

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 2

APRIL 2020

# THE SLATE



## *Is This the Worst Yet?*

Look into a past pandemic, and how to make the best out of your quarantine.

### ***IN THIS ISSUE***

Investing Into  
the Future

Harassment Against Women  
in the Workplace

The Day the Sports  
World Stopped Turning

# THE SLATE

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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Campus Slate Readers,

As you all know, due to COVID-19, our campus has been closed off for the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. While we are unhappy with not being able to attend our regular meetings, our staff will continue to produce content for New York Tech. We'd like to thank Dan Quigley for making this possible, and for the first time in the 50+ year history of The Campus Slate, we are distributing it directly to New York Tech students, faculty and staff members digitally in an email as a PDF file. We hope this brings us more readership, keeps you up to date with the pandemic and the rest of the world, but also gives a distraction for those being affected by it. Finish the semester strong, and please stay safe during these unprecedented circumstances!

Best,

*Robert Callaghan*

# This Year in History: The Spanish Flu

BY Brendan Smoller



An emergency hospital during the Influenza epidemic at Camp Funston, Kansas.

We are living in a changed world. As we all optimistically ventured into the year 2020, if we had been told that in a few months we would find ourselves in global social quarantine to stave off the spread of a potentially fatal disease, odds are we would not have believed. If we here at New York Tech had been told that our campus would be closed down and we would be sent home months before semester's end, we would have been similarly sceptical. None of us were expecting it. We here at The Campus Slate certainly were not. Yet we soldier on. As we face this very trying year in history it behooves us to look into years past and see what we can learn.

Starting in 1918, the Spanish flu terrorized the globe. It is (and hopefully will continue to be) the deadliest pandemic in history. 500 million people were infected and 20 million of them died. Of the dead, 675,000 were American. Despite being observed early in Asia, Europe, and the United States, the flu was dubbed The Spanish Flu due to a widespread outbreak in Spain. No drugs or vaccines were found to be effective. People resorted to wearing masks out in public. By the end of the flu's deadly spread, bodies were piled in makeshift morgues in buildings that used to be the sites of jovial public gathering.

The Spanish flu attacks the respiratory system, was highly

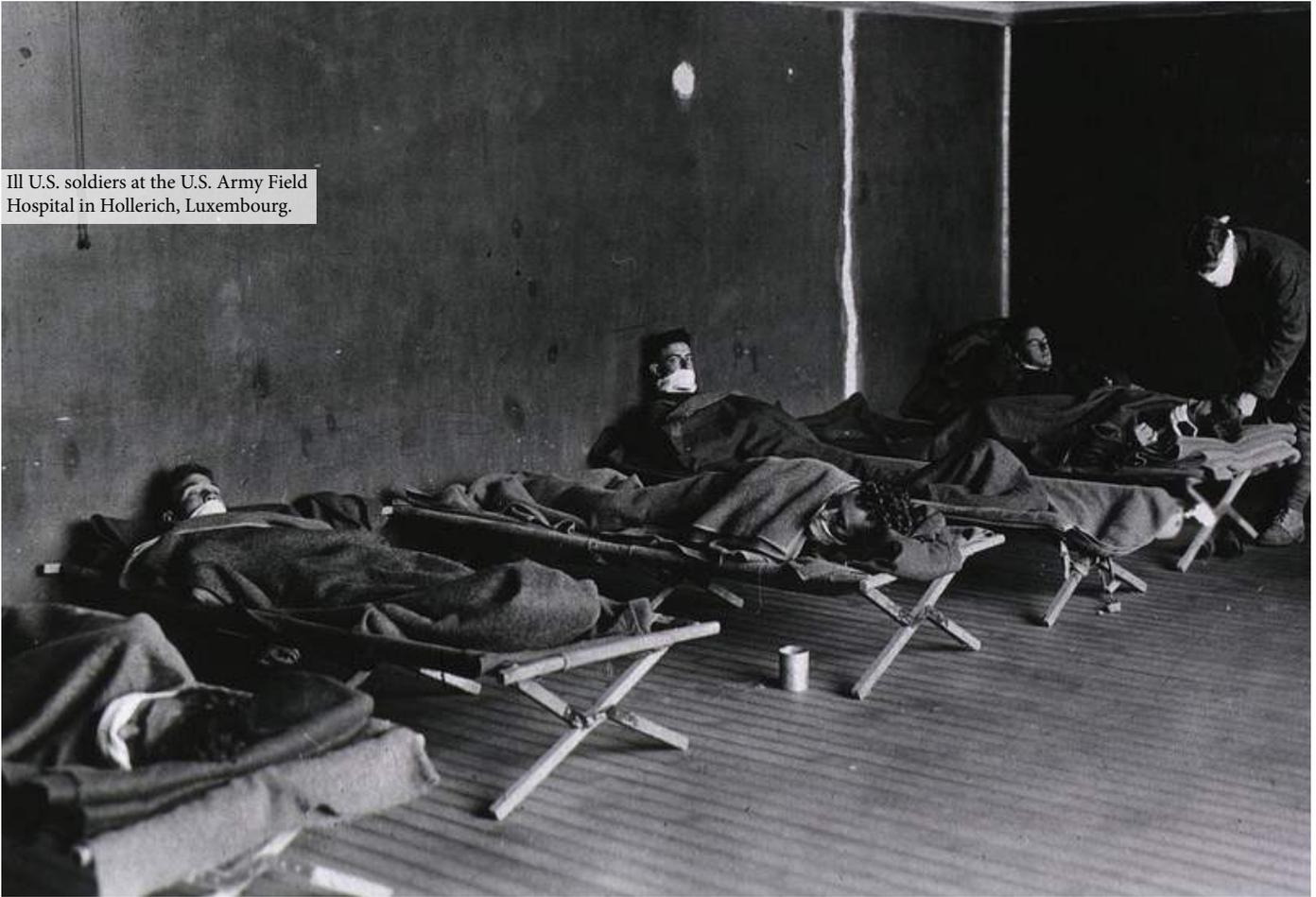
contagious, and was spread through droplets deposited through the air by sneezing, coughs, and exhalations. If the virus was on objects (like doorknobs) which a person touched before then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes, they would become infected as well.

