Brooklyn College's Weekly Student Newspaper



Brooklyn College Professor Refers to Kavanaugh Allegations as "Spin-The-Bottle" Activities



A BC professor is under heat by students after posting controversial statements on his personal blog. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

#### By Zainab Iqbal

"If someone did not commit sexual assault in high school, then he is not a member of the male sex."

Brooklyn College Associate Professor in Business Management, Mitchell Langbert, reffered to Brett Kavanaugh's sexual assault allegations as "spin-the-bottle-activities," in his blog.

"In the future, having committed sexual assault in high school ought to be a prerequisite for all appointments, judicial and political," Langbert wrote. "Those who did not play spin-thebottle when they were 15 should not be in public life." On September 27, the night after Kavanaugh testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Lanbert wrote a post titled," Kavanaugh." He wrote, "The Democrats have discovered that 15-year- olds play spin-the-bottle, and they have jumped on a series of supposed spin-the-bottle crimes during Kavanaugh's minority, which they characterize as rape, although no one complained or reported any crime for 40 years."

He then criticizes the Democratic Party by saying it is a party of "tutu-wearing pansies, sissies who lack virility, a sense of decency, or the masculine judgment that has characterized the greatest civilizations." Langbert accepted the Excelsior's request to comment, and said this: "I don't take 40-year-old allegations about 15-year-olds seriously, especially when there is underlying partisan mo-

tivation about which the Democrats are lying. I also don't believe for a second that the reason for the allegations has anything to do with legitimate offenses.

I also believe that allegations of sexual harrassment have been repeatedly used here at Brooklyn College and at colleges around the country to defame, lie about, and attempt to harm the careers of faculty with whom the dominant Democratic Party power structure disagrees. A a result, I have twice had to bring an attorney to campus to defend against defamatory allegations. There is little question that defamatory sexual harassment allegations have frequently been brought here at Brooklyn, within the business department, and around

the country, as political tools. That the Democrats disagree with Kavanaugh is understandable, but to use lies or likely minor incidents that never elicited any sort of complaint lacks the virile sense of truth characteristic of an earlier age. And yes, the Democrats are a party of totalitarian sissies." As this is a personal blog

As this is a personal blog post, Brooklyn College won't make an official statement about the statements. Young Progressives of America (YPA), a political and activist organization, had this to say: "His statements are genuinely dangerous-they clearly advocate for participating in violent crimes, and generally in discrimination against women-who are already in serious danger, statistically, on college campuses and in broader society.

Even more troubling is the implication that all men do, or should commit sexual assault-especially as a prerequisite to hold positions of power. We are proud of President Michelle Anderson's recent condemnation of Brett Kavanaugh in Washington DC. An institution with a 'commitment to diversity' cannot employ anyone who publicly supports and calls for sexually-based violence. Brooklyn College must immediately cut ties with professor Langbert. We call for his full investigation and termination." YPA is holding a protest on the East Quad this Thursday, Oct. 4th during common hours, to call for Langbert's termination.

## **INSIDE THIS EDITION**

News/Features, 2-4	Opinions, 5	Arts, 6	Sports, 7-8
Another Year, Another Psychology Meet and Greet	Kavanaugh's Disqualifying Hearings	BoJack Horseman Season 5 Review	A Look at the Yankees' Wildcard Game
+ more		+ more	+ more

## **the EXCELSIOR**

Editor-In-Chief ZAINAB IQBAL

**BUSINESS MANAGER** MILAN MATHEW

COPY EDITORS Shana Mathew Preeya Ninan

SECTION EDITORS Features: M.A. Rahman News: M.A. Rahman **OPINIONS: RANTI OLAOSE** Arts: Carmen Saffioti Sports: Austin Santiago

> LAYOUT EDITOR SANDY MUI

Web Manager Sandy Mui

FACULTY ADVISOR George Rodman

## 117 Roosevelt Hall 718.951.5573

The Excelsior is funded by the Student Activity Fee and Advertising revenue and serves as a public forum for students and members of the Brooklyn

College Community. Submissions may be edited for space, clarity, and good taste. We reserve the right to reject any submission. All submissions are the opinions of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of the Excelsior or its editorial board. Calendar items must be emailed to layout@ bcexcelsior.com. Submissions sent by any other method are not guaranteed to be placed

in the calendar.

