palestinian is [a member of] Hamas. Just like how not everyone that is Palestinian is necessarily Muslim," said Kellen Gold, a queer, Jewish member of SJP at Brooklyn College.

Gold noted the deliberate attempt to conflate extremists and those seeking to take a critical position on Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

"[Compared to] the amount of students you see today at our meeting, there are so many more people who support the Palestinian cause that are just afraid to speak about it on this campus because of the oppression of free speech," an anonymous member said regarding the fairly small turnout to the SJP meeting.

According to Sarah Gafur, SJP's current treasurer and a transfer student, while herself not being privy to knowing exact circumstances that led to why past SJP members were harassed by NYPD and other students, she intends to redouble SJP's focus on student advocacy and social justice reform.

Therefore, working on matters like Black Liberation and combatting over-policing in turn presumably might help mend, if not improve, SJP's image to students.

EVENTS LISTING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
#METOO SPEAK OUT
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Student Center, Sixth Floor
Students, staff, and faculty will gather to share their experiences of sexual violence and harassment in the spirit of the #MeToo movement.

Child Holocaust Survivors: Jewish Families after the Holocaust
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM
Woody Tanger Auditorium
A lecture by distinguished scholar and author Prof. Joanna Michlic of Leo Baeck College in London, England. This lecture will address questions of how child survivors of physical and emotional trauma and loss responded to the challenges of postwar recovery and living.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
Bloomberg Game Night at Brooklyn College & Hope for Undecided Majors
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
1309 James Hall

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29
The Sound of Liberation
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Woody Tanger Auditorium

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30
Arts and Cultural Institutions Careers Panel
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Student Center, Fourth Floor
The panel will feature representatives from Lincoln Center, The Guggenheim Museum, The Shakespeare Theatre and more.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30
HarperCollins Information Session
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
1309 James Hall

Brooklyn College Big Band Open Rehearsal/ Preview Concert
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Recital Hall, Room 250
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts
The Brooklyn College Big Band, under the direction of Emmy award-winning pianist/composer D.D. Jackson, invites the public to enjoy an open rehearsal as they preview multiple works from their upcoming December 4th concert.

Chris Omar Wants to be a Catalyst for Social Change

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

Brooklyn College junior Chris Omar is humble. In the hour-long interview, he didn't speak about himself much, rather he spoke about the work he was doing and the work he wanted to accomplish. The young, eager filmmaker commutes every-day to campus from Monroe-Woodbury in Orange County,NY;most of the time, waking up as early as 5:30. Fate led him here, he said.

"You know how back in the day you'd play paintball in middle school and they'd have these really cool videos? I always wanted to do that," Omar said. "And I've been making scripts since I was younger so I feel like it all built up to that."

Throughout high school, he was a part of his school's morning show. When he entered college, he started his very own production company—COVisuals.

OK. Technically it's not an official company, but its got everything that makes it real. Omar is the director and up until his more recent projects, he's been doing everything including directing, shooting, and editing. But now he has a team, which he says relieves a lot of stress and gets the production value to go up.

He creates music video which feature new hip hop artists. Do people send him their mixtapes?

"I deal with SoundCloud rappers. I'm not going to dis-



Chris Omar is a filmmaker at Brooklyn College who wants to make an impact. PHOTO/ Chris Omar

respect SoundCloud rappers, but you have your characters who think they're the Jay Z's and Kanye's of the world with 200 views," he laughed.

He always had a passion for social justice and says it ties in with hip hop. His all-time favorite artist? J. Cole.

"Social justice was always a foundation of hip hop," Omar said. Which is why he also wants to get

into creating documentaries.

"I just want to give a voice to the voiceless," he said. "The system in general is meant to go against a lot of people and a lot of people are left unheard with no way of speaking up even if they speak as loud as they can."

Omar acknowledged that he comes from a place of privilege. He always had resources, camera gears,

and a support system.