Drastic precautions were taken to stop the virus's spread. In fact, in 1918 the New York City health commissioner ordered businesses to open and close on staggered shifts to avoid overcrowding.

Of course the flu is always a menace. According to the Center for Disease Control, on average 200,000 Americans are hospitalized with the flu annually, and over the past 30 year there have been somewhere between 3,000 to 50,000 deaths related to the flu each year. However, we usually are not too worried about it.

That is why it is noteworthy that these pandemics, including the Spanish flu, start small. The first cases of the Spanish flu were found in the Spring. The infected largely recovered and the death toll was quite low. But, in 1918,

Ill U.S. soldiers at the U.S. Army Field Hospital in Hollerich, Luxembourg.



that same year, a particularly contagious strain appeared in the fall. Those who contracted this strain died anywhere from hours to days after becoming infected. The flu had evolved. This is similar to the coronavirus whose former strands were not fatal, while its current one, COVID-19, can be.

By the end of 1918, with this lethal strain of Spanish flu having run rampant, the average lifespan on Earth had dropped about 12 years. When all was said and done, whole families had died, droves were widowed and orphaned, and due to the overwhelmed funeral parlors, many had to bury their loved one themselves. The economy was also terribly affected by all the businesses that had to shut down due to sick workers. These shut downs also applied to farmers and the local health department. This prevented people from receiving reliable information about the pandemic or even from staying well fed during this incredibly trying time.

By the summer of 1919, nearly a year after the outbreak, the pandemic ended. Anyone infected

had either died or developed immunity. No clear answers as to what made this virus so deadly were established until 2008, when researchers discovered the presence of three genes in the Spanish flu that weakened a victim's bronchial tubes and lungs, clearing the way for bacterial pneumonia.

Many other deadly pandemics have marred the globe in succeeding years. Recently the 2009 swine flu pandemic led to the deaths of 12,000 Americans. However, as these life changing diseases come and go, they continually renew interest in the Spanish flu, or the "forgotten pandemic." It earned that name because the news of its spread was overshadowed by World War I and the reality of how hard it was to spread new in that time to begin with. We live in a very different time now. The pandemic we are facing has been endlessly analysed by the media.

This event in history is tragic and horrifying, but there is a sliver of hope to be found in that incredibly dark time. It ended. This pandemic is unlike anything most of us have had to weather, but as a world we have weathered and overcome worse. So in this trying time remember that COVID-19 is impermanent. It has no agenda, or will-power, and it certainly has no race. It can be beaten. In the meantime it is our duty to follow local ordinance, call to check in on loved one, and stay positive. We are in this together.

# The Bright Side to Dark Times

BY Mary Roberts



After weeks of rapid changes and developments related to the COVID-19 pandemic, it's easy to look at the news and feel the world's gotten pretty bleak. Between closures, the economy, and lockdowns, it can be hard to imagine a bright side to everything. But in this time of forced separation, the world is still working together to try to keep hope alive. So, in this time of high stress and chaos, we present some reasons to stay cheerful.

## **Your favorite entertainment from home, without the crazy ticket fees!**

Various large events have been forcefully cancelled or postponed around the world, but that hasn't stopped many artists from offering fans a chance to interact and watch them perform. Comedy club owners such as Stand Up NY and The Magnet in Manhattan have been hosting online comedy and improv shows for small fees in order to keep bored citizens in self isolation entertained and comedians financially afloat. Meanwhile, musicians of all kinds including Yungblud, Garth Brooks, Bastille, and many others have been offering

free virtual concerts as a sign of goodwill and solidarity. Many of these have been hosted as part of the "Together, At Home: WHO-Global Citizen Solidarity Sessions" series, a partnership between Global Citizen and the World Health Organization in order to raise funds and spread awareness, with the current goal of raising \$675 million throughout April towards COVID-19 relief.

## **Your local favorites, delivered free**

In response to some of the financial challenges being caused by the outbreak, UberEats has removed delivery fees for over 100,000 independent, locally-based restaurants in the US and Canada. The company has also offered 300,000 free meals on the app to first responders and healthcare workers. On March 16, they also announced that they will be offering two weeks pay to delivery drivers who test positive for COVID-19 and those forced to quarantine. Meanwhile, Grubhub and Seamless have temporarily suspended commission fees for independent restaurants.

## **Don't worry about the money (for now at least)**

We may be able to rest easy about many of our bills for the time being. Various internet providers are removing data caps or offering free internet for a limited time to qualifying families. Comcast internet essentials is increasing speeds to 25/3 Mbps for all customers and is offering two months of free service for new, qualifying customers. Meanwhile, xfinity is opening up hotspots across the country to everyone, including people who are not xfinity customers. Additionally, the company is removing data caps for customers and will not be disconnecting service for those who are unable to pay during this time. Both Verizon and AT&T are waiving late fees and suspending termination of service for customers who are unable to pay, and T-Mobile is offering unlimited data to customers for 60 days. President Trump waived interest on federal student loans for 60 days. Borrowers may also waive payments on loans for 60 days without penalty. For current college students who have been forced to leave their dorms (now including New York Tech,), U-Haul is offering 30 days of free storage to help ease the burden of the move.