Letter submissions must be received no later than 2:00 P.M. Friday to be printed in the following Wednesday's edition.

Stop by the Excelsior's of-

# Another Year, Another Psychology Meet and Greet

#### By M.A. Rahman

Brooklyn College students and faculty affiliated with the Graduate Industrial Organizational Psychology (GIOP) organization gathered in coordination with the BC Psychology Center last week to host their second meet and greet since the organization's revival in 2016.

The meeting, open to both undergraduate and graduate psychology students of all fields, primarily consisted of students majoring in industrial and organizational psychology (I/O). They met and expressed their gratitude over sandwiches at the seldom opportunity that was afforded to them to acquaint themselves with their fellow peers.

According to the American Psychological Association, I/O psychology, for which most of the students at GOIP study, concerns "the scientific study of human behavior in organizations and the workplace."

"If I say I'm a psychology major, people seem to think I can offer them therapy sessions," said one attending I/O graduate at the GIOP meeting, referencing the general misunderstanding of mental health counseling and every other psychology specialty, including IOP.

In essence, a rewarding if not mundane career awaits students in the human resources department of countless employers. Such careers involve improving productivity, managing policy, counseling and addressing the concerns of employees.

Naturally, the analytically-based path career



GIOP students take a photo after an hour's worth of camaraderie build up. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

has grown high in demand along with increased competition as some students admit their main motivation for choosing a career in IOP is the lucrative value that could be made within it.

Recalling her own time as an undergraduate psychology student, Dr. Jennifer Feitosa, faculty advisor for GIOP, emphasized the necessity for such an organization where psychology students could be open and socialize with fellow psychology students as they devote a substantial part of their time to studying and maintaining their GPAs.

"Because of the work they will do, these students will be busy," Dr. Feitosa said in a melancholy tone. "They still need connections and work together, at least in I/O psychology. That's why when I joined BC and heard this organization existed, I wanted it back."

Dr. Feitosa cited a general lack of activity as the main contributor to GIOP's disappearance from campus, assuring that she wants to make sure it does not occur again. The club plans to have events later down the line such as a trip to the nationally respected Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology (SIOP) Conference later in the year, keeping eager students engaged.

Moira Rousseau, a graduate student studying I/O psychology and current president of GIOP, expressed her gratitude for the return of GIOP as she leads the organization, bolstering well over a dozen members.

"We want things to be informal here. That's how students probably like it best," she said as students walked in and out. They spoke to and introduced themselves

to one another, loud and reserved, alleviating themselves from the constant stresses they face in class.

"I already have made a bunch of friends today," Brian Bravo said gleefully after spending some time with a number of GIOP's members.

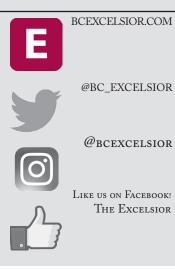
A new member himself, Brian understood the importance that the social gathering served. "It's important because we all have our own social bubbles that we all gravitate towards," he said, suggesting that isolation would not only do the club a disservice but also the students as they miss out on establishing connections for future research collaborations or job opportunities.

"We're both halves of a whole. The I and the O the organizational behavior and human resources," Brian concluded earnestly.

fice, 117 Roosevelt Hall, every Tuesday during club hours for meetings.

editor@bcexcelsior.com

The Excelsior



# EVENTS LISTING

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 Diversity in the Classroom: **Student Voices** 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Woody Tanger Auditorium

Students speak about their experiences of diversity and difference in the classroom.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

### Magner Career Center Pre-Law Orientation 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM BC Library, Room 411

This seminar breaks down the ins and outs of the entire Law School experience. Come and speak directly with recent Law School graduates.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

## **Voter Registration Drive** 12:15 PM - 2:15 PM West Quad Center

Stop by and register to vote with NYC Votes and HOT 97 so you can get ready for one of the most important elections of the year!

