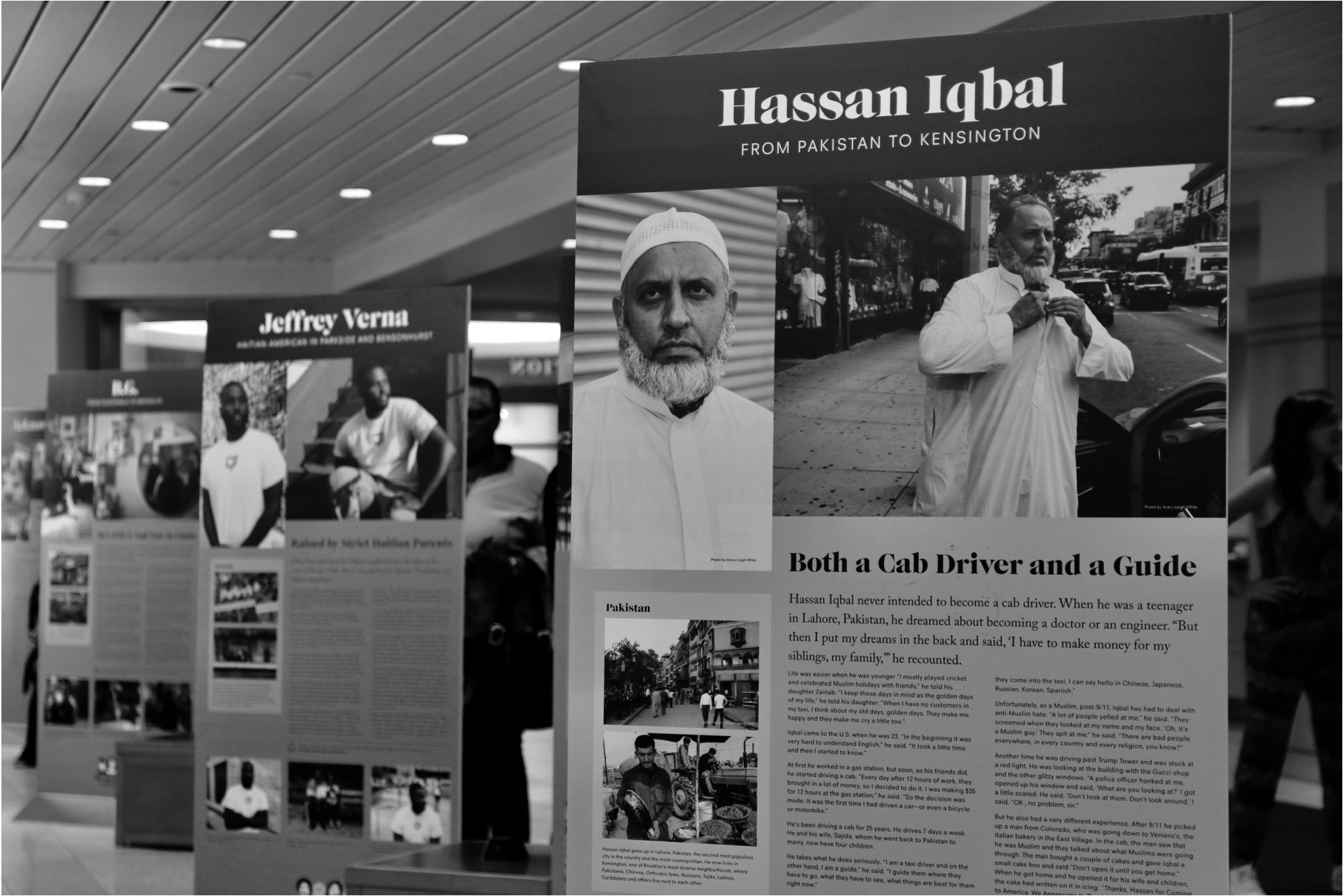


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“We Are Brooklyn”

Brooklyn College Listening Project Exhibition Makes Its Debut



The “We are Brooklyn” exhibit will be at the Brooklyn College Library until November. PHOTO/ Zainab Iqbal

BY ZAINAB IQBAL

A Brooklyn College Listening Project (BCLP) exhibition highlighting the stories of immigrants in Brooklyn, “We Are Brooklyn,” made its debut at the Brooklyn College Library two weeks ago. The exhibition features ten panels of different immigrant stories in the borough. BCLP allows students from various disciplines to go out and interview someone for about an hour, resulting in an oral history that would be archived. This exhibition was made possible after Jessi-

ca Siegel, a BC Journalism professor and founding member of the BCLP had received a grant from Humanities New York. The Listening Project “serves our community and delivers the wisdom of the community back to Brooklyn College, back to students, back to the classroom,” President Michelle Anderson said. She noted that BCLP encompasses different disciplines and that is what makes it so great. The exhibition features stories from a DACA student who is now unprotected, Council Member

Jumaane Williams’ mother, a man who didn’t see his mom until he was five, a single mom, and many more. “Here we are in one of the most diverse places in the world, Brooklyn,” Anderson said proudly, before adding “the language we speak here of diversity and engagement is language that is around the world, people know Brooklyn increasingly because it’s experiencing this incredible renaissance.” Jeffrey Verna, a Bensonhurst resident that originally grew up in Parkside was interviewed by his sister-in-law. He spoke

about how his strict Haitian mother kept him away from getting involved in the crime in his neighborhood, especially those involving illegal narcotics. Verna, a photographer, and videographer said his interview, “To put it straightforward: I am a black man in America, so it’s difficult. You’re already a target just being black.” When Pedro Batista was five years old, he was sent to live with his mother in New York who barely knew. He eventually got involved in a street gang. Now, he lives in Harlem with his family.