"A lot of kids don't have that. Rather than sitting in my big bubble of privilege and just being miserable, I try to make a positive change."

Omar is a LeBron fan, which he says technically now makes him a Lakers fan. But if he had to choose between the Brooklyn Nets and the NY Knicks, he would choose the former. He loves

Brooklyn even though he hasn't stayed here that long. His grandma was his support system. She absolutely loved Brooklyn and was from Prospect Heights. When she passed away, it was like the borough was calling him.

Omar's mind is always on his projects. His dream is to work with J. Cole and to become a professional director doing high budget music videos and documentaries. He might also want to go into the news business and produce news, as he loves investigative journalism. Who knows what he'll accomplish? He's just 21.

Omar has a younger sister who he loves very much. Perhaps talent runs in the family, as his sister is attending the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). "She's a super supportive little sister. That's my right hand man, definitely."

This young filmmaker is currently working on a couple of projects. He's doing what he always wanted to do—creating a work of moving art.

To the filmmakers who are just getting started, he offers a few words of wisdom.

"Don't stop. Your stuff is going to suck. It might look amazing to you, but you're going to show it to someone else and they might give you a harsh opinion or be your yes man and yes you to death. But don't stop."

"Oh, and don't burn bridges."

Lost Pet on Campus

BY RYAN GLEASON

A letter was recently sent to all security personnel on campus from a concerned student. I would like to share the message in order to help our fellow Brooklyn Bulldog.

"To whom it may concern,

I recently brought a species of wildlife that I had domesticated onto campus. I understand I have violated school rules but I will gladly accept my punishment after my issue has been resolved. The issue is that I have misplaced my furry friend and cannot find her. She is a 12 inch tall Fox Squirrel named Jesse (doesn't respond to that name). She is fairly friendly, as long as she isn't ap-

proached from the left side or the right side or from behind. She is either four months old or seven years old.

I cannot seem to find her after she made a daring escape from my messenger bag on Tuesday. I tried grabbing her but she made her way into the vending machine in the West End Building (W.E.B) lobby and ate two bags of the yogurt trail mix. I waited until she was done so that she would be too full to run, but when I returned with help, she was gone.

I cannot describe to you how heartbroken I am. I would really like to request some help in recapturing my bushy-tailed pal. Please, if you

see a squirrel fitting the description I supplied, take matters into your own hands and get my baby back to me. She probably misses her papa.

She shouldn't have rabies, so don't waste precious time with gloves. Thank you."

The student's name is being withheld from this article because of an ongoing investigation. It is illegal to take wildlife such as squirrels from the street and domesticate them, and school security and police believe this isn't the student's first offense. Any information can be reported to the various security desks on campus.



A fox squirrel is loose on the Brooklyn College campus after it escaped from a student's bag. PHOTO/ Pixabay

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

The Fight to Save Humanity

BY EDMUND ZHEN

When the United States decided to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on June 1st, 2017, the decision significantly impeded the world's struggle to slow down climate change.

In 2014, the United States spent about \$2.7 billion to combat climate change, a hefty sum that matched with contributions from two of Europe's largest economies - Germany and France. With the US's withdrawal, the framework of the Paris Agreement will remain intact and functional, but its funding has taken a big hit.

When foreign governments less advanced than the US prove that they are wiser by acknowledging and taking action on the most imminent threat to humanity, it is up to the citizens of the world to do everything we can to take a stand with them and preserve a habitable environment for future generations. But mitigating this plight is a task easier said than done. It takes nothing less than time, sacrifice, and dedication.

Scientists from the United Nations recently released a report warning that we have a little over a decade to avoid racing past a warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) over preindustrial temperature levels. So, with this circulating in the back of our minds, what can we do?

One of the biggest perpe-



We need to take action to save the planet. PHOTO/ Getty Images

trators of global warming we see in our daily lives is the carbon emission from cars. In America, there are 263.6 million registered vehicles, and the average car emits about six tons of carbon dioxide. In a year, that amounts to 1 billion five hundred and eighty-one million six hundred thousand tons.