## **Breathe easy**

Our New York Tech commuters may be happy to lose the morning commutes now that

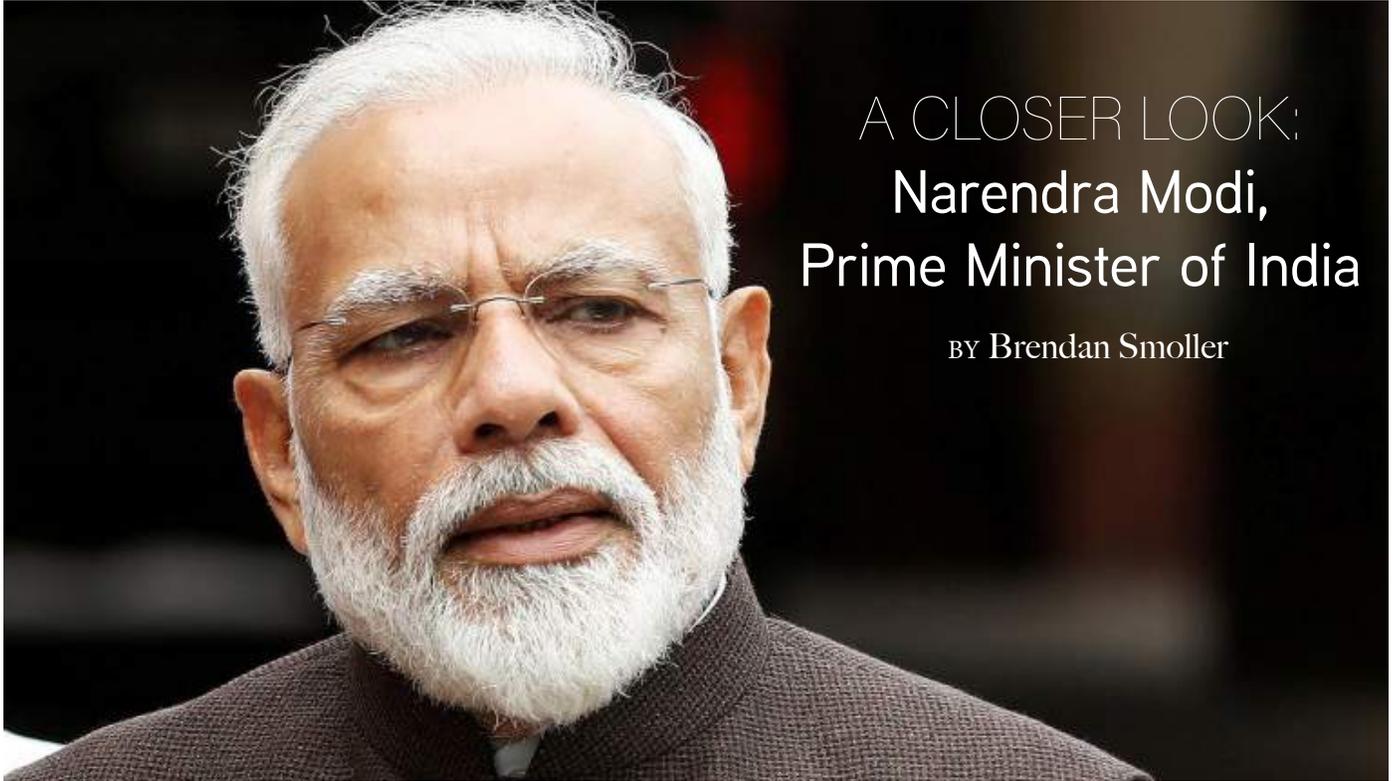


we've gone online, and if you do go out you'll no longer have to deal with the long traffic jams. The state Transportation Department estimates that rush hour traffic on Long Island roads have gone down to as little as half the normal levels. Meanwhile, rush hour traffic in parts of Queens including the RFK Bridge and Hugh L. Carey Tunnel recently went down 28%, which amounts to a decrease of over 42,000 cars per day. All these cars off the road is a good sign for the air quality, as Kevin Stewart, director of environmental health, advocacy and public policy for the American Lung Association noted. He stated that the lack of cars in metro areas definitely impacts pollution and that it is "perfectly plausible" that air quality on Long Island will improve as a result. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation noted as much as a 50% drop in air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide in New York City over the last few days. Pollution levels in Wuhan, China, which was one of the earliest and strictest implementers on the list of lockdown policies, have gone down 10-30%. This could be an indicator of what we could see locally as social distancing policies continue.

### **You can lend a hand (or a dollar)**

Now more than ever, the world needs to come together (while staying safely apart) to help each other through this difficult time. If you want to help, there are still things you can do. If you are looking to donate, direct payments to credible organizations are always the best and farthest reaching method of assistance. Nonprofits are often able to get more food and resources through monetary donations than people can provide through efforts such as food drives. Charitynavigator.org provides a comprehensive list of trustworthy charity organizations providing assistance during the pandemic, separated into categories. If you cannot make a monetary donation but still want to help, note that blood drives are being cancelled at an alarming rate due to health risks, but the American Red Cross still needs blood, platelets, and AB Elite Plasma. The need for blood is constant, and the risk of blood shortages during this pandemic is real. Donating blood is still a safe and essential process, and the organization is taking additional precautions to ensure safety of donors and staff during this time. You can go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment near you

We are currently living in a chaotic time, but it is important for us to remember that this is only temporary. In the meantime, we can and are working together as a global community to get through this.



## A CLOSER LOOK: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India

BY Brendan Smoller

**THIS PAST FEBRUARY** saw President Donald Trump embark on his first visit to India. At the center of the visit was India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who accompanied the president throughout his stay. The two seem to have become fast friends. In a statement he made in September, when they first met, Trump described Modi as "a great gentleman and a great leader." Many seem to agree. His supporters have dubbed him The Father of India. Despite the warm reception this



moniker suggests, Modi is a divisive figure and the subject of some controversy. We here at New York Tech are a diverse community with many international students, many of whom are from South Asia and India. So as this powerful man, who many of us know nothing about, makes the news for befriendng our commander and chief, let's take a closer look.

