

American Club Stirs Controversy Across Campuses

Students at the Post and Brooklyn campuses are speaking out about the club's approval and controversial ties.

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

RECENT events surrounding the approval of the American Club on the LIU Post campus have stirred controversy culminating in contention between campuses.

In early March, the American Club, a student-led organization, was approved by the LIU Post Student Government Association (SGA) and has held various events since, handing out stickers and boasting signs with expressions including "I support free speech," "I stand for the national anthem," and "Socialism sucks."

Following the approval of the American Club, the LIU Brooklyn SGA released a statement and petition condemning the approval of the organization and asking for its title to be revoked.

"While this organization has been approved at the Post campus and we are in Brooklyn, we must stand against the approval of organizations that stand against the values that we hold," the press release read.

In the statement, LIU Brooklyn SGA President Vladimir Tobar also added that he is "deeply hurt that such an organization is allowed on campus. 'It goes against the diversity and inclusion efforts we have been working so long to bring,'" Tobar said. "We must take action and make sure this doesn't continue."

The LIU Post SGA approves all student-run organizations on campus following the guidelines of LIU Promise. In an interview with LIU Post's student newspaper The



The American Club was officially approved as a student-run organization on the Post campus in early March, creating controversy across the Post and Brooklyn campuses. (Photo: @liu_americanclub via Instagram)

Tide, President Robert LaPollo explained that the vote to approve the American Club was unanimous.

"They met all of the requirements [to become a club] of Promise," LaPollo said. "We have a diverse group of people in SGA and they have a lot of different political backgrounds, but when we're approving any club, especially one that deals with politics, it's our job to be blind to [personal beliefs] and approve organizations that meet the rules of Promise."

Regarding the press release and petition from the Brooklyn SGA, LaPollo said that although it was "surprising" because it was the first acknowledgment Post SGA had gotten from the Brooklyn SGA all year, he immediately thought, "we need to speak to them, we need to understand where they're coming from."

LaPollo added that because LIU Brooklyn and Post have different student bodies and different student governments, the campuses approve

of clubs differently.

"So immediately I thought that we should have a conversation about it with them, but things started to escalate pretty quickly," LaPollo said.

As LIU Brooklyn SGA's petition quickly garnered hundreds of signatures after the press release was posted, LaPollo said that Post SGA began debating what its best course of action would be.

While LaPollo stated that the Post SGA has not been in contact with the Brooklyn SGA, he emphasized his organization's priorities.

"Our SGA's primary goal is the students here at Post because we serve the LIU Post students. I want to contact organizations on our campus and have conversations with them," LaPollo said.

In the coming days, LaPollo said that the Post SGA will be releasing a statement reaffirming the organization's values.

"I think that students are not understanding our association with the American

club. This SGA is not affiliated with the American club in any way beyond the fact that we approved them," LaPollo said.

"SGA just approves the clubs that meet the requirements of Promise. And then, obviously, we monitor it afterward and we hope that these clubs we approve make the right decision and don't do anything to make students feel unsafe or unwelcome on campus. And if that is the case, we encourage them to reflect on how they can change that."

Meanwhile, in the weeks following Brooklyn SGA's press release, the LIU Post Black Student Union (BSU) began calling for action to be taken to address its concerns that the existence of the American Club "will remind minority students on campus that this university is not for them, nor has it ever been for them."

Post BSU Vice President, senior Amanda McCollum, told Seawanhaka that BSU

does not take issue with the existence of the club itself, but its "affiliations with right supremacist organizations," such as Turning Point USA.

"This is a common misconception," McCollum said. "They have a right to exist, it's just their affiliation with racist, sexist, homophobic interest groups... They are funded and supported by them and that is the issue."

Turning Point USA is an American non-profit organization that promotes conservative values on over 1,400 high school and college campuses.

Despite repeated requests, the American Club did not respond to Seawanhaka's request for comment.

However, on March 25, the club released a statement on their Instagram that read: "We the American Club at LIU Post are open to listening to all points of view and engaging in respectful & civil discussions.... We will continue to proudly share our message and love for our country. We hope to be joined for important thought-provoking conversations going forward."

While the American Club did not respond to Seawanhaka's inquiries, American Club President Matt Cairo spoke with the LIU Post campus newspaper, the Tide, confirming his organization's ties to Turning Point USA.

"[Turning Point USA is] the biggest organization that we are affiliated with, and the loudest and the proudest. But, that also makes them the most controversial," Cairo said.

Cairo defended the club's connection with the organization, saying that claims of its racism are a "misconception."

"I understand where it came from, but the thing is, anyone affiliated with Turning Point who has said something hateful has been terminated," Cairo said. "I view that as a positive for Turning Point if they're terminating people who have said disrespectful stuff in public..."

