

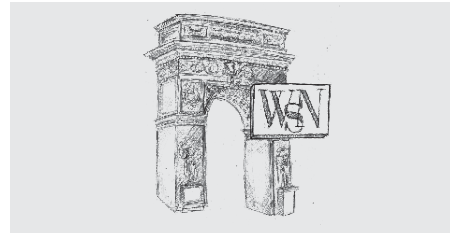


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NYU Sued for Alleged Anti-Semitism, Students React



A Pro-Israel NYU alumna is suing the university for alleged violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, accusing NYU of harboring anti-semitism.

By **MINA MOHAMMADI**
Deputy News Editor

NYU is in the midst of a lawsuit for allegedly violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act — which bars discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin — by harboring anti-semitism on campus.

Adela Cojab, a 2019 Gallatin graduate who was president of Realize Israel and a member of Inter-Greek council, filed a Title VI complaint against NYU last year stating that the administration allowed anti-Semitism to take place on campus. Cojab discussed this in a Feb. 13 interview with the Jerusalem Post.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NYU faces complaints from a student filed in April about not addressing anti-Semitism enough on campus.

NYU Students Exhibit School Pride Through All-University Games

By **KEVIN RYU**
Staff Writer

At NYU, where students willingly acknowledge the lack of school pride, Violet 100 — NYU's official spirit week — gives students the opportunity to experience a sense of collegiate camaraderie. On Tuesday, Feb. 18, Violet 100 kicked off with the All-University Games, an evening of intramural competition between NYU schools and alumni in a variety of events from ping pong to basketball to cup stacking.

As the games went underway, students coalesced to cheer and support their teams across all events scattered throughout the gym. The level of turnout surprised Adhithya Vijayathevar, a Gallatin first-year representing the Inter-Residence Hall Council. "I didn't think it would be this big of a turnout," Vijayathevar said. "Especially a lot of the grad students, I didn't expect that. There are even some alumni here. I was blown away."

Convening at Chelsea Piers, students expressed their allegiances

through custom-made t-shirts and color-coded bandanas. Many sported designs that highlighted their school's distinct characteristics; the School of Professional Studies rocked shirts with the slogan "We Go Pro" on their backs and the School of Dentistry sported bandanas that read "JAWS, CAREFUL ... WE BITE". Joao Carlos Leite Villa, a Master of Laws candidate at the School of Law, was seeking ways to become more integrated into the school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



NYU President Andrew Hamilton stops to view a particularly intense table tennis game. Representatives from each NYU school participated in various sports at the All-University Games.

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NYU Sued for Alleged Anti-Semitism, Students React

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In October, the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights launched an investigation to determine whether NYU created a hostile environment for Jewish students and to evaluate alleged anti-Semitic incidents.

Cojab met with NYU administrators after Students for Justice in Palestine received the President's Service Award last April. Weeks later, NYU President Andrew Hamilton published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal stating that he would not have chosen to give the group the award. The op-ed was in response to another piece published by the WSJ that month, in which Susan Shapiro — who teaches writing classes at NYU — claimed NYU tolerated anti-Semitism in the past.

"They didn't think it was that big of a deal to give a hate group that award," Cojab told the Jerusalem Post.

Her suit cited protests at the April 2018 celebration of Israeli Independence Day held by Zionist student groups as well as student support for the Boycott Divest Sanctions movement — a Palestinian-led campaign that seeks to put economic and political pressure on Israel — which Cojab claims is anti-Semitic in nature. In the interview, she also mentioned feeling uncomfortable at student government and activist events.

In December 2019, President Donald Trump signed an executive order broadening the definition of anti-Semitism to

include criticisms of Israel when assessing discrimination complaints under Title VI. The expanded definition falls in line with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition.

Cojab said she supports this executive order and was a speaker at the Israeli-American Council's 2019 summit in Florida this December, standing on stage alongside Trump, who was the keynote speaker at the event.

Free-speech advocates have expressed concerns that a broader definition of anti-Semitism might be used to limit criticism of the Israeli government's actions on college campuses.

A letter from the Middle Eastern Studies Association and its Committee on Academic Freedom written by MESA President Dina Rizk Khoury and Chair of the Committee on Academic Freedom Laurie Brand, urged President Hamilton to regard the DoE investigation and Cojab's lawsuit as a politically motivated attempt to threaten free speech.

The letter also highlighted the controversial nature of equating criticism of Israel and Zionism to anti-Semitism.

"Such conflation, often perpetuated by organizations based outside of academia seeking to further their political agendas, and now by an agency of the U.S. government, is apparently intended to delegitimize and stifle certain opinions by tarring them with the brush of anti-Semitism," the letter reads.

There is much disagreement about the

lawsuit's legitimacy amongst students.

College of Global Public Health first-year Rachel Friedlander is a member of Realize Israel and feels Cojab is right in her decision to sue NYU. She added that her individual opinion does not reflect that of Realize Israel.

"I think that [anti-Semitism] is a huge problem on campus," Friedlander said. "If anyone has been unjustly hurt and not protected by an institution that is supposed to support and protect them, [...] they should take the necessary measures. The fact that someone could be so fed up and frustrated with how their opinions are being handled on campus that they would go to this length looks pretty bad for the university."

Friedlander knew about the allegations of anti-Semitism prior to attending NYU in the fall, something she said factored into NYU not being her first choice of university. She also expressed being uncomfortable with expressing her views on campus and suggested that she would receive more anti-Semitic remarks if she were more vocal about her views.

"Popular sentiment on campus is that Israel is evil and many clubs don't recognize Realize Israel and boycott it," Friedlander said. "I'm sure if I was more adamant or open about the fact that I am pro-Israel, I would receive more backlash. I've also only been here for a semester, and I am pretty quiet. It's not a safe environment if you are Jewish [or] see Israel as your homeland."

Stern junior and President of Realize Israel Javier Cohen, also speaking as an individual rather than representative of the organization, expressed similar sentiments. He stated that, in his opinion, anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism are two sides of the same coin.

Like Friedlander, he fears publicly sharing his views.

"I try my best to stay as quiet as possible because I do not want to cement the conflict," Cohen said. "I feel unsafe in a room of student activists when resolutions in student government are being discussed."

In an email to WSN, University Spokesperson John Beckman stated that NYU disagrees with Cojab's lawsuit and that NYU has always been supportive of Jewish students.

"Through the University's historical openness to the Jewish community, its repeated opposition to BDS, its presence in Tel Aviv (NYU is the only major US university with a campus there), and its record of support for distinguished Hebrew and Judaic scholarship, NYU has made its position — and its commitment — crystal clear," he wrote.

Pro-Palestinian students disagree with the allegation and Beckman's statement. Steinhardt junior and NYU Jewish Voice for Peace member Sarah Patt is one of these students. A practicing Jewish student, they said NYU was problematic for conflating Judaism and Zionism. Patt's individual opinions do

not reflect that of JVP.

"That is kind of insulting, as a practicing Jew who is not Israeli with very different political viewpoints than that of the Israeli government," Patt told WSN. "[The statement] is basically anti-Semitic: you're equating support for a nation-state with a diverse community of people that have existed for centuries. This statement basically smears Jews with a broad political stroke."

A member of pro-Palestinian activist group Students for Justice in Palestine — who chose to remain anonymous for fear of being blacklisted on sites like Canary Mission — also argued that the sentiments provided by Cojab are Islamophobic and NYU taking these anti-Semitism allegations seriously is dangerous.

"The letter of Cojab's lawsuit makes accusations that NYU SJP is a terrorist organization, which is a dog whistle for anti-Arab and Islamophobes," the source said. "Myself and people that I know are put in danger because of this language. Anti-Semitism is a genuine problem, but to frame it all on Palestinian human rights work is a mischaracterization of rising anti-Semitism and takes attention away from actual anti-Semitism on the far right."

Both Realize Israel and SJP have yet to come together to discuss the allegations. The lawsuit is ongoing.

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NYU Professor Accused of Inciting City-Wide Subway Protests



JAKE CAPRIOTTI | WSN

Thousands of people ride the subway every day and pass through stations like Union Square. NYU Gallatin Adjunct Professor Amin Husain, lead organizer of Decolonize This Place, is accused of organizing a protest against increasing police presence in the MTA amidst frequent reports of police brutality, resulting in thousands of dollars in damages.

By **EMILY MASON**
News Editor

What happens when New Yorkers rebel? Gallatin Adjunct Professor Amin Husain is the lead organizer of Decolonize This Place (DTP), the New York Post reports. DTP is an activist and artist collective which supports a range of movements including Free Palestine, Indigenous resurgence, de-gentrification and black liberation, among other causes, according to their website. They coordinated the 'F-ck the Police' Action pro-

tests, which have happened in the past few months.

The most recent protest, taking place at the end of January, came weeks after New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced a plan to introduce 500 new police officers in the subways to crackdown on turnstile hopping, despite incidents of police brutality in subway arrests.

"The chronic failures of MTA service are not the outcome of fare evasion, they are the result of abject failures of governance and botched accountability to the public who de-

pend on mass transit in this city," the Decolonize This Place website reads. "The FTP actions are helping to highlight these deficiencies. We are not fooled by the smokescreen."

Professor Husain holds degrees from three universities, including a Master of Laws from Columbia University. At NYU, he teaches a course called "Art, Activism & Beyond," a workshop style class which looks at activist movements like #MeToo, Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter and No Dakota Access Pipeline. His contact information was temporarily

removed from the NYU website and he did not respond to request for comment at the time of publication.

