

Cynthia Nixon Visits Brooklyn College



Jumaane Williams and Cynthia Nixon spoke to Brooklyn College students and staff about their visions for New York. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY M.A. RAHMAN

With elections approaching their fever pitch conclusion on September 13, gubernatorial candidate and activist Cynthia Nixon, along with potential lieutenant governor Jumaane Williams, visited Brooklyn College’s campus this week. Though the meeting was arranged with short notice only the weekend before between the Nixon team and the on-campus progressive group Young Progressives of America (YPA), it miraculously bolstered an estimated 120 students and faculty members in attendance. Speaking at the BC Student Center Solarium Room, Nixon reiterated a

number of her points such as the upholding of a higher commitment to education by investing more funding in higher education, work conditions/wages for faculty, and addressing a myriad of other non-CUNY related concerns raised. Nixon opened by speaking about her own background as a recipient of the city’s public education and about establishing her foothold in politics, explaining how she became gradually concerned and invested in her son’s education. She noted the stark sight she saw firsthand from her son’s school that made her vow to reform those conditions. “It was so differ-

ent [from] the school that I had looked at and picked out in the Spring because there had been these massive budget cuts, and they had to let go of the assistant principal and the art teacher and the music teacher and two thirds of the para-professionals,” she said. Despite being frequently derided by her opponent and current office incumbent Andrew Cuomo for her background and seemingly loose connections to politics, a number of attendees expressed their satisfaction in her background. “[Nixon’s] so called inexperience is proof to me she isn’t gonna turn back on her promises to please

special interests,” one observer at the event said. Nixon exhausted much of the event’s time, more than she was initially expected to, with her monologue that highlighted many of her other campaign points beyond the scope of CUNY, such as campaign finance reform or social changes. Attendees were ultimately left with little opportunity to ask questions pertinent to their concerns and experiences until Nixon left. Despite Nixon’s early exit, council member Williams remained for a few more minutes to address the queries raised by other attendees. Speaking on her thoughts of the event, Cor-

rinne Greene, President of YPA, acknowledged that the event may have served to be more beneficial for the Nixon campaign had more consideration been put into time management. In spite of this setback, Greene remarked her overall satisfaction of the event gaining so much attention from people of all walks of the CUNY system even though there was so little time to prepare or advertise. “I hope this isn’t the last time students and faculty are in a room together asking questions and engaging in the processes around the decisions that affect us,” she said.

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Speech Language Pathology Graduate Students Host Meet and Greet

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Brooklyn College students and faculty affiliated with the BC Speech Language Pathology Center met last week for their annual meet and greet which exhibited copious amounts of pizza and enough faculty devised horseplay to make even some of the most reserved students break into a guilty grin as they participated.

Speech Language Pathology (SLP) is the field concerning people with limited communication abilities as well as the ailments that cause such conditions. The American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) states that speech pathologists “prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults.”

The aim of the meeting was simple - to get SLP students to become better acquainted with one another. “It can be so hard to get first year grads and second year graduate students together,” Professor Bergen, Director of the BC Speech Language Hearing Center, explained, emphasizing the numerous projects and collaborations that require students to engage with one another throughout the semester.

A career in SLP is not



Last week marked the BC Speech Language Pathology Center’s annual meet and greet where graduate students ate pizza and spoke about SLP. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

typically the response one expects from children when asked what would they like to do in the future. According to many graduate students at Brooklyn College, they have had their eye on a particular career choice, usually inspired by their own past experiences, since childhood.

One student said she felt compelled to get involved in this program after seeing firsthand the troubles that one of her younger siblings, born with a speech impediment, faced to get around day to day.

Another felt similarly, noting the lack of courtesy or outright ignorance people had when interacting with someone dear to them with limited communication abilities.

“My grandmother had a stroke, so seeing her try to still work around after it definitely had an effect on me,” said Christina Cannon, a first year SLP graduate.

According to Professor Beaumont-Bowman and Bergen, the SLP course offered at Brooklyn College is extensive and offered to graduate and doctoral students on both the clinical side and educational side. Scholarship programs are offered and used by as many as 40 percent of the SLP graduates at Brooklyn College.

Desmond Rivera, a second year SLP graduate student, was one of the more unusual faces at such a meeting; he was one of only three male students in a room with well over fifty students.

