

the EXCELSIOR

Black and Write: Stuck in the Library Publishes Another Magazine



Stuck in the Library released its Spring 2019 poetry magazine, "Black and Write." PHOTO/ Massimo Vendola

BY MARCUS AYALA

Another magazine, another beautiful event to celebrate.

Brooklyn College's Stuck in the Library (STL) occupied the state room in SUBO to bring to us their poetry publication event. They celebrated the release of their Spring 2019 poetry magazine with an open mic, giveaways, and live music.

One of the first performers of the evening was Lordy Belance who is a creative writing major at Brooklyn

College. She performed an original song called "Screw You Society." She wrote the song over winter break and it took around a day to write. She also performed poetry along with some music, though it wasn't her first performance for STL and won't be her last. She believed the event was beautiful and when asked about the turnout said "I didn't expect so much people."

Jordan Spence is an English major with a special

interest in poetry. He performed a poem called "Just give it a try." It took him a few hours to create the poem. Like with "Just give it a try" he likes to put stories into his poems. Spence became interested in the event once he heard there was going to be an open mic. He saw the turnout as amazing considering so many fellow students came to support. Because of the success at STL, Spence wants to perform at more upcoming events.

Andrew Henriquez, an English major, said poetry is how he expresses himself while remaining hidden. He had started writing poetry in middle school. "I had a tough time and didn't know how to express myself," he said.

"I started to write poetry and it gave me inspiration," he said. It pushed him to continue this far to perform in front of his peers.

Jared Moore, another student, performed a poem he wrote called "Lucky." It was

a poem that he said took him 15 minutes to write. Moore's poetry flows naturally with his love of writing stuff that deals with relationships.

STL President Mary Halabani was beyond proud of how the event turned out. She said she can't wait for next event this semester to celebrate their second Spring magazine.

"I just want to contribute to the creative movement on campus," she said.

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the EXCELSIOR

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Stop by the Excelsior's office, 117 Roosevelt Hall, every Tuesday during club hours for meetings.

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BULLSPIT!

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

A Letter to My Younger Self

BY RYAN GLEASON

Dear 2009 Me,
As you sit there watching WWE's Monday Night RAW, eating your artificial cheese flavored chips and drinking your various soda pops, I want you to know... it does NOT get better dude. Oh my lord! High School? College? Working? THE 2016 ELECTION!?! Oh man, you have a daunting few years ahead of you.

Listen, real High School is so not like the ones you see on television or in movies. You don't have the same friends all four years, you are lucky if you even have them on Facebook anymore. Oh! Facebook! No one uses it anymore! I mean, they do, but only for memes, pregnancy announcements and weird "It's My Birthday, Donate to Charity!" posts. Do you think you will meet the love of your life in High School and get married after graduation and remain High School Sweethearts well pass the 10-year reunion? HA! You will date like 10 girls,



It does not get better. PHOTO/ Pixabay

get dumped by all of them, then watch via social media as they get ENGAGED AT 19! Actually, High School isn't a total fabrication in movies, bullying still exists! And oh boy do you experience a lot of that... fatty!

College is great actually. You meet a lot of really cool people! You study film and watch so many brilliant films. You do so many open mics around campus! You start writing a satire column. Oh, you also go tens of thousands of dollars into debt for tuition whilst paying out of pocket for books. You miss the bus every other day, and on the days you do make the bus, you miss

the train. But hey, school is better than working.

You had a real job for a few months! I know you are used to working odd jobs for cash but you finally give into Uncle Sam and get a straight up job with taxes and stuff in your paycheck. You get a job at, wait for it, Payless ShoeSource! I know, luxury, impossible to imagine working at some place so high end. Here is a fun fact: a few months after you quit, they announce they will be closing ALL OF THEIR STORES! You dodged a bullet man.

Do you ever watch The Apprentice with your parents? You do? Ha Ha okay, so

you know Donald Trump? The "you're fired" guy? Well in 2016 he is elected leader of the free world and absolutely ruins every international relationship we have. He called John McCain a coward for being a prisoner of war! This dude became the dang flipping President! Trust me, 2016 and forward is a carnival fun mirror, you might as well take up those offers to smoke weed after school because things are about to get hectic.

Oh and one last thing, you get a dog in like eight years so have fun with that! She becomes your whole world so be ready for all the tail wagging greetings, the snuggles and the games of fetch.

I was wrong, it does get better. Just remember, after every hard day, you will be going home to her, and she will be more excited to see you than the day before. That is what is waiting for you in ten years.

Sincerely, You From the Future.



EVENTS LISTING

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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Bringing Your A Game at the Job Fair
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
1309 James Hall
Get tips on how to make an effective presentation at a job fair.