## My Queer History 101, V.2 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM Student Center, Room 311

McKay returns with part two of his condensed history of queer culture and history.

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 -WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10 [PORTO] Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts The Don Buchwald Theater

As a young adult, Porto finds herself disillusioned with life, turning to her local bar for comfort and platonic companionship. In Kate Benson's hilarious and unmistakable voice, [PORTO] addresses modern ennui with feminist discourse and literal icons. But can Porto take risks when she knows how the sausage is made?

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 No classes - Columbus Day

### **FEATURES**

## *3 the* EXCELSIOR **CUNY Students Create Startup to Solve** Issues in eSports

#### By SANDY MUI

Last spring, Joseph Huaynate received an email from NYC Media Lab that caught his attention. It was a call for applications for NYC Media Lab's Sports/ Media/Tech Summer Startup Bootcamp, an eight-week program held from the beginning of June to early August in partnership with Verizon and Yahoo Sports.

At the time, Huaynate who's in his last semester at Queens College and majoring in computer science and math — was more interested in the idea of pursuing a startup and didn't yet have an idea of what his startup should focus on. That changed when he attended an information session about the program, where one idea kept springing up.

"Every 10, 15 minutes, they'd just give us a subliminal message like, 'eSports, eSports," Huaynate said. "And then I was like, 'Yeah, you know what? I could probably do something with that."

Huaynate, teaming up with another CUNY student, went on to be one of four startup teams selected for the boot camp. Their idea



Zishan Ahmed (left) and Joseph Huaynate (right) present Hype to an audience on Demo Day. PHOTO/ NYC Media Lab

evolved into Hype, a platform focused on building a community of streamers and helping streamers grow an audience. But, the team and concept behind Hype would constantly transform during the boot camp.

eSports are a form of competition using video games. Though online video games

have existed since the 1990s, eSports became more mainstream in the 21st century, facilitated by the participation of professional gamers in eSports tournaments that were live streamed. The most common example that illustrates the growth of eSports is Richard Tyler Blevins, more commonly known by

his online alias "Ninja," who started streaming on Twitch (a site that primarily focuses on video game live streaming) in his sophomore year in college in 2011 and was recently featured on the cover of ESPN the Magazine.

Because of successful personalities like Ninja, more gamers — who in the past would play video games without an audience — are becoming streamers, people who broadcast themselves playing video games to an audience of viewers. "Nowadays, it seems like

**SEE "CUNY STUDENTS CREATE STARTUP TO SOLVE ISSUES IN ESPORTS,"** 4



#### CONT'D FROM "CUNY STUDENTS CREATE STARTUP TO SOLVE ISSUES IN ESPORTS," 3

gamers are also streamers and vice versa," said Huaynate. "You don't see the typical gamer anymore."

eSports, the area Hype focused on, was one of many topic areas a startup team could pick for NYC Media Lab's Sports/Media Tech Summer Startup Bootcamp. "The eSports market was truly, I think, great timing for us and for them as an early stage startup team," Amy Chen, NYC Media Lab's director of entrepreneurship programs, said about Hype.

Huaynate initially applied for the program with his friend Luis Medina, a senior at Queens College majoring in computer science. Unfortunately, a bit before the program began, Medina accepted an internship with J.P. Morgan and was not allowed to balance both the boot camp and internship during the summer.

Huaynate scrambled to find a new partner to take Medina's place. At the time, he was attending Art Hackathon, a program in which teams created projects related to art and technology. There, Huaynate bumped into Zishan Ahmed — who's finishing up his degree in multimedia computing at Brooklyn College - whom he had already known from CUNY Tech Prep, a year-long boot camp that provides CUNY students interested in computer science with industry exposure to software development and a connection to tech jobs after they graduate.

Huaynate told Ahmed about Hype, and Ahmed an avid video game player growing up — was more than happy to be Huaynate's new teammate in the boot camp.

