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DECEMBER 2019



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USG STUDENT SERVICES
CORPORATION MOVES TO RESCIND
STUDENT LIFE BUDGET

DECADE IN REVIEW

A RECENT HISTORY OF
ADMISSIONS AT CITY COLLEGE

12/19

MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: *Aspasia Celia Tsampas*

Managing Editor: *Ania Wojas*

News Editor: *Eric Bilach*

Feature Editor: *Jana Makki*

Opinion Editor: *Matthew Romano*

Lifestyle Editor: *Sarah Logan*

Sports Editor: *Anu Shetty*

Copy Editors: *Joseph Russo*

Staff Writers: *Clark Adomaitis, Jada Gordon, Nate Izzo, Brahmjot Kaur, Sayra Ilyas, Jaquelin Bautista, Hebh Jamal*

Art Director: *Naidya Rupan and Devon Smillie*

Designers: *Chriscel Ann, Priyanka Thomas, Justin Gordon, Hector "Ze" Santiago*

Business Manager: *Raquel Palumbo*

Distribution Coordinator: *Clark Adomaitis*

Cover Art: *Priyanka Thomas*

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North Academic Center 1/119
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Editor's Note

Welcome to the final edition of The Campus for not only the semester, the year, but also the decade.

In this issue, we take time to reflect. The 2010s have been one for the books. So much has happened, both good and bad. This decade gave us great music, television, and movies. But it also gave us the deadliest mass shootings in history, as well as a decade of strong social movement. That's why for the cover of this magazine, we wanted to acknowledge all the change this decade has brought, as well as honor all the times this decade we have stood up and spoke out for social justice. Because really, when we look back to all our movements this decade, we see unity, intersectionality, and a coming together that hasn't been seen in a while. You can read all about it and reflect for yourself in our Decade in Review on pages 7, 8, and 9 (P.s. an extra huge shout out to Autumn Gonzales and everyone else at SAMETV for helping our photographic vision to come to life!)

Also in this issue, The Campus' Anu Shetty and Jaquelin Bautista take on the hot topics of today. Shetty with her feature on the future of political advertising on social media on page 6 and Bautista weighs in on the MTA debate of the increasing cost of riding the subway, the evasion of the fare, and amplified policing of subway stations around New York City on page 11.

On pages 10, Brahmjot Kaur has your monthly guide by simplifying the complex art of thrifting. Next, on pages 12 and 13, The Campus Editor's Matthew Romano and Eric Bilach combine forces to uncover The City College Archives, where they found an interesting timeline of CCNY's admission history.

I hope you enjoy this issue just as much as we enjoyed putting it together. Good luck to you all on finals, exams, etc. and whatever else the end of the semester brings your way. Also, if you are graduating City College this semester, congratulations, and we at The Campus wish you every endeavored success for the future.

Yours always,

CUNY & PSC Reach a Tentative Agreement

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY NATE IZZO

In late October, after a long battle, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) reached a tentative agreement on a contract with CUNY meant to improve conditions for faculty. The PSC is a union that represents over 30,000 CUNY staff members, and it is their mission to enhance the CUNY system by protecting the rights of its members. The PSC views this new contract as a major step towards achieving that mission.

The contract would raise salaries across the board, especially for starting adjuncts, whose salaries would increase by 71%. These raises would be retroactive, giving back-pay to eligible faculty members. The contract would also restructure hours so that professors can spend more time directly interacting with, and helping, their students. In an article on the CUNY website, PSC president Barbara Bowen said, “The proposed agreement represents a turning point in the history of CUNY’s treatment of contingent faculty. It is a principled and imaginative contract that constitutes a victory for every member of the union—and for CUNY students.”

The response to the contract has been large-

ly positive, especially considering the long negotiations it took to get this far. The delegate assembly already voted on November 7th to move the contract to a ratification vote, which closes on November 26th. However, members of PSC and 7k, or Strike, a rank-and-file collective of professors, have voiced concerns about the contract. One of the people apprehensive about the new plan include Pamela Stenberg, vice-chair of the City College chapter of PSC.

The overarching issue with this contract is its myopic treatment of the issues that professors, especially adjuncts, have to face. Since CUNY is still underfunded, those raises will come with cuts to programs and the elimination of step increases for adjuncts. Stenberg believes that this exchange will be a net loss for staff: “There’s going to be different challenges, and those challenges may be even more difficult than the challenges we’re facing now,” she said, “I respect it very much, but I think that it’s short-sighted to take the money and run, and to not understand the effect it will have on the system.”

Stenberg’s ideal contract would feature a regularized path for adjuncts to become full-time professors; “[Being an adjunct] is the most dead-end of dead-end jobs. Even McDonalds has a path to full time. Really,” she commented, “Until we have that, there’s nothing to be said. The system is not right for the students.” Establishing the CUNY employment system by basing it on systems in California and Vancouver would ultimately be better protection for faculty than a raise.

Why should CUNY students care how much their teachers make? Possibly because how adjuncts are treated by the school affects how well they can do their jobs. “Your view of me as ‘less than’ has value in this system,” Stenberg pointed out, “You can pay me as less because everybody sees me as less.” If adjuncts are viewed as having value and paid accordingly, they will get more time to engage with students and help them succeed.



Until a system is set in place that protects all professors, especially part-timers, the system will remain fundamentally broken. Better funding for CUNY and better pay for professors are essential for their livelihood and the success of the students attending. “And really, until we’re there, what are we going to do?” Stenberg asks. “Fight.”



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS UNDER THE STUDENT SERVICES CORPORATION

BY ASPASIA CELIA TSAMPAS AND HEBH JAMAL

On Friday, October 18, 2019, the Student Services Corporation (SSC), a committee that works with the Division of Student Affairs, filed a motion to rescind and freeze the budget of the Student Life & Leadership Development department at The City College of New York due to widespread dissatisfaction with the department.

The Student Services Corporation oversees the allocation of the Student Activity Fee, which all students pay each semester to be distributed to Student Government, athletics, the Health & Wellness Center, etc. The committee, comprised of majority student members of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), faculty, and staff, passed a motion led by Assetou Kone, USG Vice President of Campus Affairs, to rescind the Student Life budget in an attempt to demand immediate improvement in the department.