Fighting this is possible. Walk or ride your bike when you can in order to cut out

carbon emissions completely. Carpooling and public transportation are proven to drastically reduce CO2 emissions. Another thing you can do is to use less water.

Water-treatment plants consume a large amount of energy in order to work, so even using less cold water will have downstream carbon savings. For one, you can take shorter showers. Simply cutting a few minutes from

your shower time can potentially save hundreds of pounds of carbon pollution a year. Besides, water treatment plants recycle water and you can play a part in that idea as well.

When you go shopping, make sure the products you buy are recyclable. Landfills are piling up and plastic bottles aren't degrading due to their materials. But we have been doing quite a good job at recycling. In 1980, recycling and composting kept 14.5 million tons of trash from landfills and incinerators. By 2013, that number had increased to 87.2 million tons.

It isn't enough to do these things alone. We need numbers. We need everyone to do their part in order to collectively make a real difference. Here are some ways to help spread awareness about climate change and how to combat it.

According to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), environmental awareness campaigns are most successful when they are targeted to specific groups or populations. Lots of people don't pay much attention to environmental issues because of a lack of understanding of how the problem would affect them

personally. Educating people on how dangerous climate change can be is one thing that can help. You can do that in local outreaches, educating the people around your neighborhood about practices and routines that can be adopted to keep our world cleaner. Some ways to do that is through social media or word of mouth. Social media today has flourished into something that is as ubiquitous as food or water. Taking this issue online reaches more people than you can imagine and might even help them understand it better as you can provide visuals and supporting pieces of evidence.

Again, saving our planet is a collective effort that requires everyone to do their part. Without that, the effort would be futile, so set yourself as an example. Show the people around you that following these steps can not only help the environment, but it can be fun too! Carpooling with your friends or loved ones help you form a deeper relationship with one another, and recycling helps you save money. With something that fills two needs with one deed, the question is, why not?



Carbon emission from cars is one of the biggest perpetrators of global warming. PHOTO/ Depositphotos

Reciprocal Relationship Now: Let's Use Libraries from Other Colleges

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

The City University of New York (CUNY) library system holds 7,500,000 books and is ranked 19th in largest libraries in the country. As a Brooklyn College student, you can enter any library within the CUNY system with just your Brooklyn College ID. I've been to John Jay and Hunter Libraries. Of these two, with the exception of better library hours at Hunter, neither holds a dim candle to our scale replica of the Baker-Berry library of Dartmouth College.

Brooklynites and Brooklyn College students venture outside of the borough from time to time. As a Brooklyn College student, I found myself at the Firestone Library at Princeton University (Yes, it is named after the family of the tire company). I tried to visit this library, but I couldn't. Other students from schools in Chicago I have never heard of were getting in, but neither I nor my friend from Staten Island College was able to get in. I was told that CUNY did not have a reciprocal relationship with Princeton; this meant that since Princeton



Brooklyn College students should be allowed to use other New York City universities' libraries, including Columbia University's Butler Library, pictured above. PHOTO/ Alamy Stock Photo

University students can't use the Brooklyn College library, we use can't use theirs either. The same happens to be true for Columbia University and New York University.

Isn't it about time we allowed other colleges use our library? If another student wants to undergo the

journey to Flatbush, then I think they earned to right to nap in our reading room and enjoy our modern art that resembles a giant painting of the Taco Bell logo.

Brooklyn College should have a reciprocal relationship with other universities outside of CUNY. It would cost

nothing and it's likely that our student body will benefit more from it than theirs.

According to the January 22, 2017 New York Times article titled, "America's Greatest Working-Class Colleges," CUNY asserts that it transports more students to the middle class and beyond

than all Ivy's, MIT, University of Chicago, Duke, and Stanford combined. Maybe with this simple but innovative policy change, we could be ranked closer to them too.