Discussing this peculiarity, Desmond notes that it seems to come down to a simple matter of perception: men may view such an occupation (SLP) akin to other female-dominated careers like teaching and nursing, but in Desmond’s view, no job today should have a certain gender associated with it.

According to Bergen, there are certain attributes he finds in his students that he sees are needed for such a career choice, saying, “It’s not a course for anyone. You need to have care. It’s good if you’re smart, but you have to be empathetic.”



EVENTS LISTING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Writing Workshop for Study Abroad Scholarships

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

1108 Boylan Hall

Learn about scholarships and stipends that are available for study and research abroad. Learn the key points of a winning scholarship application and increase the quality of your written proposals. Practice with professionals and receive insider tips from IEGE.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

New York State Primary Elections 2018

Don't forget to vote!

Emerging Realities of Puerto Rican Youth

12:25 PM - 2:50 PM

Woody Tanger Auditorium

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

SALT Graduate Workshop

10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

383 - Library, Third Floor

Tutorial on computerized analysis of language samples using Systematic Analysis of Language Samples.

Sophomore Summit

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Occidental Lounge, Student Center

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Information Session: School Counseling & School Psychology M.S. Ed

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Library, Room 242

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Managing Your Online Identity

12:30 PM - 1:45 PM

038 - Library Classroom

It is now standard practice for employers, grad school admission officers, and grant judges to research the online presence of all applicants. Find out how to manage your online self to present the absolute best picture possible.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

No classes scheduled!

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

Colleges Open, Will Governor Cuomo Help?

BY PATRICK KENANI AND JONATHAN GAFFNEY

It’s that time again; colleges are opening across New York and for many students, the campus experience will have a profound impact on their lives. The public benefits will benefit too: more highly trained residents have a positive impact on the economic health of the state, the nation, and the world. Studies in New York have shown that every dollar invested in higher education results in multiple dollars more in tax revenues generated by students and graduates. College graduates also positively impact our democracy. For those reasons, society has viewed investing in higher education as a worthwhile public good. Of course, a college degree is not

the only path to economic or civic success, but it helps. Despite the obvious benefits from public investments, New York has been shifting the costs of attending college from the state to students and their families. The result has been dramatic: over 44 million Americans collectively hold nearly \$1.5 trillion in student debt. That means that roughly one in four American adults are paying off student loans. When they graduate, the average student loan borrower has over \$37,000 in student loan debts, a \$20,000 increase from 13 years ago. Much hand wringing has occurred over this trend, but not much action. Here in New York, Governor Cuomo has successfully advanced a proposal to make



Governor Cuomo is facing a tough contendor. Will he finally work to fix CUNY facilities? PHOTO/ The Daily Chronic

it easier for some to pay off their debts. The “Get on Your Feet Loan Forgiveness Program” provides some federal student loan debt relief. The governor also got legislative approval for his Excelsior Scholarship program which allows some middle income students to attend public college tuition-free. While both of these programs’ goals are laudable, both are very limited in their impact. Most students are ineligible, and that’s by design. What City and State University of New York students have seen are tuition hikes nearly every year during the two terms of the Cuomo Administration. Since 2011, state

law has allowed for tuition hikes at CUNY and SUNY- of of hundreds of dollars per year at CUNY and SUNY. And thanks to that law, tuition has gone up, totaling a whopping 35% increase. The law allowing these tuition hikes has been linked to another provision, one that requires the state to “maintain” its support for CUNY and SUNY. The governor promised that the state would not cut its support for higher education and additional tuition dollars would be used to enhance the institutions. But, as is too often the case, the fine print spelled out a different scenario. The state’s “maintenance of effort” did not include infla-

tion and other cost increases. As a result, state support for higher education has been stagnant while costs have increased; meaning that student dollars are being used to close state budget shortfalls. Governor Cuomo will have an opportunity to stop those shortfalls. Both houses of the Legislature unanimously approved legislation that requires the state to cover the inflationary costs at CUNY and SUNY. It is expected that the legislation will land on the governor’s desk soon. Now is the time for New York to reverse its policy of increasing costs to attend college,, boosting state support is an important first step.



DON'T FORGET
TO VOTE IN THE
PRIMARIES THIS THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13!