"It just made sense to do it because he said his project was focused on eSports and then it was also an entrepreneurial thing, which I had a very big interest in," said Ahmed.

With their team in place, Huaynate and Ahmed were able to split the work of the program. Each week, the startup teams were expected to conduct at least 10 interviews in a process called "customer discovery" to learn more about the habits of their potential customers. As a recurring activity in the program, customer discovery played a vital role in determining whether a startup could be successful.

"You're kind of almost like a detective or a sculptor or a painter and you're trying to form an image," Ahmed said about his experience with customer discovery, "and you want to get that resolution as sharp as possible."

Customer discovery proved to be important for Hype — so important that it ended up shifting the entire focus of the startup.

The original idea Huaynate and Medina had for Hype was to design it as a platform that would eliminate the need for third-party applications. To explain this, Huaynate used the example of tournament viewers being directed to a new webpage when they wanted to find out what tournaments are coming up, which more than anything, was "a hassle."

"It's kind of just like having one, two, three pages all at once and you don't want to keep on changing that," Huaynate said. Thus, in its original concept, Hype would have been an add-on to Twitch that allows a person to simultaneously stream and follow an important tournament, without needing to have a third-party page open.

Then, about three to four weeks into the program, Huaynate was conducting customer discovery interviews during a meetup for Twitch streamers at Waypoint Cafe, an eSports and gaming cafe in Manhattan. While asking his "regular" questions to the streamers, he realized something he was overlooking with Hype at the time — the fact that many streamers fail to generate views even if they have been streaming for years.

"That's when the idea morphed to just having streamers of low tier come together in a platform and then just kind of do what they enjoy," said Huaynate, "and while at the same time, if it's possible where we can get higher-tier streamers on the site to just sort of teach them... tips or tricks that they themselves know in order for any new or low-tier streamers to sort of just rise from this limbo that they've been in for a while."

Inevitably, Hype has evolved significantly throughout the eight weeks of the boot camp and that has impressed Chen.

"From the beginning to demo day, I really saw them tighten around how they're considering their value proposition," said Chen. "They know there are many big established players or bigger companies that can just almost 'flip a switch' and turn on a particular feature that might be a competitor to Hype, but they still through their customer interviews are realizing they have a shot at this too. They have the skills to build a startup based on a future business model even though it might not be something implementable in the next six months."

Moving forward, the future of Hype appears to be similar to the future of eSports — uncertain, but exciting. Ahmed is leaving the team to pursue his own ventures related to incorporating modern technologies like 3D printing and scanning to make clothing, and Medina is returning to Hype.

Since Huaynate is graduating after this semester while Medina has one more semester to go, Huaynate will be taking the reins on the project. The next steps for Hype, according to Huaynate, involve having a mockup page about Hype ready by December and having a beta version of the platform ready by March. He also plans on applying for the CUNY I-Corps Innovation Challenge, a program that teaches students about customer discovery and helps students create products and services that benefit society.

Nevertheless, he's open to anything that could happen to Hype in the future.

"Honestly, I wouldn't mind if the idea kept on changing," he said. "I mean I'm currently happy with its current form, but one of the things I realized is I feel like when I talk to more people, I will probably get some more insight to some other particular problem, which could probably be solved through Hype."

One thing's for sure: this is a problem that needs to be addressed and solved.

"I just hope that if not us, then someone solves the problem of 'how do you get a small streamer to continually gain audiences' or maybe give them the chance to grow," said Medina. "A lot of the times, the people that become big either get lucky or spend hours a day playing games just to be good. But a lot of the big streamers and YouTubers... say that the way they got big was just luck. So maybe we can somehow break that [and] instead of just giving the streamer tools, to just stream themselves [and] giving them tools to make a community."