LGBTQ Staff and Faculty Group Spring Reception
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
0100 Boylan Hall

The LGBTQ Staff and Faculty Group will be hosting a spring reception on to welcome new members who are interested in becoming part of the Group.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

MFA Intergenre Reading Series with poet Fred Moten and novelist Marisa Silvers
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
2315 Boylan Hall

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

PASSPORT DAY! at Brooklyn College
11:00 AM - 3:30 PM
1212 Boylan Hall

Afternoons at the Piano I
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Don Buchwald Theater
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts

Bringing Your A Game at the Job Fair
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
1309 James Hall

Voice Department Lecture: Amy Shoremount-Obra
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Rehearsal Studio, Room 367
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts
History of Opera in America
Voice Faculty member holds forth on the domestic evolution of the vocal art.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Brooklyn College Job/Internship Fair
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Student Center
See: <http://portal.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 -
SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Preparatory Center Perform-a-thon!
9:00 PM - 6:00 AM
312 - Roosevelt Extension
All-day fundraising event with solo and ensemble performances in various styles and instrumentations

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

Careers for Psychology and Sociology majors
12:15 PM - 2:15 PM
4th Floor - Student Center
See: <http://portal.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

Choosing Your Ideal Major: What Can You Do With It?
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
383 - Brooklyn College Library
See: <http://portal.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

Explore characteristics, skills & values compatible with career options.

PRLS Department Commemorates Prominent Puerto Rican Mentor and Activist

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Brooklyn College's Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department showcased their "Antonia Pantoja Presentation" sharing filmmaker Lilian Jimenez's latest work in tribute to the early Puerto Rican Civil Rights leader Antonia Pantoja courtesy of Assistant Professor Reynaldo Ortiz-Minaya.

Like many other clubs and organized events as of late on campus, a renewed interest into the efforts and legacy of certain lesser known Civil Rights figures has rekindled the interest of contemporary activists, particularly in light of Women's History Month.

For Ortiz, the near obscure status of Pantoja (September 13, 1922 – May 24, 2002) a Latino Civil Rights figure known for her work in the 1950s as a pro-union organizer, concerned citizen that called for greater education reform for Latino students, and founder of the Latino youth leadership group: *Aspira*, has been great injustice.

"She was light years ahead in terms of her vision about what the Puerto Rican community needed in order to address their issues and needs, similarly to any ethnic community," Ortiz said.



Contributors shared their gratitude for Antonia Pantoja's activism. Left to right: Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, filmmaker Lilian Jimenez, young members of *Aspira*, and Professor Ortiz. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

A member of "*Aspira*" in his youth, Ortiz spoke boldly about the leadership and connections he established in the youth organization that had occupied much of his time in front of a crowd of predominantly Latino students from Luis Munoz Marin Middle School, the same middle school he had once attended.

"This was good because you need to learn these issues at a young age because academia is very eurocentric," Jasmyn Sosayas said.

Sosayas, a junior, Political Science and PRLS double major and President of the BC Dream Team, while observing the presentation, asserted her opinion that the presentation helped counteract a certain historical narrative that favored depicting the U.S. a 'superpower.'

An apparent narrative that Pantoja herself had found particularly problematic as iterated through Jimenez's documentary "*Antonia Pantoja: ¡Presente!*" which chronicled the life,

struggles, and accomplishments of the film's namesake.

"I started to see a world I had never been a part of," Pantoja narrated elaborating on the culture shock she witnessed shortly after immigrated from Puerto Rico to New York City as a montage of early twentieth century facets were displayed: jazz players, the flashes of cameras and lights, dancers, signs of a bustling and perhaps over-indulgent city that contrasted with images of herself.

It did not take long for

Pantoja to take notice the tremendous fiscal disparities and social neglect that American society had for minorities and eventually take action by organizing a labor union, a highly scandalous issue to engage in for the time.

According to Jimenez, the very idea of producing this film was made by Pantoja herself recalling "she [Pantoja] approached me years ago, and told me since I do film, 'Why don't we just video record this, so that there isn't a written history we'll make history' and I just thought that was brilliant!"

In attendance was Dr. Wilhelmina Perry, Pantoja's partner, who answered queries from young students and *Aspira* members concerning Pantoja's goals and struggles, visibly gratified by the interest in Pantoja's life and achievements.

"She [Pantoja] believed she could work with other people to make things different and make the world a better place, she really represented the best of Puerto Rican culture," Jimenez concluded in a melancholy tone.

Brooklyn College Alum and Journalist Joe Strupp Visits Campus

BY ALFONSINA VENEGAS

Award-winning journalist and Brooklyn College alum Joe Strupp spoke last week at the Student Center. Strupp presented his new book "*Killing Journalism: How greed, Laziness, (and Donald Trump) are Destroying News and How We can save it*" to an audience of Journalism students.