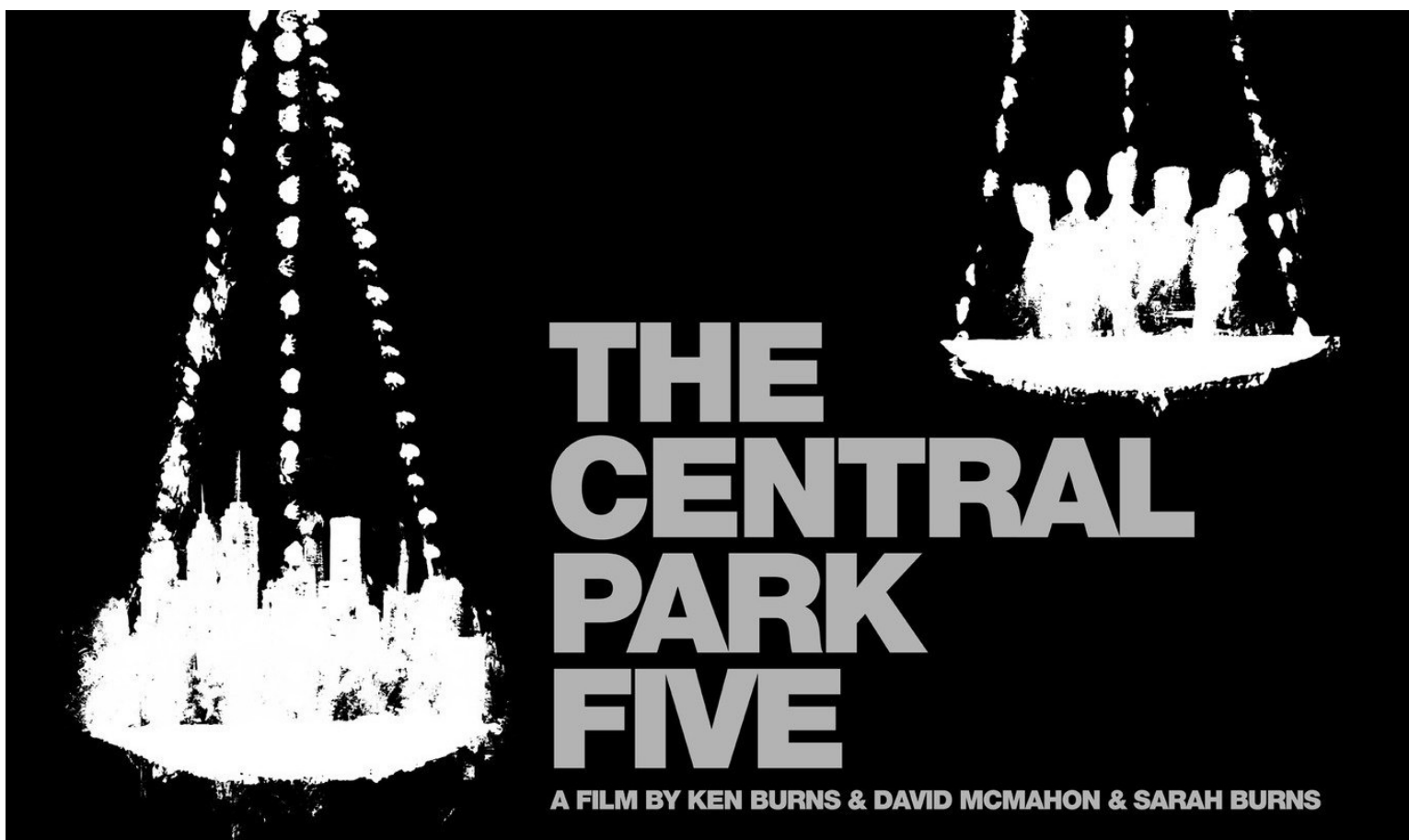
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#MeToo story from
your experiences
at Brooklyn
College to share?
Please email
editor@bcexcelsior.com. If
you prefer,
you may remain anonymous.**