In a message addressed to the student body of City College, USG President Frantzy Luzincourt stated, “A recurring point of frustration among club leaders and students alike is the mind-boggling inefficiency of the Student Life & Leadership Development department. Regularly, we hear of events being canceled at the last minute, reservation requests being denied in spite of room availability, and, above all, the infamous ‘24 business days’ policy for event reservations.” It is because of this multitude of reasons, and a lack of cooperation with the department, that the committee moved to suspend the budget in demand of enacting a higher standard of operation from Student Life.

In an interview with *The Campus*, USG Vice President of Public Affairs, Seba Uchida Chavez, affirmed that this action was not taken lightly, stating, “We’re all students here. We’re not workers here. Our interests align with the students’ interests.” For both Luzincourt and Uchida Chavez, ensuring student money is allocated correctly is the biggest motivation for this move.

Prior to this decision, both Luzincourt and

Uchida Chavez cited many attempts to reform and work with Student Life without these drastic measures. Luzincourt states, “Our strategy was to speak to Evelyn [Assistant Director at Student Life], talk things out, get some things to change, and a week or two later things would go back to normal.” However, according to Luzincourt, Student Life was unprepared to discuss budget allocation with the committee and was difficult to reach.

Currently, Student Life’s budget consists of \$250,000 of student money paid through the Student Activity Fee, which every student pays through their tuition. Of this money, 76% is being used towards the salaries of Student Life employees. For Luzincourt, this fact alone is incentive to act to solve the problem, “If I’m only hearing negative things from this office, my first reaction is figuring out ways to solve it.”

Nonetheless, should the SSC’s drastic vote to rescind the entirety of Student Life’s budget go through, life on campus will change greatly as a result. First and foremost, understanding exactly what Student Life does is essential to being aware of what exactly will go missing if the department were to be suspended. At large, Student Life oversees all student-run clubs on campus, facilitates various events throughout the year (including the popular Lavender Fever Week), and organizes leadership programs and diversity programming. Additionally, they organize Commencement, Graduate Salute, and orientation. Not to mention, there would be fourteen salaried employees of the department who would be terminated should the vote pass.

For these reasons, the future of Student Life lies in static as the committee waits for CUNY Legal to approve or deny their request to rescind the budget. Without process and justification, the SSC board faces a possibility to be sued due to wrongful termination of the employees of Student Life.

Regardless, as the college awaits the deci-

sion, this vote opens up the opportunity to speak truthfully about the approval of Student Life, or lack thereof, especially since in the past, the department had the luxury of evading USG constraints due to the one-year timeline the student governing body operates on.

Many various club leaders seem to share unanimous concerns: it is stressful organizing club activities. Sabrina Bazelaïs, president of the Black Student Union, told *The Campus* that she put in a request for an event one month prior, on September 18th, and only got approved on October 21st; “The process of getting approval for [events] is strenuous,” she said, “You have to jump through hurdles just to get basic information.” One rule for Student Life requires that all event requests and facility requests that take place from 6 pm must be submitted exactly 24 business days before the proposed event date.

Student Life has strict rules on marketing for events on campus without their confirmation. This policy includes posting flyers around campus without Student Life’s physical stamp of approval. “If we want to promote an event but we don’t get approval until three days before the event happens, club leaders have a limited opportunity to promote their event,” said Mariah Ramirez, president of the Dominican Student Association.

Assistant Director of Student Life, Evelyn Ortega said that she “understands the frustration” students feel towards the 24 day rule, yet explained that “public safety, facilities and Student Affairs all review the information”, which in her view is done to “make sure all logistical aspects are covered to have successful events on campus.”

It is not the first time Student Life is at the center of controversy. Last spring, CCNY’s Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) held an event with a speaker that **Student Life canceled under the premise that it was “particularly controversial.”** The event was reinstated, however, due to push back from

STUDENT GOVERNMENT MAKES MOVE TO RESCIND STUDENT LIFE BUDGET

SJP and Palestine Legal.

Although frustration was the general sentiment from club leaders, people had mixed views on whether USG should freeze Student Life's budget. "If we are the ones funding Student Life and feel like they are ineffective at their job, then it should also be up to us if they are to continue to operate," said TKE fraternity president Orlando Garcia Castro. NAACP president, Jaileessa Casimir, disagrees, "I do not believe freezing budgets and shutting down departments will get the job done," she told *The Campus*. Instead, Casimir believes, "that there cannot be plans to shut something down without plans to rebuild something better."

It is clear that Student Life has not lived up to students' needs, but there is no clear alternative for if the budget freeze goes through. Uchida Chavez, however, believes there is not a quandary at hand, "I think it's pretty clear," he said, "We're saying something, and they can either comply and agree to work with us, or reform student life, or not have graduation, ultimately that's their decision."

Ortega, however, believes Student Life is doing the best they can and looks forward to improving the department to better fit the needs of students, saying, "I will always support opportunities for our department to engage in multiple avenues that support the student body." With the absence of a director, Ortega fills a dual role and holds many responsibilities as the leader of the department. Her title involves overseeing all functions of the department, serving on various college committees, and additionally providing "A support and bridge to all student organizations, including USG, to have meaningful engagement experiences with all facets of the college."

While Ortega feels the department has done a lot to fulfill the purpose of Student Life, she understands there is always room for improvement, "We welcome any constructive feedback to improve services for the 150+ clubs and have focus groups in place

to assess our continued and constant efforts to be a resource for all students." In fact, on Thursday, November 14th, multiple student club leaders on campus received emails from Student Life about these focus groups, in an effort to foster the two-way type of communication that the department of Student Life was originally intended to uphold. Moving forward, the goal of Student Life remains to continue that open dialogue with students. Ortega states, "Continued open dialogue and participation from students will be the best way to create and reflect the change the students need."

Lastly, in response to USG's drastic moves under the SSC, Ortega holds no hard feelings, "As the representatives of the student body, I am confident USG will always work within the best interests of the students they serve and will continue to provide the support they need during this process."

While at the publication of this article the fate of the SSC's vote to rescind the budget of Student Life is still in limbo by CUNY Legal, the decision to move forward with the vote itself is indication enough of the conversation needed between students and their administration counterpart, the Student Life & Leadership Development department.

For a more updated version of this story, please follow the QR Code to our website, where The Campus will be including live updates.