"Joe was my student here over 30 years ago, so do the math. This dinosaur has been trotting New York for a very long time" said Professor Anthony Mancini, smiling. "Joe learned from me and professor Bruce Porter. I assume you guys want to *be* journalists someday, so this is a very important book for you to read because it will give you a kind of blueprint to where journalism is and where is going."

"We are not dead yet",



Award-winning journalist and BC alum Joe Strupp spoke at the Student Center and presented his new book. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

said Strupp, about the rather pessimistic title of his book.

Strupp graduated from Brooklyn College in 1988 with a major in Broadcast Journalism. His first job was at the *Daily Journal*, an old newspaper in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Later, he moved

to California, and worked at three different newspapers for nine years. Strupp started freelancing for *Editor & Publisher* magazine which covered the newspaper industry as a trade magazine, with a very focused audience.

After that, he went to

work at *Media Matters for America*, a journalism watchdog group that covers conservative media. At those two last jobs, Strupp started to cover media more, and he found that a lot of their claims against reporters, that they are liberal, left-wing communists, news slanting, terrible people, wasn't the problem with journalism.

"In doing my reporting on the media for the last 18 years, I found that, while we are not all left-wing communist sympathizing slanted news low lives, we are having problems in the business, and one of those problems are cut backs," he said. "There are a lot fewer journalists today than there were 10 years ago. There is less support for journalism. There are fewer newspapers."

Many online news outlets are not doing the kind

of reporting that used to be done. They are stripping down the product to make more money, Strupp said.

Strupp claimed that nowadays there's a lot more "breaking news" that try to catch audiences, viewers and readers, over getting in-depth reporting. But it's not all bad, Strupp says. One of the hopes he has in non-profit news, ProPublica standing among the "king" of them, Strupp asserts.

Strupp's book proves to be very informative and up-to-date. It's an important book to read by journalists, especially today, an era in which the president has unfairly attacked the press, championing the idea that the media spreads "fake news".

"I like to say I'm a reporter because I am nosy," he said. "I like to find things out, I'm curious."

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

2019: An International Student's Odyssey

BY CHIARA MAZZANTI

All names and schools have been changed to protect the identity of those interviewed for this article.

Brooklyn College and many other schools around the country pride themselves in the diversity of their student body. They advertise to foreign students about the quality of their education and resources, promoting a narrative in which internationals will be more likely to find a job in a competitive environment than they would be by staying in their own home country.

It is estimated that these students make up approximately 4.4 percent of the student population at Brooklyn College, coming from several different backgrounds and cultures, ranging from over 46 different countries. International students are (after all) a smart investment for universities. They bring roughly 30.5 billion dollars into the U.S. economy, pay higher tuition fees, and are almost always privately funded (via private student loans or by their own families). Not only this, but international students can help their American peers build international relationships, building connections around the world and supporting each other as professionals. They promote multi-culturalism, exchange of ideas, and points of view that can be highly beneficial for both American and foreign students.

There is no doubt that this type of students is highly beneficial to the American people, and it is in their best self-interest to support them. But in 2019, being a student from a different country means that many resources that are available to your peers are not available to you. Foreigners face strict regulations and restrictions based solely on not being born in America, as opposed to their own capabilities as a student or as a human being.

International students who face financial difficulties have very few tools to support themselves, and while there certainly are some options for students to be able to work during their time at the school (including a Curricular Practical Training or CPT), and a special need green-card,



Being a student from a different country means that many resources that are available to your peers are not available to you. PHOTO/ www.brooklyn.cuny.edu

both are highly regulated, bureaucratic and tortuous processes (the latter being incredibly difficult to get). Internationals may also work exclusively on the campus of any CUNY, but getting said jobs without the ability to get experience beforehand is difficult. Even if a student can get such a job, they are limited to 20 hours per week. If they pass this limit by just 15 minutes, it can be ground for them to lose their visa and be barred from the country three to five years, without the ability to apply for an F-1 visa ever again.

Juliana was willing to share her own experience regarding her economic problems: "When I came to America my parents were financially stable and were able to fully support me, but their company went under and I was forced to look for alternative ways to fund my education. We did not know anyone in America that could be a co-signer and we were denied a student loan. I looked for scholarships, grants, etc. but the options were very limited. When I went to the International Services Student office and asked if they knew about jobs for international students they said that I would have to go to individual offices to see if maybe somebody was hiring. It was incredibly frustrating not to have any support from the school or at least tools to look for jobs as a foreign person. I went to the Magner Career Center, and every single office I could think of (even in other CUNY's) but in 3 years I was never offered a job at any CUNY school despite speaking 4 languages fluently and having some experience."

Another student added: "When I asked about the special need green card I was immediately discour-

aged by the person I spoke to. I was told I would have to pay a lot of money to be able to get it, and that even a student whose parents disinherited, and had zero financial support did not get it".

