

THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

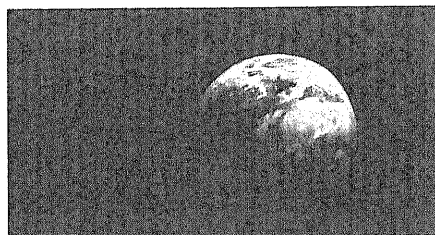
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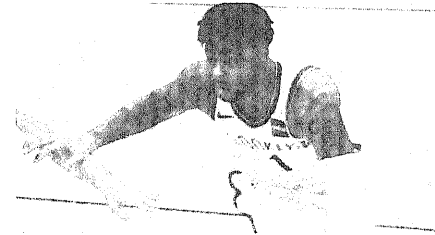
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A Celebration of Learning at TEDxCUNY

Power of Knowledge and Unity at TEDxCUNY Conference

BY: LUCIA ELM

On April 5, 2019, John Jay College of Criminal Justice was honored to host TED's fifth annual TEDxCUNY con-

ference. In attendance were not only a number of innovative public speakers and entrepreneurial thinkers, but CUNY students from all around New York City.

To date, TEDxCUNY is the largest TEDxUniversity independently organized conference event in the United States. Their theme for this year's conference was "What Matters Now?"

Public speakers and thinkers prompted students to consider this question as they grapple with the important decisions concerning their futures and how they will impact the world around them.

With dedication, passion, and like-minded ideas, TEDxCUNY urges students to challenge their limits and be the future they want their children and generations to come to be a part of.

Some notable speakers were Hebh Jamal, an advocate for Muslims and education reform, Lin Liang, an aspiring midwife studying nursing at the College of Staten Island, and Linnette Attai, the

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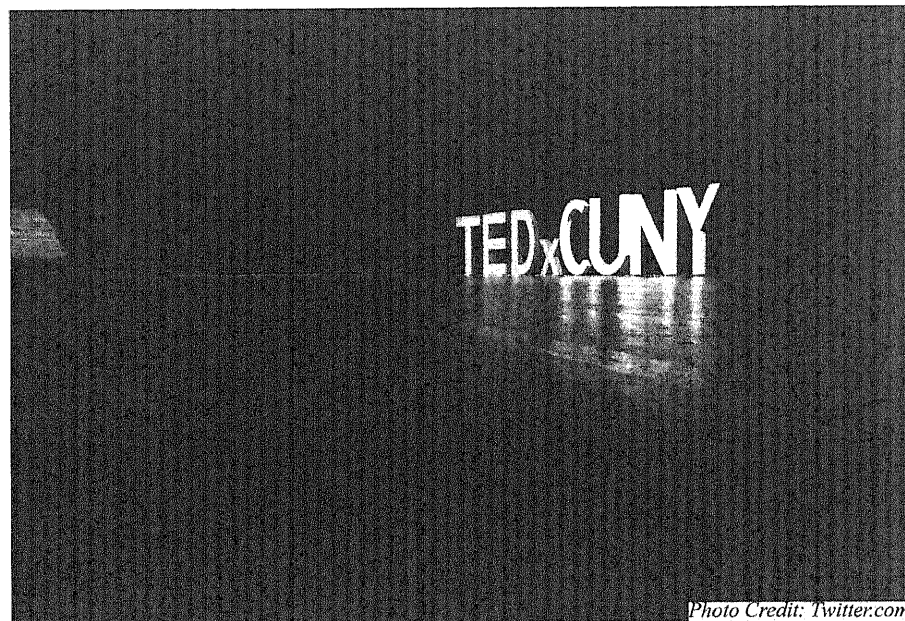


Photo Credit: Twitter.com

Wheelchair Basketball Was a Slam Dunk

CSI Students Bringing People Together for a Great Cause

BY: PHILIP SANZONE

Sports have been an activity that people bond over negatively or positively, or even conditionally. Putting that in perspective, the Wheelchair Basketball Event at CSI brought out competitive nature and opened up peoples' minds to others' conditions.

Brilliantly put together by Samantha Wong and Lucia Rossi, and with the help of many other talent individuals; the passion put in by every single person performed the event.

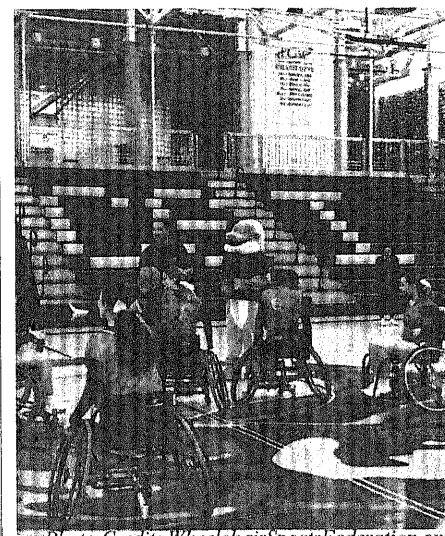


Photo Credit: WheelchairSportsFederation.org

Taking an entire semester's worth of planning, this event was created to bring people together to spread awareness, and help develop more of an understand of sports like Wheelchair Basketball played by people with disabilities.