On Jan. 31, FTP protesters took to the subways spray painting 'F-ck the Police' on subway cars and on station walls, jamming turnstiles and causing significant delays. Senior Politics major and Political Director of NYU College Democrats Arman Becan said that while their cause is justifiable, the aggressive tactics and rhetoric of this group can prevent a broad base of Democrats from participating.

"As Democrats, we support expanding public transportation, expanding access," Becan said. "We do take issue with the MTA putting a lot of funding towards police officers versus using that money for other things. But, we denounce their actions, their tactics of achieving this."

The FTP movement maintains that funding gaps for the MTA are caused by financial mismanagement and corruption, according to their site. The group sees policing fare evaders as an ineffective way to address the MTA's debt, which also disproportionately affects people of color.

Both President of College Republicans Kristen Gourrier and Vice President of College Republicans Bobby Miller appeared in a Fox News interview to comment on Professor Husain's actions. While Miller called for the professor to be fired, Gourrier said Husain should have never been hired in the first place. Gourrier also denounced the protest's tactics and the view that opposition to the protests was a political push

from the right.

"I just don't think that it should be a partisan issue whether violence and destruction are correct and belong in our political discourse in New York City or in America," Gourrier said. "I think that it should be a nonpartisan issue — whether or not violence is acceptable, and for me it's not."

Becan, speaking for NYU College Democrats, emphasized the thinking that peaceful tactics are the way to create the most inclusive protest.

"We see in this era of polarization we're a little bit concerned about the rhetoric used specifically on the right, but now we know a little bit also on the left as well," Becan said. "We as Democrats are a little more concerned that movements can be counterproductive to the overall Democrat and the overall liberal goal."

In an email to WSN, NYU spokesperson John Beckman said the university is not aware of any criminal charges brought against Professor Husain.

"NYU opposes the views that have been reported: the University abhors violence, rejects calls for violence, has longstanding ties to Israel — including a campus there — and is opposed to acts of vandalism on the public transit system, which is needed and shared by all New Yorkers," Beckman wrote. "It is, however, the case that among the thousands of part-time faculty we hire each year, some will disagree with NYU's positions."

Email Emily Mason at emason@nyunews.com.

NYUSH Students Push for Unity in Song

By **NICK MEAD**
Deputy News Editor

Students at NYU Shanghai have had an unusual start to their semester. Classes at the site were suspended as the extent of the coronavirus outbreak became apparent. Many are taking classes online, while others have transferred to other NYU campuses abroad.

Despite the stigma that pervades coronavirus discourse, NYU Shanghai students and alumni offer a message of understanding and solidarity. They came together from around the world in a virtual choir released last week to sing “We Are Not Strangers” in a video posted on NYU Shanghai’s YouTube channel. The video currently has 2,663 views and has been circulated widely on various social media platforms.

The coronavirus has now affected 78,000 people around the globe, with surging appearances in South Korea, Iran and Italy as cases in China decrease. The widespread fear brought on by the virus’ spread makes this a more crucial moment for unity across NYU campuses.

“We Are Not Strangers” is featured in the musical comedy “The Reality Show,” which is written, choreographed and composed by students from each of NYU’s three main campuses and played during first-year orientation.

NYU Shanghai Dean of Students David Pe, who was central to organizing the YouTube video, described how it came together.

“A WeChat group was created by

students and invited cast members from the past 6 classes of students,” Pe told WSN in an email. “Within three days, we had some 38 alumni and students record and submit videos of themselves singing the song. A video editor donated his time to the project and worked around the clock to finish it in time to release before the first day of classes as a message and reminder that things will be alright.”

Pe said that the choice to reference “The Reality Show” was intended to promote unity across all NYU sites.

“‘The Reality Show’ has been a longstanding NYU tradition connecting all three campuses,” Pe continued. “It is one of the unique experiences that binds every NYU student together. ‘We Are Not Strangers’ [...] serves as an anthem for every person to step outside their comfort zone, face the adversities in life, and connect with one another.”

NYU Shanghai sophomore Leon Ding led the fundraiser “Light a Lantern for Wuhan” and was featured in the YouTube video. Ding echoed Pe’s sentiment that including a song heard by most NYU students is comforting and encourages NYU students across the world to stand in solidarity with each other.

“‘We Are Not Strangers,’ which we would perform every year on ‘The Reality Show’ stage for the freshmen, sends out a message that though the world is such a big place, the connection between me and you still draws us close and makes us ‘not strangers,’” Ding said.

He is from China himself and

was there when the outbreak began. Ding opted to stay close to home, taking online classes for the spring semester. He submitted his recording from the Zhejiang province of China, while others featured in the video were as far away as Washington, D.C., Singapore and Chandigarh, India.

Ding became involved with the fundraiser for the same reasons he was a part of the video; both efforts represent banding together as a community and inspiring hope during troubled times, he told WSN in an email.

At first, Ding said he was worried about whether his donations to other charities would go directly to those who needed it most. When a friend forwarded him an in-school fundraiser activity at Wuhan University, he had the idea to do the same thing.

“I could follow these pioneers and explore a donation channel within NYU Shanghai,” Ding said. “Which I believe is what many students concerned about the national epidemic are eager to see.”

Ding emphasized the central message of the video and the song — NYU community members across the globe supporting each other in difficult times.

“The kernel idea of both this song and NYU’s attitude towards CoV outbreak is no matter long our distance is, our hearts are never separated,” Ding said. “We are all human and thus care for each other.”

Email Nick Mead
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A student watches “We Are Not Strangers,” a video created by NYU Shanghai students and alumni in solidarity for Wuhan coronavirus victims. The virtual choir rendition of the song encourages unity and hope among staff and students.

ALEXANDRA CHAN | WSN

CRIME LOG

Jacket, Coat and Scarf Reported Missing From Kimmel, Gramercy and Weinstein



RACHEL BUIGAS-LOPEZ | WSN

By **CRIMEBOT**
Robot Reporter

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 19, the NYU Department of Public Safety received one report of Assault, two reports of Criminal Mischief, five reports of Harassment, seven reports of Larceny, four reports of Liquor Law Violation and two reports of Motor Vehicle Theft.

Assault

On Feb. 15 at 12:10 a.m., two people reported being assaulted on the grounds of Washington Square Village. A police report was filed. The suspect was arrested and the case is open and under investigation.

Criminal Mischief

On Feb. 15 at 1:30 a.m., an RA reported vandalism in Carlyle Court. The case is closed and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

On Feb. 19 at 8:44 a.m., a staff member reported graffiti outside of 238 Thompson St. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

Harassment

On Feb. 12 at 9:11 a.m., a Public Safety Sergeant reported a harassment in 60 Fifth Ave. The case is closed and no further action is required.

On Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., a staff member reported a harassment in Washington Square North. The case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 18 at 12:22 a.m., a student reported being harassed outside Carlyle Court. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 19 at 12:40 p.m., a staff member reported a harassment outside of 22 Washington Square North. A police report was filed and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 19 at 4 p.m., a staff member reported a harassment in Kimball Hall. A police report was filed and the case is open and under investigation.

Larceny

On Feb. 13 at 1:15 p.m., a student reported missing personal items in Lafayette Hall. The case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 13 at 10:26 p.m., an NYU stu-

dent reported a missing ID in Palladium Hall. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 15 at 6:58 p.m., a student reported a missing coat in Gramercy Green. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 16 at 3:35 p.m., a student reported a missing laptop in Lipton Hall. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 17 at 9:13 p.m., a student reported missing laundry in University Hall. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 18 at 9:46 a.m., a staff member reported a missing jacket in the Kimmel Center. The case is open and under investigation.

On Feb. 18 at 3:09 p.m., an NYU student reported a missing scarf in Weinstein Hall. Police notification was declined and the case is open and under investigation.

Liquor Law Violation

On Feb. 13 at 9:37 p.m., an RA reported underage alcohol possession in Broome Street Hall. The case is closed and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

On Feb. 13 at 11:34 p.m., an RA reported underage alcohol possession in Alumni Hall. The case is closed and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

On Feb. 17 at 8:45 p.m., an RA reported underage alcohol possession in Alumni Hall. The case is closed and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

On Feb. 19 at 2:35 p.m., an RA reported underage alcohol possession in Broome Street Hall. The case is closed and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Motor Vehicle Theft

On Jan. 29 at 12 a.m., the NYPD reported a motor vehicle theft on Broadway and East 10th Street. The case is closed and referred to the NYPD.

On Feb. 5 at 3:12 p.m., the NYPD reported a motor vehicle theft outside of Furman Hall. The case is closed and referred to the NYPD.

Email CrimeBot at news@nyunews.com.

CULTURE@NYUNEW.COM

CULTURE

Edited by BELLA GIL

Student Bodybuilder Discusses His Fit Lifestyle



The Palladium Athletic Facility offers a wide array of gym equipment for fitness enthusiasts. Though the sport can be time-consuming, bodybuilders have found NYU facilities useful for weightlifting.

By **RUHAAN MUTSUDDI**
Staff Writer

We've all taken a trip to 404 Fitness or Palladium for various reasons, be it a short-lived New Year's resolution or a health kick for your spring break in Cancun. Now, let's be real — there are some ripped and toned individuals within these facilities. We all have our burning questions for these bodybuilders: How did you get into your current shape? What do you eat on the daily? How do I look like you in two weeks?

Liberal Studies first-year Ben Jones has the answers — from habits in the gym to his personal journey in fitness.

Though Jones has always been active, engaging in sports such as swimming, he started seriously lifting this past year.