No to Kavanaugh

BY RANTI OLAOSE

When Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement in June, left-leaning circles received the news with much alarm and distress. Kennedy was a crucial swing vote in a sharply divided court and his retirement left open a void for Donald Trump to fill with a reliably conservative justice, giving the court an immutable conservative bent for decades. Their fear appears to have been justified with the nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Kavanaugh is a staunch right-wing judge with a long record of hostility towards abortion and contraception rights, gun safety laws, net neutrality and many other issues. This spells danger for rights that many have come to view as secured, such as gay marriage (Kennedy had sided with the liberal wing of the court in the Obergefell decision that legalized gay marriage across the country in 2015), abortion rights and workers' rights as well as several that remain undecided or hanging in the balance. A reliable 5th conservative vote in Kavanaugh would allow the Court



Supreme Court Justice nominee Brett Kavanaugh is a Republican with a long record of hostility towards abortion, gun safety, and net neutrality. PHOTO/ POOL

to carry out far-reaching acts of conservative activism such as reversing Roe vs Wade, the 1973 decision that allows women the right to an abortion, which has been a longstanding goal of the conservative movement for decades.

Even more troubling are Kavanaugh's views on executive authority. In a 2009 Minnesota Law Review article, Kavanaugh wrote that, "Congress might consider a law exempting a President -- while in office -- from criminal prosecution and investigation, including from questioning by criminal prosecutors or defense counsel." This is perhaps the chief

reason he was nominated by Trump, who has currently been named by his former lawyer Michael Cohen as a conspirator in a federal crime.

If or when Trump faces charges from the ongoing special counsel investigation, that case could very well end up in the Supreme Court during which his appointee Kavanaugh would surely provide a vote to shield him from the charges. This scenario is the stuff of authoritarian regimes, and would spell the end of the judiciary as an independent institution. It is incredibly ironic that the Republicans who spent the entirety of the Obama years complain-

ing about the power of the Executive branch are currently working to enable this scenario, which would effectively put the president above the law.

In their hurry to install a rubber stamp for their agenda, Senate Republicans are also making a mockery of the confirmation process. When one remembers how they stole a Supreme Court opening from President Obama two years ago with the excuse that it was too soon before an election, their haste to confirm a lifetime appointment by a president who is an unindicted accomplice to a federal crime months before a major election is doubly

infuriating. The confirmation process has been shrouded in secrecy from the beginning as they refused to produce the vast majority of Kavanaugh's records from his work in the Bush White House, except when they dumped 42,000 pages of documents the night before his hearings.

This type of obfuscation by a Supreme Court nominee is unprecedented and highly suspicious, but Senate Republicans apparently do not care which norms and rules they break in their quest to reshape the course of American jurisprudence and drag the country back to darker days. His confirmation appears to be all but certain as Senate Republicans currently control the chamber, but it is undeniable that his appointment to the Court will spell disaster for the judiciary and the country at large. Republicans have a moral duty to reject this nominee, and judging by their past actions, this means that they will probably do the exact opposite.

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Everyone Needs To Watch “Crazy Rich Asians”

BY BETHANY WENIGER

“Crazy Rich Asians” accomplishes a rare feat; it is entertaining and enjoyable while it also makes a statement. It showcases a new cast of actors that have been virtually nonexistent on the silver screen.

Directed by John M. Chu (“Now You See Me”) and starring a striking cast led by Constance Wu, Henry Golding, Michelle Yeoh, Gemma Chan, and Awkwafina, “Crazy Rich Asians” tells the story of Rachel Chu (Wu) who travels to Singapore to meet her boyfriend Nick Young’s (Golding), family – only to find out that they are excessively wealthy and that Nick is one of the country’s most sought after bachelors. In addition to the initial culture shock and newfound information about her boyfriend, Rachel must also find a way to win over his mother (Yeoh), who doesn’t show any signs of being wooed.

The storyline has rich themes and a depth not usually seen in the typical rom-com, ana-



“Crazy Rich Asians” makes a statement by showcasing Asian-American actors on the big screen. PHOTO/ **Edibles Magazine**

lyzing the pulls between old and new world differences in the face of tradition and culture. The production aspects are well-done and incredible – fulfilling all the lavish and luxurious fantasies the book requires with extravagant locations, magnificent clothes and accessories, and details effusing with opulence. Then, set against those back-

drops, what really sets the movie apart is its collection of characters. They’re bold, proud, loving, protective, fierce, funny, well-intentioned, and refreshingly human portrayals of Asians. Each has his or her strengths and flaws, styles and idiosyncrasies, and is nuanced with layers rarely seen written for an Asian role. Witty and

well-written dialogues inspire laughter as they reveal their desires and dislikes, while carefully crafted moments to tug at our heartstrings as they give us a glimpse into their fears and dreams. Striking a sweet balance between depth and fun, “Crazy Rich Asians” is a movie about identity and change, and hopefully, with its sequel in the works, the onscreen idea of progressivism will transcend off screen to usher in a new era of film both for rom-coms and for Asians.