Also, the CUNY Athletics Conference helped by providing the gym floor and the Ryan Mar-

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A Behind the Scenes Look at CSI's Spring Events

A Spring Carnival Open to the Campus Body

BY: ANES AHMED

With this semester finally approaching finals week, students are getting ready to wrap up their studies and jump straight into their summer breaks. But, before the closing of the remainder of this semester, there is still one festive event to look forward to: the College of Staten Island Spring Carnival.

The CSI Spring Carnival is an annual event open to the general campus, and arguably, it is one of the most exciting and fun events our college hosts. With activities such as inflatable axe throwing, rock climbing, and many carnival stands offering their own creative games, this year's Spring Carnival is both expanding and strengthening its festivities.

With major contributions, planning and assistance from the Campus Activities Board (CAB) who helped develop this event, they have been able to create



Photo Credit: Veronica Pistek

Enjoy the festivities and fun happening in the CSI Spring Carnival.

numerous on campus to increase student engagement. In conversation with Joe Weisberg, the Major Events Coordinator here on CAB, he says that there are

many entertaining events happening in the coming weeks.

"Some of the upcoming events that we

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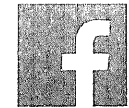
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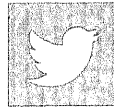
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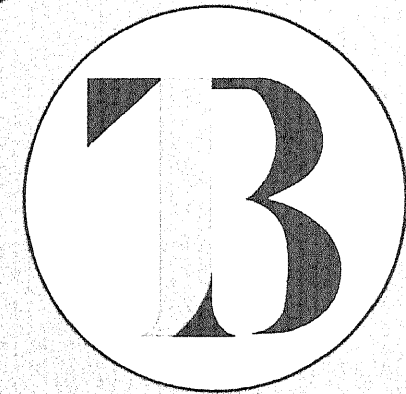


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BANNER POLITICS

Update On The Mueller Report And Its Long Awaited Public Release

Collusion Delusion? Americans Will Soon Reach Their Own Conclusion

BY: DEJON VIRGO

On March 22nd, 2019 the Special Counsel led by Robert S. Mueller III conducted an investigation into Russian efforts to sway the 2016 presidential election and if the Trump campaign conspired with Russia to also sway the results of the 2016 election.

The Special Counsel concluded its investigation and delivered it's report to the Attorney General William P. Barr.

Shortly after the news broke of the Attorney General receiving the report, Barr told congressional leaders that he will give them a brief summary of the report by the end of the weekend. There were concerns about whether or not Barr will be transparent and if there needed to be a summary instead of releasing the full report.

According to the New York Times, Barr "Remained committed to as much transparency as possible" and reassured people who questioned Mueller's actions during the investigation that he followed protocol.

On March 24th, 2019 Barr released his four page summary of the report and wrote that Mueller did not find evidence of a conspiracy or collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Barr also wrote that Mueller did not conclude whether or not Trump illegally obstructed justice according to Business Insider. President Donald J. Trump tweeted "No Collusion, No Obstruction, Complete and Total EXONERATION. KEEP

idence to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Trump obstructed justice.

Four points can be made based on Barr's report. One: the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) didn't determine whether or not Trump obstructed justice.

Photo Credit: FiveThirtyEight.com



Robert Mueller is in the middle of the two political parties.

AMERICA GREAT!"

Mueller did not exonerate the President and according to Barr's letter Mueller stated, "while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him." According to Business Insider, Barr and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein found that the Mueller team did not have enough ev-

Two: the Special Counsel did not find that President Trump committed a crime, yet they did not exonerate him.

Three: the Special Counsel's investigation found no evidence of a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. Four: Russia's influence has two parts, one being the social media campaign to trick people into voting a certain way and an-

other being hacking to steal information to influence the election.

While Barr's summary was only four pages the full Mueller report is four hundred pages and Democrats on Capitol Hill are demanding to see the full report without any redactions.

Barr and the DOJ have concerns about releasing the full report to the public because of grand jury testimonies and national security concerns but the Democrats are not accepting a four-page summary.

The House of Representatives passed a resolution that says the Mueller report should be made public with 420 members voting yes and zero voting no. Barr is not obligated to release the report to the public, but only required to give a report to Congress.

On April 9th, 2019 Barr went to Capitol Hill to discuss the DOJ budget, but was grilled by lawmakers on other topics such as the status of Obamacare. Barr also told lawmakers that he will release a public redacted version of the report within a week. Democrats still want a non-redacted version of the Mueller report for Congress. Now the public awaits for the full report expected to arrive in a week.

To Exit or Not to Exit?

The Fate of Brexit Should Be Revealed In October

BY: CLAUDIA BUONSANTE

The E.U. emerged out of the rubble of the Second World War. After a gruesome war, the countries of Europe made it a goal to maintain peace throughout the continent. To do so, they established the E.U.

This political band includes 28 countries and some of its most notable accomplishments include common citizenship rights, free movement laws, free trade zones, and a central currency. Despite this

vow to establish alliances and keep the peace among European nations, Britain has become increasingly discontent with its involvement in the E.U.