International students who struggle on an economic basis face a lot more scrutiny than their American counterparts, waiting for long periods of times for loan approvals, depending on family and friends, as well as having few resources in case of a financial emergency.

Some students are so frustrated with the increasing regulations that they are willing to take the risk and find jobs "under the table", where they are often overworked and underpaid by employers looking to evade taxes on their own businesses. "I was getting paid \$7.50 an hour to clean dishes," said Muhammed, a Queens College international student, "My boss would ask me to come in earlier than my other co-workers and do 12 or 13-hour shifts with no breaks. If I refused he threatened to report me to ICE, so I complied. I did not want to report him because I feared the retaliation."

Many of these students are often victims of abuse, and their grades can suffer due to the immense pressure put on by their work environment and having to support themselves while also being a full-time student. Other consequences of this type of work are far more serious:

"I was sexually harassed at work by one of my co-workers. I would often have to close the store with him, and I was very uncomfortable. I told my boss, and he said there would be consequences, but my co-worker didn't get fired or lectured and nothing was done. I felt hopeless, but finding a job is not easy so

I literally couldn't afford to quit. I didn't want to go to the mental health clinic on campus for fear that since I broke the law by working in the first place, they would tell the school. I know now that wouldn't happen, but I wasn't entirely sure that it wouldn't back then, so I just "sucked it up". When my co-worker attempted to do something once again, I quit the job. Thankfully I had the support of my family and friends."

Fear of deportation seems to keep many international students silent about the constant abuse they face since they are in limbo. They are in the country legally, but they can also lose their status fairly easily. There are many other aspects in which they can be held back from reaching their full potential.

On a personal level, I struggled with depression since my sophomore year of college, when my family went bankrupt, my parents got a divorce and I went through a rough break-up at the same time. As a result, my grades suffered a great deal. I was unable to focus in school, go to class, eat or simply get out of bed. I went back home that summer and was diagnosed with depression and anxiety. I was prescribed Lexapro, which really helped me deal with my mental health issues, as well as having weekly therapy sessions with my own psychologist. I also went a couple of times to the BC Health Clinic where I was met with sympathy and support. I tried to apply for retroactive withdrawal from the classes I took that semester since I had medical proof that I was unable to perform accordingly during that time.

I set up an appointment with Shirma Cunningham, an international student's office advisor, to see how the

process would go. She was pessimistic about my ability to get approval on a retroactive withdrawal since I was treated in my home country as opposed to America. I explained to her that it was easier for me to undergo therapy with professionals from home since they spoke the language and knew my personal medical history. She shrugged, and I left the office convinced I could not get a retroactive withdrawal, which with my already depressive frame prevented me from even submitting it at the time. The many times I have gone to the international student's office I have not felt supported by the staff, often receiving discouraging answers, being forced to seek answers and solutions elsewhere. In my own personal experience, they have been overly bureaucratic and under-compassionate, treating this more like a job, than a tool to improve lives and aid those who seek their help.

I believe there is a general disconnect between the international student's office and the actual international students: what they need, want, and in which way they can be helped to achieve a successful college career. I have also been told by some people (whom I will not name in this article) in the past that if I do not like the way things are done in America I can go back to my own country and seek education and resources there. This narrative is condescending and demeaning because each and every single international student has had to undergo an unbelievable amount of work to be able to seek higher education in America. Substantial sacrifices have to be made to be able to become a part of Brooklyn College and other CUNY schools. Often these students are incredibly qualified, speak multiple languages, and offer their abilities, intelligence and time to a country that is not their own by birth, but by choice. Many of these foreigners create lives here, some fleeing dangerous countries, bleak employment landscapes, abusive families, or simply hoping to enrich themselves on a cultural level.

There is also a social back-

lash to those who bravely leave everything they know behind to build a new life. Robert said (interviewed in Spanish translated in English): “I have a very thick accent and my English is not necessarily the best, so I feel that when I make contributions in class I am not taken as seriously as my other peers. Don’t get me wrong: I do not think the professors or even my classmates do this consciously, but I do think that because I have a harder time actually expressing my ideas some people think I am stupider than I really am. The content is all there, I just can’t find the words!” he also said in a latter part of the interview: “...I think is difficult for me to make friends at this school. I have tried joining a handful of clubs and go to some student events, but in general, people are not very open. I get very lonely.”

Other students complained about having to answer uneducated questions

made by their peers, about their country, ethnicity, religion or race. Questions that often do not mean to offend, but most do. I, for example, have been asked on multiple occasions where I am from. To which I always answer pride fully: Colombia.