As the first Hollywood studio film in 25 years to feature a predominantly Asian and Asian-American cast, “Crazy Rich Asians” was already set to make history. Since the premier of “The Joy Luck Club” in 1993, Asian characters have rarely been seen on the screen – especially in main roles. In 2017, only 5% of the characters in the 100 top grossing films were of Asian descent, and of those, only four characters were leads. Additionally, only four of the 109 directors of those top 100 films were Asian. The film had high stakes, both for those involved in the

project and for those eager to see what other opportunities it would create for Asian-led films in the future. Chu and his team signed on with Warner Bros., turning down a significant deal with Netflix in the pursuit of creating a film that would be seen in theaters the traditional way. With a \$30 million budget, they set out with the intense pressure to cast, shoot, and produce what would be the only majority Asian and Asian-American film in over two decades. There was no way of telling whether or not the film would be a massive success or an unfortunate failure.

However, as of September 5, “Crazy Rich Asians” broke box office records and, according to Box Office Mojo, surpassed \$100 million, bringing in a total of over \$121 million domestically and \$22.7 million in foreign markets. The film does not simply rely on its on-screen Asian representation to carry it through the charts; the ethnic diversity is just an added bonus to an excellent movie.



Constance Wu starred as Rachel Chu in “Crazy Rich Asians.” PHOTO/ **Getty Images**

Electric Zoo: The Big Ten Experience

BY EDMUND ZHEN

With just a week into the Fall semester for many college students, Electric Zoo (EZOO) was the perfect marker to end the summer of 2018. This three-day spectacle at Randall's Island drew thousands of people from all around the country and world to make the pilgrimage to the annual Electric Zoo fest. Being that 2018 marked its tenth-year anniversary, the crowd this year was a lot larger and a lot more frenetic. On Sunday, I met with party-goers from other cities (one from Belgium) who brought their spouse, friends, and family members to be blessed by EDM giants such as Marshmello, Kaskade, VirtualSelf (Porter Robinson), Martin Garrix, and Tiësto. Here's how it all went down:

After crossing the entrance, a 5-minute walk landed me in the security clearance section, and I was patted down by staff members. Water bags were asked to be emptied and any outside food or drinks were confiscated. I had to then go through another gate where the crowd was separated into lines to get admitted in. After what seemed like hours under the scorching sun, I finally stepped into the magical realm of Electric Zoo.

The setup of EZOO was the same as every year: 4 water refill stations, a fort of portable potties, medical and information tents, and neat arrays of snack shops. One special thing about EZOO was its system of handling monetary transactions. All purchases can only be made through a wristband. It reminded me of the same paying method the social media conglomerate WeChat utilizes. With a barcode, a scanner, and enough money in the bank, you can conveniently purchase anything. This is how EZOO's paying method works: before entering the island, party-goers are supposed to activate their wristbands and "top off" (load up/refill) the amount of money they want in the wristband. They offer options such as auto-refill, which automatically refills



Electric Zoo was the perfect marker to end the summer of 2018. PHOTO/ The Knockturnal

money into your wristband after it goes under a certain amount. But one would need to monitor their spending habits if they want to leave Randall's Island with money still left in the bank. I bought 2 cans of Heineken and a bottle of water for my friend that cost me a hefty \$27.00. The beers were \$11.00 each and the 16 oz bottle of water was \$5.00. The prices of drinks and snacks are a lot more expensive than what you would get at your local store, but since accessibility was difficult, I had no choice but to break my bank for small luxuries like those. It's no wonder why security guards at the front made everyone empty out water bags and confiscated drinks and food from outside. EZOO is really trying to make some serious bucks out here.

Around 6:00 p.m., 3Lau's set started to draw party-goers towards the main stage that made the gathering mass look like a circus troupe. Flamboyant clothing and themed costumes were on the backs of the majority, while the others were either shirtless or plainly dressed. It was a good mixture of creativity and unoriginality. Perhaps the most baffling costume I saw was a man in a bright red G string, a cropped tank top, and topped off

with a pair of impressively detailed Satan horns on his head. He completed his look with goggles that resembled a lot like Dr. Emmett Brown's from the trilogy, Back to the Future. Need I say more?