### FEATURES

**OPINIONS** 

## The opinions expressed in the Opinions Section do not necessarily reflect the views of The Excelsior. Kavanaugh's Disqualifying Hearings

#### BY RANTI OLAOSE

What was supposed to be a smooth ride to a Supreme Court seat for Brett Kavanaugh has instead become a high stakes showdown since sexual assault allegations were levied against him, first by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, a University professor who alleged that he nearly raped her at a party in 1982. Not long after, two other women came forward with their own allegations against him. Deborah Ramirez accused him of exposing himself to her at a party and Julie Swetnick alleged that he and his friend would often drink too excess at parties and become aggressive towards the girls around them. Kavanaugh denied all the allegations at an emotionally charged hearing on Thursday, where Dr. Ford was also present to answer questions from the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The contrast between Dr. Ford and Kavanaugh's performance was striking. She calmly and gracefully answered the questions posed to her by both Democrats and the female sex crimes prosecutor that the Republicans on the Judiciary Committee had hired to avoid the optics of a group of older white men aggressively grilling a woman under duress. She attempted to answer every question posed



Brett Kavanugh should not be appointed as a Supreme Court Justice. PHOTO/ Win McNamee - Getty

to her, admitted where she couldn't remember important details and even provided some expert testimony while she was at it, being a Psychology professor who could offer some insight into how the brain processes traumatic memories.

Kavanaugh, on the other hand, began his testimony with a venomous and conspiratorial missive that claimed that Democrats and "The Left" were out to destroy him as revenge for losing the 2016 election. Such a nakedly partisan speech by a nominee for what is supposed to be an impartial and non-political judicial position was disqualifying by itself. As if that wasn't bad enough, he was belligerent and evasive during his questioning by Democratic senators who were attempting to assess his credibility and have him commit to a full FBI investigation into the allegations. One would expect him to be the loudest voice clamoring for a full investigation to clear his good name if the allegation was false as he claims, but instead he dodged, sputtered and stared blankly when asked if he wanted an FBI investigation to clear his name.

His credibility pales even further seeing that he lied under oath several times during his testimony, about seemingly minor details and important ones as well. He said that there had already been an investigation into the claims by the Judiciary committee, when in fact there wasn't. Republicans refused to interview or subpoena Mark Judge, Kavanaugh's friend named by Dr. Ford as an eyewitness and participant in the assault, to testify which would be a necessary first step into any proper investigation of the matter. None of the other alleged eyewitnesses have been interviewed or will testify; instead, they have all submitted sworn statements saying they don't recall the incident.

The reluctance of the Republicans who control the Judiciary Committee to interview or subpoena Mark Judge in particular is a sign that they do not care if the allegations are true or not, a sentiment that some even expressed during the hearing. Kavanaugh's lies didn't stop there, as he stated that all the witnesses named had said it did not happen, when in fact they claimed they did not remember it, which is a significant difference. Kavanaugh also lied and evaded when asked about his drinking habits, which he knew would be the single most damning evidence against him. In a particularly striking exchange, when Senator Amy Klobuchar asked him if he had ever been blackout drunk, he defiantly flung her question back at her. When another Senator asked him about his drinking, his laughable answer was, "I got into Yale!" as

though that precluded any drinking he may have done. It's even more obvious he was lying about his drinking as many of his classmates and a former roommate have all come forward to say that he was in fact a heavy drinker and could be belligerent and aggressive when drunk. However, Kavanaugh is aware that admitting to this would significantly bolster the credibility of Dr. Ford's account, so instead he chose to perjure himself in front of the committee.

Kavanaugh would probably have gotten away with all of this if not for the bravery of two women who confronted Senator Jeff Flake in an elevator on Capitol Hill after he announced he intended to vote for Kavanaugh. As he stood in shame, they passionately and forcefully made him realize the message he was sending to women everywhere, particularly to survivors of sexual assault like themselves, by voting for Kavanaugh. Flake relented and forced a delay of a week so that the FBI could conduct an investigation into the matter, the integrity of which is now in doubt since news reports have emerged that the White House imposed significant constraints on the scope of the investigation.