“Central Park Five” Documentary Review

BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI

Central Park Five, directed by Ken Burns, is a testament to racism, injustice, and corruption in modern-day America. The film is very impressive in telling the facts and getting perspectives from many people involved in the case. The pacing of the documentary is also impressive, building tension to the boys being incarcerated. In the documentary film, viewers can relate the problems seen in films to those in real life, such as the problem of mass incarceration in the USA - the country imprisons the most people per capita. Despite the clear racism and systematic injustice in the film, the most tragic moments are the human ones. The documentary does a great job at organizing the events and emotions involved in a tasteful manner- for both the victim jogger and the boys who were falsely imprisoned.

The documentary begins with the five men's childhoods. This does a great job at humanizing the men at the center of the film. It is also a testament to their



"Central Park Five" sheds light on the issues of racism and systemic injustice in modern-day America. PHOTO/ Florentine Films

innocence which they lost during the trial and while in prison. Their innocence that we see at this point of the documentary strongly contradicts what the press depicts. This aspect of the film makes the racism and sensationalism of the press at the time look truly appalling.

The end of the film also

did a great job at humanizing the men in the film. The men talked about the opportunities they missed- having a career, traveling, getting married and that no amount of money given to them can restore their youth. It is a reminder of the heavy toll that prisoners have to pay in America.

Although the men are freed from prison, the documentary does not end "happily."

I was pleasantly surprised how the documentary handled the jogger's story as well. Instead of being a nameless victim throughout the film, the film carefully documented her case in a way that was very respect-

ful. The choice to include her name in the film is also a humanizing one. Trisha Meili's story is very moving, yet she does not remember the events that led to her tragedy. However, in her place, the public, the press, and the prosecutors antagonized the Central Park Five as a part of a "war on crime" agenda in New York City. I was angered during the film when the prosecutors of this case brought in Meili as a part of their argument, even though she does not recall her attack. I found that this was both a manipulation of the facts and of Meili. Finally, what I found most tragic is that the justice system failed Meili as well. They failed to find her attacker, so he was able to continue his crimes while they imprisoned five innocent people.

As a result of questionable tactics by the NYPD, the five men were put under pressure for hours. Since they were children at the time, they did not understand the implications of their actions. Their parents were misled about what they were being held for, they were not offered an attorney, and they were made to believe that they could not go home until they made a false confession. These tactics are cruel and should be made illegal, yet this is not uncommon in our current criminal justice system. As prosecutors want to build up their reputation as "tough on crime," they use more and more of these techniques.



"Central Park Five" tells the perspectives from many people involved in the case, including the Central Park Five themselves, who are pictured above. PHOTO/ The New York Times

The Fantasy Football Phenomenon

BY AUSTIN SANTIAGO

It has almost become tradition that I spend Sundays on my couch yelling at my television. In a world full of things to be angry about, including our ever-deteriorating environment as a result of global warming, or the fact that our government is in a state of disarray rivaled to the 1960's, I vent my anger on this couch, on this Sunday, because the running back for the San Francisco 49ers just lost a fumble and it cost my fantasy team two points. I am one of over 41 million people who partake in fantasy football every year and like many Americans who devote a considerable amount of time into this faux sport, I realized I had no idea where it all started, or why it means so much to so many people.

For starters, like most things in the world of sports, real or fake, a lot of it comes down to money. According to the New York State Gaming Commission, daily fantasy sports (i.e. FanDuel or DraftKings) generated \$3.2 billion in entry fees, and \$355 million in total revenue. The massive revenue generated in New York by fantasy football is only a piece of the \$70 billion industry. The fantasy football industry is \$8 billion more valuable than the NFL as a whole, so it might



Fantasy football has changed the way we watch the sport and view the players. PHOTO/ Pixabay

be hard to believe that fantasy football was actually the idea of an NFL partner. Wilfred Winkenbach, was a business man, and a limited partner to the Oakland Raiders. In 1962, Winkenbach developed the idea of fantasy football in a hotel room in Manhattan along with sports writers Scott Stirling, and George Ross. Together, the three created a set of rules, and governed a game in which people could draft players from different teams onto one of their own, and reward them with points based on their performance.