The real party started when Illenium came on with soul-moving bangers like "Crawl Outta Love", "Beautiful Creatures", and "Fractures". The crowd was getting stirred up with sporadic fist pumps and constant head-banging confirming their excitement. At the same time, people were moving around in the crowd in search for familiar faces, causing many angry heads to turn. It seemed like someone was FIFO'ing (first in, first out) the crowd, with newcomers forcefully shoving to get to the front, pushing the previous spot owners slowly to the back. It wasn't long until people at the front began to push back. Then, in just a few minutes, the whole main stage crowd followed the motions of a wave. But not everyone was mad. A good handful of party-goers just partied on inattentively to the notions like zombies. I wasn't sure if whether or not they were just captivated by the set, or brain dead from being under the influence of something. Alesso finally came up for his set around 8:30 pm and played his

chart-topping songs like "Heroes", "If I Lose Myself", and "Cool". He also paid tribute to the late EDM giant Avicii with his song "Wake Me Up" that caused a frenzied uproar of remembrance and grievance. But the real deal, the cherry on top, the definite highlight of Sunday, happened at the entrance of Tiësto.

Tiësto first tested the water by playing his newly released song "Wow", that resulted in the crowd maniacally leaping into the air and coming down with fervent head bangs. Like a true master of his craft, Tiësto amplified the atmosphere with more songs and trance-like visuals that caused a surge of adrenaline to rise. Unlike other DJ's on that day, Tiësto's visual displayed warm colors with the intensity of its shades oscillating back and forth in matters of seconds. It was also accompanied by flickering light beams that created an Armageddon-like scene.

At that moment, it looked like Tiësto was a fearless leader rallying his devoted followers to war. It was a powerful, inspiring experience. His set finally ended around 11:00 p.m. with fireworks to commemorate the 10th year Anniversary of EZOO, and the signaling cue for us tired, yet enlightened party-goers to embark on

the journey home.

This year's preparations for EZOO couldn't have been any better. The lineup was amazing, and the staff was kind and professional while performing their duties. They sprayed the crowd with water when it got too hot, helped fallen party-goers seek the medical help they needed, and instilled order back to where there was chaos. Without them, there was no way EZOO could have had a successful festival like this year. If I was to think of something that could have been better, I would say to set up more water refill centers at other spots to prevent party-goers from overcrowding one area. Another thing would be lowering the costs of food and drinks! As a college student, money is the next thing I desperately need after sleep! EZOO is really setting up a trap for us college students to throw the last \$20.00 in our banks to their food stands. Maybe in the future, I should just volunteer to work for EZOO and help them set up just so I can get free tickets and food. Maybe you all should too. If we do end up doing that next year, let's all be a part of the magic that makes EZOO so special and get wild like animals.

Behind the Kaepernick Controversy

BY AUSTIN SANTIAGO

Athletic apparel company Nike was the cause of a media firestorm over Labor Day weekend. In an effort to promote their “Just do it” campaign, the multi-million-dollar company used former NFL quarterback turned activist Colin Kaepernick as the face of their advertising. The slogan of Kaepernicks’ ad is a message of determination, stating: “Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything.”

Kaepernick is no stranger to controversy or outrage on social media. In August of 2016, Kaepernick kneeled during the national anthem before an NFL preseason game, two years later, the NFL enacted a policy banning that act. Though Kaepernick is not the only athlete featured in this campaign (others include Serena Williams, and Odell Beckham JR), it was Kaepernicks’ presence that seems to have parked a negative reaction towards the company. All over social media, those who do not agree with the company’s decision could be seen posting videos and pic-



The new Nike ad was met with controversy including people burning their shoes and ripping the Nike logo from their socks. PHOTO/ Nike

tures of them destroying Nike merchandise.

“These shoes are in good condition, but thanks to your Kaepernick ad, I will never wear them or any Nike product again,” is just one of the comments people are making. Only a few days removed from the announcement, the fallout can be seen everywhere from social media to the stock market. Since revealing Kaepernick as the cover of the campaign, Nike stock has slipped 2%, and has many wondering if the

ongoing brand boycott will cause the company to drop further.