The answers to that (which is always surprised that there is an answer to a plain fact) are almost always inappropriate. One person flat out said “No, you are not” with absolute security because I do not have a Hispanic sounding name, and I am white which does not fit in American’s narrative of what a Latina looks like, sounds like, or is. Other times I deal with classic referrals to Pablo Escobar, cocaine and the Netflix series Narcos. To those people, I want to publicly say that none of those comments are remotely funny, smart or charming as you might have originally thought. And that nationality is not really up for debate.

When I told the guy who couldn’t believe I was Colombian I have Italian ancestry (but both my parents are Colombian, and I was born and raised at the capital) he smirked and then proclaimed: “You are Italian!” I sighed for 20 years non-stop.

Another increasing concern for International students is the difficulty of employment after college. First, they must apply for an OPT, and find an employer willing to sponsor them. Then they must get an H1-B visa which has become increasingly challenging during the Trump era. According to NPR, “Less than one-fourth of employers plan to hire international students in 2018, hitting a new low and continuing a downward trend, a survey by National Association of Colleges and Employers shows... Firms that recruit job candidates outside the U.S. also flood the H-1B system with petitions. The Trump administration

has said they want to make it harder for these firms to contract international employees to U.S. companies.” Having a racist, stupid, the excuse of a Cheeto for a president certainly does not help these students case.

Yet again, in the Cheeto’s own words: “No dream is too big. No challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach”.

Aeris Nguyen, an optimistic film student senior from Vietnam, gave me her opinion on the matter: “I think that there are some very useful resources for students here on campus, is important to focus on solutions. If we have a general awareness of what the issues are we can try to find ways to be positive and help each other”. Among some of these resources are the BC health clinic, where you can get check-ups, re-fills, and birth control for very low prices. There is also the counseling office at James, where you

can get therapy and have complete confidentiality. As well as the Woman’s Center and the LGBTQ center who offer several resources for students dealing with sexual harassment and abuse. The international students’ office can also offer help with any questions regarding immigration processes, status, and alternatives for extenuating situations (like reduced course work, retroactive withdrawal etc.). The Magner Career Center offers help with building resumes, cover letters, and finding possible employment.

Under the statue of liberty, it reads: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” a piece of a poem that was true to the American spirit of liberty and justice. But the time for sentiment is over, and the call for action is now.

College Admissions

BY MICHAEL CASTANEDA

How much did your parents have to pay William Singer to get you into Brooklyn College? By now, we have all heard about the college admissions scandal that broke last week. The FBI called its investigation of wealthy people paying tons of money to get their kids in prestigious universities and not so prestigious universities, operation Varsity Blues. Love that name!

Judging by the press this is getting, it looks like the country is trying to get its head around this one because this doesn’t make sense to our national narrative. The prevailing belief amongst many is that we live in a meritocracy where people obtain what they have by merit. Everything from our tax laws to, you guessed it, what colleges we go to, are perfect reflections on how of hard we work. Under these sets of assumptions, it is anathema to pursue any sort of social justice. This is why the United States is the only industrialized country without a form of universal health care. Look no further than President Trump’s recent budget to see a slew of cuts to our social safety net, so see these beliefs in action.

Then this came along. If the top schools in the



By now, we have all heard about the college admissions scandal that broke last week. PHOTO/ iStock

country, which are often populated by rich white students and wealthy international students only proves that these people are better than the poorer and often browner students at say Brooklyn College. In other words, this can’t happen.

From the days of integration to affirmative action the villains of the educational system has been those minorities that don’t belong at Ivy League schools and keep out other students with higher SAT scores.

If rich people are taking valuable spots at desirable universities then we have a counter-argument to the original argument. In fact, we learned more about the admissions process of Stanford which allocated spots for sailing.

I had no idea that Stanford reserved slots in its admissions for students in

sailing. I can’t tell you how many guys in the hood show sailing acumen. There is nothing tilted towards the wealthy there, except maybe access to a boat.

If you think that this sting operation “Varsity Blues” was about leveling the playing field. It wasn’t. It was never about meritocracy.

The root of the crimes is tax evasion and university property rights. It’s not actually paying large amounts of money to get your kid into college. That was never illegal. The problem here is that parents, really wealthy parents wanted to pay to get their kids in on the cheap. So they gave anywhere from a few hundred thousand dollars to a low million or so to a fake charity [think Donald Trump’s charity] where Singer would pull the money for himself. Because it is a charity, these parents

got tax deductions for their fraud, which is, of course, more fraud. This is where the tax evasion comes in.

Next, students would be taking slots allocated for sports; some of which they never even played. SAT scores would be doctored or outright having someone else take the damn test for them. The real issue is not the deception, it is that each university has been denied the opportunity to take the money for themselves.

In some cases, students were photoshopped in an athlete’s photo. It’s irksome how low tech that that is. I could do that. Where is my \$166k?