The world's first fantasy football league was called the "Greater Oakland Pro-

fessional Pigskin Prognosticators League." It held eight different teams and was made up of friends of Winkenbach, as well as Raider associates. Winkenbach passed away in 1983, only seeing the tip of the iceberg in regards to how big fantasy football would become. Even though the amount of money fantasy football generates is astounding in its own right, perhaps the most amazing thing about fantasy football is the psychological effect it has on those who play it. In retrospect, it sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Every year millions of fantasy football players gather in homes and sports bars alike, to draft real

NFL players to their fake football team. Fifteen NFL superstars to a team, all worth millions, that don't even know we exist, and their performance often dictates our mood on Sunday afternoons.

As it turns out, there is a certain mental aspect that is unique to fantasy football. To take part in fantasy football, one must become somewhat of a statistics expert, a manager must carefully look at every matchup that week and determine which players will succeed the most based on said matchup. However, by putting so much emphasis on statistics, we forget that they aren't a given and that a player must be giv-

en the opportunity to perform in such a manner. As explained by authors Mark Holowchak and Heather Reid in their book, Aretism: An Ancient Sports Philosophy for the Modern Sports World, "Removing an athlete's statistics from their competitive context is as artificial as removing athletes from their social communities. Statistics fail to capture true athletic excellence-especially in team sports."

Fantasy football has changed the way we watch the sport, as well as how we view the players. Fantasy football has become as legitimate as actual football, and for many, team allegiances have been shattered in favor of the random assortment of players we draft in August. It is not to say that fantasy has made football less enjoyable - if anything it has made the game more dynamic than ever before. In the age of fantasy football, every game matters and every play counts for something. So, from one frustrated fantasy team owner to another I say: keep playing, keep setting your lineup, keep playing the waiver wire, keep celebrating victory, and downplaying the occasional defeat. We are spoiled to be football fans in 2018 and lucky to know the joy of fantasy.

A background image of a newspaper. The masthead reads "the EXCELSIOR". Above it, smaller text says "Brooklyn College's Weekly Student Newspaper". Below the masthead, it says "TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014". A headline reads "Quilt Displayed in Honor of...". Another headline mentions "American Medical...".

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The NBA Preview Everybody Needs

BY JOE LEO

Starting another NBA season allows sports fans to come back to the arena that has become the guilty pleasure of sports fans. In the NBA, there are no aspects of the game that interfere with the product on the floor. There is no overwhelming scandal or problem with the game that makes people turn away like in the NFL, and it is a quick game, unlike baseball where you could be glued to the couch for five hours at time. But with the NBA, the amount of storylines could clog up your Twitter feed for three weeks, so be sure to pay attention to these five storylines heading into the new NBA season.

1. Who has the best chance of being this year's darling?

Every year, there are rising teams that have spectacular seasons, though fans and "experts" forecasted they would be bottom dwellers. For this year's darling I'd be sure to look to South Beach. The Miami Heat, they have Dwyane Wade, who is entering his last year, so he will leave everything he has on the court. The rest of the team will give their all to try to give Wade another ring and the crowd in Miami will be extra loud knowing it is the last time they will see one of their city's greatest. Miami has youthful depth on their roster highlighted by All-Star guard Goran Dragic and guard Josh Richardson who came into his own last year in the Philadelphia series. Erik Spoelstra always gets the most out of his guys and will not put a lack luster group out on the floor. Also, it'll be easier to represent the East with LeBron going to the Lakers. If there is a time to shock the world in Miami, now would be it.