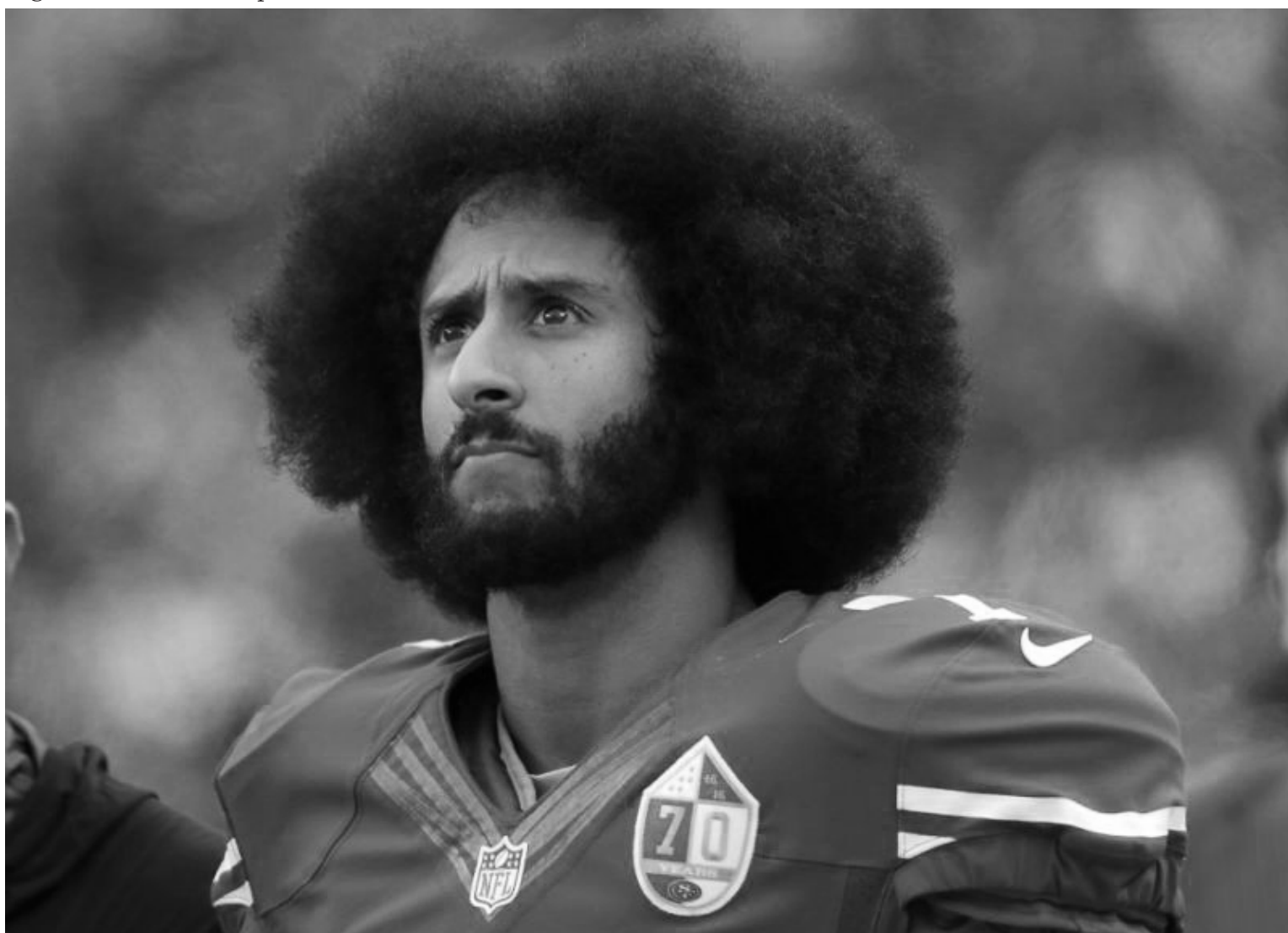
It is worth noting that this is not the first time Nike has taken a stance in regard to the Kaepernick controversy. Last year, the company issued a statement in regard to Kaepernick where they explained: “Nike supports athletes and their right to freedom of expression on issues that are of great importance to our society.” Despite the wave of negative backlash, there has been a strong

sense of support from those who stand with Kaepernicks’ cause, including sports analyst and radio host Colin Cowherd, who cited Nikes’ history with controversial athletes in a statement: “I applaud any company that can withstand the heat and have a belief system that makes people uncomfortable regularly... Nike stood behind Tiger, stood behind Kobe, and they’re standing behind another polarizing guy, Colin Kaepernick.”