"I started going with friends, and for me a lot of it is social," said Jones. "Pretty much all my best guy friends are super into fitness whether it is running or lifting or whatever it is. It's really a social thing for me."

Jones not only enjoys bodybuilding as a social activity, but also as a way of

improving other aspects of his life.

"It obviously helps with confidence and things like that," he said. "But it also is a good way to clear your mind, you know, if you're having a bad day or whatever. It's nice to go to the gym. It's a place where you can forget about anything. You can just enjoy your time."

While bodybuilding is more than simply a sport to Jones, it also requires diligence and precision — specifically concerning diet.

"I try to get in usually five meals if I can. I try to eat as healthy as possible.

Mostly vegetarian, although I do have some meat," he said. "Usually I have like a protein shake and then like an omelette in the morning. Usually after class, I have another snack, either fruit or something like that. After that, I'll have lunch and then another snack and dinner. I try to get in 3,000 calories."

Yet, bodybuilding can be a time-consuming sport — at an institution such as NYU, which prides itself on rigorous academics, time must be used sparingly. Jones maintains that it's not that bad.

"A lot of it is what you have access to. We have 404 here which is a great resource," he said. "It can be a bit busy, so you have to find times that work. That's why I try to go in the morning. I usually work out five or six days a week. And I try to go as early as possible because I find that after like 11, it's usually packed for the rest of the day."

However, these routines are subject to change — especially during midterms and finals season.

"During exam season, I have to lighten up a little bit," Jones admits. "Obviously school is the priority, but it's not a problem. I mean the dining halls can be a little bit tricky just for portion size because it is hard to gauge how much is the serving portion — like is this a 4-ounce serving? I'm not going to bring a scale with me. I mean, I could, but I'm sure that's too much work. But a lot of it is just figuring out how to figure out how much you need to eat."

Even so, bodybuilding can be difficult to fit into a routine. It depends on a

variety of variables: what your schedule is like, how busy the gym is or how motivated you feel. Jones shed some light onto how he juggles all these factors.

On Monday through Friday, he usually has a gym buddy to accompany and motivate him. But when he doesn't have a friend for motivation, he has made a habit to go after class in the morning.

"It really just depends on who I can lift with, but if I'm going by myself, I usually just go in the morning," Jones said.

While finding a functional routine is part of the equation, it's also important to stay motivated. Burnout is a common issue within the bodybuilding community. Jones shares his tips on staying motivated and how to strive further within one's fitness journey.

While Jones might be ripped now, he had to start from somewhere. He reveals his beginner tips, advising beginners not to go too fast or too hard early within their fitness journey.

"Don't go every single day. You will get burned out. A lot of it is finding a good program, finding a buddy to go with, just finding what you enjoy," he said. "You can't just assume that you're going to love bodybuilding or powerlifting. You just gotta try a little bit of everything and you'll find something you like, something you can stick with. A lot of pacing yourself so you don't get burned out."

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Walking Under the Arch: Fact or Fiction?

By **SABRINA CHOUDHARY**
Staff Writer

One of the most unique aspects of NYU is its fast pace of life on and off-campus. NYU students are an independent and motivated breed, well-adapted to their campus without walls. The personality of our student body doesn't lend itself to a typical college culture of traditions and superstitions. Except one.

"Basically, if you walk under the arch, you supposedly won't graduate in four years," CAS first-year Nadia Cowan explained. "And I found out about that after I'd walked under it. But it's okay because I'm supposed to graduate in three years anyways."

"It's the only NYU superstition," CAS sophomore Graham Harris added.

Harris said that he heard of the myth during Welcome Week his first year.

"I [...] was about to walk under the arch or was walking under the arch and someone said, 'No! Don't do that!'" Harris said.

Cowan shared a similar experience.

"I think I was just talking with my friends and they were like, 'Oh yeah, you can't walk under the arch,'" Cowan said. "And I was like, 'What do you mean, you can't walk under the arch? I was standing under the arch for like, half an hour one day.'"

It seems to be a trend that upperclassmen warn first-years not to walk through the arch within their first few weeks in Washington Square, and an NYU student who breaks this code is a rare sight indeed. But do students actually believe in the power of the arch?

"I don't know!" Cowan confessed. "Lowkey, I feel like it might be a little true because obviously I haven't walked under it since."

Others don't buy it.

"I've walked under the arch many times," CAS sophomore Kenan Anderson said. "Both before and after hearing the superstition."

"I think that recognizing that it is a superstition takes the power away from it," Harris, who hasn't shied away from the arch either, added.

However, enough students believe in the myth, or at least play along with it, that the superstition is ubiquitous. Anderson thought that some of NYU's characteristics might encourage students to embrace the tradition.

"I think NYU has a reputation as being a really difficult school, and people sometimes do have to take an extra semester, so I think that doesn't help with superstition," Anderson said.

He also reflected that NYU students may be general believers in the mystical.

"I think there's a big cohort of students that are very into the sort of astrology side of spirituality and superstition," Anderson said, "and I think that and superstition are kind of two sides of the same coin."

Perhaps the strangest part of this story is the lack of other legends. While the arch seems to be a story everyone has heard, it's apparently the only one in town.

"Whenever I toured state schools before coming here, they were like, 'Oh, don't walk here,' but there were also things that you rub for good luck on

tests. I don't know of anything like that here," Cowan said.

"I think it speaks to the lack of singular culture at NYU. We don't have, for example, one building or one campus tradition, and so it's very difficult to get everyone on the same page about a superstition or to pass student culture easily," Harris said.

"We're surrounded by so many other New Yorkers, I think that breaks down the NYU sense of inner community a little bit," Anderson added. "I also think that New York has an attitude of, like, 'Shut up and get to what you're doing,' and that makes it hard to spend a lot of time on superstition as well."

So does the spooky arch spark Violet pride, or is it an afterthought?

"I feel like it's a cool thing that brings people together," Cowan said. "It's like NYU culture."

Harris disagreed. "I don't know if it's a uniting factor so much as it's a common factor," he said. "It exists."

"I think we have enough things to worry about as students that we don't need superstitions about whether or not we'll graduate or whether or not there's a ghost in one of the dorms," Anderson said. "I think there are better things to bond over as well."

So whether you believe in the supernatural landmark or not, you've probably heard the tale. You may have tested the arch's will and suffered its wrath — or not. But if your GPA ever drops, you know what to blame.

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JAKE CAPRIOTTI | WSN

The famous Washington Square Park arch is a must-see sight on NYU's no-wall campus. Not walking under it has also been the one tradition the university shares for years.

What It Takes to Run A One-Woman Vintage Resale Shop

By **KYLIE SMITH**
Contributing Writer

Jenn Roberts, a Liberal Studies sophomore, is dressed as if she has been plucked from an Urban Outfitters advertisement, wearing black denim overalls, a purple and blue plaid babydoll blouse and topped off with a black knit beanie. But these aren't your average mass-produced, faux-vintage pieces often sold at stores like Free People. They're thrifted finds that she hunted down herself just like the ones she sells through her online shop. Roberts sells "specially curated and pre-loved treasures" on her Instagram, @shop_jenn, and her Depop page of the same name.

Roberts has garnered almost 4,000 followers since she began her vintage resale shop in 2018, and recently gained a whole lot of new business when YouTuber Ashley (aka @bestdressed) tagged Roberts' shop on Instagram and YouTube. The influencer has accredited Roberts' shop multiple times now for her well-loved Guns N' Roses vintage tee.

Upon first look at Robert's Instagram feed of a meticulously curated shop, one might think @shop_jenn is run by a team of people. But behind the scenes, Roberts manages a self-run business model. She simultaneously functions as the shops' buyer, seller, inventory clerk, photographer, model, creative director, social media strategist and public relations manager.

"It's just me. Honestly, one of the best and also one of the worst parts is being able to work for yourself," says Roberts. "It's great in some regards because it's like, 'I don't have to go to work today,' but then it's also dangerous because it's like 'Oh, I don't have to go to work today!' If I don't want to put [clothing] up, I don't have to. It's definitely a challenge — staying motivated."

Although Roberts' motivation may falter day-to-day, her passion for the work has kept the shop's momentum going.

"For me, it's what I actually enjoy doing. Because I'm not in it for the money, it's easier in a sense," she said. "I'm motivated to do it because I want to do it. It worked out that my hobby made money. I had started some other businesses that I wasn't fully invested in, and, honestly, those didn't work out. Creatively, my heart just was not into it. A side hustle works best when you actually want to do it."

As college students do, Roberts struggles to balance work, school and life obligations. Thankfully, this niche corner of the internet brimming with vintage lovers has created a supportive community for Roberts' business to thrive.

"Juggling it all is still really hard," she said. "I feel like I do my best and I think everyone who follows me understands that I'm a student which is nice. It's a nice little community."

Over time, Roberts has become familiar with what resonates with her audience. These factors influence aspects like how she acquires items for sale, prices and runs her social media. Roberts has a personal rule of thumb for how she shops for her customer base: "Don't buy it if you wouldn't wear it."

Another unwritten rule Roberts follows is maintaining low pricing.

"I try to keep my prices cheaper than Urban Outfitters," she said. "I know that my main competition is companies like Urban Outfitters, and I know my customer base is young and a lot of them are students and can't afford \$125 pieces."

Students, often frugal as well as busy, may also not want to put in the time and energy that is required to find rare vintage treasures. That's where @shop_jenn comes in.