“This is what the humanities and social sciences do; this is what we bring to the table,” Kenneth Gould, Acting Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences said about the exhibit. “This is what Brooklyn is. This is why Brooklyn is the best place in the world to be,” he laughed. “It’s where everybody wants to be, which is why our rents keep going up.” *The exhibition will be in the Library until November.*

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Saving the City \$1.8 Million at a Time

BY MICHELLE BERNSTEIN

NYS Department of Environmental Protection and Mayors Office puts two Brooklyn College Professors in charge of a \$1.8 million dollar effort to survey the city's flooding problem.

As inclement weather and floods are on the rise, Jennifer Cherrier, chairperson of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES), and Brianne Smith, assistant professor in EES, discuss their efforts in spearheading a campaign to address one of the more pressing matters effecting the city.

"NYC is experiencing increasing occurrences of flash-floods because the storm water has nowhere to go," Cherrier said. "We currently use a combined sewer system, which the City began developing in the mid-1800s, to drain the storm water and wastewater."

The result has been an all-too-noticeable spectacle for commuters; with waterfalls ever frequently rushing down the subway stairs and drenched bodies, it is an eerie sight not to be mistaken as some new wonder of the world that one hopes to see and visit during their next family getaway, but rather another sign of NYC's ongoing sewage management problem.

It is here, Cherrier points out, that one of the main culprits behind the lack of sewage space for water to go lies: people and pavement.

As the NYC population has grown and more pavement is built, the number of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) has also grown.

According to NYC Environmental Protection,



Professor Cherrier, BC department chairperson of Earth and Environmental Sciences (right) and Professor Smith, assistant professor in EES (left). PHOTO/ Brooklyn College

"Treatment plants are unable to handle flows that are more than twice design capacity, and when this occurs, a mix of excess storm water and untreated wastewater discharges directly into the City's waterways at certain outfalls."

This problem not only results in the pollution of our waterways, but also causes major flooding issues," Cherrier said. In the past, the City addressed this issue by creating models that predicted major floods zones, but these models failed to show how water drains from the City.

Concerned, Cherrier and Smith assembled a team of scientists from five other institutions and submitted a research proposal to investigate storm water flow and flooding in the five boroughs.

"Out of the numerous to submit proposals, Brooklyn College's team was selected to receive \$1.8 million in funding from the NYC Department of Environ-

mental Protection and the Mayor's Office for the project," Cherrier said proudly.

The money allocated for this study is going towards the project's main goal, which is align the environmental, social, and economic needs of flood-prone areas of the City to identify the best forms of storm water infrastructure to offset flooding risks. The best choices of infrastructure would address the needs of vulnerable communities and make these areas more sustainable and resilient to floods.

Cherrier excitedly shared that her team is developing high resolution 2-D hydrologic and hydraulic models, which show how water flows within the city. Elaborating on this technology, she said they are making scenarios of various weather conditions to predict future rain/storm events as well as identifying interventions to handle floods on a citywide and neighborhood scale. Once the study is complete, NYC

policy makers will use the information and modeling products developed by the research team to make decisions about which interventions should be implemented in chosen neighborhoods.

One of the interventions to be considered will be Cherrier's green hybrid technology that helps to better control green infrastructure systems to maximize storm water interception and pollution removal and allows for water reuse.

In leading such a project, Cherrier and Smith hope to provide city managers with the best scientific tools for making decisions about storm water management and to inspire future generations to build stronger and more sustainable cities.

In the meantime, those that wish to affect change should vote, Cherrier expressed. "Vote for candidates that will allocate the resources to ensure that NYC is safe and resilient to storms and flooding."

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EVENTS LISTING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Experience Career Coach, Amy Geffen from Geffen Careers will share her tips for finding the hidden job market. Are you answering ads on the internet and not getting any responses? The two best ways to find a job are through networking and direct contact with a hiring manager. In this interactive workshop you will learn about ways to expand your network and practice writing to get information interviews with hiring managers in the companies or organizations where you would like to work.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Landing an IT Internship: Recruiters' Secrets

12:15 PM - 2:00 PM

Student Center, Jefferson-Williams Lounge

This event is targeted to Computer and Information Science majors. Students who are undecided/undeclared and contemplating a career in the CIS are also welcome. Panelists/Employers from JP Morgan, Con Edison, Accenture,

CUNY IT program CUNY Tech Prep & NPower will discuss their internships/career opportunities and share recruiter's secrets, offer tips and advice with students.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Schreibman Lecture: David Crews, University of Texas

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

113 Ingersoll Extension

The Department of Biology will host Professor David Crews from the University of Texas as part of this year's Schreibman Lecture in Integrative Biology. Professor Crews' lab focuses on problems in reproductive biology in a variety of model systems, and involves research in the lab and the field. His seminar, "We have soiled our nest: Now what?", is open to the College community, and will be followed by a small reception.

BC Hosts Diversity Event at Students Center

BY M.A. RAHMAN

Students Activities Involvement Leadership (SAIL) hosted its annual Diversity Awareness Fair, “Culture Fest,” at the Brooklyn College Student Center, celebrating and showcasing the myriad of students’ cultural traditions, arts, music and food.