Britain's exit from the E.U., dubbed "Brexit," was decided by a referendum in 2016. Over 30 million people cast their votes and proponents of Brexit narrowly won by 4%. While 52% of voters supported Brexit, 48% voted against it.

Although determined by a slim mar-

gin, it was clear that the referendum confirmed that Britain would be leaving the E.U. However, this was called into question when over a million people signed a petition to stay in the E.U.

This caught the attention of parliament and caused the issue to reemerge.

The issue of whether Britain should exit the E.U. is largely controversial. Pro-Brexit campaigners, such as the notable UKIP party, are fueled by anti-immigration sentiments and a growing discontent around the financial obligations of the E.U.

On the other hand, Anti-Brexit campaigners fear the withdrawal will lead to a drop in Britain's GDP, violence along the Irish border, and a decline in the flow of products. Such products at stake include consumer goods, food, and even medicine.

The economic and political implications of Brexit are currently being debated in the halls of parliament. Although Britain was supposed to decide by March 29th, 2019, when the deadline arrived, parliament was still in disagreement.

The British Parliament had recently ruled out the idea of a no-deal Brexit, by which Britain would leave the E.U. without a written withdrawal agreement. This ruling, which was passed by one vote, caused bitter disagreements and in turn led Britain to seek an extension from the E.U.

The deadline was postponed until

April 12th, 2019. However, when that date passed, Britain still had not reached a unanimous decision. In turn, they sought a deadline from the E.U. which was granted.

The British Parliament now has until October 31st to decide whether they would like to remain a part of the E.U.

Since Brexit supporters won the 2016 referendum by such a slim margin, there is talk of holding a second one, yet parliament remains deadlocked and uncertain of its next steps. Over the past three years, there has been a shuffling of the Secretary of Brexit, followed by intense debates within the halls of parliament.

Although Prime Minister Theresa May initially advocated to remain in the E.U., she seems to have accepted the outcome of the initial referendum and is expressing interest in exiting with a withdrawal agreement.

Her agreement includes a transitional period during which Britain will continue abiding by E.U. laws, a financial settlement, and several other stipulations. Unfortunately, Theresa May's plan is wildly unpopular.

Given the political deadlock and the intense controversy, there is no way of knowing which way politicians will sway. We will simply have to wait until October to understand the fate of Britain and its pending role in the E.U.

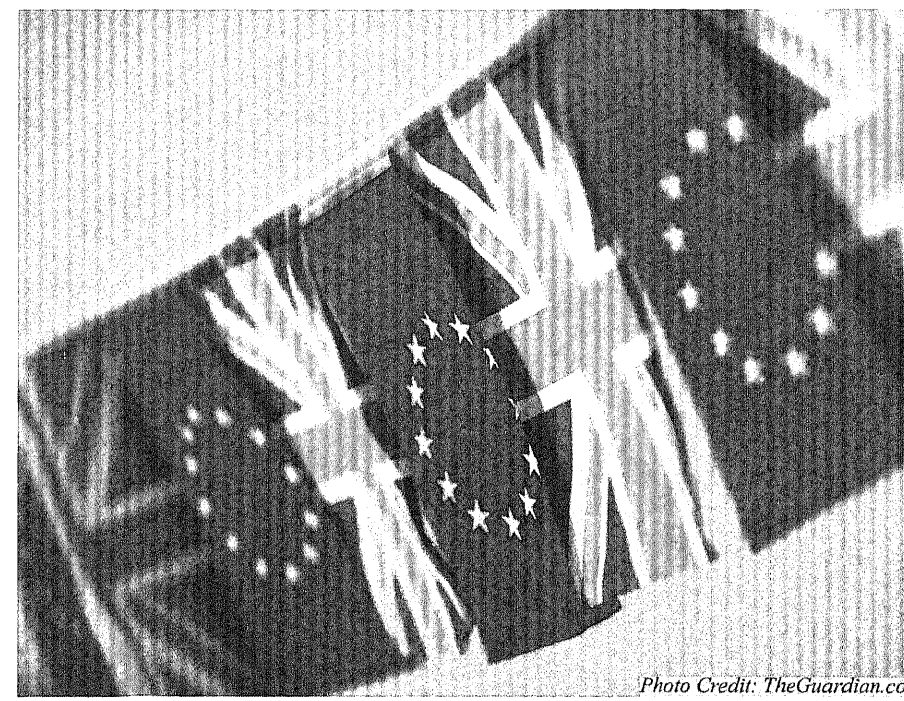


Photo Credit: TheGuardian.com

Demonstrations have become popular in central London as the Brexit fiasco plays out.

BANNER NEWS

"A Celebration of Learning" Continued from Front Page

founder of PlayWell, LLC, a global compliance consulting firm that specializes in data privacy and marketing security.

Mohammed Ashour, co-founder and CEO of Aspire Food Group, a company that processes insects into high-quality consumer products, had much to say on the need for innovation in a world where creating waste is just second-nature to us.