SCAN ME

The Future of Political Advertising on Social Media

BY ANU SHETTY

Recounting back to his first semester of college, during the midst of the 2016 presidential election, Jacob Schwartz, a current senior at The City College of New York, recalls the various poorly photoshopped political posts on Facebook depicting some candidates as the devil, determined to destroy democracy. As someone who consumes a decent amount of news through various social media platforms, Schwartz describes, “It was hard to avoid people sharing those posts with their firmly stated opinions attached.”

The role of social media in the lives of Americans has changed drastically over the last few decades. Formerly intended as an online platform to connect with and share posts with friends and family all over the world, the most popular social media companies, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, have taken on the role as outlets to connect people with political figures and obtain national and local news.

According to data from the Pew Research Center, 67% of Facebook users and 71% of Twitter users say they receive news from these respective sites. Of those, the percentages of 18-26-year-olds that use the sites as a news source are 26% for Facebook and 33% for Twitter.

Historically speaking, the 18-26-year-old age group is least likely to vote, though it is true that their participation in the 2018 midterm election had increased over 15% from the last midterm election in 2014. As one of the main channels of news for the younger portion of America’s voting demographic, social media companies have taken different approaches to manage the content people are able to see on their sites.

On October 30th, Jack Dorsey, the CEO of Twitter, announced in a series of tweets the company’s decision to stop all political advertising, whether it be from a specific candidate or a message regarding a political issue, on its social media platform. Dorsey acknowledged the way that the company’s past policies had allowed paid advertisements to target groups of people that might otherwise have not come into contact with such information, and recounts the importance of choice in social media. He defends his position by stating, “Paying for reach removes

that decision, forcing highly optimized and targeted political messages on people. We believe this decision should not be compromised by money.”

Dorsey rebutted claims that the decision would help the incumbent by emphasizing the number of small movements that have reached a national scale without having paid advertising. His announcement concluded by emphasizing that his decision did not have to do with freedom of speech, but with paid reach. He stated that paid political reach can have unforeseen consequences that today’s democracy is not prepared for and that regulators need to be proactive in their attempts to provide equal opportunity for all candidates.

The decision comes after much debate over the role of companies in censoring paid political advertisements, an outlet that has been known to spread disingenuous information and sway the tides in past political elections. Twitter and other major social media networks, such as Facebook and YouTube, have been under scrutiny for the critical role their platforms played in fostering the Russian campaign to bollix the 2016 presidential election.

The stance that Facebook’s CEO Mark Zuckerberg has taken has received intense criticism from many politicians, including Elizabeth Warren, who has singled out Zuckerberg’s passive approach to the issue. Warren’s campaign purchased a Facebook advertisement falsely claiming that Zuckerberg and Facebook are endorsing President Trump’s reelection, in an effort to call out his apathy by allowing Facebook to be a “disinformation-for-profit” machine.

Zuckerberg has since defended his position by invoking the First Amendment’s protection of freedom of speech and agreeing with the Federal Communications Commission’s decision to not let companies censor speech, but to instead let voters decide.

Like many others attempting to make sense of the contentious topic, R. B. Bernstein, a pre-law and political science professor at the City College of New York’s Skadden Program, seems to be torn. He states, “Sometimes the problem looks as if we have to make a distinction between people using speech to carry on the debate, to express or advocate ideas, or to challenge other people’s ideas,

as opposed to people using speech to injure other people, to cause damage, or to cause harm. But how do we draw that distinction, and how do we make it work?”

While Zuckerberg acknowledges that some of the advertisements are spreading misinformation, he claims that they are still newsworthy and deserving of public discourse. The major issue with this claim is the amount of “firehosing” done on such sites. “Firehosing,” a term coined by Rand researchers reporting on Russian propaganda tactics, means pushing out as many lies as often as possible to overwhelm the public and make it impossible to continually disprove them.

Though concerns over firehosing, freedom of speech, and paid political reach are undating the conversation, it is hard to predict how long it will be before people see, if at all, the impacts the CEOs’ decisions will have. Dorsey’s new policy will go into effect on November 22nd, just two days after the fifth democratic presidential debate.

For now, everyone is going to have to patiently wait, as even the legal experts amongst us are unsure of how the events will unfold. Exasperated, Bernstein looks at the ongoing fight and states, “I have studied the Constitution my whole life and I do not know what to say.”

The Decade

IN REVIEW

We did it. 2010 – 2019, another decade down. The Earth has revolved around the Sun ten times since The Campus' last Decade in Review. We are thrilled that you are here to close the decade with us. The following is a reflection of this decade in everything from the top news stories, biggest movements, best music/movies/television, innovative tech, fashion trends. Here, we have the good and the bad, but all is important to look back on and remember.

Biggest News Stories of The Decade

By Clark Adomaitis and Brahmjot Kaur

// ' 10

January 12: Earthquake in Haiti

January 21: Supreme Court rules in favor of Citizens United in Citizens United vs. FEC (means that corporations have the right to spend money to influence political campaigns by ruling that it falls under the First Amendment right as freedom in political speech.

March 23: Signed Obamacare (The Affordable Care Act) into law

April 20: BP Oil Spill

August 5: 33 miners in Chile were trapped in a gold mine (all were rescued by the Chilean government on October 13)

// ' 11

March 11: Tsunami in Japan (nearly 22,000 dead and 2,500 missing)

May 2: Osama bin Laden was assassinated

July 5: Casey Anthony was found not guilty in the murder of her daughter, Caylee Anthony (this whole case was wild and Time magazine considered it "the social media trial of the century")

September 17: Occupy Wall Street forms against economic inequality

October 5: The death of Steve Jobs

November 4: Jerry Sandusky was indicted on sex-abuse charges

December 17: North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un's father, and predecessor, dies

// ' 12

February 26: The murder of Trayvon Martin

June 28: The Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act

July 20: The mass shooting in Aurora, CO at a movie theater

October 29: Hurricane Sandy

November 6: 2012 elections (Obama beat Mitt Romney)

December 14: The mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT (27 deaths plus the death of the perpetrator)

// ' 13

April 15: Boston Marathon Bombing

June 6: The Guardian and the Washington Post broke stories about the extreme surveillance by the United States National Security Agency (NSA) in arguably the most intense leak of classified information