Regardless of how it turns out though, one thing is clear after Kavanaugh's performance on Thursday. He does not have the temperament to sit on the Supreme Court for a lifetime as evidenced by his uncontrolled rage and belligerence, and he is not an independent and fair-minded judge but instead a political operative with a grudge as indicated by his truly disturbing opening speech. Most importantly, he does not have any regard for the law that he will be in charge of making if he gets on to the court. His repeated perjury alone is cause for immediate disqualification, and if the Republicans were the party of law and order as they have claimed for decades they would withdraw his nomination immediately. Instead, the nation braces for another week in which the already ugly partisan fight over this confirmation will only get uglier.



Christine Blasey Ford testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday. PHOTO/ Getty Images

## 6 the EXCELSIOR

ARTS

## **BoJack Horseman Season 5 Review**

## BY CARMEN SAFFIOTI Warning: Spoilers Ahead

BoJack Horseman season five started off in its usual nature: crazy antics with a mix of existential dread. After the more positive end of season four, season five is quick to establish that it is not going down that same route.

Characters are left to deal with the repercussions of last season: divorce, death, relationships and guilt. Each episode focuses on a character and their plot line – Diane's divorce, Mr. Peanutbutter's new relationship, BoJack's guilt, Todd's asexuality, and Princess Carolyn's adoption process. What is great about this season is that we really get to delve into each character's personal drama and background. There is a lot of character development this season and it is very rewarding.

BoJack is the show's complex protagonist. He is not a "good person." He continually makes mistakes that are almost unforgivable, yet the audience cannot help but latch onto his personality, even if it is narcissistic at times. What is great, however, is that the writers of the show do not let him off easily. They do not let the audience forget the long list of bad things that Bo-Jack has done. BoJack has to truly work this season in order to forgive himself.

This season is striking-



"Free Churro" is season five's standout episode, in which BoJack delivers a 20 minute eulogy. PHOTO/ IMDb

ly relevant to the #MeToo movement. BoJack assaults his female co-star during a stunt gone wrong. Although it was an accident and BoJack was high, the writers make it clear that that doesn't matter. Instead, BoJack needs to apologize and take full responsibility for what he has done. It sends the message that the circumstances do not matter when you have hurt someone - you still need to accept responsibility. This sends the right message about sexual assault and it is also a powerful critique of Hollywood celebrities who have refused to take such responsibility by twisting the story in their favor or flat out denying allegations. This season refreshingly is in tune to out changing the culture of today.

My favorite episode of season five is the funeral episode. The entire episode is BoJack delivering a eulogy for his deceased mother, in which he goes off into many existential tangents about life, death, and his childhood. The perspective never shifts from BoJack; there are no flashbacks or glimpses of any other character - forcing the audience to focus solely on what BoJack is saying. If you have been watching the show from season one, it should be clear to you that BoJack has had a terrible childhood and he mostly blames his parents (particularly his mother) for it. BoJack starts his 20-minute speech by bringing up an incident that happened at Jack in the Box; he got a free churro because he told

the drive-thru cashier that his mother had died ("Free Churro" is the title of the episode). Even someone who has not watched BoJack Horseman at all can enjoy this strange concept episode.

BoJack Horseman is still thriving in its fifth season, which is pretty incredible for any show. Fans, myself included, are excited for the next season, but season five is so saturated with meaning that we will be satisfied until next year.

## **Brockhampton iridescence Review**

#### **BY JARROD BENN**

The long-awaited album iridescence by Brockhampton was officially released on September 21st, 2018. Last year the multi-member boy band released three albums as part of the Saturation saga; these albums are what skyrocketed the group into what they are now, and iridescence is the post-success story. The band's latest collection of unconventional rap, pop, and EDM-like cuts don't seem to disappoint and the amount of perfectly timed transitions made this one of the most unpredictable yet enjoyable albums of the year so far. Listeners can expect to be welcomed into the project by a fast-paced and intense verse from the track titled track manages to set the tone for what a majority of All members of the group