Spread throughout the fourth floor of the BC Student Center, students found a place of respite. Its contents: an assortment of free and diverse food, drinks, music, and club presentations to expose prospective students to clubs ranging from the various Greek organizations to the Puerto Rican & Latino Alliance (PRA).

In the eyes of organizers, it was participating clubs like these, along with their respective members, that best showcased BC’s strength in diversity. They sought to engage with prospective onlookers and educated them about their club’s history, background, heritage, and goals.

“I’m actually not Puerto Rican. I’m Nicaraguan,” Autumn, VP of PRA, said. “It was freshman year...I had gaps in my classes, and I just wanted to meet people,” Autumn said candidly, noting the diversity of PRA’s membership alone.



Students perform traditional Caribbean dance among a crowd of onlookers at SAIL’s Diversity Awareness Fair. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

With the event and “Culture Fest” venue in mind, clubs like PRA chose their own form to express their club’s goals and ideals. PRA showcased their vibrantly colored banners, proudly displaying PRA’s establishment in 1968, along with past papers that cover their work at their table.

“We’ve historically been a politically driven club,” said Autumn. She promoted one of PRA’s lingering goals: getting Indigenous People’s Day recognized and celebrated in lieu of Columbus Day.

Other clubs chose to have a decidedly more tame, if not potentially divisive presentation. Such was the case with Alpha Phi Alpha, an African American based fraternity. Its tremendous banner presentation showed the club’s collective achievements over the past century since being founded in 1906, earning such achievements in spite of the many hardships its members have gone through.

Food was another highlight of the event in its own right. Throngs of students came around to try various

cuisines of differing cultural backgrounds, ranging from pasta to empanadas. Some foods students admit they were familiar with but still served as a delectable lunch.

Perhaps one of the more curious organizations present at the Diversity Awareness Fair was the Student Organization for Every Disability United for Progress (SOFEDUP), a club that seeks to cater, work with, and accommodate disabled students

According to Doreen Brittingham, treasurer of

SOFEDUP, it was the SAIL office that put this event together and invited her club. She accepted the invitation saying that while disability does not constitute as a kind of culture, it does, however reflect a community on campus and is a part of their identity. By extension, such a group is a component of BC’s diversity.

Doreen continued speaking about SOFEDUP members and their disabilities saying, “A lot of them don’t talk about it because they’re not as comfortable and would rather stay invisible.” She further stated in a reassuring tone how members that she saw at the event were enjoying themselves.

As the event began to reach its conclusion, a great commotion began to stir. Traditional Caribbean dancers emerged from the halls and danced before a crowd of on looking students fully captivated by the sight.

After watching it and being mesmerized, Khilola Vahobova, a sophomore said, “I’m so grateful to be going to such a diverse school, and ready to dance,” stating that she hopes the next Culture Fest will last longer.

Farm Share: More Than Just Grocery Shopping

BY M.A. RAHMAN

It’s that time again; college. The Corbin Hill Farm Share program sets up a shop in the Brooklyn College cafeteria, offering CUNY students, and faculty an assortment of healthy options on the go via its single day pick up service, exuding mostly warm reactions across campus.

Since Spring 2018, the weekly subscription-based produce for low income areas program Farm Share has had an active presence on the BC campus, boasting well over a hundred subscribers from the campus, thanks in part to its partnership with the BC Agricultural Center.

“What makes Corbin Hill unique is that you can pay week by week, instead of by the month; you can just pay at least 15 bucks per week and go as you please,” said Michael Hanna, an Urban Sustainability major and volunteer for Farm Share at

BC noting the convenience offered by Farm Share.

The aforementioned sign up is done via the Corbin Hill website, where users are offered between a \$15 to a \$28 share options including at most eight to 11 items of fresh produce respectively.

This does not include the additional locally produced add-ons offered to Shareholders such as eggs, bulk flour, or even raw honey.

Beyond the wonder and flexibility offered by the program, there is an altruistic purpose behind it – the need to remedy the encroaching problem of ‘food deserts’ appearing in places like New York City.

According to the USDA, “Food deserts are defined as parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of gro-



Farm Share volunteers prepare this week’s selection of produce for everyone including CUNY students, faculty, and workers. PHOTO/ M.A. Rahman

cery stores, farmers’ markets, and healthy food providers.”

Thus, a vacuum has been left for major food distributors like Corbin Hill to fulfill with their own program, seeking to address “the needs of low-income communities through our affordable prices and flexibility with sign up and payment options,” states the Corbin Hill website.

The result is Food Share, noted for its locations, prices and going as far as accepting the now obscure Health Bucks as valid payment.

“How such a program came to Brooklyn College has been the undertaking of faculty members from various BC centers and services pushing for it,” said Devon Heath, a volunteer

and Sustainability major.

These include the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, and the Sustainability Council.

The concept of ‘food des-

SEE “FARM SHARE: MORE THAN JUST GROCERY SHOPPING,” 4

CONT'D FROM "FARM SHARE: MORE THAN JUST GROCERY," 3

erts', however, and their ubiquity in the city as indicated by map's based on the City's survey, have not gone unchallenged. City Journal, a magazine published by the right-winged think tank, "Manhattan Institute of Policy Research," has drawn a skeptical eye with reports stating as many as 1.4 million New Yorkers are deemed 'food insecure' by the city.