There are some who think Modi does not deserve the title of Father of India, for one, because it already belongs

to Gandhi but he is very popular. In fact, Meena Ahamed, a freelance journalist for the Washington Post of Indian descent, went so far as to say that "Modi and the BJP (his party) have in fact repudiated much that Gandhi stood for: nonviolence and tolerance." Recently re-elected for a second five year term, the Prime Minister is outwardly likeable and charming. Our president's affection for him being the most recent evidence of this. Beyond that he has an inspiring story. Narendra Modi: A Political Biography by Andy Marino paints him in an inspirational light, as a boy who grew up poor and went from selling tea in a Gujarat railyard to running that whole state, and eventually of course, the entire country. Since being elected in 2014, when he ran as a populist, he has notably created new cooking gas connections for 72 million poor families and built over 110 million toilets (an act that effectively ended a major public health crisis in India of the streets being filled with human refuse.) However, despite his inherent likeability, it must be mentioned that not all of his actions have been well received. He and his government have been pursuing an escalating persecution of religious minorities.

The backlash to his policies in this realm have sparked a wave of Indians taking to the streets in protest. On February 23, the protests in New

Delhi turned violent. A recent article in the New York Times claims, “The violence is connected to the continuing protests against India’s divisive citizenship law, but this was the first time that the protests have set off major bloodshed.” The protesting college students, who were merely speaking out against Modi’s administration’s new anti-Muslim laws, the national citizenship registry, were fired upon with tear gas and accosted by the police. There are reports of over one-hundred people injured in the incident. However, this incident, and former incidents the Prime Minister has weathered, such as the backlash to his first term decision to cancel 86% of India’s most commonly used banknotes, a decision BBC NEWS claims set off a chain of events in which “all hell had broken loose,” did little to dent his fan base.

That is one of Modi’s great assets. His charisma seemingly deflects criticism. That is not immediately dangerous when concerning most policies, but in regards to his views on religious minorities, it very well may be. International human rights lawyer, Arsalan Iftikhar, was quoted by NBCnews claiming, “the rise of right-wing ethnonationalism under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slowly unraveling the secular democratic fabric of Mahatma Gandhi’s homeland.”

Modi is a Hindu nationalist. He is a member of the B.J.P (the Bharatiya Janata Party); An organization whose official website describes itself as having been “established with a vision to bring in “Cultural Nationalism.” Seeing as its body of membership is entirely Hindu, it is not hard to imagine what culture that cultural nationalism refers to. A Hindu centric policy of cultural nationalism, is a belief system that argues that India is a fundamentally Hindu nation. This is an odd view for the country’s most powerful person to hold, when the country’s founders, Gandhi and Nehru, believed India must be secular. This stands as further support of Ahamed’s allegation against the Prime Minister

and his party, that they repudiate the original Father of India’s ethos. Modi’s party the BJP is the political branch of a Hindu nationalist paramilitary group known as the RSS. The RSS was formed in 1925 with the purpose of , according to their charter, “creating Hindu unity.” Some of its early leader have been quoted about their admiration for Adolf Hitler and his Nazi movement. A quote from former RSS chief M. S. Golwalker shows the man state that in regards to Germany, he particularly admires the steps Hitler took to “ensure the purity of the race and its culture.”

## MODI ON CORONAVIRUS

**India had to enact a sweeping lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately India’s government was ill prepared for the pandemic. The shutdown was announced with less than 4 hours notice. Over 1 billion people in India have been left jobless and hungry. In an address to his people Modi announced that there was “no other way” to stop the virus’s spread.”Especially when I look at my poor brothers and sisters, I definitely feel that they must be thinking, what kind of prime minister is this who has placed us in this difficulty? In a rare move Modi apologized, saying, “I especially seek their forgiveness.”**

he regretted that the killing happened and more had not been done to prevent them. It is noteworthy that India is home to the world’s second largest Muslim population, and though Modi’s lack of comment about Muslims and the violence towards them is a pattern that followed him into the office of Prime Minister, many other members of the BJP have openly targeted Muslims.

Modi appointed Yogi Adityanath as the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, a state that has a population of 200 million. Adityanath has publicly professed that “Hindus and Muslims are two different cultures. These two cannot coexist,” and that if a Muslim killed a Hindu, that in turn 100 Muslims should be killed. Once again here, it is important to remember that Gandhi and Nehru founded India on a basis of religious pluralism, the coexistence of faiths. However, as publicly noted by the Hindustan Times, this piece of information has been left out of many textbooks approved during Modi’s administration. Some books leave out Nehru altogether.

Since re-election Modi has been less quiet about his feelings towards Muslims. In fact he has acted upon them. India’s government is planning to publish a national register of all

their citizens. Leading up to this national citizenship registry, everyone in India will be forced to provide citizenship documentation, and those who can not will be labeled illegal immigrants. There are provisions in place to re-establish citizenship for those affected, but those provisions do not apply to Muslims. This means Modi and his party are about to permanently strip citizenship away from millions of Muslims. While Modi insists it is not his intention to target Muslims, his second in command Amit Shah publicly said, “we will give citizenship to all the Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain Christian refugees... after that... should we throw out the infiltrators or not? The infiltrators are sucking the blood from this country like parasites.”

These new citizenship laws have left many terrified. This is amplified by the fact that the government is building detention camps for all the illegal immigrants this new law will create. While the term detention camps could arguably be viewed as propagandistic, it is the one that the Bloomberg Company, Aljazeera New, The New York Times, and many more chose to use in the headline of their write ups on the issue. In fact the New York Times details that there are Muslim laborers on the construction teams who many very well end up inside the detention centers they are building.