Another great piece of the story is that a couple of schools parents paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to get their kids into second tiered schools. USC and UT Austin are decent but not as prestigious outside of their

local area. A “B” student with halfway decent SAT scores could have got in, yet, people were paying close to a million dollars to get their kids in.

So why does this matter? The reason why this matters is that everything counts. In a world of resources, these schools are swimming in them. Investment banks in New York recruit for front office jobs straight out of Ivy schools to a point where they each have their favorites. Morgan Stanley recruits heavy from Dartmouth, Barclay’s recruits heavily from Cornell. UBS recruits heavily from Columbia. Front office jobs at an investment pay a minimum bonus of 40 percent of yearly salary.

In fact, the start-up fund for students at Columbia University has a 5.9 billion dollar endowment. This is more than what President Trump was asking for his border wall. Getting closer to UBS which has 2.2 trillion dollars under management, which is more money than many small countries, has perks.

In the modern news cycle, this story will probably be soon forgotten. I hope that this throws a little shade on the entitlement of those that have so much and try to take away from those who have so little.

Marvel's First Movie About a Female Superhero

BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI

Captain Marvel is Marvel's first feature film about a female superhero. The 2019 film follows the awakening of Carol Danvers's true powers. The plot is mostly formulaic, as it follows the basic structure of most Marvel movies. Carol Danvers was abducted by aliens who thought she would be useful to them due to her awesome powers. The aliens, the Kree, use Danvers to fight against another alien species—Skrulls. On a mission, she gets taken by the Skrulls and they take to Earth to find the Tezeract, a cube of powerful energy. From that point on Danvers rediscovers who she is, the true nature of her powers, and who her abductors really are. While on paper this plot sounds exciting, it is really nothing special.

Brie Larson, who plays Carol Danvers, delivers a mostly flat and boring performance, making it hard for the audience to connect with her. However, despite this, the movie is not bad, so to speak; it is simply mediocre. All of the hate this movie received before it even premiered is unjustified. If this movie had a male lead, critics would have written the



Despite being Marvel's first film featuring a female superhero, "Captain Marvel" could have been more exciting. PHOTO/IMDb

film off as acceptable. Other Marvel films like *Avengers: Age of Ultron* and *Iron Man 2* are much weaker, yet they did not receive the same treatment as *Captain Marvel*. As Marvel's first film featuring a female superhero, I wish that the film could've been more exciting—like *Black Panther*—but hopefully this will not be Marvel's only female superhero.

Supporting characters like Nick Fury, played by Samuel L. Jackson, added life to this

movie. His comic relief was a nice contrast to Carol Danvers's constant seriousness. Danvers's Kree mentor, Yon-Rugg (Jude Law), is a complex character who adds an interesting dynamic to the plot. ***Spoilers Ahead*** Hala, the home of the Kree, is fighting against the Skrulls. The Kree told Danvers and Yon-Rugg that the Skrullz are "invaders" trying to seize control of Hala. However, about halfway through the film we discover the Skrullz

are actually refugees fleeing from their home planet because the Kree keep destroying it. This plot development seems to be a clear allusion to American politics and the controversy surrounding the migration of undocumented immigrants to the United States. This parallel, while relevant, seems out of place in this movie, and to me seems to be a way to profit off of the suffering of impoverished refugees who are mistreated in the United States.

The main point that audience members can take away from *Captain Marvel* is that Marvel Studios has figured out a formula that generates profits and they aren't going to shake it up anytime soon. Marvel fans should expect more movies with increasingly diverse characters and increasingly high stakes. Superheroes may become more and more powerful, but with less interesting backgrounds and less human emotion.

Recap of The 2018-2019 MLB Offseason

BY IVAN MORROBEL

This winter's free agency was loaded with marquee players that can instantly make a difference for a team that decided to acquire them. Players such as Bryce Harper and Manny Machado led the way with record-breaking contracts, while veterans like Carlos Gonzalez and Ervin Santana had to settle for minor-league deals. Though some players received hefty paydays, many others are desperately hoping to receive anything that comes their way with Major League Baseball's Opening Day just a few days away.

3B Josh Donaldson signs with Atlanta Braves

The first splash that got things underway was when 33-year-old Donaldson agreed to a one-year \$23 million deal with the Braves. Donaldson, who was dealt to the Cleveland Indians last season after spending nearly four seasons with the Toronto Blue Jays, should



The first splash that got the MLB offseason underway was when Josh Donaldson (left) signed with the Braves. PHOTO/Associated Press

consider himself lucky for having received his deal. The third baseman is more than capable of posting All-Star caliber numbers but hasn't been able to play for a full season since 2016. Though Donaldson's recent history is

worrisome, a healthy version of himself can cause havoc in the National League once he's placed in the middle of a lineup that consists of Freddie Freeman, Ozzie Albies, and Ronald Acuña Jr.