Rebuffing "the idea that hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of New Yorkers are miles away from an apple or banana is simply untrue..." suggesting that there are a greater concentration of groceries in low-income minority communities who in their estimation presumably are unwilling rather than unable to purchase healthier food options. To further underscore their point, City Journal's Seth Barron points to the high rate of obesity

in these low-income areas populated by minorities, a contrast to any sense of a 'desert' in his view. Barron goes on by pointing that even the New York Times concur at least to some extent that the city's definition of 'food deserts' might fall under too broad a range and needlessly come off as exaggerating if not overly simplifying an ever pressing issue affecting New Yorkers. Yet as the definition of 'food desert' and the criteria that makes a given place

qualify as such especially distance-wise continues to be subject of dispute, most studies are still remain certain about the status of 'food insecure' persons in the city - 1.3 million NYC residents are found to be 'food insecure' according to Food Bank For New York City. That is around 1.3 million people at some point have unexpectedly gone hungry without access to a reliable food source typically due to economic conditions. Ideally, organizations like

Farm Share work to address this if not help directly organize reform for such an issue. "The end goal is hard to define for us" Michael admitted regarding Farm Share, acknowledging the lingering debate that persists amongst his peers between what is called "resilience vs sustainability." "All I know is that I want to reach at least the same numbers of subscribers we had as last semester," Michael concluded jovially.

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

On Serena and Sexism in Sports

BY NAVIN RANA

Sports have always featured an antagonistic relationship between the player and the scorekeeper. One iconic image of baseball is of a manager coming out onto the field to yell profusely at the umpire about a call. Across all sports, fans feel as though referees make unfair calls that irrevocably alter the course of a game. At the US Open, the premier tennis tournament in the United States, Serena Williams entered a heated altercation with the chair umpire, Carlos Ramos, during the Women's Final. The argument started after Williams received two code violations: one for illegally receiving coaching during the match and one for breaking her racket. Everything came to a screeching halt with the delivery of a third code violation for verbal abuse in this argument. The third code violation slightly altered the momentum of the match; this meant that Naomi Osaka would be awarded a game point late in the second set. This shifted the momentum of the match and allowed Osaka to win in straight sets. After the match and an awful award ceremony, Williams came out and called out the chair umpire for blatant sexism and said he acted as a thief. While some in the sports community are



Carlos Ramos (left) and Serena Williams (right) are discussing the issuance of code violations during the US Open Women's Final in September 2018. PHOTO/ Getty Images

in agreement with Williams, there is an equally staunch stance from the opposing side claiming she was acting entitled and shouldn't have argued with an umpire. Some reporters went so far as to call Williams "hysterical," which seemingly supports the claims of sexism. There are two obvious routes of answering the question of sexism that was brought forward by Williams and others. First is examining the role and response of Ramos during the match. Ramos is known for being a stubborn umpire, so this is clearly in line with his behavior. However, it remains unclear whether or not he gave Williams the third code violation because he was taken aback by a woman fiercely challenging his decisions.

The second method of analysis would come from a review of systemic judgments against both men and women during Grand Slams. However, this line also becomes blurred quite quickly. Twenty years' worth of fines at Grand Slam events were reviewed by the London Telegraph. The data displayed that men received approximately three times more code violations (racket abuse, verbal abuse, etc.) than women during the Grand Slam events from 1998 to 2018. Even after correction for the fact that men played five sets while women played three sets, the differentials were against the men. However, many have pointed out that women are targeted more per punishable offence than men. If the men

made 1000 violations in a season, they would receive a code violation 300 times for a 30% rate of enforcement. However, if there were 500 violations for women in a season and they received only 250 code violations, this would mean a 50% rate of enforcement which is significantly higher than it is for men. Therefore, even though the total number of code violations for women are lower than that for men, there seems to be a disproportionate rate of enforcement in favor of the men. Nonetheless, there are clear signs of mistreatment of female players during matches based on the kinds of code violations received. Even earlier this very US Open, female player Alize Cornet was given a code violation for unsports-

manlike conduct. Her violation: quickly fixing her new shirt which was on backwards after coming back from a ten-minute break. This is a violation that men never receive on the court and is a very clear sign of bias on the part of that umpire. In Williams' situation, the claim of sexism versus appropriate actions on the part of the umpire is not an easily discernible call. Ramos was within his right to issue three code violations, but the manner in which he conducted himself was entirely unhelpful to the situation. He did nothing to help stop tensions from swelling - tensions which will obviously run high during the finals for a Grand Slam. Unfortunately, this whole incident took away from the outstanding victory of the 20-year-old Naomi Osaka. Osaka was playing like a young Williams and would have won regardless of the late penalty. Osaka already defeated Williams in straight sets earlier this year at the Miami Open. Regardless, she is undoubtedly going to have a fantastic future in the sport. However, it was saddening to see her crying on the award stage as the US Open fans were booing her because of the continued rivalry between the player and the scorekeeper.

Social Credit Systems: The Death of a Free Society

BY EDMUND ZHEN

The Chinese government recently rolled out a test drive of a social credit system in a few of its cities such as Roncheng, a city in Eastern China. This Orwellian system advocates for a mandatory behavior code that aims to regulate the behavior and actions of its citizens. This system could be a response to the poor reputation Chinese citizens accumulated over the years in foreign countries.

Similar to America's three-digit credit system that determines your credibility, China takes that idea to the extreme, tracking and calculating your score based on your purchases, your habits, and your actions. Citizens are monitored by 200 million cameras that are ubiquitously spread out all over the country. In addition to that, China has been deploying facial recognition technology - a power scanning program equipped with the capability to scan and search its database of the entire population of China in a matter of seconds. Hiding from the government is just virtually impossible.