As the National Citizenship Registry prepares to take effect, the prime minister is seeing real backlash for the first time in his political career. The Guardian reports violent protests during Trump’s visit that result in an estimated 13 deaths. There have been even more protests since. While the protests against these laws are on the rise, Modi has tried painting this backlash as the work of Muslim extremists, but in reality the majority of protestors are college students of all faiths and nationalities. The Washington Post wrote a piece on the students of Jawaharlal Nehru University, a Muslim centric school who have been following their namesake’s example of fighting for what is right, by leading many of these protest. However, they are not alone, many secular universities have joined their efforts. They are united under the code that everyone is equal.

Our students echo this sentiment. New York Tech is an extremely diverse community, and many members of our university family are of Indian and Pakistani descent. In a group statement released to the Slate via email, when asked about their thoughts on Prime minister Modi, The New York Tech South Asian Student Association commented that “the actions of Modi are wrong in its core.” Of course, there are students here at New York Tech who recognize the Prime Minister’s strengths. Friend of the Slate and student of Indian descent Nishant Sudhir Deshmukh released a statement to us saying “Narendra Modi is the new hope of India. India never had a Prime Minister like him for decades. Even though being a divisive figure, he is taking all his decisions with calm

and patience. His rise kick-started the Indian economy. From being a tea-seller to becoming the Prime Minister of 1.4 billions (person) country, Modi had a tremendous journey and (is) serving the nation the best he can.” When asked the same thing via email, NYIT’s Muslim Student association commented that the Hindu nationalist agenda behind these laws are evident



and the hate filled crimes of these nationalist do not represent Hinduism in any way. The MSA also sent the Slate a quote from the Qur’an that perfectly sums up this closer look.

**“Whoever kills a soul, it is as if he killed mankind entirely.” (Surat Al-Maidah)**

Their group statement went on to say “We pray that one day all people of all different races and backgrounds can learn mutual respect and tolerance, spreading love and kindness. The tension continues to grow and worsen, and we believe it is crucial to use our voice, as Muslim youth, to speak out against this violence and injustice, To add on, it is necessary upon Muslims to be aware of events worldwide, especially those impacting our fellow brothers and sisters, as Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) says, “The Muslim Ummah is like one body, if one part is in pain, the whole body should feel pain.””

Their words are a powerful message to their fellow Muslims, but even for those of us to whom India seems a world away, there is much we can take from their statement as well. For it is an *American* sentiment that *injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere*.

# HARASSMENT AGAINST W

*THE FULL*

BY Jordan Vallone

IN LATE 2019, Lionsgate Films released the biographical drama, *Bombshell*, which is one of the first major motion pictures created addressing sexual harassment against women. The film was made specifically about Roger Ailes, the former chairman of Fox News, who was forced to resign in July 2016 after allegations



Charlize Theron as Megyn Kelly in *Bombshell*. Annapurna Pictures

were brought against him by 26 women. The movie was riveting, and received plenty of praise, but the true story behind it is something that people nowadays are all too aware of. The allegations made against Ailes shed light on this massive issue of harassment against women in not only the communications industry, but every industry. Sexual misconduct and the exploitation of women has in many ways become a crisis that has impacted every occupational field, some more so than others. Nevertheless, this catastrophic problem must be addressed in order to bring peace and justice to those who need it, and to make sure that those accused are facing repercussions for their actions.

On February 24, 2020, American film producer Harvey Weinstein was found guilty of criminal sexual assault in the first degree and one count of rape in the third degree. According to *The Observer*, these were two of the five possible convictions that Weinstein was facing due to the allegations that were brought against him in October 2017 by over 80 women. Immediately following these allegations, Weinstein was dismissed from his company and expelled from the Academy of Motion Picture

Arts and Sciences. The disgraced Hollywood mogul was arrested in New York in 2018, and charged with rape in the city of New York and the city of Los Angeles. His trial began earlier this year, and with its conclusion, Weinstein was sentenced to 23 years in prison. On March 22, it was reported that Weinstein tested positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, that has caused a global pandemic and has largely affected the state of New York, as well as New York prisons. The stories brought forward by his accusers are directly responsible for starting the #MeToo social media campaign. The phenomenon of women accusing powerful and influential men of sexual abuse is now referred to as the “Weinstein effect,” as it was his actions that spurred the unification of women across the United States. The communications industry, alongside the film industry, became the main focal point of the MeToo campaign. Just a month after Weinstein’s initial accusations, Matt Lauer, the former NBC’s *Today Show* host was terminated from his position as a result of inappropriate sexual behavior. Charlie Rose, known best as the longtime co-anchor of *CBS This Morning*, was also removed from his position in November 2017 due to similar allegations. Within months, the Me Too movement grew sporadically. “It’s one thing to deconstruct and analyze and condemn the institutions of patriarchy and their flaws,” said Alice Minium, a multimedia journalist from Virginia. “It’s another one to feel their bruises on your skin, and their grasping hands pulling your hair and covering your mouth as you scream.” Her words, published in a piece by her regarding the movement, encompass everything that Me Too stands for. People found themselves willing to listen to the compelling stories by many women, many of which were shockingly descriptive and graphic. Women like Minium were inspired by the allegations against Weinstein to make this crisis of sexual harassment against women prevalent and significant, in order to garner widespread support from men and women alike.

While the media has mostly focused on this issue in the communications and film industry, it must be emphasized that this problem affects every occupational field. This includes some popular ones that students here at New York Tech may wish to be part of, such as engineering, architecture and medicine. Few people may be familiar with Susan Fowler, a former software engineer for Uber, who in 2017, wrote a blog post detailing sexual harassment at Uber. According to *Fortune Magazine*, journalist Emily Chang published a book in early 2018 called “*Brotopia*,” where dozens of female engineers discussed their experience with sexual harassment, which

# WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

## PICTURE

one stating, that “you get sexual advances 24/7.” Chang asked the group of engineers if they had a “Susan Fowler” experience that they wanted to share. Quick to respond was Laura Holmes, an employee of Google, who shared that during her first internship in 2008 with a startup technology company, she was sexually harassed by a male engineer. When she denied his advances, she said “He put his hand around my neck and tried to choke me.” Chang’s book specifically highlights sexual harassment in Silicon Valley, a region of California that is known as a global center for technology and innovation. It is largely responsible for exposing sexual harassment in the world of engineering and technology.