"[Thrifting] can be really overwhelming," Roberts said. "I'll pick a section, like jeans. Then, I'll go through the entire jean section. It depends on how much time you have. I know that a lot of people don't like to sift through a bunch of stuff, so I like to try to meet in the middle."

But, for those interested in trying a hand at second-hand shopping, Roberts has an insider tip: look in unconventional sections. "Try different genders and even the kids' section. All my favorite puff tops are from the children's section." The aforementioned plaid pastel baby doll top that Roberts is sporting underneath her overalls is, in fact, from the kids' section.

Considering the shop emerged from Roberts owning "too many clothes," one might wonder where this shop owner stores her entire inventory in a 600-square-foot apartment with four total roommates.

"I'm going to be entirely honest and say that everything is in ugly-a-- plastic bins under my bed," Roberts said.

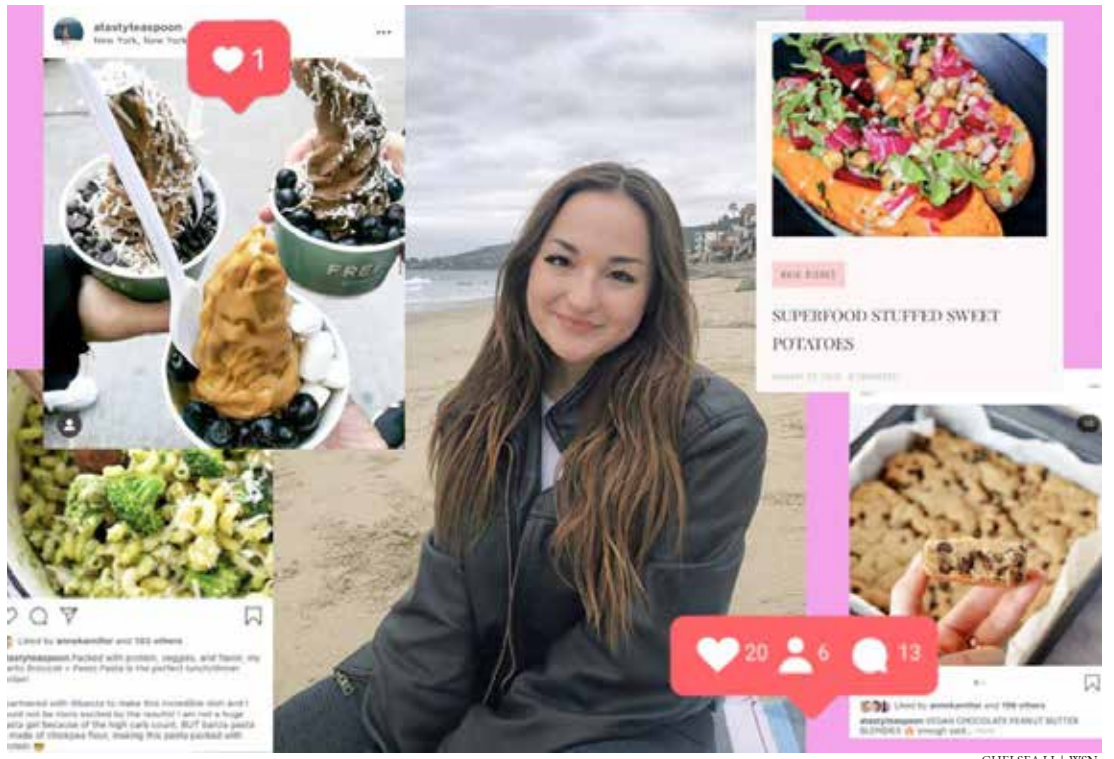
According to Roberts, the vintage resale industry has its pros and cons: hefty price tags, yet secondhand shopping is better for the environment.

"So many vintage places will sell Levi's for, like, \$200! I feel like it makes vintage and thrifting — in a weird way — kind of elitist," she said. "I personally [thrift] for environmental reasons. Fashion is [one of the most] polluting industries. There are so many clothes that are already out there, and trends are so cyclical that you can find something that is trendy right now and trace it back to a time in the 80s where it was trendy."

With over 3,800 followers to date, Roberts' business seems to only be expanding along with her skillset. In the future, she hopes to work on the creative side of business, and, thanks to @shop_jenn, she's already got her foot in the door.

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NYU Student Makes A Difference One Yummy Recipe At A Time



Steinhardt sophomore Anneka Miller runs an Instagram account for her company, Tasty Teaspoon. She strives to promote a healthy, happy lifestyle through nutritious recipes.

By **ADDISON ALOIAN**
Staff Writer

Steinhardt sophomore Anneka Miller made the Instagram account @atastyteaspoon for her business in Jan. 2019 as an outlet for her mental health. She used the account to help express her own daily thoughts, but wanted to reach out to others who might share her struggle.

"I was hoping to help other people," she said. "I struggled with a really bad eating disorder for about two to three years, and I started getting over it when I was starting college."

Her content mainly consists of recipes, lifestyle and wellness tips, musings on physical and mental health and plenty of aesthetically pleasing pictures. Initially attracted to the pictures Miller posted, her followers soon grew to appreciate her authenticity and transparency.

"The main way I gain followers is by taking good pictures — I feel like that's so hard for me," she said. "But also, being super authentic and vulnerable in my responses, 'cause like people aren't looking for bullshit that's like 'I wanted to be skinny,' which I feel like happens a lot."

She doesn't try to market to a specific group and, consequently, her audience spans from people ages 18 to 64.

"I get a lot of moms reaching out to me if they wanna get healthier, or feed their family something healthy but yummy," Miller said.

Steinhardt sophomore Marilyn Ronnel and Steinhardt junior Natalie Vallone are both nutrition students who follow Tasty Teaspoon. They shared why they love Miller's account.

"I really like her positive outtake on nutrition," Ronnel said. "She's all about real eating, and it's a nice reminder to see her stories pop up saying like 'drink lots of water' or like 'it's okay to go get some ice cream.'"

Vallone commended Miller on her content-sharing methods.

"I love to see what's going on in the nutrition social media world," Vallone said. "I think Anneka does a really good job of sharing current

recipes and nutrition news without forcing her opinion on anyone. I also appreciate that she is studying nutrition so she's giving fact-based information."

While she curates all her own recipes now, when first starting Tasty Teaspoon, Miller would find recipes in magazines or take her mom's recipes and try to "vegan-ify" or "health-ify" them.

Miller follows a vegan diet, but not all of her recipes are vegan, appealing to a wide audience. But after taking classes in nutrition and science, she understands which foods work best together for the perfect conglomeration of taste, texture and nutrients.

Although her account appears to be aesthetic and innovative, she revealed that she personally struggles with finding a balance of what to post, between her original recipes, "Deep Talks with Anneka" and daily reminders to drink water.

"What to post?" she asked. "It's kind of hard — I get in ruts of what to post food-wise and I'm always like 'it has to look beautiful, it has to look perfect.'"

Miller's personal favorite Tasty Teaspoon recipe is her mom's butternut squash soup, but her most popular recipes are cookies and fudges.

"I try to avoid making them because I have zero self-control," she joked. "My sweets recipes do the best, but I like savory better."

Ronnel is one follower who tried her almond butter fudge.

"It's kind of along with her brand about guilt-free eating and desserts, and you can have sweets but still with good-for-you ingredients," she said.

With Tasty Teaspoon constantly growing, Miller eagerly pursues outside partnerships with companies. Her growing count of 5,600 Instagram followers help her gain sponsorship opportunities — most commonly, she is sent free food and gets paid by the company to post a picture of it. She gets close to 40 partnership offers in a week sometimes, so she is picky about which ones she chooses, and prefers to work with brands she uses herself and whose

values align with hers.

"A skinny tea company offered to pay me \$500 for a single post, but it's just something I'm super against," she said.

Her favorite businesses to work with are Pressed Juicery, Lily's Sweets and Zukkee Kitchen, a California-based vegan, gluten-free and paleo bread company.

"Best bread I've ever had, and I don't even like bread," she said, referring to Zukkee Kitchen.

Additionally, she has been invited to events through Tasty Teaspoon, where she has been able to network and even meet some of her followers.

"I met a girl who was like 'Are you the Tasty Teaspoon?'" Miller said. "I called my mom, and I cried in my Uber."

Although her work is rewarding, Miller admitted it is stressful juggling the demands of managing a company and being a full-time NYU student, though she acknowledges how her stress might be self-inflicted. She also admitted that her major adds a lot of pressure, but it is also helpful that it goes hand in hand with the business.

"I like to regurgitate whatever I learned in class onto Tasty Teaspoon," she said.

Miller plans to use what she's learned from class and her work with Tasty Teaspoon to help her pursue her future career goals.

"I'm trying to establish a presence so that if I ever apply to be a host on the Food Network, that would be such a dream, it's like acting and cooking combined," she said. "Watch out Rachael Ray!"

Above all, Miller hopes to do what she originally set out to accomplish when she started the account — to help people.

"My goal is just to help people who have gone through what I've gone through and helping America's health epidemic," she said. "If I can help make something that tastes good and is healthy at the same time, then that's what I'll do."

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Liberal Studies sophomore Jenn Roberts poses in front of a rack of vintage clothing. Since starting her own Instagram reselling vintage pieces, she has gained nearly 4,000 followers and the attention of popular YouTubers such as Ashley from 'bestdressed'.