June 26: Legalization of same-sex marriage

July 13: George Zimmerman, the murderer of Trayvon Martin, was acquitted

// ' 14

March 23: Ebola Outbreak

July 14: Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (From Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur) was shot down around Eastern Ukraine

July 17: Death of Eric Garner

August 9: Death of Mike Brown sparking the Ferguson Riots and the Black Lives Matter movement

August 11: The death of Robin Williams

November 10: Fresh rape allegations against Bill Cosby

// ' 15

January 7: Charlie Hebdo Paris Attack

February 26: The infamous blue and black or white and gold dress picture went viral and people disagreed which it was

April 12: Baltimore riots after the death of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old black man from Baltimore, MD

April 25: 7.8-magnitude earthquake and 6.6-magnitude aftershock in Nepal leaving \$10 billion USD in damages

August 26: The on-air shooting/murder of Alison Parker and Adam Ward

September 22: Pope Francis visits the US for the first time

November 13: Terror attacks in Paris that left 130 people dead

// ' 16

January 16: President Obama declares a state of emergency for Flint, MI because of their water crisis

January 29: Zika virus has been spreading through late 2015 in Brazil and made news since the Olympics were to be held in Rio de Janeiro

February 13: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia dies at 79

March 14: Rape case of Brock Turner, rapist from Stanford University

May 27: Obama is the first president to visit Hiroshima, Japan

June 23: The UK holds a referendum on whether they should leave the European Union. They do and #Brexit is born

July 6: Pokémon Go is launched

July 25: FBI investigates a hack involving the DNC emails

July 28: Hillary Clinton is the first woman to be a presidential nominee

August 5: 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

September 1: Colin Kaepernick takes a knee during the national anthem

September 4: Mother Teresa becomes a saint

November 8: Donald J. Trump is elected president of the United States

// ' 17

January 21: Women's March 2017 happens worldwide and became the largest single-protest in US history

January 27: Trump orders Executive Order 13769, also known as the travel ban, also known as the Muslim ban

May 17: Special Counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 elections conducted by Robert Mueller

August 11-12: Charlottesville Riots (Unite the Right- a white supremacist rally) where counterprotester, Heather Heyer was killed by a deliberate hit from a car

Early October: The New York Times and the New Yorker reported several women accused Harvey Weinstein of rape, sexual assault, and sexual abuse over at least 30 years. This brought the #MeToo movement to a national and international platform

October 31: Man in downtown Manhattan drove his van into a crowd of people killing 8 people and injuring at least 11 others

Hurricane season was brutal this year with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria

// ' 18

January 1: California legalizes weed

March 24: March for Our Lives- a protest in support of gun violence prevention legislation in Washington DC with over 880 similar protests throughout the country and world

April 11: Mark Zuckerberg testifies in front of Congress over Facebook's data breaches

June 26: Trump administration was ordered to reunify families separated due to the administration's family separation policy during immigration

September 27: The Kavanaugh hearings occur after Dr. Christine Blasey Ford accused Bret Kavanaugh of sexual assault

November 7: Democrats regain control of the House of Representatives

November 21: California is on fire due to a number of forest fires

November 30: George Bush Sr. dies

10 11
14 15
18 19

// ' 19

March 10: Ethiopian Airlines plane crashes and kills all 157 onboard

April 15: Fire at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, France

April 21: Serial bomb blasts in Colombo, Sri Lanka killing more than 250 and injuring hundreds

May 17: Taiwan becomes the FIRST Asian country to legalize same-sex marriage

June 9: Hong Kong protests begin after a propose legislation would allow the extradition of people to mainland China to stand trial

June 26: The first 2020 Democratic Debate occurs, kicking off the race to the white house for Democratic hopefuls

July 7: The US Women's National Soccer Team wins the World Cup for another consecutive title right before the team files a lawsuit against U.S. Soccer due to lack of equal pay

July 14: Power outage in New York City left 70,000 homes without electricity and dozens stranded in subways and elevators

August 3: A gunman killed 20 people and injured 26 in a Walmart in El Paso, TX. Not even 13 hours later, another gunman opened fire in a bar in Dayton, OH, killing 9 and injuring 27 more

August 10: Jeffrey Epstein is found dead by apparent suicide in his prison cell

September 20: After a joke event started on Facebook, UFO and alien enthusiasts "storm" Area 51

'12 '13 '16 '17 in Review

September 25: A whistleblower in the Trump administration released call information between President Trump and President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine back in July beginning the inquiry for Trump's impeachment

October 13: President Trump withdraws US troops from the Syrian border with Turkey, leaving longtime allies, the Kurds, vulnerable to an invasion by Turkey

October 26-27: Back to back shootings occur, one at Texas A&M and another in Long Beach, CA

November 13: The House of Representatives begins live, televised hearings into the impeachment inquiry of President Trump

// DEADLIEST MASS SHOOTINGS

The following is a list of the deadliest mass shootings in history, which all happen to be in this decade. This is only a small list of the worst (in chronological order) and does not include the countless other tragedies that occurred in the 2010s.

July 20, 2012: Aurora, CO (movie theater)

death toll: 12

injured: 70

August 5, 2012: Oak Creek, WI (Gurdwara-Sikh Temple)

death toll: 7

injured: 4

December 14, 2012: Newtown, CT (Sandy Hook Elementary School)

death toll: 28

injured: 2

September 16, 2013: Washington D.C.

(Washington Navy Yard)

death toll: 13

injured: 8

June 17, 2015: Charleston, SC (The Charleston Church)

death toll: 9

December 2, 2015: San Bernardino, CA (Inland Regional Center)

death toll: 19

July 12, 2016: Orlando, FL (Pulse Nightclub) becomes the deadliest shooting in American history just 4 years after Sandy Hook which previously held the title

death toll: 49

injured: over 50

October 1, 2017: Las Vegas, NV (Route 91 Harvest music festival) becomes the deadliest mass shooting in US history

death toll: 58

injured 527

February 14, 2018: Parkland, FL (Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School)

death toll: 17

injured: 17

November 7, 2018: Thousand Oaks, CA (Borderline Bar and Grill)

death toll: 13

injured: 10-12

March 17, 2019: Christchurch, NZ (The Christchurch Mosque)

death toll: 51

injured: 49

// TECHNOLOGY IN REVIEW

by Clark Adomatis

Technology weaved its way into our daily lives this decade. We have the world in our pockets with smartphones and their use of 4G LTE networks. Portable technology rose this decade with increased use of laptops, tablets, and more incredible smart phones. According to Reuters, streaming has become the music industry's largest source of revenue with services like Spotify and Apple Music. Video streaming services soared this decade, first with Netflix and Hulu, and now with new streaming services like Disney+, AppleTV, and many more. These sites

have created a culture of binge-watching our favorite shows. With Amazon, you can order almost anything you could ever want and it can be at your doorstep in a day. With Uber, anyone can get a ride anywhere without having cash and without having to speak to the driver. Social Media sites such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, allow us to share any piece of media we want with anyone in the world. One of the most popular types of content that is shared on social media sites are memes. Memes spread ideas in a comedic way. Even though they were birthed this decade, they are already being used in advertisements.