Emily Chang, journalist and author of *Brotopia: Breaking Up the Boys' Club of Silicon Valley*. David Paul Morris

In the architecture industry, prize winning US architect Richard Meier, was forced to take a six month leave from his firm in 2018 after five women made allegations against him. According to the New York Times, while Meier was designing the Getty Center in Los Angeles during the 1980s, the first accusation was made. A furniture designer on this project, Carol Vena-Mondt, said she was lured to a dinner at his house and forced to engage in sexual activity. Vena-Mondt said, “I twisted and pulled away from him, and he grabbed one of my arms and started dragging me down the hallway toward the bedroom.” The other allegations made against Meier included one woman claiming he grabbed her underwear through her dress. The New York Times later reported that Meier resigned from his position in October 2018, stating that he was “deeply troubled and embarrassed by the accounts of several women who were offended by my words and actions.”

Although a lack of concrete evidence in the medical industry makes it appear the sexual harassment isn't a major

problem, according to Katherine Hill, a second-year medical student at Yale University, made it clear that it is. The Philadelphia Inquirer recently reported that 41% of female medical students had experienced at least one episode of mistreatment.

**“FOR YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DISMISSING THE ISSUE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT.”**

Many women also reported unwanted sexual advances, and being subjected to sexist remarks or names. Hill blamed this problem on a lack of awareness. According to her, many medical schools do not emphasize inclusion, diversity or student safety, citing this as a reason that many women are mistreated. She said, “We have to do a better job promoting the idea that mistreatment is not acceptable.” Hill also said, “I would suspect that a significant proportion of the people who said they were mistreated ... do not report the incidents” to medical school officials, which is another factor that contributes to the problem in this industry.

For years, the United States has been dismissing the issue of sexual harassment, putting many women in a difficult position. The majority of attention in regards to this problem has been given to the communications and film industry, overpowering the fact that sexual harassment against women is happening in every line of work. Fearing they wouldn't be believed, or worse, fired, many women kept their stories hidden. With the first major breakthrough against Ailes in 2016, the Me Too movement grew rapidly the following year with the accusations against Weinstein, giving many women the motivation they needed to share their stories. The recent steps taken by women across the nation have started to pave the way for change, and in regards to the big picture, awareness is key. Sexual harassment isn't always easily combatted, but the more people know about it, the easier it will be for actions to be taken to challenge the problem, and figure out ways to fix it.

# Investing Into the Future

BY Francisco Caldas



Modern investing apps like Robinhood, Acorns and Stash make it easy for anyone to invest into their futures. They're strong investment platforms for anyone with limited experience. Barron's refers to Robinhood trending the most out of the trading apps. It's primary appeal is that it doesn't charge a commission on the trades. The platform is a good option for younger investors who make frequent trades of a few shares at a time. It offers the best overall experience for a wide range of investors and when compared to traditional investment platforms, these apps make it simple to start investing without the need of going to your broker and talking in person to set up an account. They feature a sleek, easy to use user-interface which is very appealing for people with minimal experience but also provide sophisticated tools for the more advanced users. Stash lets you pick more than 40 different exchange-traded funds (ETFs) and stocks for a minimum deposit of \$5. According to Stash, since it launched in late 2015, it's amassed nearly 2 million customers and 5 million educational subscribers, with approximately 40,000 new clients joining weekly.

Acorns has a very innovative concept where its users, whenever they make a purchase, round up to the nearest dollar and transfer that extra

money to their account, where it is then invested in a portfolio of stocks, bonds, treasuries, and commodities. Robinhood, a stock brokerage app that lets you buy and sell individual stocks for \$0 a trade, has about 3 million accounts, and more than 1 million people signed up for early access to Robinhood's new crypto-trading service.

Offering in-app financial education to their users, and teach them on some terms and guidelines regarding investing due to some concerns by the SEC and financial advisors that while it is great that people have easy access to investments like the stock market, it may also result in some people making dangerous and risky investments that will result in the loss of their money. To prevent this, for example, before the purchase of options on Robinhood, you have to pass a quiz on basic options knowledge and even after that, prior to the purchase of an option you are meticulously briefed on what you are about to purchase.

There are some cons to these apps though. Barron mentions that "you probably won't get the best price when selling your stock because the firm makes money in part by getting paid by third-party brokers for its "order flow,"" when reviewing Robinhood for example.

In the current market environment, inexperienced investors may panic sell their positions because they are scared of losing all their money, and these apps make that easier, but experts strongly advise staying in the market because in the long-run, you're always going to gain value from the stock market.

# The Truth About Nail Salon Employees

BY Alix Fleisig



According to a 2015 New York Times article, the average nail salon worker is paid just around \$10 to \$12 dollars per hour. We all love going to the nail salon and getting pampered every once in a while. Everyone seems so nice working there and it's usually all smiles but the truth about nail technicians is shocking, as the New York Times and others have reported. While we're all taking a forced hiatus from mani pedis and nail salons in general, this might be a good time to consider what it's like on the other side of the salon table.

Normally, you tip the person that made you all pretty with sparkles all over your nails and toes. Do you know what happens at the end of the day to that tip money that was given to them? Are you sure it ends up in their pockets, and not their boss's? Sometimes, I've heard, the boss of the nail salon

will keep more for themselves and give the rest to their workers.