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ARTS

Edited by KAYLEE DEFREITAS and ETHAN ZACK

Decolonizing the Scenescape: Jordan Casteel at the New Museum

By **MAXWELL FREYRE**
Contributing Writer

A peculiar dichotomy is developing in the museums of the Greater New York City area: the uptown-neoclassical museum, with gargoyles slammed at the sides of some presentational doorway, now meets a more contemporary, downtown-white-walled museum with branding similar to an iPhone's. Simple-fonted and blank-slatted, the walls of the New Museum in the Lower East Side provide a canvas that has hosted countless seasonal exhibits, accessible on a web-page with the highlights of their exhibitions. As America's diasporal communities come together to form identities divorced from colonial motherlands, a new American identity is being constructed through contemporary art. At the New Museum, we are witnessing exemplary works of these American people in the flesh.

One of these people is Jordan Casteel. She earned her Masters of Fine Arts at Yale University, educates students at Rutgers University's Newark campus and lives in Harlem. Casteel's specific way of putting oil paint on canvas was dubbed "a distinct figurative language." Through it she's able to reach out and touch the people of her multi-spatial communities in her exhibit, "Within Reach."

From wherever her subjects reside, all of Casteel's work is produced in a thematic manner one notices upon stepping into the exhibit. All of her subjects are in the foreground. While their backgrounds are abstracted,

their facial and body features are well defined: a mixture of light and shadow is employed in a shapely manner to the angles of the faces of New York City youth, and you want to have a conversation with that realness.

By estimate, none of Casteel's paintings are smaller than 3 feet by 4 feet wide, and in one of these paintings — Casteel's 2014 painting, "Jonathan" — the artist uses the size of the canvas to hone in on details we would otherwise overlook. Rather than strictly adhering to artistic rules of studio study, "Jonathan" employs a set of visual cues that mock the Eurocentric foundations of what are considered the neoclassical artistic standard. It does so by using traditional studio study technique on a much larger canvas. Whereas the MET is keen to put small objects next to large objects in novelty display cases, all of the paintings exhibited in this insightful exhibit are the same size without distracting display narratives, collectively exclaiming, "We're here!"

The methods Casteel uses to contradict colonial motifs also add an illustrative narrative about the lives of the people she paints. In "The Baay-falls," a pair of two street vendors are placed so far to the foreground of the painting that you feel as if you could walk into the painting and greet them yourself. So large and superimposed that it challenges the one-dimensional aesthetic of the older, stuffier, uptown museum. Another painting, "Lean," of a child reaching for their guardian's hand on the subway platform, tells a contrasting story. Here,



ASHLEY WU | WSN

Viewers were captivated by the figure painting, "Jonathan," by Jordan Casteel. The sleek and simple New Museum is a favorite venue for multiple seasonal exhibitions, including "Within Reach."

the cool background of the steel subway door with its "do not lean on door" warning contrasts the beauty of a tender moment between parent and child with a bleak industrial quality. This same dichotomy between gentleness and colonialism harkens back to a post by @decolonizethisplace on Instagram, where the very

same signage is spray-painted over in the movement's solidarity against the MTA, which charges an immodest, inequitable \$2.75 per subway ride. We are reminded of the way humanity is a prisoner to the capitalist machine that activists like Decolonize try to combat.

There is so much more than just

this to be discovered in Casteel's work. The works beckon each and every one of us to discover more meaning in their honest humanity. There's only one thing left for you to do now: come see it for yourself.

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'Vitalina Varela' is a Masterclass in Minimalism



HASSAN ELGAMAL | WSN

After her husband's funeral, a woman is stranded in Lisbon miles away from her home in Cape Verde. The film *Vitalina Varela* submerges itself in themes of distance and immigrant communities.

By **NICHOLAS PABON**
Staff Writer

"Vitalina Varela" is a film by Portuguese director Pedro Costa starring nonprofessional actress Vitalina Varela, from whom the film takes its name. Varela portrays herself in a story inspired by her own life experience.

In "Vitalina Varela," a Cape Verdean woman whose husband immigrated to Portugal 25 years earlier is finally able to afford travel to join him, only to discover that she has arrived three days after his death. What follows is an emotionally riveting experience as she slowly untangles the mystery of the life of the husband who abandoned her and comes to terms with her own past.

"Vitalina Varela" makes use of a nontraditional plot structure conveyed through unorthodox and yet immensely powerful cinematography that is heavy with long, motionless shots that have deep emotional aspects as they are allowed to breathe.

Although it is a subtitled film, "Vitalina Varela" could almost be enjoyed without them. It is dark and moody, lingering long on off-center shots in which characters are highlighted in chiaroscuro, strong contrasts

between darkness and light. Characters' body language, facial expressions and the vocal tones say more than any single line of dialogue. The filmmakers seem to know this. There is no music in "Vitalina Varela," instead it relies entirely on the atmosphere and the silence of the environment, which makes moments in which that silence is broken much more powerful.

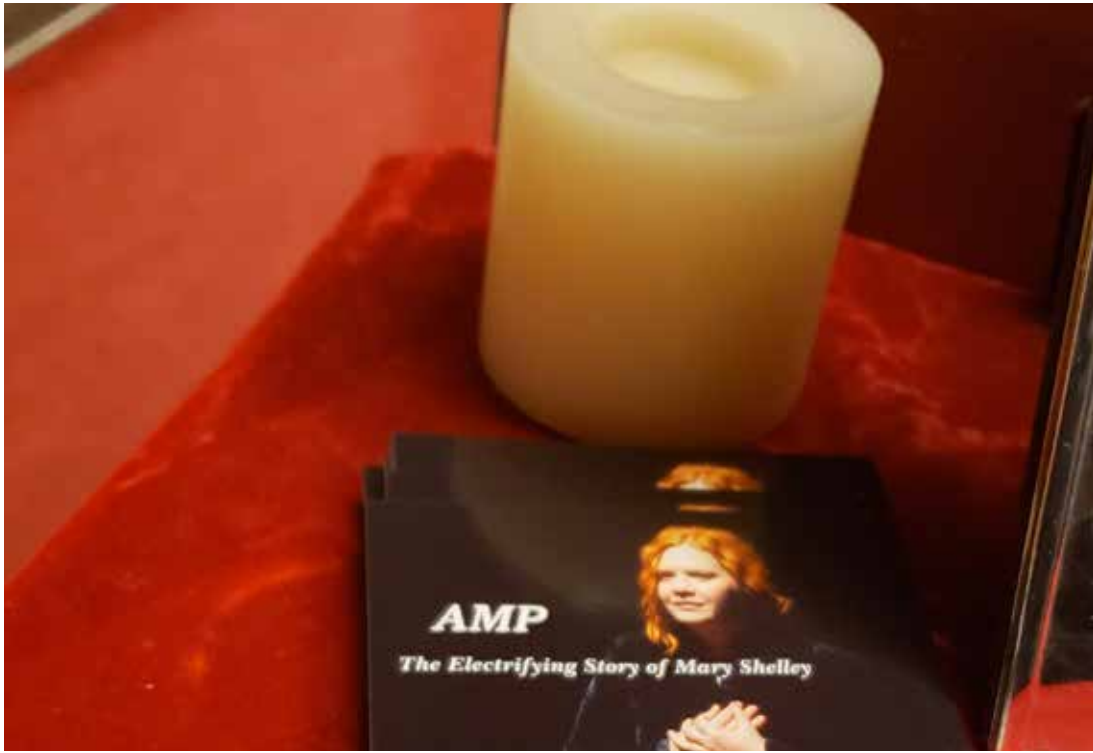
As beautiful as it may be, "Vitalina Varela" is not for everyone. The film is long and slow. The story is told with extreme subtlety through sight and sound first and dialogue second.

The film's emotional core lies in the characters' relationships to the world they live in. Costa is careful to explore their emotional states, informed by their social status and past.

If a two-hour long European art house film with sparing dialogue and no music interests you, then "Vitalina Varela" is one of the better movies you could watch. Otherwise, save your money. That said, "Vitalina Varela" is a veritable work of art, and is well-deserving of high praise for its refreshingly minimalist approach to storytelling.

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A Mary Shelley One-Woman Show Electrifies Audiences



Inspired by its Gothic source material, AMP sets the scene with eerie candlelight. Styled as “The Electrifying Story of Mary Shelley,” the one-woman show spanned the author’s life.

By **DANI HERRERA**
Staff Writer

A small desk and chair sit in the corner of a dark, foggy room containing stacks of dusty books. The room sits in an unsettling silence as the lights dim. Suddenly, thunder strikes, lights flash and a woman rushes in, frantically scribbling on every flat surface available.

That woman is Mary Shelley, the famous 19th-century novelist and the main character, played by Jody Christopherson, in “AMP: The Electrifying Story of Mary Shelley.” Written and performed by Christopherson herself, the one-woman show tells the story of Mary Shelley’s life from her childhood to the success of her classic horror story “Frankenstein.”

The child of the educated and reputable William Godwin and feminist activist Mary Wollstonecraft, Shelley was born in 1797. Her mother died shortly after her birth and her father remarried four years later. Her stepmother raised the young writer. Despite her stepmother’s discouragement of her education, Shelley had access to her father’s library, where she was exposed to the world of literature and science, specifically experiments with electricity and body parts. These topics lead to Shelley’s fascination with anatomy and the possibility of reanimation.

As she grew older, Shelley experienced waves of love and loss. Yet, the darkness in her heart couldn’t be shaken. This darkness remained hidden, until the fateful summer of 1816, when a friendly challenge led to the creation of Shelley’s most famous novel, “Frankenstein,” or “The Modern Prometheus.”

Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” may be a great horror story, but Christopherson’s writing focuses on the suspenseful life of the author leading up to “Frankenstein.” Through Shelley’s story, Christopherson dives into deeper topics, discussing women’s rights and the significance of scientific experimentation. These underlying themes are strategically scattered throughout the monologue, highlighting Shelley’s rebellious nature in response to a close-minded society and demonstrates how Shelley defied societal norms around the patriarchy and women in science.

As expected, the show was full of references to electricity, life, death and the human body. Though subtle, the constant return to these ideas hints at Shelley’s growing fascination with the crossover between humanity and monsters.

The intimate space of the theater combined with dramatic lighting and a misty fog created an air of mystery. Sudden bursts of light and rolling thunder shocked the audience, as Christopherson embodied Shelley’s increasing insanity. Christopherson’s

own sharp movements and use of the space demanded attention as she narrated with a frenzied look in her eyes.

She never once lost the audience’s attention as her tone and her body language helped to guide the story.

The performance had the audience watching in silent anticipation, unsure of what would happen next. Would the lights go off? Would the music rise? Would there be an ear-piercing scream? The acting and special effects accented the monologue, though not in the way one would expect. Christopherson, along with the directors and producers, effectively engaged the audience with a few props, some special effects and a fantastic script. In a noteworthy performance, the production managed to tell the story that led to the creation of one of the most widely-recognized novels in the world.

At the end of the show, Christopherson thanked the audience for taking a chance on bizarre theater. While the show closed Feb. 22, the show will tour around the country, including the Water Tower Theatre in Texas from Oct. 22-25. Its content is captivating, unsettling and full of raw emotion, justifying the \$18 dollar ticket price. “AMP: The Electrifying Story of Mary Shelley” is an intensely chilling work that tells a more personal, lesser-known story.

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Justin Bieber Reached His Apex, It’s Not ‘Changes’

By **SAMAA KHULLAR**
Contributing Writer

When Justin Bieber took to the Coachella stage last April as a surprise performer and promised that his album would be coming soon, he was met with roaring applause from fans who had been waiting since 2015 for a new release. In the following months, Bieber teased that the theme of his upcoming album would be similar to his under-the-radar, yet well-received compilation album “Journals” (2013). He used the hashtag #RnBieber when discussing the album, shared pictures from the studio with songwriter and producer Poo Bear (responsible for hits such as “Despacito” and “What Do You Mean?”) and even released a 10-episode Youtube Original documentary series about the album-making process titled “Seasons.” After months of buildup and underwhelming lead singles, “Changes” is Bieber’s most disappointing work to date.

As someone who grew up listening to Bieber’s music, I wanted to like an album that promised a new side of him. I expected to hear songs that pointed to Bieber as the mature, married man that he kept insisting existed. All I got was an album with repetitive beats that seem to only appeal to radio play, and lyrics that have the emotional undertone of a teenager trying to prove something to the world.

For those looking to find the second half of his 2015 chart-topper “Purpose,” it can’t be found here. Nowhere on “Changes” is there nearly the same emotional depth as his fourth album, something that even Bieber admitted to during an interview with Zane Lowe, making “Changes” feel like a filler album in Bieber’s futile quest to come up with something better. Knowing more people care about his name than his music, it seems Bieber is content with continually releasing unsubstantial music so long as it keeps his name buoyant in mainstream media.

The result is a series of tracks that try to explain the excitement that comes with marriage that end up sounding so similar that they’re entirely forgettable. The tracks “Come Around Me,” “Forever,” “Second Emotion” and “Confirmation” all start with beats that sound identical at first lis-

ten, and all of them feature generic, yet oddly possessive love lyrics that made me question whether I had already heard them before.

The lead single from “Changes” was “Yummy,” and I can confirm that it does not sound better with time. Even if it was possible to ignore the repetitive chorus that simultaneously offers no substance while also screaming “too much information,” it was hard to enjoy the verses.

In his pursuit to take Roddy Ricch’s spot on the chart, Bieber resorted to creating dozens of music videos to increase his streaming numbers, using David Dobrik’s YouTube platform in an awkward attempt to surprise fans while also promoting the single and even going so far as to instruct his fans to listen to “Yummy” on low volume while they sleep in a now-deleted Instagram post. Never in Bieber’s career — not even when he was a child star releasing singles like “Baby” — has he or his team seemed so desperate to cling to relevancy. The strangest part of all of this is that there are standout tracks on this album, tracks that would have made much better lead singles if Bieber’s management wasn’t trying so hard to make it onto pop radio.

With respect to what these outstanding tracks are, the falsettos in “Habitual” are beautifully executed and prove that first and foremost, Bieber is a vocalist, and that hasn’t changed. The title track “Changes” is the most emotionally revealing song and a refreshing diversion from the rest of the album. With nothing more than an acoustic guitar and smooth vocals, the track is well-produced with a signature ending speech that is similar to the ones on “Purpose” and “All In It” (2015). He reflects on the last beats of the track, saying “people change, circumstances change, but God always remains the same.” This line seems fitting with the theme of the song, acting as a beautiful bow of closure for the track.

It’s hard to listen to a body of work that pales in comparison to Bieber’s previous albums. Save yourself the disappointment of watching a very capable young man underperform just because he can afford to.

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Marriage is a central theme in the Canadian singer’s newest album. However, despite promising an epic project to fans, Bieber’s “Changes” falls short of expectations.



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OPINION

Edited by JUN SUNG

EDUCATION

The Inadequacy of Sex Ed



By **HELEN WAJDA**
Deputy Opinion Editor

“Don’t have sex, because you will get pregnant and die.” So begins a well-known scene from 2004 teen comedy “Mean Girls,” where a coach lectures high school students on the dangers of premarital sex. Every time I see this scene, I laugh at the absurdity of how it depicts the abstinence-only approach to sex ed — the coach is clearly fear-mongering, and as his brief talk doesn’t delve into any details regarding sex, sexuality, relationships and consent, it can hardly be considered sex ed.

But while I laugh at this lecture and

tell myself that deeply inadequate, abstinence-only sex ed like this isn’t commonplace in New York, the reality is that sex ed in the state of New York is still far from comprehensive — and in some districts, it’s far too close to the “Mean Girls” lecture.

The New York City Department of Education requires public schools to provide middle and high school students with sex education. This mandate places New York City ahead of other parts of the country — only 29 states mandate that sex education be taught in public schools, while 29 states require sex education to stress abstinence and 19 states require students to be taught that sex is only acceptable after marriage. However, the NYCDOE does not provide a curriculum for sex education; a 2017 study found that 43% of eighth graders at NYC public schools did not complete the required semester of sex ed in middle school.

Even more concerning is the lack of adequate sex education in New York State as a whole. While New York City requires medically accurate sex education in middle and

high schools, the State of New York does not mandate sex education. As a result, the information taught in many public schools is inaccurate and exclusionary. A recent report by the New York Civil Liberties Union found that almost 2 in 3 school districts did not mention female genitalia, 1 in 3 did not teach students how to use condoms, and many did not even mention LGBTQ+ relationships or identities.

Sex education, like any other subject taught in public schools, shouldn’t be geared towards certain students and beliefs. Refusing to mention or to accurately name female genitalia — one district referred to the vagina as “a sperm deposit” — and presenting sex education through a heteronormative lens not only excludes some students, but it blatantly prevents them from receiving information that can help them stay safe and healthy, both physically and mentally. The abstinence-only sex ed that I received didn’t make me feel less curious about sex or more prepared to engage in healthy relationships. Instead, it just left me feeling ashamed

and deeply confused about how to set boundaries and what healthy relationships should look like.

Moreover, inclusive and comprehensive sex education has benefits beyond ensuring that all students receive information that pertains to them. A study found that schools that employed LGBTQ+ inclusive curricula — including sex education — had lower rates of LGBTQ+ bullying, and LGBTQ+ students reported feeling safer in school than LGBTQ+ students at schools without inclusive curricula. Comprehensive sex education has also been linked to lower teenage pregnancy rates.

Regardless of there being a wide variety of viewpoints on sex, I don’t think that sex education should promote any agenda other than providing students with medically accurate guidance for how to engage in sexual activities whenever they themselves feel ready and prepared.

But sex is a normal part of the human experience, and as public institutions, public schools have a responsibility to provide stu-

dents with information that is untainted by religious or cultural beliefs. Some students’ or teachers’ personal beliefs should not dictate the quality and content of information all students receive.

Of course, it isn’t realistic to expect a systemic issue like sex education to be solved quickly, and it is promising that New York City requires public schools to teach comprehensive sex education. It is also important to recognize that there are organizations that are working to promote secular and inclusive sex ed, such as Peer Health Exchange, an organization that educates college students to provide underresourced high schools with skills-based sex ed. But there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that all students receive the information they need and deserve — state-wide, nationwide and in New York City — and it is vital that we push for New York to adopt statewide standards for comprehensive and inclusive sex ed.

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UNIVERSITY LIFE

Dear College Senior, You’re Doing Just Fine



By **MILI MANSARAY**
Staff Writer

Senior year of college, for many reasons, is a gruelling experience. Most likely, this isn’t the first time that seniors have heard that the final stretch of undergrad is taxing. Difficult, nerve-wracking, unparalleled, heartbreaking, insightful; the list goes on and all are true.

The projection of college students into the real world is a journey that is often accompanied by various mental hardships. Balancing multiple demanding classes, hav-

ing a job, seeking a job and extracurriculars all while on very little sleep and coasting by while financially unstable is already an everyday process for many. In fact, one in five college students battle anxiety or depression and over 40% of students said they felt too depressed to properly function day-to-day.