There are multiple ways in which a citizen's social score is affected by their actions; good deeds will boost up scores and infractions will inevitably lower them. In-



A visual of how society would be like with the social credit system. PHOTO/ Kevin Hong

fraction consists of offenses such as bad driving, smoking in non-smoking zones and even playing too much video games. It is vital that Chinese citizens be wary of their score because it is the thin line that separates succeeding or failing in society. Some benefits of having a high social score include booking a hotel without paying a deposit, speeding up travel applications, boosting profiles on social sites, and having better interest rates and discounts on utility bills. Disadvantages of a low social score would include having slow internet speed, banning you or your kids from getting

into good schools or jobs, being publicly shamed, and revoking your travel rights.

Some people may feel strongly about this surveillance system and believe it's an infringement on people's rights. But with China being a communist state, it's hard to say which rights are really theirs. Everything is owned by the government, including the people as well. With China catapulting from near-isolation to re-engaging with the world in such a short time, it has failed its citizens in helping them catch up with the norms and customs of the world. Although this may seem

like a good plan to manifest higher principles and proper conduct for generations to come, it would be a total disaster for any chance of Chinese society becoming a free and open one.

The reason why I described it as an "Orwellian system" is because this system could potentially pave the way to a totalitarian rule. The first step has already been achieved with President Xi Jinping abolishing presidential term limits. (Term limits were previously set by Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to prevent the repeat of chaos and catastrophe under Mao

Zedong.) In addition to an omniscient system and the people's fear of punishment, a Machiavellian society will inevitably arise. People will have the incentive to become whistleblowers, and prejudice will reveal itself. All this could cause China's attempt to teach its citizens courtesy and credibility to backfire and increase the amount of corruption in the government. There are also rumors that China intends to expand this social credit system outside its borders, rating companies with the same system. If this is true, it would be very hard for foreign companies who wish to expand their markets into China to function as they normally would and thus cause China to lose valuable revenue.

With the trajectory China is heading towards, it is obvious that the government wants to establish absolute control of its citizens and outsiders who have any sort of influence in its country. Whether China is trying to repeat history by ruling with an iron grip like Mao or if Xi Jinping is trying to establish his own legacy through other means, it only spells trouble for Chinese citizens. Abide by the rules or suffer.

Let's Talk About STD's

BY BORIS MULLAYEV

It is a good time to be alive. There have been advancements in technology that have improved the quality of living in the U.S. from the new iPhone XS (not pronounced "excess") to the commercially-available jetpacks. Yet despite the progress the country has experienced in technological advancements, there has been consistent and significant regression in some aspects of sexual health within the U.S.

Sexually transmitted diseases have been on the rise consistently over the last four years and counting; according to researchers, cases of STDs have now reached record high levels within the country - topping America as the leading country in levels of STDs within the industrialized world. That's not an award to be proud of! Researcher David Harvey nicknamed

this unique time in history as "an absolute STD public health crisis in the country."

The numbers are grim. A study published by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in 2017, reveals that cases of men inflicted with gonorrhea have almost doubled. The cases of syphilis have increased in frequency by 76%. There are also significant increases in the STD known as chlamydia. The number of people that have contacted STDs has increased and thus the risk of contracting STDs has also increased. Put simply: these are highly dangerous times to be having reckless, unprotected sex.

Yet the news gets even worse. Treatment against STDs is becoming less effective because the bacteria contained within the strains of infection is evolving and "getting smarter." Gonorrhea is now immune to all

forms of antibiotics except the dual therapy treatment of azithromycin and ceftriaxone. However, the Public Health England organization reports that a strain of super-resistant gonorrhea is now developing that is resistant to even this form of treatment. A man was reported to have contracted this "super STD" in the U.K. on the 29th of March in 2018. This is part of a general trend of bacteria developing antibiotic resistance. As infections are getting "smarter", forms of treatment will also have to get "smarter". Gonorrhea could develop into a prevalent "super STD" that is immune to all forms of antibiotics and therapeutic interventions; this is an alarming cause for concern because gonorrhea is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the world.

While it is important to fight the war on disease from

the backend - by developing more effective forms of treatment or perhaps even more powerful forms of antibiotics - one can argue that it is even more important to fight this war from the front. It is time to implement positive changes within our society to efficiently address this health crisis. We cannot stand motionless while countless are suffering. The question that arises is, "What can be done to address this national health crisis?"

Many are simply unaware that they are living with STDs - especially since it is possible to have them without having visible symptoms. Thus, they fail to get early treatment that would have been a curing intervention and unknowingly pass on their infections to others.

Fidan Amber, a student attending Brooklyn College, speaks openly about her sexual health. She explains,

"You always think that it won't happen to you until it does, and now you have to live with it for the rest of your life. [And I didn't want to get it checked because] it's humiliating to see a doctor."

It is of absolute vital importance to remove the stigma behind receiving STD screening within the culture that we live in. Perhaps, doctors should be mandated by law to suggest screening for STDs to the patients that come in to see them. Alternatively, screening should become an annual legal requirement for all citizens living within the U.S. This would raise awareness of this social issue, and awareness is the first step to improvement. After all, an increase in the prevalence of sexual education has been proven to decrease the spread of disease and rates of pregnancy. What have you done for your sexual health lately?

The Story of Pittsburgh’s Musical Legend: Mac Miller

BY EDMUND ZHEN

On September 7th, the world grieved over the loss of one of its talented influencers, Malcolm McCormick. In the music industry, he was known as Mac Miller.