Chances are if you visit a low income nail salon, it's quite possible that the worker's wages are being abused and taken advantage of. Many bosses say they are helping these immigrants out with a job. Are they really helping them out through? They can make up to \$40,000 or less within a year. Can you imagine that? What if they have a child and are a single parent that lives in the United States? They can't survive off of that without going through the struggle.

Sometimes it seems as if they are fully taken advantage of by their bosses and society. But then, maybe us customers are part of the problem too. Are you really tipping your manicurist what she deserves? A standard tip for a manicurist is 15 to 20 percent, which means you should be tipping \$3 or \$4 for every \$20 manicure. If it's a quick regular manicure this seems a little low, but fair. Some of these more elaborate gel nails, however, can cost \$100 or more, so think about that tip. These nail techs came here to live a better life. Are they living a better life? And are we helping that by not tipping properly?

The nail salon I go to is open seven days a week from 9am until 9:30pm. You have to think by the time they clean up and split their tips they leave their job around 10pm. They only get about a 30 minute to 45 minute break during the day, not even one full hour. They have no union to ensure that they get vacations, benefits, and health care. They work long hard hours, while breathing in chemicals all day.

Regardless of the work conditions at these nail salons, we Americans love to go. There are now around 17,000 nail salons in the United States according to census data, and the number has been rising steadily. On Long Island, it seems as if there's one on every corner.

Think about that when your local salon reopens after the pandemic, and you're about to get your first mani pedi in months. Remember what these workers (who have probably been without income during the whole time the salons were closed) have to go through and try to tip more and remain to have positive energy. They are going through things that we never have and most likely never will.

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## A Tribute to Pop Smoke - Gone Too Soon

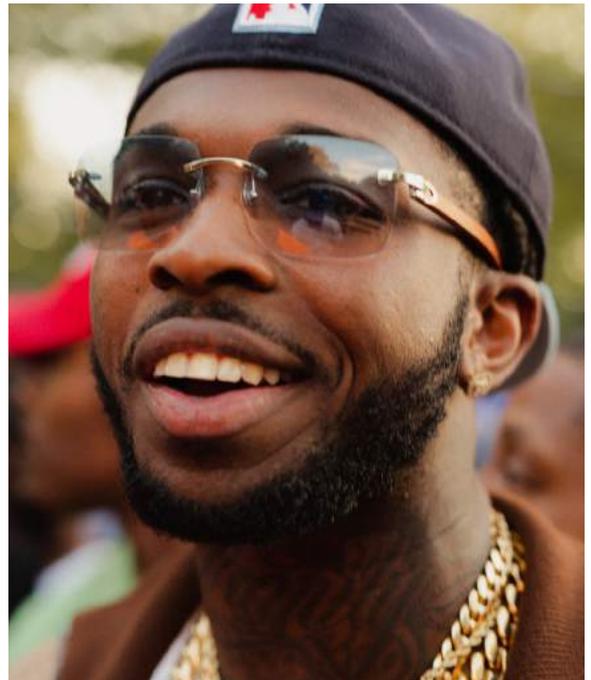
BY Collins Onyeike

Bashar Barakah Jackson, known professionally as Pop Smoke, was an American rapper and songwriter. Before starting his music career, he was dealing drugs and getting into trouble causing him to serve time under house arrest for a gun charge, prior to starting his music career in 2018. It was not until the following year he would release his breakout single, "Welcome to the Party." This song along with other familiar hit tracks on his first album "Meet the Woo" would go viral. Pop Smoke was one of few artists involved in the rap genre, Brooklyn Drill, after his debut album and worked all the way up.. Shortly after Pop Smoke's upcoming fame, he received recognition from well respected artists in his field such as The Migos, A Boogie wit the Hoodie, and even iconic Queens native 50 Cent inquired about the upcoming rap star.

In February 2020, Pop Smoke released *Meet The Woo 2*, which landed him his first top ten debut album on the Billboard 200. Shortly after Pop Smoke's second album was released, he was fatally shot two times during a home invasion

in Hollywood. "With such a dense catalog accumulated in a brief period, it is difficult not to imagine what Pop Smoke had in store for the music world before his murder," said Shmaria Ibrahim from Complex. Investigators report that there were four suspects and the house Pop Smoke was staying in was targeted after many pictures and videos being taken place in front of the house prior to the homicide. Whoever had it out for him could have possibly got the address to where he stood after Pop Smoke uploaded a photo on Instagram with a black gift bag with his Hollywood Hills address on it.

According to Complex, Pop Smoke told



Ibrahim that while rapping wasn't his original dream, his goal was to beat the odds in the rap game on his own merit. "I always knew I was gonna have bread," he said. "I always was good with knowing how to talk, knowing how to hustle." I never doubted him in that statement."

He was tragically killed at 20 years young, I went around campus to get reactions of students who were his that it could really hit home to. "People forget that Pop was one of us." Dae Dae Utley, a sophomore said. "He was only twenty years old with dreams and aspirations just like us." "Pop just wanted to spread love through his music." Aaron Fowlkes states. "Even though he promoted violence through his music his intentions were never to hurt anybody." Pop Smoke will be remembered as an upcoming rapper with a long life ahead of him.



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**20 - Bears React to Sports Cancellation**

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# Bears React to Sports Cancellation

BY Collins Onyeike



I think I can speak for all college athletes by saying these new sudden changes have given me a different view on my life as a student athlete. As a now, former, basketball player at New York Tech, I simply can't fully express how I feel after hearing that all college athletics would be suspended indefinitely due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Part of me knew the end was near when they suspended the NBA season after Utah Jazz center, Rudy Gobert, had tested positive after interaction with reporters the night prior to his game against the Oklahoma City Thunder. When I heard this news, I was scared of what might happen next.