// FASHION IN REVIEW

by Jada Gordon

The 2010's offered us some interesting fashion trends that have defined the decade. We've loved, loathed, and tolerated many fashions that have come and gone. History has repeated and reinvented itself in the course of the decade and it has been a wild ride watching these trends rise and fall.

Branded Footwear: Throughout the 2010's, branded footwear has emerged and become synonymous with specific looks, styles, and aesthetics.

High Waisted Jeans: Unlike the previous decade that reveled in everything low rise, the 2010's took the style in a different direction. High waisted jeans have become a definite staple of the decade. The great thing about high waisted jeans is that they complement different body types and with a good crop top it makes for a perfect outfit.

Minimalism/Athleisure: This fashion trend has taken on many forms, one of the most popular being Normcore, which is a unisex fashion trend that is defined by normal-looking, unpretentious clothing.

// SPORTS IN REVIEW

By Clark Adomaitis

Professional New York teams saw one championship win this decade. The Giants won the Super Bowl in 2012. The Rangers made it to the Stanley Cup in 2014, and the Mets made it to the World Series in 2015. There was no New York team that made it to the NBA Championships this decade. Let us hope for a more eventful 2020s in New York sports.

A Guide to Thrifting

BY Brahmjot Kaur

Shopping for clothes can become a large expense. While fast fashion is more economically beneficial and gives us the low prices we desire, its production is not ethical nor environmentally friendly. However, not everyone can afford a new wardrobe from Reformation or Eileen Fisher, two known sustainable brands, which makes thrifting the next best option. You will not have to shop less because the clothes are affordable and environmentally sustainable. Here are a few spots I visited at multiple different locations in the city. I recommend the locations in Brooklyn because they have a larger selection! This one's for you, Macklemore.

STOP 01:

Beacon's Closet

23 Bogart St, Brooklyn, NY

The Bogart location has the biggest selection that is accessible to people coming from Manhattan (their biggest store is in Greenpoint, but the only train near it is the G). The store categorizes its merchandise by gender, type of clothing, and then by color. However, none of the clothes are organized by size. Shoes are displayed on top of the racks, as well as on a wall by the pick-up/drop-off area. They have a huge selection of earrings, purses, and hats. If you are looking for a Halloween costume or something in a particular color, this place will probably be your best bet.

BEST FOR: earrings, purses, hats, formal wear.

STOP 02:

L Train Vintage

120 Knickerbocker Ave, Brooklyn, NY

This L Train Vintage is only a five-minute walk from Beacon's Closet! The store has a promising selection of different coats, including leather jackets, fur coats, denim jackets, jackets from combat uniforms, and varsity jackets. There is also a good selection of button-up shirts and jeans. They categorize by gender and type of clothing, but not by color. They do not have many shoes and their selection of formal wear is scarce.

BEST FOR: everyday clothes, coats, jeans.



STOP 03:

Urban Jungle

118 Knickerbocker Ave, Brooklyn, NY

Urban Jungle is right next to the L Train Vintage on Knickerbocker Avenue. It is definitely the biggest from the thrift stores mentioned in this article and had the most variety. Urban Jungle also categorizes by gender and type of clothing, but not color. They have a huge selection of unisex t-shirts and sweatshirts. While they do have a large selection of jeans, they fold them instead of hanging them, which makes it tedious to unfold and check the size. It's especially nerve-racking if you worry about folding it properly. I'd go to L Train for jeans over Urban Jungle. However, they have an incredible selection of everyday shoes and jackets. Their formal wear section is larger than the one in L Train Vintage but not as big or diverse as Beacon's Closet.

BEST FOR: shoes, t-shirts, sweatshirts.

STOP 04:

Buffalo Exchange

504 Driggs Ave, Brooklyn, NY

Buffalo Exchange is definitely the busiest. It is a tighter space than the other stores, but the line of people waiting to drop off clothes makes the selection promising. The clothes are categorized by gender, type of clothing, then size! While the selection is not as abundant as the one in Urban Jungle or Beacon's Closet, the categories for size make finding something that fits you more likely. Their everyday shoe collection is smaller compared to the other stores, but they sell an incredible selection of eclectic shoes, like neon flame heels! Also, their earrings and sunglasses are just as cool as Beacon's Closet but cheaper!

BEST FOR: eclectic shoes, casual clothes, earrings, and sunglasses.

TIPS FOR PLUS SIZE PEEPS!

1. Vintage sizes are different than modern sizes! Vintage sizes are about four to six sizes smaller than modern sizes. A size 14 from 1960 will most likely be a size 8 now. So, be mindful of that.
2. Ladies, consider looking for things in the men's section! If you're into streetwear, it is especially helpful to look there! Men's t-shirts, sweatshirts, and sweatpants are so easy to find in thrift stores and because men's sizes run bigger, it'll be much easier to find those.
3. Talk to an employee! While I didn't see a dedicated space for plus-size clothes, all the employees were friendly and more than happy to help. Ask if they saw any clothes that you might feel comfortable wearing. They might even tell you they know there aren't many pieces and that could save you the frustration of not finding anything in your size.
4. Try everything on! Even things that aren't vintage-sized can fit strangely. Companies have their own standards for measurements in sizes and that can make it difficult to know from a glance. Try on the clothes and accessories!