"NEW ORLEANS." This twist if you've listened to the group's previous works. project; some members managed to standout a bit more than others, but they weren't the usual suspects. The group's most notable act seems to have taken the backseat this time around. Fan favorites like Matt Champion and Kevin Abstract were the least present throughout the project. With that being said, front man Kevin Abstract was still able to pull off one of the best verses on the album which can be found in the more poetic and personal song titled "WEIGHT." The group has had a few controversies stir up; most

were not in their favor. A raries. The blend of bass filled pivotal member of the group had been dropped during the project has in store. The are present throughout the what might've been one of ously competing with synths the group's biggest obstacles thus far. The allegations of sexual abuse and misconduct against ex-Brockhampton member Ameer Vann seem to have taken a toll on the band as a whole. As a group, they decided to cut the emcee who is the face of their first three album covers. This was a decision that caused mixed emotions among fans. Even without former standout member Ameer Vann, the group still manages to deliver some of their best work yet. The beat selection on this project is truly non-traditional when compared to the albums of their contempo-

crashes and heavy hitting drums that are simultaneand other unconventional hip hop sounds make some of the beats on this thing sound nearly heaven sent. The album gradually tones down from aggressive and intense to a more ear-friendly and melodic sound that is present in the last 4 tracks. For their first label distributed album they've managed to show off some new tricks while staying true to the sound that made fans all over fall in love. All in all iridescence is a great start to a new chapter in the Brockhampton story.

beat to this intro track is scattered with verses coming in from all directions and eventually smoothly transitions to some heartwarming melodic vocals. Most, if not all, the tracks are heavily painted with strokes of confessional-like verses from all members of the group; in upbeat tracks like "WHERE THE CASH AT "and "DIS-TRICT" there are hints that even with the money made throughout their journey, there are problems that a quick fix can't be purchased. This project may seem to have an unexpected

## 7 the EXCELSIOR SPORTS Oct A Look at the Yankees' Wildcard Game

#### By Ivan Morrobel

The long-lasting MLB regular season has finally come to an end and for a second straight season, the New York Yankees will host the American League (AL) Wild Card Game. After putting together a marvelous campaign, in which they won 100 games, the Yankees will go to head-to-head with the Oakland Athletics. The winner of the AL Wild Card game will meet the Boston Red Sox in the American League Division Series.

It will be interesting to see which team wins this do-or-die game, considering they split six regular season matchups against each other. The Yankees, who were one game shy of making it to the 2017 World Series, are expected to have another deep playoff run this year, while the Athletics make their first postseason appearance since 2014.

September was a struggle for the Yankees, as Judge, Didi Gregorius, and Aroldis Chapman battled injuries, but luckily the trio has returned just in time for the playoffs.

The Athletics have also faced trials regarding injury. Star left-handed pitcher Sean Manaea was shut down for the remainder of



The Yankees will need to be firing on all cylinders to win their wildcard game. PHOTO/ USA Today

the season due to a shoulder injury. However, they fought in order to remain atop the AL west.

Offensively, both teams are very much alike. The Bronx Bombers are loaded with sluggers from top to bottom with Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, and Miguel Andujar, which is why they broke the single-season home run record (267). But, the A's have a dicey lineup of their own with Matt Olson, Jed Lowrie and this year's home run leader (48), Khris Davis.

Despite what their lineups can do to one another, pitching will be the deciding factor between the two teams. Unlike the Yankees who have three legitimate starters (Luis Severino, Masahiro Tanaka, J.A. Happ), the Athletics don't have a proven starter, yet it was the Athletics who finished with a lower earned run average (3.95) in their games against the Yankees this season.

In their six games, the Athletics also led in runs (5.5) and average (.246). Nevertheless, the AL Wild Card game will be held in the Bronx, where the Yankees won a three-game series in May, although some fans would say the Athletics have become a completely different team since then.

Last but not least, the bullpen: both teams feature exceptional arms that can put the finishing touches to a ball game. Considering the A's don't have a genuine ace, relievers such as Blake Treinen, Lou Trivino, and Fernando Rodney are likely to make an appearance. The Yankees, on the other hand, have just as many pitchers in their bullpen who can torment the Athletics.