Unique, ever-changing, and gifted are only words that touch the surface of who he really is. Through the many years of Miller’s influence in the music industry, he inspired, uplifted, and nurtured young minds and turbulent souls with his words. His legacy started at a young age when he discovered his gift in rapping. Adopting the style of frat-rap, he began to travel his hometown of Pittsburgh at the age of 14, and battle against rappers twice his age. Miller is also an autodidact; he taught himself how to play the piano, guitar, drums, and bass.

At the age of 15 under the alias EZ Mac, he released his first mixtape *But My Mackin’ Ain’t Easy*, and went on to release three more mixtapes after that. This led to his rise to fame when he was signed to Rostrum Re-



Mac Miller’s music will live on forever. PHOTO/ Getty Images

cords in 2010. From then on, he captivated a large audience of young teens in an era of hip-hop that reflected his message: young, bold, and looking to have fun. His career snowballed and his songs garnered a loyal fan base that helped his first tour sell out in every location. Because of his incredible success, he was nominated for two awards at the Pittsburgh Hip Hop Awards in 2010.

His newfound success led him to create his own re-

cord label REMember Music. He went on to release Billboard chart-topping albums such as *Pink Slime*, *Watching Movies with the Sound Off*, and *Live From Space*. This allowed him to go on seven tours and perform in multiple festivals.

From the start, Miller never stopped spreading positivity and joy. The trajectory of his music was undeniably recognized by all to create long-lasting waves that would go on forever.

Following Miller’s death, his family released a statement thanking everyone for their condolences and thoughts. In a statement provided to PEOPLE by Miller’s loved ones, it said, “Malcolm McCormick, known and adored by fans as Mac Miller, has tragically passed away at the age of 26. He was a bright light in this world for his family, friends, and fans. Thank you for your prayers. Please respect our privacy. There are no fur-

ther details as to the cause of his death at this time.”

Besides Miller’s mourning fans, many famous artists across different genres in the music industry also paid tribute to the Pittsburgh legend. In one of Drake’s concert at Boston’s TD Garden, Drake said, “Tonight, I wanna dedicate this show to my late friend Mac Miller, who was always a kind man to me.” G-Eazy, another renowned rapper, also paid tribute to Miller with a shout-out at one of his concerts as well. “[I]sic Performed Everything Will Be Ok for you tonight and f****g broke down on stage. Rest peacefully bro, we miss you” One artist even paid tribute in a more permanent way. Rapper Lil Xan revealed his newest tattoo on the top edge of his right eyebrow in honor of Miller. This Latin phrase “Memento Mori.” translates to “Remember that you will die,” a grim reminder to us all that we should live life to the fullest, because we only live once.

Queer is Fashionable

BY ASSIBI ALI

We are queer, we are here, and we always have been. These last few years have tested the resilience of marginalized groups all throughout the country with the growing political divide which burdens America. Cultural norms have been evolving with the passing of time and there is an increase in visibility for queers throughout the world. A look through our history illustrates the fear queer people have had to hide alongside their identity. Violence against the LGBTQ+ community has occurred for centuries and still remains an issue; the National Coalition for Anti-Violence Programs reports that homicides resulting from anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes have seen an increase by 86%. They last reported 28 homicides in 2016, a number that had grown to 52 in 2017. The transgender community is especially prone to these vicious hate crimes, having constituted 27 of

the 52 queer people killed in 2017. When our lives are at stake, being queer is seen as a form of political rebellion within itself. Evolving fashion trends are beginning to take into account the freedom that the queer identity represents. SS2019 NYFW was revolutionary in pushing the boundaries that formerly took precedence within the industry. Designers, curators, and models alike are pushing the envelope, taking what they can work with and using it to inspire an uprising. The Brooklyn Museum recently hosted the largest queer fashion show last week, “Dress Code,” curated by Anita Dolce Vita of DapperQ - a digital space created to highlight masculine and femme presenting gender-nonconforming individuals. Dolce’s mission this year was to honor the progress already made in the fight for representation by taking it to the next level. She brought

together ten less accredited designers dedicated to presenting work that caters to the gender-nonconforming audience. “Queer style pushes, pulls, challenges, and blurs heteronormative, binary gender expectations ... ‘Dress Code’ examines clothing as a coded language & one of the first visible markers of our identities,” says Dolce. Visibility is a key component to explaining how queer culture has developed over the years. For G.N.C. individuals, physical appearances are of the utmost importance due to the dysphoria that comes with feeling out of place in your own body. It helps to shape the identity of the individual and exemplifies the diversity of the gender spectrum, which is more nuanced than the common perceptions of it. Refinery29 reported last week on the welcoming of transgender, disabled model Aaron Philip to the Elite New York modeling agency. Aaron

Philip, who identifies with she/her pronouns, has a large social media presence, having amassed over 20,000 followers on her Twitter account and over 32,000 on her Instagram. Philip has spent the greater portion of the past year making physical changes that would lead to a rise in confidence to guide her through her budding career. She dyed her hair blonde and amassed an entirely new wardrobe, with the intention of going viral and catching her big break. She’s advocated for more inclusion in runway shows and fashion editorials, while regularly defending non-binary people of color from hateful comments online. Being signed to Elite Models has helped further push her goal of revolutionizing the industry that she craves to be a part of. Assigned male at birth, Philip has been open about her desire to have her identity recognized. Former-

ly identifying with they/them pronouns, Philip posted on her Twitter account September 1st that she will be going exclusively by she/her, having felt that “they/them gives [people] an excuse to not acknowledge or view me as the girl I am.” She proudly represents her cerebral palsy and aspires to see more disabled trans people of color pursue careers in fashion. There are hopes that her recent signing will be inspiration for other modeling agencies to associate themselves with other disabled trans people of color. The standard has always been tall, petite, white, and light. Not just within the fashion industry, but it has been ingrained in our culture as a whole. The fight for representation is forever on-going. “Dress Code” and the expansion of Elite Model’s roster to include Aaron Philip give hope that it’s a fight we can win.