Ashour said, "What's disturbing is that it literally takes more water to make the plastic bottle than the water inside of it. And that's pretty depressing considering that we desperately need water. By 2050, we are expecting to live in a world where we might have more plastic in the ocean than fish."

He believes that his protein-packed cricket foods have the potential to empower rural communities to harvest these insects to not only feed themselves, but to help them rise out of poverty.

In turn, we will be able to rely on a more efficient food source that is healthy but also safe for the environment, as it will reduce the need for livestock production and consumption, which is a huge source for greenhouse gas emission.

"Will Americans actually eat crickets? If we want this to work we have to appeal to their taste buds. Food is an intensely emotional experience."

Linnette Attai, founder of PlayWell, LLC, shared her compelling and thought-provoking ideas to help assist students and business companies in securing their information from data breaches and unwanted leaks of private information.

"CSI's Spring Events" Continued from Front Page

are hosting during Spring Week includes the Spring Carnival, Bubble Event, and the Make Your Own Flower Pot event," Joe expressed. "These events are a great and needed way to relax right before the stress of Finals Week."

These events were created with the

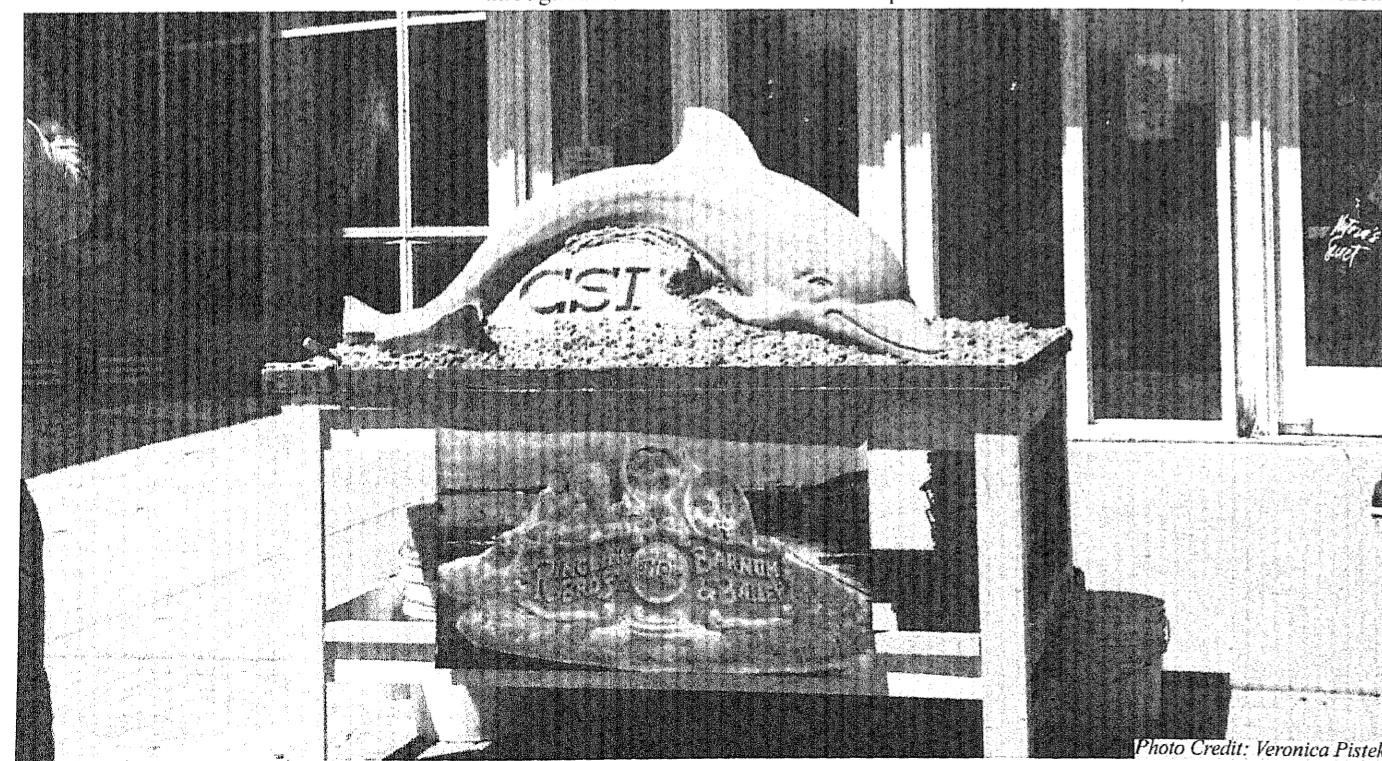


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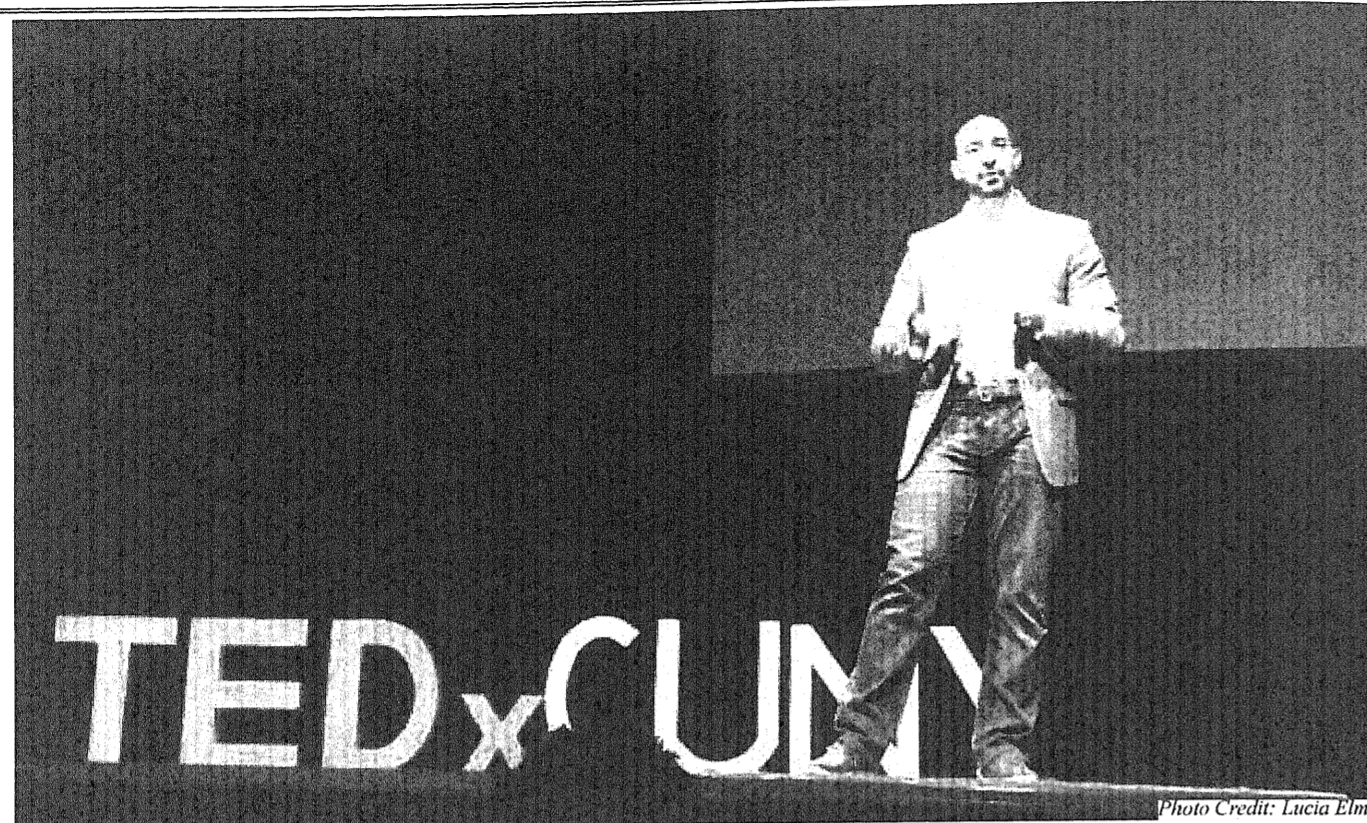


Photo Credit: Lucia Elmi

Mohammed Ashour, co-founder and CEO of Aspire Food Group.

"Why don't we engage more deliberately around our information privacy? Perhaps the platforms and technology we use have become so big, so ubiquitous to our lives, that we believe our only choice is binary: take it or leave it."

Attai urges professionals and students alike to take the time to think about what privacy means to them and how they may choose to defend those rights against companies or hackers looking to extract such information.