But with graduation added to the mix, senior year is its own special challenge. As a demographic that has largely spent the entirety of our lives as students and/or under parental guidance, we are suddenly thrust into and expected to compete in a world brimming with longer work weeks, a decrease in the average employee’s net worth and income, expensive graduate programs and an increase in stress and depression due to economic inequality. So, for anyone feeling as if they’re not where they should be, it’s important not to internalize these feelings, as post-grad hardship is universal.

Not knowing who they are or who they’re meant to be is the thematic under-

lining of a senior’s final semesters of undergrad. This might be one of the causes of stress associated with senior year. Admittedly, stress is more of a euphemistic term in this instance. It is entirely too general and does a disservice to the weight of this time period. An identity crisis, or an intensive period of self-exploration and analysis of the various ways of examining oneself, would be more accurate.

Students may realize they no longer enjoy their major, despite having dedicated four years to studying it. Or maybe they’re too passionate about the subject to turn it into a mentally draining profession. What if this passion won’t make any money? Going to graduate school is a popular option, but to study what? And where does a student get the money to pay for that tuition? Many may not understand how to navigate themselves outside the context of being a student.

For those who envision a specific life path and are sure of what they want to do,

there’s still the struggle of actually doing it. The job market we are entering is one defined by unprecedented competition and inequality. The amount of graduates is consistently increasing, turning hard-earned experience and abilities into a lottery ticket in a numbers machine. Moreover, landing a job is about networking more than skill sets.

This competitive streak that defines the market is amplified by our constant use of our mobile devices. At our fingertips are Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn, juxtaposing the success of our peers with our own personal downfalls, especially during our free time, when we’re known to be more self-reflective. The danger in social media is it creates a heavily skewed image of one’s life. Users tend to showcase their peaks, their highlight reel, and it does not paint an accurate depiction of their lives.

To a certain degree, though, it can be positive, as “the inspiration you feel about someone else’s achievements can rev up

the motivation to improve your own life,” according to Psychology Today. Seeing a high school friend’s rigorous choreography might serve as inspiration to take up dancing or fitness, and possibly revitalize one’s life.

The notions of success or enlightenment a student might think they’re not measuring up to by the time they reach the finish line are informed by inaccurate tidbits of misinformation depicting where others in their age range seem to be. The reality is that both the world of college and post-grad are not entirely easy for anyone. Therefore, whenever anyone compares someone else’s highs to their lows, they are only doing a disservice to themselves and their personal journey. Graduation is in just under three months and seniors have made it this far. Who’s to say we can’t go farther?

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CITY

De Blasio’s Privatization of NYCHA



By **ASHA RAMACHANDRAN**
Deputy Opinion Editor

On Jan. 31st, the coldest day of the year to date, 10,000 residents of the New York City Public Housing Authority were left to freeze without heat or hot water as temperatures dropped to -12 degrees Fahrenheit. Over 11,000 NYCHA apartment units were found to be contaminated with lead as of April 2019. Just within a two-month period last year, court documents revealed that 58,000 apartments had toxic mold problems that were reported multi-

ple times by residents. Numerous federal housing violations like lead hazards, repair scams, broken elevators, leaky water pipes and busted heaters in NYCHA apartments have persisted for the last 10 years.

Yet, even as all these potentially-deadly public health hazards endanger thousands of vulnerable New Yorkers, only 3.7% of New York City’s \$95 billion budget is allotted for housing. Instead of allotting the billions of dollars in resources and funding in the budget which are necessary for fixing these urgent problems, the city is making deals to privatize its public housing, putting 15,000 low-income tenants under threat of eviction.

The Rental Assistance Demonstration is an Obama-era government housing program that Mayor Bill de Blasio is using to establish a private-public partnership between NYCHA and private real estate development corporations. Currently over 30% of NYCHA apartment units are being

transferred to private operators through RAD over the next eight years.

The RAD program has already been tried, tested and proven to be a disaster for tenants in other states across the country, where it violated multiple federal laws and regulations. In Virginia, for example, residents faced with RAD conversion were subjected to unlawful threats of eviction and discrimination for their disability status. RAD conversions raise the risk of these threats against tenants who depend on low-cost housing for their very survival.

As the city tries to put public housing in the hands of private landlords, the actual tenants amount to no more than an afterthought, even as they are being forced into unsafe conditions. Housing insecurity in New York City is already disproportionately high, with 20,000 evictions and 3,000 foreclosures occurring annually. If NYCHA is privatized, tenants could face eviction, higher rents and reduced

oversight. As public housing falls under private management, the only potential oversight on RAD conversions is the federal government’s Housing and Urban Development Department. Although issues arose with RAD under the Obama administration, the National Low Income Housing Coalition found that federal oversight is being reduced even further under Trump, making “communication with residents ... abysmal.”

Even as NYCHA is being handed over to private developers with de Blasio’s promise to improve conditions, NYCHA residents continue to be put in dangerous conditions. This past Tuesday, 12,000 residents went without water and heat in the middle of February. For those same units, the Fulton Houses, the city is planning RAD conversions.

What NYCHA desperately needs is billions of dollars in funding in the state budget specifically devoted to fixing pub-

lic housing units and giving residents the protections that are long overdue. Organizations like Fight For NYCHA and The Legal Aid Society have organized and represented NYCHA tenants in court and enlisted city council members, and have held demonstrations and town halls trying to achieve this. They have also enlisted the help of New York City council members and legislators to secure funding from New York state and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Every day that tenants continue to live with mold and go without heat and water, all while threatened with eviction, is another day of injustice. NYCHA tenants deserved legitimate change years ago. The time for the government’s empty promises, half-solutions and shirking responsibility is long over.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor: “Confronting the Contradiction of NYU Abu Dhabi”



By **JOHN BECKMAN**
University Spokesperson

and **KATE CHANDLER**
NYU Abu Dhabi Spokesperson

Fourteen Rhodes Scholars, eight Fulbright Scholars, six Schwarzman Scholars, four Yen-Ching Scholars, three Erasmus Mundus Scholars, one Luce Scholar and one Truman Fellow. An acceptance rate of 4%. An average yield of 82%. A graduation rate of 90%. A program of financial aid that has allowed some of the brightest young minds to receive a college education who might never have had opportunities to reach their full potential at home, meeting the needs of a student body that would — remarkably — be deemed roughly 50% Pell-eligible. The hiring of 300 faculty whose ranks include recipients of awards and honors including election to the National Academy of Sciences, the Radcliffe Fellowship, the Moore Prize in Fiction, the Hindu Prize, and the Rhodes Trust Inspirational Educator Award. Over 3,500 internationally recognized academic papers, articles, books produced to date and more than 250 creative works created and directed. Graduates who have gone on to further study at Oxford, Harvard Law, Yale, Stanford, McGill, Juilliard and Cambridge; employment at Amazon, Google, Goldman Sachs, Johnson & Johnson, the US Department of State and SpaceX; and numerous non-profit and entrepreneurial pursuits.

In 10 years, this is just some of what NYU Abu Dhabi has accomplished. In a mere decade, it has compiled a record of student achievement, student support and scholarship that rivals universities many times its size and its age.

Yet, the Washington Square News acknowledges and appreciates none of this. Invested in a storyline that misses the achievements and perpetuates misrepresentations, the WSN is unable to see what has been accomplished, incapable of hearing students and faculty who readily and repeatedly say that they have the freedom to discuss diverse thoughts and ideas and that they do so every day, and is not able to understand that a country's immigration decisions cannot be the basis for judging academic freedom.

Instead, Washington Square News ignores what NYU Abu Dhabi is today and what it has proven: that global higher education works; that a US-style liberal arts education can thrive in different societies; that a bold step like this means more freedom of thought, not less; and that an incredibly diverse group of the most talented young people in the world — many of whom might otherwise never had the opportunity — have now received an education which has prepared them for leadership roles in a complex and highly globalized 21st century. NYU Abu Dhabi is a success that NYU can and should be proud of.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

Hidden Disabilities and NYU's Failure to Accommodate

According to the Department of Education, hidden disabilities are “physical or mental impairments that are not readily apparent to others. They include such conditions and diseases as specific learning disabilities, diabetes, epilepsy and allergy.” For a university student, these disabilities affect a student's day-to-day life.

To gain access to accommodations at NYU through the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities, students with disabilities are usually required to submit documentation from a qualified, licensed professional which includes a specific diagnosis. Students also have to apply for housing and academic accommodations separately. Requesting academic accommodations involves filling out an online application, uploading an authorization for the release of information form and attending an in-person orientation. The process for obtaining housing accommodations involves filling out another online application and authorization form, as well as submitting a Certification of Disability form that has been filled out by a healthcare provider. For a student who needs accommodations in both the classroom and in housing, this can mean five forms and one meeting in total.

The Moses Center's policies for disabled students aren't suited to help students with less-visible disabilities. Sharing personal medical information with professors and other figures can be extremely daunting. Because of the fear of stigma, providing a large amount of documentation of those experiences can be a difficult task for those affected. This high barrier to entry for support can also be overwhelming, pushing students away from seeking NYU's accom-

modations at all.