The Yankees are no stranger to wild-card games. In 2015, they lost to the Houston Astros in a one-game playoff, and later defeated the Minnesota Twins in last year's wildcard matchup. The Athletics' last postseason appearance ended after they lost to the Kansas City Royals in the 2014 AL Wild Card Game. All in all, these two teams have shown their respective fanbase that they can de-

feat the opposing team, but their regular season records against each other are neck and neck. Regardless of the victor, there will be little time for rest, as the prize for victory is a trip to Beantown, where they will face-off against the Boston Red Sox for a series that won't

be for the faint of heart.



PHOTO/ USA Today

# Despite Hardships, Brooklyn College's Rita Henriquez Keeps On Kicking

#### BY AUSTIN SANTIAGO

Rita Henriquez is running to attack. The starting defender for the Brooklyn College women's soccer team makes her way up the field with a burst of intensity to stall the other team's offense. She succeeds, but perhaps what is even more incredible than watching Henriquez defend for the school soccer team is the story of how she got here.

In a journey that saw her attend two colleges prior to Brooklyn College, as well as moving out of New York at a young age and growing up in Pennsylvania, her story is one of perseverance and unique perspective. Henriquez comes from a loving family, one that knows all too well what it means to overcome adversity. Her mother, Jessica, is an immigrant from Chile who finally secured citizenship after living in the United States for over 20 years.

"As a child, you don't see a residency status as a primary aspect of your life, until I was in middle school, and I saw my life compared to other kids." Though the same age as her peers in middle school, Henriquez carried a sense of responsibility that many her age did not have at the time.

She had no choice, as her father had left before she was a teenager. "They separated; my dad just kind of left my mom, she didn't have job, nor could she speak English, with two kids."

Understanding that staying idle was not an option, her mother quickly began looking for work, and eventually became a housekeeper.



Rita Henriquez (pictured kicking a soccer ball) has had a long journey as a soccer player, and she sees herself playing for the Bulldogs in her final season. PHOTO/ Damion Reid

her show frustration with Henriquez has been able to my mother," Henriquez explained. "I couldn't blame her for being ignorant on the process, when it came to financial aid, and applying to college I had to do it myself, she just didn't know." The arguments Henriquez recalled having with her mother are arguments that have become common for many children of immigrants while are first in their family to apply to college; the arguments don't come from a place of anger, but from one of confusion. Thankfully, through both persistence and patience,

her situation. "It was un- attend college, continuing cer players she looks up grants: "Don't let society defair that I was upset with to set and reach new goals. to, Henriquez was quick fine you as the child of an im-Despite all the hardships that came as a result of her mother's status, as well as the frustration with the college application process, there has always been one positive constant in Rita's' life: soccer. Her love for the game is seemingly embedded in her blood. Soccer has represented more than an extracurricular activity for Henriquez and has served as a reminder that hard work pays off and that the game can bring people together. This was a valuable lesson learned while playing at Monroe College.

When asked what soc- to other children of immimigrant, absorb everything this Country can give you." Under the current administration, many immigrants have been forced to live in fear while their children wonder if their parents will always be there to support them. Henriquez is now learning the same lesson her mother learned all those years ago, that staying idle is not an option. Henriquez will continue to play soccer, she will continue to make her mother proud, and she will continue to run.

Henriquez's mother went to work every day in order to make a better life for her daughter and to make sure that the United States presented the amazing opportunities for her children, the same opportunities she came for in 1987.

Though Henriquez has had a successful college career from both an and academic and athletic perspective, the college application process proved very difficult for her and her mother. It was a process that Henriquez did not enjoy going through and at times made

to reflect on her teammates from Monroe. "One of the bigger inspirations were the girls, from Monroe college, who came from thousands of miles away, from nothing, just to come here and play soccer," she said. Because of that, Henriquez learned how to play with passion and learned to be proud of where she came from: "I play for them." In 2018, it can be hard for immigrants and their children to be proud of who they are, and this is a lesson Henriquez hopes to spread