"Privacy is a discipline of behavior. It's about when, how and, what information we choose to share and for companies it's

also about how they may handle and care for that information. Each of us may feel differently about what is and is not okay. Decisions about our privacy are personal."

Attai adds, "Perhaps we do understand this but we just don't believe we can have an impact on how our information is handled from the many companies we share it with, believing each of us alone is just one drop in the bucket, barely making a ripple on the surface. And so the constant flow of our information across the internet continues, facilitated by our agreement."

"Our information is valuable, we should only exchange it for something

worthwhile. Our information is currency, we just don't tend to think of it in those terms."

TEDxCUNY is a celebration of determined individuals who are passionate enough to engage others in their journey to spread ideas that spur the catalyst for change.

As students that are fortunate enough to be apart of CUNY, the nation's biggest university system in the country, we have the necessary tools and support needed to be those advocates for change and growth.

Center. The event is certain to draw in crowds through the provided free food, a DJ that will be playing some exciting musical tracks, and heart pumping activities that is sure to be promising for all participants.

"While planning this event," said Joe, "we wanted to incorporate some of our past activities that had a great reception such as Maui Wowi, which are frozen

non-alcoholic drinks that are free of charge for students. In addition, we wanted to experiment by adding new entertainment such as inflatable axe throwing."

As Spring Carnival is sure to engage our campus body, some of the other upcoming events have some amazing refreshments such as the Central Park Bubble event. This event includes interactive games such as placing guests in giant bubbles and allowing moved around and about.