NYPD in the MTA

WORDS AND PHOTO BY JAQUELIN BAUTISTA



“NO NYPD IN THE MTA!” shouted the crowds that flooded the subways and streets of downtown Brooklyn. The riots were likely incited by a now viral video of New York City police officers pointing their guns at a full subway cart to detain a teenager that had jumped the turnstile. In an effort to crackdown on fare evasion, police have begun to take action. However, these practices ignore what is at the crux of the issue: not everyone has the \$2.75, daily, for both directions, to pay the current MTA fare.

Presently, one in five New Yorkers are living below the poverty line, and the population of the working poor continues to rise. The protest in Brooklyn illuminated and condemned the racist patterns of arrests, with one of the chants being, “How do you spell racist? N-Y-P-D!”

Between April and June of this year, there has been a total of 15,820 summons and 682 arrests for fare evasion. Despite an overall decline in arrests when compared to last year’s records, it is evident that the Black and Latinx communities are most vulnerable to persecution. Out of the total number of people receiving a summons, 6,110 were Black and 5,154 were Latinx, compared to only 2,846 of their white counterparts. Further, of the total arrests, a disproportionate 414 detainees were Black, 175 were Latinx, and 76 were white.

Of those persecuted, 40.4% were 18-24 years of age, those aged 25-40 made up 37%, and another 15% were between the ages of 41-59. Many of these cases are of students, young adults, mothers, and fathers living paycheck to paycheck forced to pick and choose where to allocate every last hard-earned dollar.

At the 125th station in Harlem, a mother and her two daughters must wait, hoping to be swiped forward (the term given to earn a ‘swipe’ through the turnstile by a generous subway-goer with an unlimited metro-card).

At the same station, a student looks out for police before jumping the turnstile, the \$2.75 fare lying in between him and the train that he takes to get to work.

Another student frustratedly, but honestly, shared with me,

“I’m a full-time student, I support myself, and prefer not to have to choose between a \$2.75 fare or breakfast.”

“Trust me, I wouldn’t be jumping the metro if I didn’t need to,” stated another student.

Through social media, the city’s youth have adopted practices to protect one another from prosecution. Students’ social media stories warn, “Police at 145,” and “Careful everyone, police at 116th.”

People tweet to inform about the legality of such practices as “swiping it forward,” as the phenomenon has been coined. It is through these media platforms that people can express their concerns about recent actions taken to combat fare-evasion and take issue with the resources that have been allocated by the NYPD and MTA. For example, the MTA hired 500 additional transit police officers, for whom salaries start at \$42,000, with the potential to rise as high as \$100,368. Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance Jr. is funding these officers for the first four years, pooling from a \$40 million allocation that has been made. While resources

allow police officers to profit off the crisis and, by extension, the plight of New York City’s poorest minorities, fare hikes of 4% between 2021 and 2023 can be expected.

Increasing NYPD’s presence in the subways is an insubstantial and ineffective solution that fails to address the deep-rooted issue looming: poverty. These prosecutions will only exacerbate the problem, leaving the most vulnerable communities of New York City, many of them over-populated with poor-working class minorities, to face the brunt of ‘transportation injustice’ exacted by an MTA that is failing us.

**“~~Together~~, we
~~Need To~~ can make
a better system.”**

Thank you for riding.



At the Intersection of “Excellence” and “Equity”: A recent history of Admissions at City College

BY ERIC BILACH AND MATTHEW ROMANO

Preface : At the 1849 inauguration of the Free Academy (now known as the City College of New York), the institution’s first President, Dr. Horace Webster, famously described the first free institution of public higher education as an experiment created to serve the “children of the whole people.” Now, with over 150 years of history, it is not surprising that this term has experienced several periods of definition, redefinition, manipulation, vociferous liberal interpretation, and a more conservative brand of constraining perspective. By mapping these two interconnected and opposite eras in CUNY and CCNY’s recent history (the open admissions era of the 1970s and the remediation debate of the late 20th to early 21st century), we hope to expound the complex, ever-changing, yet deeply entrenched relationship that our historical institution shares with this foundational tenet of our educational philosophy. Finally, as we embark on a new decade, we look to the past, present, and future role of CUNY as, “committed to academic excellence and the provision of equal access and opportunity...” (emphasis added).

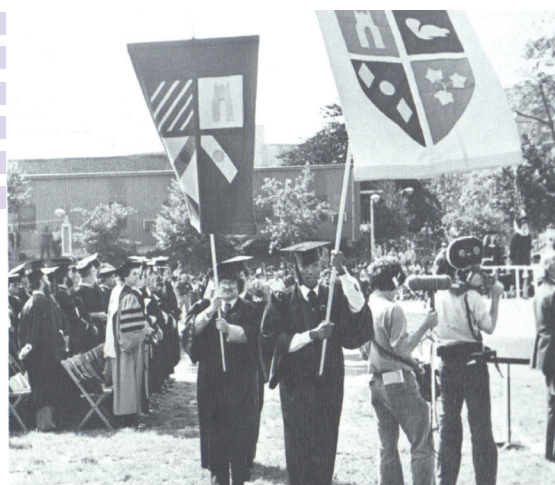
Early 1960

Mounting political and racial tensions during this period led to a rapid paradigm shift in the concept of “the university” within American academia. Universities across the nation began to subscribe to the notion that the classroom could be used to achieve more than just education. As a result, higher education quickly morphed into a vehicle for combatting social turbulence within urban cities by improving minority enrollment. Admission requirements in America would be shaped by this new model over the following three decades, particularly within the CUNY system.

1966

The surge in student activism throughout the latter half of the decade coincided with the Civil Rights Movement, as well as the widespread opposition to the United States’ participation in the Vietnam War. On City College’s campus, African-American and Puerto Rican student protestors, along with their Caucasian cohorts, clamored for the institution to introduce affirmative action programs that would effectively raise minority enrollment totals.

In compliance with student demands, CUNY’s first affirmative action initiative was established in 1966 in the form of the SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge) Program. Still running strong today, the program provides, “economically disadvantaged,” and “academically unprepared,” students with the support services needed to succeed in college.