P Patrick Corbin signs

with Washington Nationals
This year's must-see division is undoubtedly the NL East because of the deals that were made by four out of the five teams. The Nationals were forced to prepare for life after Harper and they

may have decided to answer by signing Patrick Corbin to a six-year \$140 million deal. Corbin, who went 11-7 with a 3.15 ERA in 200 innings pitched will be the final piece to a trio that includes Max Scherzer and Stephen

Strasburg. Despite Corbin being the most expensive player for the Nationals in the offseason, the Nationals added some complementary pieces by acquiring Anibal Sanchez, second baseman Brian Dozier, catchers Yan Gomes and Kurt Suzuki.

C Wilson Ramos and 2B Jed Lowrie sign with New York Mets

The New York Mets have been searching for an above average hitting catcher for as long as their fanbase can remember, though that wasn't the only thing that they checked off their to-do list during the offseason. Prior to Ramos agreeing to his two-year \$19 million deal with the team, the Mets made one of the biggest blockbuster

deals in recent memory, having received Robinson Cano and Edwin Diaz from the Seattle Mariners. Cano, who was suspended for 80 games last season after testing positive for a banned substance is looking for redemption as he shows fans that a 36-year-old can still play without cheating. The Mets followed up by signing infielder Jed Lowrie, Ramos, Jeurys Familia and Justin Wilson looking to find their way back into the playoff picture in 2019.

3B Manny Machado signs with San Diego Padres

All eyes were on Machado and Harper as the baseball world stood on the sidelines impatiently waiting for either player to decide. The first domino to fall was

the 26-year-old third baseman Machado, who agreed to a 10-year \$300 million deal. Fans were startled by Machado's decision to go to the Padres due to the lack of talent on their major league roster. However, money was the motivator in this case. Machado is the type of player that can make any lineup better, but it'll take a while before the Padres become legit contenders.

RF Bryce Harper, OF Andrew McCutchen, P David Robertson sign with Philadelphia Phillies

No other team made as many key acquisitions as the Phillies did this winter. The Phillies, who signed Harper to the largest contract (13-year \$330 million) in the

history of the sport ended up receiving their Christmas gift later than expected. The deal, which doesn't include an opt-out, dictates that the two are bound for anything that the future has to offer. Signing Harper appeared to be one of the last moves for Philly as they didn't expect Harper to fall into their hands. The Phillies remained active throughout the offseason as they waited for his decision by obtaining McCutchen, Robertson, shortstop Jean Segura, and catcher J.T. Realmuto. The deals that were made prior to Harper's arrival can be more than enough to help the Phillies win the division.

2B DJ LeMahieu and P Adam Ottavino sign

with New York Yankees

The Yankees were expected to sign a top tier player on the market, but they clearly didn't want to commit long-term, which ultimately led to the acquisitions of two former Rockies, or perhaps three with the addition of 34-year-old Troy Tulowitzki. LeMahieu, who posted above a .300 batting average in three out of the last four seasons, agreed to a two-year \$24 million deal. Ottavino joined his former teammate after agreeing to a three-year \$27 million deal. Ottavino, LeMahieu, and pitcher James Paxton, who was brought in via trade, will play a huge role in helping the Yankees win number 28.

Giants Trade Star Odell Beckham Jr. to the Cleveland Browns

BY NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

In one of the more shocking moves that happened in the NFL offseason, last Tuesday afternoon, the New York Giants traded WR Odell Beckham Jr. to the Cleveland Browns.

The trade details include the New York Giants received G Kevin Zeitler, S Jabrill Peppers, and a 2019 first round and third round pick in exchange for the 26-year-old Wide Receiver, Beckham Jr. and Defensive End Oliver Vernon.

Beckham Jr. was drafted by the Giants in 2014 and has set numerous franchise records establishing himself as a star in the league. He is notable for his famous one-hand catch play that he made back in 2014 season against the Dallas Cowboys. Beckham Jr. was a commodity for the Giants. But, it was clear that the Giants were not getting anywhere and made this move in hopes of moving in a different direction. After missing the playoffs, the past two seasons and failing to replicate the success of their Super Bowl win back in the 2011 season, it was clear that the front office was in panic mode and had to make a move.

RB Saquon Barkley, whom the Giants drafted with the 2nd pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, has shown tremendous potential last season. The Giants are looking to unleash all of his potential and lean on him rather



Odell Beckham Jr. was traded to the Cleveland Browns. PHOTO/ Shutterstock

er than Beckham Jr. as their key player for the future. The Giants are continuing to hold onto a player who has been on a significant decline and in the tail end of his career in QB Eli Manning, this has been rather confusing for the Giants fan base. The Giants got rid of Beckham Jr. faster than Manning, more than likely it is a case where no one is willing to take on Manning as he has not shown any promise.