It is worth noting

that this deal did not happen overnight, in fact, one could argue it has been happening since 2011. That year, Nike signed the former 49ers quarterback to sponsorship deal, but stopped placing him in ads after he left the NFL in 2016. It appears as though all the publicity Kaepernick has generated in the last two years presented a special business opportunity for Nike. It is hard to believe that the company responsible for one of the most recognizable campaigns, as well as the first sneaker Michael Jordan ever wore as a professional basketball player, did not foresee the initial negative response.

Though it may hurt now, one would have to assume that Nike will stand firm in their beliefs as they have in that past and make a lot of money in the process. The bitter pill for many to swallow is this: if Nike really wanted the business of staunch conservatives, and those who disagree with Kaepernicks’ stance, they would never have launched the campaign.



PHOTO/ AP

New York Mets Are in Trouble

BY IVAN MORROBEL

The 2018 New York Mets began the month of May eight games above .500 (17-9) and appeared to be a legitimate threat in the National League (NL) as their new manager Mickey Callaway seemed to be leading the team in the right direction. But despite their hot start to the season, the team has been nothing short of abysmal for the second straight year.

At the conclusion of last season, the Mets were aware of their elite starting rotation, consisting of Jacob deGrom, Noah Syndergaard and a healthy Zack Wheeler, who hadn't pitched a full season since 2014. Yet, their offense lacked depth and players who were able to protect their best position player, Yoenis Cespedes.

The Mets went on to sign two power hitters in third baseman Todd Frazier, and Jay Bruce, who they traded to the Cleveland Indians for a minor league relief pitcher in 2017. Although the organization addressed

their offensive needs, the team has been plagued by the very same thing that has destroyed their hopes over the last couple of seasons, injuries.

Cespedes, who played 81 games last season, has only suited up for the Mets 38 times in 2018, and underwent season-ending surgery on both of his heels, which will keep him sidelined for eight to ten months. Bruce recently got back from the disabled list, and would be considered fortunate to play in 100 games this year. Then there's Syndergaard and Frazier, who have both missed a significant amount of time this season, too.

As the team's performance worsened over the course of this year, the Mets traded some familiar faces. Fan-favorite, 29-year-old Matt Harvey, was traded to the Cincinnati Reds. Jeurys Familia was traded to the Oakland Athletics for what many would consider too little. And Asdrubal Cabrera, who had 18 home runs and 58 runs batted in during the first half of the sea-



The Mets may be in store for a hefty package of prospects, and maybe, just maybe, things will start to trend in the right direction for the Mets. PHOTO/ New York Daily News

son, was dealt to the Philadelphia Phillies.

Nonetheless, the Mets have other issues that need to be addressed. Unfortunately, they have to consider replacing their general manager Sandy Alderson, who's battling cancer. They're also expected to begin the 2019 season without Cespedes, as he recovers from the aforementioned heel surgery. On a positive note, outfielder Brandon Nimmo appears to be more than capable of holding down

Cespedes' spot in the meantime. Outside of deGrom, Syndergaard, and Wheeler, the team's starting and relief pitching are questionable. However, should the Mets consider trading one of their aces to help bolster their farm system, which was ranked at 26th overall prior to the regular season, a change could be on the horizon.

Wheeler and deGrom have proven to be the best players on the Mets this season. In fact, the two were

mentioned in numerous trade rumors prior to the trade deadline. Wheeler has shown teams that he's capable of going deep into ballgames and has been one of the best starters post-All-Star break with an earned run average under two.

On the other hand, deGrom has become the best pitcher in baseball. While deGrom's record appears unappealing because of how horrendous the Mets have played thus far, he's been able to maintain a historic season. With an earned run average under two, more than 230 strikeouts and on the verge of throwing 200 innings, deGrom is in competition with no one.

All in all, 29 other MLB teams will be on the lookout for what the Mets have planned for deGrom, who has an extremely high chance of winning the NL Cy Young this season, and Wheeler, a starter that has been proven himself after he was sidelined due to injuries for two seasons. If the Mets are capable of moving at least one this upcoming offseason, they may be in store for a hefty package of prospects, and maybe, just maybe, things will start to trend in the right direction for the Mets.



PHOTO/ New York Daily News