The morning after, I got the call from coach Evan Conti that all athletics would be suspended under further notice and now we know it is indefinitely. Although as a member of the men's basketball team, my season was concluded after losing to Molloy College in the first round of the East Coast Conference tournament, my team and I were looking forward to training this off season and really developing as a team going forward.

As I assessed the situation and circumstances we were now facing, I realized that all spring sports would have to forgo their upcoming seasons. These teams would include Men's and Women's lacrosse as well as Men's baseball and Women's softball. Not only would they suffer as a team but as individuals. The seniors of every team were robbed of their last season and

that for so many is heartbreaking. It is really one of the things that are simply not in our control and this clearly took a bigger toll on them more than it did to my team. After talking to Russell Percibali and John Defeo, sophomores on Men's Lacrosse, I really got the feel of what they were going through as a team and as individual athletes. "We put in so much work and dedication during the preseason just to be sidelined," said Russell. "I can be frustrated but what can that really do? I know this was the precautions that needed to be taken in order to keep not only us but the country healthy. "I wish something would have been done earlier so our season didn't have to be canceled."

As for right now, my main goal as a student athlete is to maintain my grades and to stay in shape. My teammates and I are all following this as well while also taking the necessary steps in remaining safe and healthy during this pandemic. We have discussed ways we can still build team chemistry through weekly Zoom sessions and to follow through with workouts at home. For a lot of us, our views on sports have changed due to the fact that we aren't allowed to compete anymore but this has been a true testament to who we really are as humans without sports. My wish is that all of my New York Tech family stay safe and take this time to spend time with family and focus on life after this pandemic is over. We are all in this together.

# The Day the Sports World Stopped Turning

BY Robert Callaghan



In a year where icon Kobe Bryant tragically passed away, you would think that is what would make the sports world stop turning. It did actually, but only for a few days as we all mourned. But this is a different kind of stoppage, and we're not sure when it's going to start turning again.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtually all sporting events globally have been cancelled or postponed with no set return date. The NBA, NHL, MLS and MLB suspended play for the foreseeable future. The NCAA was forced to cancel all of its championships, including the men's basketball tournament, which supplies most of its annual budget. The Tokyo Olympics have been officially postponed until 2021. The Masters will be postponed as well. These were just the major events in the United States, with countless others around the world. ESPN even has a page titled "List of sporting events canceled because of coronavirus" where it does list each and

every event that has been altered with updates each day. Countless athletes have tested positive for the coronavirus. Ultimately, it's going to be difficult to predict how all of this is going to play within the next couple months. You could see sports go back to the way it was, events being held without fans, or the cancellations of a complete season in certain leagues. Organizations are laying off staff members, while others are offering money to help their employees who lost work due to this. Players are getting their salaries cut for not playing a certain amount of games, even though their contracts still turn over to the next calendar year after the season. Everything is on the table in a weird situation the world is in.

It's impossible to point fingers at anyone, as all these organizations had no choice but to make these decisions. While professionals will get the chance to return to action at some point, there are plenty of college graduates who play spring sports that didn't get the chance to finish their 2020 campaign. According to the Los Angeles Times, spring athletes will be granted another season of eligibility. "Council leadership agreed that eligibility relief is appropriate for all Division I student-athletes who participated in spring sports," the NCAA's Division I coordination committee said in a statement. "Details of eligibility relief will be finalized at a later time. Additional issues with NCAA rules must be addressed, and appropriate governance bodies will work through those in the coming days and weeks."

As great as that sounds, not all students get to take advantage of that. At New York Tech, baseball, softball and men's & women's lacrosse graduating seniors won't get that opportunity after the East Coast Conference announces they will be suspending the spring season. Their careers were cut short. "It was one of the hardest things I have to come to reality with," one student said. "I understand the circumstances and that they have to make this decision based on the health and safety of a lot of people, but I've played this game since I was maybe four years old. To put all that work in to get to the collegiate level, then be told you won't be able to compete for a championship with your teammates one last time, it was just crushing and something I won't be able to get over for a while, if ever."

Again, you can't point fingers at anyone specific, the NCAA and professional sports took the action that was the only right thing to do. It may not make fans and players happy, but all can understand people's lives are more vital than the game. Our hope is everyone stays safe, and that our world can start turning again sooner rather than later.

# RECAPS

BY Robert Callaghan

Before COVID-19 put an end to New York Tech spring sports, the men's and women's basketball teams got the opportunity to conclude their seasons.

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

In Evan Conti's first full season as the head coach, his squad accomplished something that hadn't been done since the 2014-2015 campaign; they reached the East Coast Conference playoffs. After a thrilling overtime 85-82 victory over Daemen, the Bears secured a spot the fifth seed. Marcus Saint-Furcy hit the game-winning jumper from the elbow with eight seconds left in the overtime. Although they fell at No. 4 seeded Molloy in the First Round, New York Tech (7-22, 6-11 ECC) has a lot to look forward to with the future of the program. Jeffrey Hayden earned Third Team All-East Coast Conference honors as it is the second time in Hayden's career he has earned All-ECC honors. Hayden led the Bears in scoring at 16.7 points per game this season. The program bids farewell to Hayden, Jordan Fuchs, Kyonis Owens, and Auris Tverijonis.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Looking to defend their ECC title, the Bears came into the season with a chip on their shoulder. The Bears finished 20-10 (12-4 ECC) and advanced to the ECC semifinals before getting their nine game winning streak snapped by Daemen. Ketsia Athias and Meg Knollmeyer earned Second Team All-ECC acclaim while Zoe Amalbert and Shalie Frierson picked up Third Team All-ECC honors. The Bears' 20 wins mark the second straight season the program has hit that total and fifth time in program history. Julia Braungart, Meg Knollmeyer, Victoria Mercado, Dajah Gee and Corinn Baggs all graduate at the conclusion of the semester.



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