Looking in on the

other side of the fence:

From one of the leagues worst to now an up and coming bright team, the Cleveland Browns are doing a great job in building a young core to compete in the playoffs. The Browns are no stranger to failure as they were the laughingstock of the NFL for a long time. The Browns were so bad that the last time they made the playoffs was well over a decade in 2002. After going 0-16 in the 2017 NFL season,

which was their worse season to date, they were able to land QB Baker Mayfield in the 2018 NFL Draft and he has grown to become a bright spot for the Browns.

The intention of making this trade was to push to compete in the playoffs. The Browns have young talent that has plenty of potential. The pressure is on for the Browns to succeed, they got their feet wet last season finishing 7-8-1. Mayfield is a promising young QB

with that "It" factor, adding Beckham Jr. and improving their Offensive Line should encourage a team that has been struggling for years. A successful season for the Browns is just making the playoffs, going beyond that is icing on the cake. It is unlikely that they get far to the Super Bowl, but making it to the playoffs will show growth to a franchise that has been struggling for so long.

A Nightmare Season for King James and the Lakers

BY CONRAD HOYT

The day is May 31, 2018.

It is game one of the NBA Finals between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors. The game is tied at 107. With 4.7 seconds left, J.R. Smith grabs the rebound off a missed free throw and runs to the center of the court instead of getting a shot off. At that moment, a meme was born, the Cavs' greatest chance to steal a game was over and LeBron James had his eyes more firmly than ever set on Los Angeles and wearing the illustrious purple and gold.

Roughly one month later, James joined the Los Angeles Lakers. This was a big move. The Lakers were starving for a playoff birth, James was still widely regarded as the best player on earth, and every big name who had ever played for the Lakers had won a ring. Expectations were high.

Whether you are a fan of the Lakers or not, you cannot deny this season has been a tumultuous one. The offseason signings after James have not panned out, Luke Walton's rotations can only be called questionable at best, and injuries have derailed their momentum at every turn.

Now we should get to the young players. James was set to join a young core of Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, and Kyle Kuzma. Ball had an up and down rookie season,



From the start of the season, LeBron James did not live up to expectations as a leader. PHOTO/ Associated Press

showing promise with his defense and playmaking, while also bricking more shots than Shaquille O'Neal in a snowstorm. Brandon Ingram was fresh off a solid sophomore campaign, and many people were expecting him to make the big leap this season, potentially into an all-star. Kuzma had a great rookie year showing off his scoring ability, especially as a steal at number 27 in the 2017 NBA Draft.

James has averaged 27 points, seven rebounds and seven assists over the first 15 years of his career. Miraculously, this season, he is averaging 27 points, eight rebounds, and eight assists.

With the exception of foul shooting, he has been consistent all season long and put up numbers that are among the best of his illustrious career.

Still, he has not been good enough.

From the start of the season, James did not live up to expectations as a leader, be it with defensive effort, free throws, or overall off-court leadership duties. He arrived in Los Angeles and started or continued working on many projects outside of basketball, including HBO's *The Shop*, *Space Jam 2*, and A&R'ing rapper 2 Chainz's newest album, "Rap or Go to the League". It is not as if these projects have directly

affected his play, but it sets a bad example to his teammates when he is involved with so many other things.

The trade deadline did not help, with the front office of the New Orleans Pelicans leaking that the Lakers offered four young players, two veterans, and two lottery picks for Anthony Davis. A player of Davis' talent may warrant such a king's ransom, but this was not the right way for the Lakers to go about business. Most of all, the catalyst for the Lakers downfall was James' groin injury, which kept him out for 18 games and shot the team down from the tantalizing home court advantage

of the fourth seed to the doldrums of the eleventh seed.

One saving grace looked like it would be the play of Ingram, who, after the all-star break, averaged 27.8 points per game over a six-game stretch. At a point where the Lakers were free falling, no one would have shamed Ingram for mailing the season in, but he remained resilient and put forth the best stretch of his career.

On March 9, 2019, the Lakers announced that Ingram is expected to miss the remainder of the season with Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) in his right arm. DVT is a potentially serious medical condition that forced James' old teammate, Chris Bosh, into early retirement. Ball is also out for the remainder of the season with an ankle injury. This presents problems for the Lakers in regards to assembling a trade package for Davis or another top-tier player.

Things look very grim for the Lakers at the moment, it is undeniable. The Lakers wasted a year of James' prime and, even for him, a player's prime does not last forever. The Lakers must reshape their roster to the James system: surround him with shooters and good defenders. From top to bottom of the organization, everyone needs to look at themselves and how they can be better. Then, and only then, will the Lakers achieve the success that the most storied franchise of the NBA expects.



High expectations for the Lakers have not been met. PHOTO/ NBAE