One More Word on Colin Kaepernick

BY AUSTIN SANTIAGO

It has been said that controversy creates cash. If that statement is true, it is no wonder that Nike is worth over \$130 billion.

The sneaker company seemingly entered troubled waters over the Labor Day weekend, naming former NFL quarterback turned social activist, Colin Kaepernick, as the face of their “Just do it” campaign.

Nike has had many different campaigns around the same slogan, but this one is different because this campaign marks the thirty-year anniversary of the trademark slogan.

After 30 years of legendary athletes including Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, and Bo Jackson, Nike decided to commemorate this historic landmark with someone who hasn’t played a sport for two years. This is a great thing, but it is not what you think it is.

Despite the wonderful gesture made by Nike for choosing Kaepernick, as well as the incredible platform it has given to his cause in the weeks following, it is important to remember that this groundbreaking Nike ad is not about Kaepernick, the NFL, the right to kneel, or the freedom of speech. It is about one thing and one thing only - money.



The controversial Nike ad featuring Kaepernick has one motive-- to make money. PHOTO/ Alba Vigaray

The decision to make Kaepernick the face of the ad campaign was more than likely studied and deliberated by the executives of Nike with the same attention to detail as meteorologists tracking an incoming storm, and this storm was massive.

Within hours of the announcement, social media sites were flooded with pictures and videos of scorned Nike customers burning their shoes, socks, shirts, and anything within reach that had Nikes’ patented swoosh logo on it.

While many social media platforms, such as Twitter

and Facebook, became battlegrounds for those who do and do not agree with Kaepernick’s cause or Nikes’ decision to market it, Nike had to fight its own battle in the stock market. Immediately following the release of the campaign, Nike stock dipped nearly 4%, and it seemed as though the boycotts were doing what they were intended to do.

However, here we are only two weeks later, and many consumers are left asking, “what boycott?” In a short period of time Nike has almost completely regained any ground lost by the boy-

cott, and that is because they have been kept afloat by all of the free publicity the company has gotten as a result of the ad. In a study conducted by Apex marketing group, “The latest estimates put the value of the media exposure from the campaign at more than \$163 million.”

What makes this information so relevant is that it shows no matter which side you happened to take on this issue, we all made Nike a little bit richer.

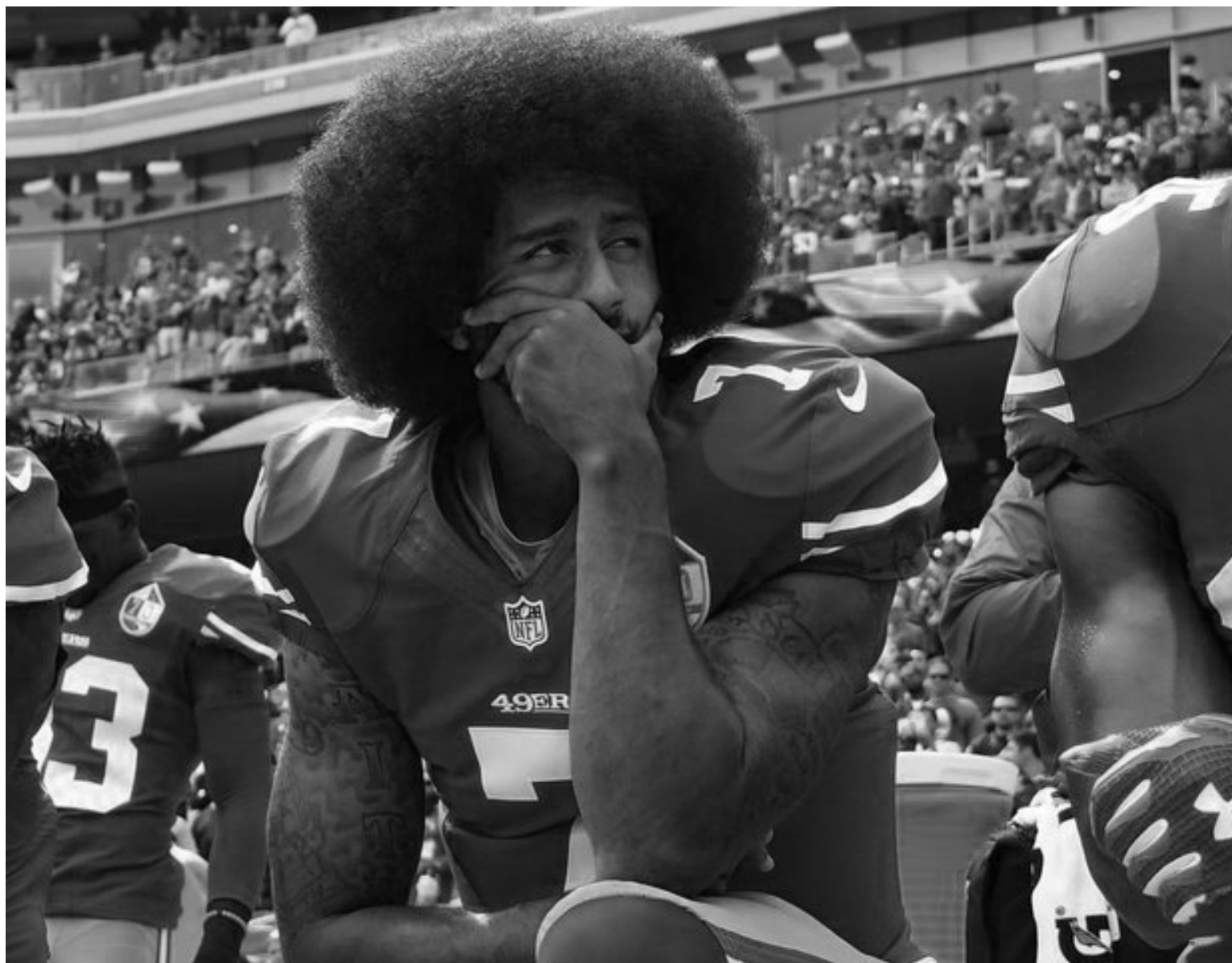
From a business standpoint, Nike made one of the most high-risk decisions in recent memory, and it has