2. How did last year's rookies play in their sophomore seasons?

Last year, the NBA saw a great rise in talent from the rookie class with a changing of the guard coming. Jayson Tatum and Donovan Mitchell led the charge as the NBA seemed to finally have its successors to LeBron and Durant. This year, both Tatum and Mitchell will be instrumental forces in propelling their teams into the playoffs



The Boston Celtics have a good shot at taking control of the East and becoming the next Golden State Warriors. PHOTO/ Getty Images

and to a potential push towards Finals. Their respective developments cannot be stunted with the importance they warrant on their teams. Tatum and Mitchell must bring it this year and if they don't, their teams will be left to pick up the pieces.

3. Who has the best chance to win the MVP?

In the NBA, MVP voters tend to get "player jet lag" and don't vote for certain players. LeBron James has deserved the MVP every year since 2012 because he has repeatedly shown that he is the best player on the planet, but ironically enough, James hasn't won an MVP since that 2012 season. Steph Curry won back to back awards and under the laws of "player jet lag" won't win the award unless he breaks a few more records. Westbrook has become a tired gimmick, he is starting the year on the shelf, and James Harden has had three years of jet lag since he has been in the conversation since the 2015-16 season when he exploded into the superstar player he now is.

So, with those All-NBA players off the ballot, who will win the award? My early pick is Giannis Antetokounmpo. Giannis is on a team that could be one of the two

best teams in the East and if he leads the Milwaukee Bucks to their best season since Wilt Chamberlin, there is a great chance he would be walking home with the award at seasons end. Not to mention that Giannis, nearing seven feet tall and moving like a gazelle, could light the league on fire and destroy gyms across the country like no other player before him. The potential that Giannis has to be the best player in the league could be perfectly manifested into a marvelous season leaving fans in pure amazement.

4. What team will take control of the East?

With LeBron James transitioning to Los Angeles, there is an open spot for the Eastern Conference representative in the Finals. The best bets for the spot are the Boston Celtics and Toronto Raptors. Boston took Cleveland to a game seven last year and had glimpses of dethroning James and ending his seven-year run of making the Finals. The Celtics also get All-Star Gordon Hayward back, a full year of Kyrie Irving, and another year to play Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum together. Boston also has the best coach in the league with Brad Stevens

and a reasonably deep bench. The Celtics have a title defense in the East even with their game seven loss in the Eastern Conference Finals. The team gunning for them is stalking them north of the border. Toronto bolstered their roster with the addition of Kawhi Leonard. With Leonard, the Raptors get possibly the second best player in the league on both ends of the floor to pair with a team that has the most wins out of any Eastern Conference team over the past three years (166), and a home crowd that is as passionate as any in the NBA—that is a recipe to have a strangle hold on the Eastern Conference.

5. Who will become the next Warriors?

Over this run of success that the Golden State Warriors have had, the conversation about league parody has grown. The overwhelming success of Golden State has left many frustrated seemingly knowing in October who is going to be left standing as champions in June. That success is something everyone in the league has tried to copy, but I believe only one team has succeeded in doing so: the Boston Celtics. Thanks to the horrendous trade that former

Nets General Manager Billy King made, the Celtics are set-up for the next decade. Brown and Tatum are two cornerstone pieces that will bulldoze over the league for the next 12+ years. Having Brad Stevens as the coach helps the growth of these players and the overall ability of the team, thanks to Stevens' immense basketball IQ. Adding Irving and Hayward is a product of extraordinary circumstance. Once in a lifetime does a player like Kyrie Irving become unhappy with his situation standing next to the greatest player of a generation and want out; not even Hollywood writers could come up with stories like that. But, with Hayward, thanks to the rookie contracts that Brown and Tatum are on, Boston had the cap room to sign a max-player and take full advantage of the war chest of options that they had at their disposal. After this team's run is said and done, the Celtics need to commemorate it with two statues: one of the hero that delivers the championships and one of Billy King, who, whether he knows it or not, started the domino effect that may very well put Boston back on top.