In addition, this event will be offering attendees free bubble tea drinks which will sure to be a hit for students. The final upcoming event will be the Make Your Own Flower event, which allows guests to bring their own artistic talents in developing a design for their flower pots (which will be housing their own flowers for celebration of the May season).

These events will be taking place on the following dates: Spring Carnival will be on April 30th, 2019; Central Park Bubble event which will be occurring on May 1st, 2019; and the MYO Flower Pot event is happening on May 2nd, 2019. For further details or interest in joining with some of the behind the scenes work, attend a meeting or reach out to the CAB office located on the 2nd floor in the Campus Center.

BANNER NEWS

"Wheelchair Basketball Was a Slam Dunk" Continued from Front Page

-tin Foundation procured 8 wheelchairs. This event also allowed many different types of people to play.

Lucia Rossi also gave concern for the

basketball for 10 years.

Islam expressed how hard it was compared to not using a wheelchair. Saying how it actually gave a new perspective

Photo Credit: Philip Sanzone



The event coordinated by students Lucia Rossi and Samantha Wong was a success.

lack of school spirit within CSI, wanting students to feel more connected with the campus, as well as minority groups. Rossi and Wong both hoped the event will help with that regard by getting people more involved.

Watching the players from the stands and also interviewing one of them it is clear that goal is being met. One such players name is Erkin Islam, who played

on the tribulations people with disabilities have to go through.

Also, to give more insight into how different it really was and what kinds of new techniques might arise. Islam said how it took a lot of coordination and timing to keep up.

Even knowing when to maybe go one handed to switch direction to open up for a catch or a shot, while also trying to slow



Photo Credit: Philip Sanzone

down as to pass right by the hoop or a pass.

Now for Ryan Martin, who wants to help promote wheelchair basketball throughout the states with the Ryan Martin Foundation.

Born in Connecticut, Martin came from a family of 12 and learned to play many different types of sports. Martin started playing basketball at about 15 and went into college continuing to pursue basketball.

Martin now plays for the New York Rolling Nicks and also played in Europe professionally. Since, he has come home to spread awareness of the sport and help with its growth, as well as helping students with disabilities with better programs within the educational and employment spaces.

Martin also expressed hopes for a deeper understand of the sport and more exposure of wheelchair basketball. He as-

ditions. Wheelchair basketball is inevitably growing in the states and the players involved hopefully will receive more recognition for their hard work.

The turn out of the event could have definitely been better, but putting everything into perspective on how many events were happening during this time and clubs.

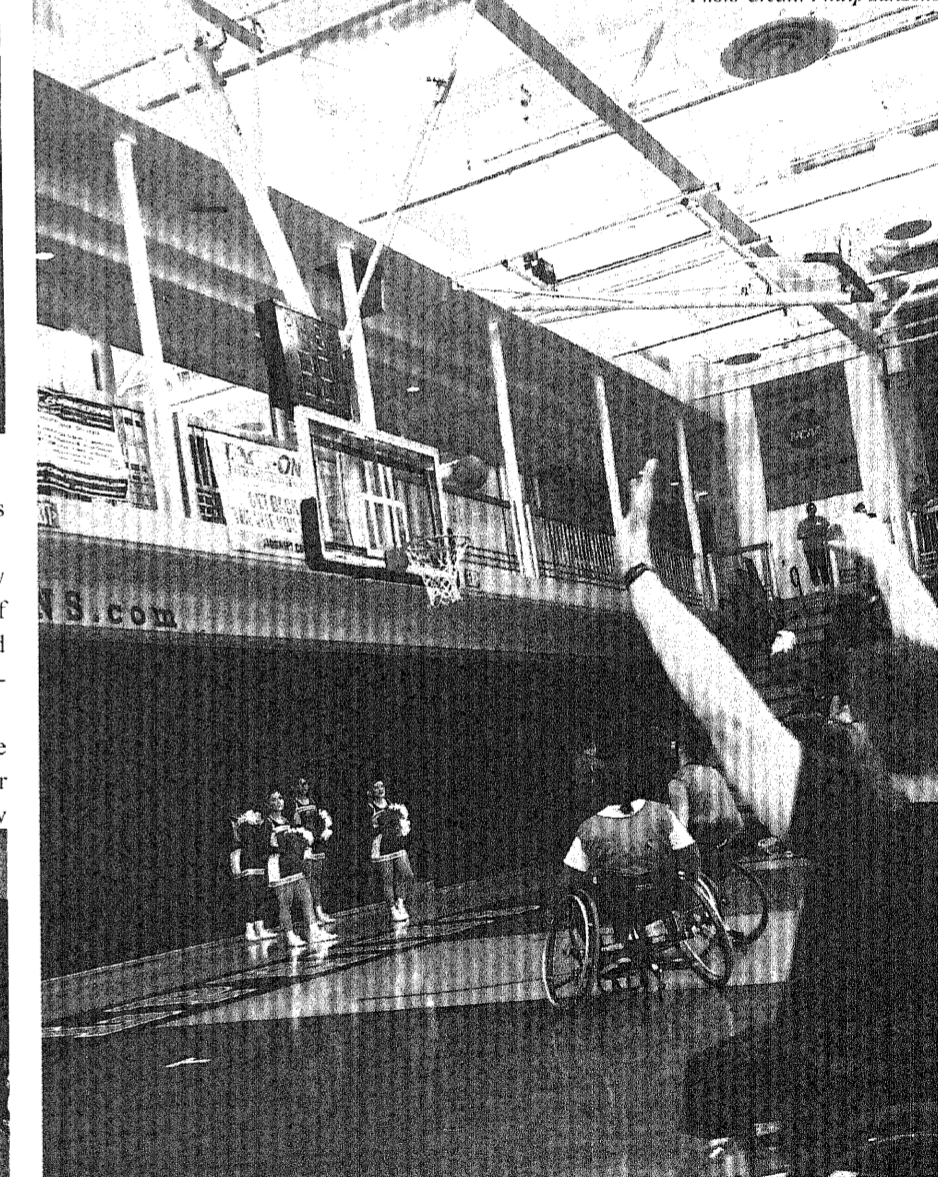
There is some level of understanding that it wasn't 100% up to what the event holders wanted.