Student concerns regarding tuition charges were prevalent as early as 1966

1970

Following the 1969 student occupation of City College’s south campus, the University’s immediate response was to implement an “open admissions” policy, which granted every New York City high school graduate, who had either maintained an 80% grade point average or finished within their class’ 50th percentile, entrance into CUNY’s senior colleges. Though then-City College President Robert E. Marshak claimed that the open admissions policy was the, “most complicated, controversial, [and] long-term issue,” confronting the institution during his tenure, CUNY hypothesized that the policy would afford academic opportunities to large quantities of students from low-income households. This prediction was ultimately correct, which was reflected in the statistics regarding the ethnic breakdown of freshmen classes at City College between 1969 and 1971. In two years, African-American enrollment escalated from 149 to 804 students (a 16.5% increase), while Puerto Rican enrollment also grew from 86 to 318 students (a 9.9% increase).



A group of students during the Five Demands protest of 1969

1976

As the decade progressed, City College drew heavy denunciations throughout academia for its open admissions policy. The institution's reputation as the "Harvard of the proletariat," began to diminish under the premise that it had, "dropped all entrance standards in 1969." As it follows, freshmen enrollment figures proliferated by 83% between 1969 and 1971 as a direct result of open admissions. With this steady expansion of City College's student population, it is estimated that nine out of every ten newly admitted students from 1970 onward required remedial instruction due to the "inadequacy" of their high school educations. This burgeoning student body necessitated CUNY's hiring of over 1,200 remedial course instructors. The strain that open admissions had placed on the University's financial resources (approximately \$35.5 million in 1970 alone), coupled with a myriad of other budgetary issues, culminated in the closure of the entire CUNY system for two weeks in May of 1976. To supplement its losses, CUNY began to impose tuition charges soon thereafter for the first time in its existence.

1998-1999

Following from what was roughly a year and a half of staunch and heated remediation debate, Giuliani's tactics, ultimatum politics, power, and influence over the Board of Trustees proved insurmountable for insurgency efforts led by the then chairwoman of CUNY, Anne A. Paolucci and a cadre of "equal opportunity" minded faculty, staff, and students. In a vote of ten to five, the Board of Trustees phased out remedial classes from all CUNY Senior Colleges in a three-year process, with City College doing away with remedial courses in September of 2001. (It should be noted that, at the time, 81% of public 4-year institutions offered at least one remedial course).

Despite the result, some key moments from the months leading up to and proceeding the indoctrination of the policy had shed light on the contention surrounding the issue of remediation reform that found itself at the intersection of race, merit, equal opportunity, and socioeconomic status. In May of 1998, responding to a decision to bar entry of students who fail CUNY's relatively new placement exams, CUNY reported that a disproportionate 55% of those affected would be Hispanic, 51% Asian, 46% black, and only 38% white. In December of the same year, six civil liberties groups counter-litigated against the CUNY Board of Trustees' incubatory policies. In September 1999, following the final ratification of these revisionary admissions policies, students, faculty, and parents alike jointly filed grievances to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights over what they saw as exclusionary actions taken by the Board of Trustees. Finally, Sandi Cooper, Chair of the University Faculty Senate, encapsulated the indignation and abhorrence of many of Giuliani's most fervent opponents in regarding the end of open admissions and imposition of entrance examinations as, "cruel and unnecessary punishment on students."

1997-1998

By the 1997-1998 academic year, twenty-seven years after the advent of open admissions in 1970, City College and the CUNY system as a whole, had succeeded in fulfilling its previous mission of diversifying the campus: 90% of City College students were either Black, Hispanic, or Asian. Despite their success, CUNY was shaken by dipping enrollment totals (CCNY endured a decline of 62,000 students since 1970); scrutinization of perceived non-existent or low-bar admissions standards (mostly unchanged since their near-eradication in 1970); rising concerns over a manifested culture of remediation (over 70% of City College entrants required remediation); derisory 4-year graduation rates (just over 4% at the Senior colleges) and, resulting in part from these mounting criticisms, crippling budget cuts implemented just two years prior by the Governor of NY George Pataki (suffering a \$102 million dollar operating budget cut)

After these budget cuts and the mounting pressures and plummeting reputation of CUNY, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, in his State of the City Address, disparaged CUNY as a "disaster" lobbying for control of the desired redirection. January of 1998 marked the conception of Giuliani's vociferous pursuit of a total reversal of the former era's open admissions policy, an imposition of standards and CUNY assessment tests, a return to a focus on 'excellence' over the 'equity' ideal that had predominated during the previous three decades, and the privatization or eradication of all remedial courses at CUNY institutions. Giuliani's cause was espoused and executed by CUNY's Board of Trustees, most notably Herman Badillo.

Concluding Statement: On the surface, since our most recent uprooting of admissions policy, CUNY and CCNY seem to have carved out a comfortable and prominent niche that bisects the binary framework that it was built on, "academic excellence," and "equal access and opportunity," straddling, promulgating, and sustaining both. For example, per 2018 "fast facts" on enrollment as published by City College, Hispanics make up approximately 36.9% of all matriculated students, followed by Asians at 22.7 %, whites at 16.5%, and blacks at 15.2%, with another 6.7% being non-resident aliens. Academically, per CCNY's most recent City Facts records, the four-year graduation rate of the 2008 freshman class was 10.4%, reaching 44.2% by the end of year six. However, as the historical accounts above prove, these facts are only the beginning of the story. For a deeper understanding of the current state of CCNY's student population, one must only look around at the students walking the same grounds once serving as our new home in 1907 Hamilton Heights and proudly representing the same institution that was founded 60 years before that. For foresight on the future of CCNY's admissions, the trends of the diversity and graduation-rate statistics demonstrate a gradual uptick since 2001, as CUNY has seemingly returned to its prominence as a source of affordable and high-quality education, bolstered by the fact that the overwhelming majority of its students graduate debt-free (CCNY eclipsing a 78% debt-free graduation rate).

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THE COMEBACK KID: ALEX BARRERA

Professional shots taken at the CUNY Championship Game at Brooklyn College, November 9, 2019

BY SAYRA ILYAS

Alex Barrera's passion for soccer took off when she was only five years old. Her career jump-started when she began to play for multiple soccer teams and her family's love for the sport helped fuel her passion.

As an alumnus of Archbishop Molly High School, Barrera's competitive nature led her to participate in both the school's soccer and lacrosse teams. After graduating high school, Barrera decided that she did not want to end her sports career just yet, so she joined the women's soccer team her freshman year at The City College of New York (CCNY), determined to continue to competitively play her beloved sport at the collegiate level.