resulted in major rewards. Those who are experts on finance have praised Nike for the decision. Camilo Lyon, stock market analyst, told CNBC, “We believe Nike’s new ‘Just Do It’ ad campaign with Colin Kaepernick was a stroke of genius.”

As harsh as it may sound, the fact of the matter is that Nike never cared whether or not you “just [did] it.” Its main concern was whether or not you bought it. Kaepernick’s cause is a noble one, but we as consumers need to make sure we don’t confuse Kaepernick’s cause with that of Nikes’.

It appears as though many have chosen to put their morals and beliefs into the hands of certain multi-million dollar companies. Nike is just the latest example. What we believe should not be displayed with a logo. We are not supposed to wear our beliefs as T-shirts, hats, or sneakers; we are supposed to hold our beliefs inside and stay true to them when conflict arises. Nobody should face scrutiny for wearing a certain clothing brand. Someone can prefer Adidas over Nike, but the reason should not be because of some moral dilemma.

Since Kaepernick was announced as the face of the campaign, we saw people go to war, not for Kaepernick’s cause, but for a clothing brand. This clothing brand has history of making money off of controversy will continue to do so, no matter what you believe in.



PHOTO/ Getty Images

The Bronx Is Burning

BY IVAN MORROBEL

On paper, The Bronx Bombers (The NY Yankees) can go toe-to-toe with any team. Their lineup, which includes sluggers such as Giancarlo Stanton, Didi Gregorius, and American League (AL) Rookie of The Year (ROY) front-runner Miguel Andujar, is currently ranked second overall in runs scored. Even their bullpen contains some notable elite relievers in Dellin Betances, Chad Green, and Zach Britton, who hasn't pitched like himself since being acquired but is more than capable of getting hitters out with ease.

But regardless of what their roster is made up of, the Yankees desperately need finer outings from their starting pitching, as well as a quick resurgence from 26-year-old juggernaut Aaron Judge, who has recently returned from his fractured right wrist, if they are serious about going on a deep playoff run.

Judge, who had been on the disabled list since late July, is often immensely criticized for striking out. However, the 2016 ROY winner offers more than just homers and strikeouts. Prior to his injury, the Yankees right fielder posted 26 homers, 61 runs batted in, and an on-base percentage (.398) that



Despite their amazing roster, the Yankees desperately need finer outings from their starting pitching. PHOTO/ Associated Press

is constantly overlooked. His patience at the plate has proven essential to their success.

However, good pitching performances outweigh superior hitting and the Yankees don't have an evident starter they can trust every night currently—and that can be a big piece to winning a playoff series.

During the first half of the season, Luis Severino was a bona fide ace. In 20

starts, the 24-year-old went 14-2 with a 2.31 earned run average (ERA) and seemed to be the team's go-to starter. Having said that, he's been dreadful ever since, which has fans pondering whether he's dependable or not.

Currently, the Yankees have two starters who have given them quality starts as of late. Masahiro Tanaka and one of their latest acquisitions, J.A. Happ have both

maintained an ERA under three since the All-Star break.

Happ has won six of his first eight starts as a member of the Yankees, while Tanaka looks entirely better than the first half version of himself, who posted an ERA of 4.54 in 15 starts.

With only a couple of weeks left to the regular season, the Yankees must gear up for postseason baseball.

Although there are teams

that haven't been mathematically eliminated from contention yet, the American League is just about set.

The Yankees remain several games behind the Red Sox in the AL East. The Cleveland Indians have run away with the AL Central. And the Oakland Athletics are putting up a fight against the reigning World Series champion Houston Astros in the AL West, which will eventually force either team to face the Yankees in a one-game playoff.

With that in mind, the Yankees can't go on cruise control over the next couple of weeks, or else they could end up away from the Bronx for the Wild Card game. The series against the Red Sox was a very important test for this Yankee team.

Winning the series two games to three, this shows that the Yankees may very well be able to hang with the division winners in the ALDS, assuming they win the wildcard game first.

There isn't much time left for the Yankees to await the resurgence of a player such as Judge, but one thing for sure is World Series number 28 won't be obtained without some healthy key players.

Yankee fans know the potential this team has and are ready to see them finally reach it.



PHOTO/ USA TODAY Sports