Luckily, the people that did attend gained a deeper understanding of the sport and enjoyed their time meeting Ryan Martin and playing the game.

Lastly, Samantha Wong and Lucia Rossi put so much into this event and gathered a collective of talented people like Ryan Martin.

From running around keeping people

Photo Credit: Philip Sanzone



pires for people to change their views of the sport and start to have the same level of respect for it like the NBA and other major league sports.

Since there are amazing and hard working athletes pouring their soul into getting better and building up their professional career, providing people with a more connected understanding of the sport, is necessary.

Based on the thoughts from participants during the event, they definitely feel more connected and aware of others' con-

engaged and games going even, being able to squeeze in an extra game or two; to everyone who was involved, this was definitely a safe space that was welcoming from every angle.

The goals that this event set out to do aren't in vain and stupendously succeeded in bringing people from every corner to all come together. Ultimately, wheelchair basketball opened up the attendees minds to a more progressive sports industry that welcomes all.

SPORTS

The Brooklyn Nets Take a Massive Step Forward

*The Nets Return to the Playoffs***BY: GEORGE BURKERT**

Back in 2013, the Brooklyn Nets made a big trade. They sent their draft picks to the Boston Celtics to receive aging all-stars Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett and former sixth man of the year Jason Terry to try and compete in the Eastern Conference at the time.

This resulted in only one playoff win and all the players they got left the team within one year.

Years later, it became clear the Celtics won the trade, gaining young, talented players like Jaylen Brown and Jayson Tatum. Rebuilding quicker than most teams usually do, they appeared in the Eastern Conference Finals in 2017 and 2018.

Meanwhile, the Nets have struggled with no one knowing what direction they will go without any lottery draft picks.

This year, things have changed for the better in Brooklyn. The Nets have a better record than the New York Knicks and after they beat the Indiana Pacers on April 7, the Nets officially made the playoffs.

The beginning of the season was up and down for the Nets. However, things took a turn for the worst on November 12, when Caris LeVert, who was playing like an all-star the first few games of the season, suffered a severe leg injury.

Here on out, it was looking like an-

other bad season for the Nets, who at one point lost eight straight games, leading to an 8-18 record. Then, on December 7 things looked good for the Nets again.

They got a win against the Toronto Raptors, who are one of the best teams in the Eastern Conference. This started a sev-



D'Angelo Russell leads the Nets back into the postseason.

en-game winning streak that helped bring the Nets back into the playoff race.

The Nets had an all-star this season in D'Angelo Russell, who averaged 21 points a game. On March 30, Russell dropped 20 points in the third quarter against the Celtics, which helped them win.

Russell was traded to the Nets back in 2017 by the Lakers after two seasons. One of the reasons why he was traded was because back in 2016, he recorded his teammate Nick Young confessing to cheating on Iggy Azalea, who he was engaged to at the time.

With the Nets, Russell has not only gotten better, but matured. Russell will most likely be a candidate as the most improved player of the year.

Another reason the Nets have done better this season is because of the play of Spencer Dinwiddie. Dinwiddie is a candi-

date for the sixth man of the year, averaging 17 points a game off the bench.

Another key player for the Nets was Joe Harris, who won the three-point contest during all-star weekend and is one of the best three-point shooters in the NBA. Harris struggled as a bench player on other teams before breaking out in Brooklyn.

What makes the Nets interesting is they did not draft from the lottery to become a decent team. Russell, despite being the second pick in the 2015 NBA draft, was drafted by the Lakers.

The Nets were able to build a solid team by trading for Russell in 2017 and signing good role players and making good draft decisions with their later draft picks.

The Nets will be underdogs in the post-season, with most people believing they will lose in the first round. The Nets are the sixth seed in the Eastern Conference and will face the Philadelphia 76ers in the first round.

The Nets will have enough cap space to sign at least one of the big-name free agents this offseason. The Nets may not have the same draw as the Knicks or Lakers, but having a better record than both teams could appeal to someone.