Currently, Barrera is in her junior year at CCNY pursuing a major in biology and a minor in psychology, while simultaneously finishing off the last of her prerequisites for medical school. She has her heart set on a career in sports medicine, either as an orthopedic physician or physical therapist. In addition to balancing the heavy course load required by her major, Barrera has also secured a coveted research position in association with Mount Sinai Hospital.

Barrera's ability to manage her schoolwork, research, and part-time job, while continuing to excel as one of the top players on CCNY's women's soccer team, makes it easy to understand why her favorite soccer player is Sydney Leroux, a forward for the National

Women's Soccer League. When asked to elaborate on why Leroux is her favorite player, Barrera said, "She is a fantastic player and is a great example of a woman that can balance being a professional soccer player and have two kids. She's worked hard her whole life and continues to face obstacles on and off the field that she overcomes."

After a brief hiatus from playing on the team during her sophomore year, Barrera realized she missed the sport and being out on the field too much to stop playing altogether. Soccer was an outlet that allowed her to take a breather from the demanding college courses and extracurriculars to simply enjoy her time with her teammates.

This past season, Barrera returned to soccer as a junior, and the team made it all the way to the CUNY Championship Finals against John Jay. As one who does not stop working, she managed to squeeze in some practice with her surgical sutures on a porcine cadaver just hours before the big game. When asked how she manages to juggle all her responsibilities, she replied, "At times it can be challenging, but it's all about time management and eating healthy and maintaining a nutritious lifestyle."

As the season ends, Barrera has decided that this year might be her last on the CCNY women's soccer team. Despite coming a long way in learning how to manage her school, work, and social life, she wants to make sure she has the time to work hard

and get accepted into physical therapy or medical school. Though her collegiate level soccer career might have come to an end, her love for the sport is unending and she wishes the best for her teammates during next year's season.



CCNY ATHLETICS CALENDAR

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

3
GEN vs CCNY
Athletics Giving Tuesday
New York, NY
All-Day

WBB
College of Staten Island
Staten Island, NY
5:30 PM

MBB at:
College of Staten Island
Staten Island, NY
7:30 PM

4

5

6
WFENCE at
Hunter College
Homecoming
New York, NY
GEN vs 3rd
Annual Alumni Social
New York, NY
4:00PM
WBB vs John Jay College
New York, NY
5:00PM
MBB vs John Jay College
New York, NY
8:00PM

7

MITRACK vs
TCNJ Season Opener
Ewing, NJ

WITRACK
vs TCNJ Season Opener
Ewing, NJ

8

WFENCE at:
NIWFA Christmas
Invitational
Edwing, NJ

MBB at:
Maritime College
Throggs Neck, NY
12:00 PM

9

MBB at:
Jersey City University
Jersey City, NJ
7:00 PM

10

MBB at:
Mitchell College
New London, CT
6:00 PM

12

13

14

WBB vs
SUNY Potsdam
New York, NY
6:30 PM

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YOUR DECADE IN REVIEW

Your heart beat an average of 420 million times. You inhaled and exhaled over 62,084,000 times. You farted over 47,476 times this decade. You walked. You talked. You smiled. You laughed. You cried. You faced stress. You faced sadness. You rode the subway— a lot. If you are an undergraduate student, you graduated high school. ConGRADuations! According to City Facts and U.S. News, the CCNY undergraduate student population increased from 9,290 to 16,227 this decade. We all started our undergraduate, graduate, or faculty life at CCNY. You are reading this now because of the decisions you made this decade. Thank you for being here.

POP CULTURE OF THE DECADE

Music in Review

By Clark Adomaitis

In the 2010s, Hip-hop became the most popular genre beating Rock 'n' Roll and Pop music. My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy by Kanye West and To Pimp A Butterfly by Kendrick Lamar are considered the top two greatest rap albums of the decade by Genius, Paste, and The Fresh Committee, and were named in the top five by Consequence of Sound, DJ Booth, and ATL Vibes. Mumble rap was pioneered by artists like Young Thug and Future. This new, fun, ignorant style of rap gave youngsters such as Juice WRLD and Lil Pump pathways to fame. Another reason musical oddballs were given opportunities was because of laptops' ability to have music recorded and produced on them. One musician who took advantage of DIY music was Tyler, the Creator. Over the course of the five self-produced albums he released this decade, he showed his maturation from rowdy teenager maniac to mastermind producer. Drake maintained his status as the most popular Hip-Hop/R 'n' B crossover musician. In electronic dance music, Avicii, Skrillex, Steve Aoki, and the Chainsmokers created anthems that guided a generation of partiers to ecstasy. Pop stars such as Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Rihanna, and Ed Sheeran were chart-toppers throughout the decade.

Sports in Review

By Clark Adomaitis

Professional New York teams saw one championship win this decade. The Giants won the Super Bowl in 2012. The Rangers made it to the Stanley Cup in 2014, and the Mets made it to the World Series in 2015. There was no New York team that made it to the NBA Championships this decade. Let us hope for a more eventful 2020s in New York sports.

Favorite TV Shows

By Brahmjot Kaur

The Walking Dead (2010)
Game of Thrones (2011)
Veep (2012) - Julia Louis-Dreyfus won "six consecutive Primetime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series from 2012–2017."
Rick and Morty (2013)
Broad City (2014)
Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt (2015)
Atlanta (2016)
Little Big Lies (2017) - Based on a novel, it is a mini-series that became a successful HBO show starring big Hollywood names like Reese Witherspoon, Shailene Woodley, Zoe Kravitz, Nicole Kidman, and Laura Dern.
Queer Eye (2018)

Favorite Movies

by Brahmjot Kaur

The Social Network (2010) - important especially in today's context. It was way ahead of its time, and definitely my favorite of the decade.
Django Unchained (2011)
21 Jump Street (2012) - a hilarious movie that to this day people make references to.
The Wolf of Wall Street (2013)
Interstellar (2014)
Jurassic World (2015) - top-grossing film of 2015.
Moonlight (2016) - won an Oscar for best picture.
Get Out (2017)
Black Panther (2018) - finally a black superhero movie!
Joker (2019)

READ MORE ABOUT THIS DECADE IN REVIEW ON PAGES 7, 8 AND 9!