Receiving accommodations for hidden disabilities at NYU frequently becomes difficult. Last week, Washington Square News published its annual Housing Guide, which featured an article that displayed how students with food allergies struggle to gain access to important support from the university. Many individuals found that finding appropriate housing was a difficult and slow-moving process. When they eventually did, they were given no guarantee that a roommate would not eat foods with the allergen. When one student requested accommodations for a sensitive food allergy, she was told by the Moses Center that because of the rarity of her condition, she would need to undergo allergy testing in order to receive accommodations. The student ended up not receiving the accommodations due to the inconvenience of having to travel to her doctor's office to redo testing and confirm what she already knew.

None of this is meant to invalidate the positive work that the Moses Center does, and the hundreds of students that it's helped. But the fact that NYU does good work doesn't mean that it cannot be criticized.

The immense hurdles that the Moses Center requires from students who need accommodations goes directly against NYU's mission to be a space for a diverse community. At the end of the day, providing sufficient support to students with hidden disabilities means believing them. The Moses Center's current policy of requiring extensive documentation to acquire disability support shows that NYU remains fundamentally skeptical of the credibility of students.

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SPORTS

Edited by ARVIND SRIRAM

NYU Students Exhibit School Pride Through All-University Games

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I am spending only one year at NYU, so this is a nice opportunity to meet other people and have fun," Villa said. "I think it's amazing. I have never seen so many people playing sports at the same time. I am loving it."

Among those encouraging on the contestants was President Andrew Hamilton. An annual attendee at the All-U Games, Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the students' enthusiasm and effort.

"There is such a great vibe here," Hamilton told WSN. "Everyone is having fun and having a little bit of competition as well."

Hamilton didn't only cheer for the competing students, he also took part in

the games — although he had become more careful about his event of choice.

"I particularly like tug-of-war," Hamilton said. "I participated last year, but I managed to pull every muscle in my back. So I am taking it calmer this year."

This year, President Hamilton chose a slightly less strenuous activity — air hockey — and was outmatched by Gallatin senior and Student Government Assembly President Jakiyah Bradley.

As noted by Hamilton, the spirit of competition was not lost on the students. The tug-of-war match between the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) left the losing CAS students strewn across the floor. De'Ane Kennedy, a Tandon senior and the school

captain for the event, voiced her suspicion some school was trying to gain an unduly advantage.

"There was a little mishap with the Tandon buses," Kennedy said. "I think they tried to sabotage us."

Kennedy was not clear on who sabotaged the Tandon buses. Perhaps it was the School of Dentistry, who took the All-U Games trophy, with the School of Medicine finishing second and Stern placing third. Awards aside, the Games gave all participants the opportunity to bond with students both within and outside of their schools — uniting the student body with school pride.

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NYU Men's Basketball Officially Signs 11-Year-Old Isaiah Mitchell



The NYU men's basketball team official welcomes 11-Year-Old Isaiah Mitchell to the team on Team IMPACT's "Draft Day" Ceremony. Mitchell has brought positive energy to the team and inspired them to work even harder.

By **ARVIND SRIRAM**
Sports Editor

On Monday, Feb. 17, the NYU men's basketball team officially drafted 11-year-old Brooklyn native Isaiah Mitchell to join the Violets, per agreement with Team IMPACT, "a national nonprofit in Boston that connects children facing serious or chronic illnesses with college teams."

"I'm happy to sign and join y'all," Mitchell told the team.

Mitchell was diagnosed with leukemia at a young age. His love for basketball — playing on his youth team and supporting the Brooklyn Nets — helped him during his battle against cancer. Taking on a more active role with the Violets has given Mitchell a sense of eagerness and enthusiasm. Mitchell holds the Violets in the utmost importance, especially on game nights.

"[On game nights] he wants to be early so he can get with the guys and be on the bench with them," Judy Ann Jones, Mitchell's grandmother, said. "So when we are a little late, he gets very upset. Game nights are something he looks forward to."

Dagan Nelson, head coach for the men's basketball team, is excited to be a part of Team IMPACT.

"The more research I've done on

Team IMPACT, the more impressed I've been with them," Nelson said. "They've had over hundreds of schools that they partnered with, so that's a tribute to them for all the young people they're helping. We're excited to be a part of this."

Over the past couple of months leading up to the signing day, the team has been building a relationship with Mitchell. In the three games that Mitchell has attended, he gave the pregame speeches, led the team in the pregame chant and supported both the men's and the women's team from behind the bench. Mitchell's positive attitude and energy has rubbed off on the team; as a result, the players have connected with him on a personal level.

"Since I've been injured this year, I've been on the bench with him," SPS first-year Ephraim Reed said. "I've been talking to him during the game all about his favorite [NBA] players, video games, things like that. So I've been able to interact with him more. He's helped me put my injury into perspective. He's a fun kid."

As an official member of the team, Mitchell will attend the Violets' practices, games, team dinners and more. Nelson has many plans for Mitchell — on and off the court — for the remainder of the season.

"Going forward in the springtime, there are some things that we're going to do in terms of having him come over to campus," Nelson said. "We're going to give him a really good college tour so he can see what NYU is like. From Bobst Library to Stern to walking around Washington Square Park, we want him to get a feel for what a college is like. Our goal right now is to have him come over once, maybe twice a month, and have lunch with me, the staff and the players."

Looking ahead to next fall, Nelson is planning on integrating Mitchell into their off-season activities.

"We're going to do some stuff in the fall when we get back in session and he'll come over to some team bonding activities that we do," Nelson said. "We will do as much as we can do."

Both Mitchell and the team have benefitted from this budding relationship so far. Many see Mitchell as a source for inspiration in basketball and in life.

"He put everything in perspective," CAS senior and men's basketball captain Ethan Feldman said. "We have all complained about problems in our lives, but for him to go through what he's gone through at such a young age puts everything into perspective."

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Manchester City's Greed Made Them Invincible — Until It Didn't

By **BELA KIRPALANI**
Editor-at-Large

For years, Manchester United was on top of the soccer world.

Manchester United won more trophies than any other team in England, pumped out talent like nobody else and did it all with the most recognizable manager in soccer history at the helm. The Red Devils were the team to beat in England, and their influence echoed around the globe. Just a few miles away, Manchester City was a small mid-table club that never looked like challenging its neighbor.

Then, in 2008, the Premier League — and its balance of power — was changed forever. City was floundering financially, and seemingly out of nowhere, in swooped a billionaire to save it. The club was bought by Sheikh Mansour, a member of the royal family of Abu Dhabi and the deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates. On the last day of the 2008 summer transfer window, Manchester City signed Brazilian star Robinho from Real Madrid for \$50 million.

Since taking over Manchester City, Sheikh Mansour has become the richest owner in the Premier League (his net worth is approximately \$30 billion) and his group has reportedly pumped over one billion dollars into the club. In the last five years, City has spent a total of \$734.10 million on bringing in new players, according to Transfermarkt.

With one of the most revered managers in the world at the helm, a squad dripping with talent and four Premier League titles in seven years, City established itself as one of the biggest clubs in Europe in just a decade.

The club smashed its own transfer records time and again. City broke Premier League records for highest point totals in a season and most goals scored. Under Pep Guardiola, the players produced a style of attacking soccer that took the world's breath away.

Other teams watched all of this from the sidelines and attempted to replicate the club's method of success. Chelsea signed the world's most expensive goalkeeper last year. In the last three seasons, Liverpool has spent \$122.75 million to catch up to its rivals. Manchester United broke the world-record transfer fee for Paul Pogba in 2016. After all, everyone wanted to be City.

Even City thought it was too big to fail, the Wall Street Journal's Joshua Robinson wrote. Despite UEFA's inquiry into the club's finances, "City allegedly kept injecting cash into the club disguised as sponsorship or rights payments, all so it could keep acquiring talent like no one else in the sport. When investigators came knocking, City denied everything and attacked the very process."

Now, Manchester City's rose-colored veil has been yanked down with a flourish and the defending English champion is swimming in stormy wa-



ters. The club has been banned from the UEFA Champions League for the next two seasons following "serious breaches" of European soccer's financial regulations and will also be fined \$32.5 million, UEFA announced earlier this month. City, for its part, has vehemently denied the allegations and plans to fight the case with its best lawyers and all the money in its treasure chest. But the damage is done and the facade of invincibility has been shattered.

The City's punishment is unprecedented and could cost the club upwards of \$300 million in the long run. But it's hard to feel sorry for a team that propped itself onto the world stage on piles and piles of money. If the ruling is upheld in the courts, City's players will likely look to leave for better pastures, fans may abandon the club and all of City's achievements could be undone in just two short, painful years.

Sports rarely pity teams that pay their way to championships and titles. It's the same reason that no one is mourning over Paris St. Germain's — valued at \$1 billion — six straight early Champions League exits. It's why the world went wild when Leicester City, a little-known team with a squad valued at £52.8 million (City's squad, which finished fourth that year, cost £411 million), won the Premier League for the first time in the club's 132-year history.

Sports worships one mantra: work harder than the other team and earn every single win. This is why we love the story of the underdog, the 1969 Miracle Mets or the 1980 U.S. men's Olympic hockey team. It's why we respect the prominent youth soccer academies of Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund and Ajax. They prove to us that our most important values matter. They comfort us and the belief that we — rightly or not — cling to, that as long as you have talent and perseverance, money doesn't matter.

Manchester City has shown us the ugly side of soccer; when money, not the love of the sport, becomes the philosophy of the club and gives you a false sense of invincibility. However, no one is invincible, and City's shocking fall from grace is just beginning.

The Sports Girl is a weekly column that features a girl's take on sports. Yes, a girl. Yes, on sports.

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03/02

Indya Moore

Skirball Center for
the Performing Arts
6pm



03/03

**Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole
Trailblazer Award**

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7pm

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