The Nets still have some other unanswered questions, besides what key free agents they should sign. They still have to decide if they'll resign Russell.

Are the NBA Playoffs Better Off Without LeBron James?

*Will LeBron Missing the Playoffs be a Positive Change for the NBA***BY: DANNY CACACE**

Los Angeles Lakers star player LeBron James will miss the playoffs for the first time since the 2004-05 NBA season, and he will also miss the playoffs in his first season as a Laker. What does this mean for the NBA?

James has had an impressive run making the NBA Finals for eight straight seasons before becoming a Laker. He did it

with the Miami Heat for his first four years there, then he went back to Cleveland, which was his first team that he played for in his career, and went four straight years to the Finals with them.

He won two championships with Miami and one with Cleveland.

Since the Golden State Warriors have been the NBA powerhouse the past four years now, not even LeBron and whatev-

er team he was on could've stopped them. However, with this current NBA season, a vast majority of teams have improved and have a great chance at stopping the Warriors.

Western Conference teams such as the Portland Trailblazers, Denver Nuggets and Houston Rockets all have a great chance at competing with the Warriors and taking them out of the playoffs to make it to the NBA Finals. The rest of the Western Conference playoff teams all have improved too and got a chance at beating the Warriors, but Portland, Denver and Houston have the best chance at taking them out.

LeBron James missing the playoffs makes it more interesting because his team was not up to par this year and did not meet the expectations of the team they were expected to be. LeBron suffered a groin injury after a Christmas blowout victory against the Warriors, and as shocking as that sounds, missed 17 straight games.

This turned out to be the most noteworthy injury of his career. In general, the Lakers lost other players due to injuries this year such as Lonzo Ball, Kyle Kuzma and Brandon Ingram who are other core members to this team which disrupted the flow of the team. The Lakers couldn't get it together which made them evidently miss the playoffs this season.

So, is this a beneficial matter for the

NBA? I do not see why not.

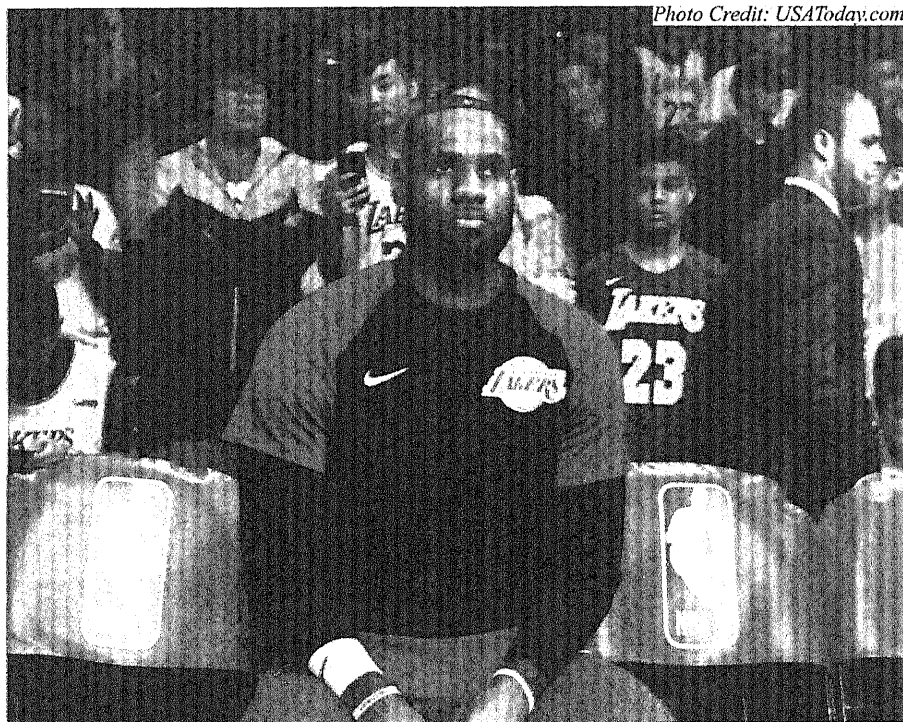
Although LeBron has a large fanbase, this allows the playoffs to be more competitive and NBA fans like myself want to see a competitive atmosphere. If LeBron was to make the playoffs, he could've figured out a way to go through the teams in the Western Conference and potentially go to the Finals again, and I'm sure that not a lot of people want to see LeBron in the Finals once again.

I guess we will never know till next season if his team was to improve and make the playoffs.

The Eastern Conference has also improved since LeBron left it to go to the Western Conference and join the Lakers, which made each team in the East more competitive and gave more chances in that conference to make the playoffs. Teams such as the Brooklyn Nets and the Orlando Magic just clinched the playoffs which they haven't done in a few years.

Both of those teams have improved drastically, and so has the rest of the Eastern Conference. This can make it a very interesting playoffs for both conferences.

This can be thanks to LeBron for switching conferences and also his team missing the playoffs this season, but all I know is that it can only be better for the NBA, at least for this season.



LeBron James is sitting on the bench wondering how his team is going to improve next season.