In addition to the club being sponsored by Turning Point USA, McCollum also stated that she takes issue with the American Club's behavior, which she considers racist.

At an event held at the end of March, the American Club had a dry-erase board for people to write on and contribute what free speech means to them. On the board, among other messages, was the sentence "disband your club, BSU!"

"[This is something] we have been told by their members and supporters which I consider to be racist," McCollum said.

On March 16, BSU posted a list of demands asking for the American Club to denounce its affiliations with national organizations that "have a history of spewing white supremacist ideology."

The organization also demanded, "acknowledgment from the Promise office, actionable steps taken by the Promise office to ensure that Black students feel safe on campus, equality in how we are treated by university employees, [and] a position in the promise office that is dedicated to organizations who promote equality, not an overworked and unqualified success coach."

To address BSU's concerns, McCollum and BSU President Alexis Pieters met

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CSA Hosts "The Main Event"



The Caribbean Student Association, a student-run organization that aims to provide a voice for Caribbean students at LIU, hosted "The Main Event" on April 22, showcasing various music and dance styles of the Caribbean. [PAGE 6](#)

Turning Red

Disney and Pixar's newest animated movie "Turning Red" is more than just another family-friendly comedy. The heart-warming new film sends viewers an important message, touching on valuable life lessons along with the various adventures and difficulties of adolescence. [PAGE 4](#)



MiLB's Lucas Sweany

Seawanhaka sat down with Minor League Baseball's Lucas Sweany as he gave a glimpse into life as a professional athlete. [PAGE 7](#)

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To LIU Brooklyn students, faculty, staff, and alumni

As the 2021-2022 school year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of our accomplishments from this past year and to extend a hand of gratitude to all who made this year so remarkable.

This year, the Seawanhaka staff has met weekly each semester for a total of 22 meetings, has had the distinct privilege of being the only student-run newspaper to attend the George Polk Awards, and has written more than 100 new articles!

Our staff has also been able to attend conferences with foreign dignitaries, speak with award-winning

journalists, investigate sensitive issues, along with interviewing students, faculty and staff of the University all while creating positive changes in our community and continuing a nearly 100-year-old tradition in news.

I am also happy to announce that both myself and my Managing Editor, Reyna Iwamoto, will be journeying abroad this summer to complete internships in London and Paris, respectively, thanks to the journalism department and the Theodore Kruhlak Fellowship.

Finally, I would like to thank my section editors, staff reporters, our

advisor Mandy Zhang, LIU Brooklyn Promise, President Kimberly Cline, and all of our valued readers.

We rejoice in the many accomplishments of this year and hope to carry them with us into the Fall 2022 semester. We look forward to providing the same high quality journalism for you all yet again and invite you all to join us in our newsroom next year.

For inquiries, we encourage you to contact us via email or through our social media (@LIUBKNEWS)

Sincerely,
Melissa Fishman, Editor-in-Chief

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with members of LIU Administration, including Vice President of Student Affairs Michael Berthel.

In an emailed response to Seawanhaka's inquiries, Berthel confirmed that the university met with BSU and is "committed to continuing an open and respectful dialogue while acknowledging the position of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) which has stated, "more speech — not less — is the answer most consistent with our constitutional values."

Following this meeting, however, "The administration said there is nothing they can do because of free speech," McCollum said.

In response to Seawanhaka's questions, Berthel continued to emphasize the university's position being consistent with that of the ACLU, promoting liberal education founded on the principle of free speech.

"As an institution of higher learning, the University recognizes the First Amendment as the cornerstone of our democracy, even when we may disagree with what is being said," Berthel said. "Speech that deeply offends our morality or is hostile to our way of life warrants the same constitutional protections as other speech because the right of free speech is indivisible."

However, the first amendment is often not applicable to private entities.

McCollum, a double major in criminal justice and political science, with



On April 3, BSU held a protest outside of the main entrance gates of LIU Post in response to the lack of response regarding the American Club and the recent incident in the group chat. (Photos: Amanda McCollum)



a concentration in Constitutional Law, explained that as someone who studies the law, the University's reasoning is flawed.

"Constitutional rights are protected from government intervention — free speech doesn't necessarily exist in this context which is something they don't understand," McCollum said.

At the end of BSU's meeting with LIU administration, Berthel rejected the organization's request to force the American Club to denounce its affiliation with Turning Point USA, along with denying the rest of their demands.

"His explanation was that they couldn't at this time, but maybe another time," McCollum said. "Nothing productive was spoken about in that meeting in regards to Turning Point USA and the American Club."

Amidst the controversy surrounding these organizations, BSU also brought attention to a racial slur being sent through a series of images in a GroupMe chat created by Post SGA with over 500 students.

"It was not directly related to this situation with the

American Club, but there is a correlation," McCollum said. "Those people would not have felt emboldened to do that without the lack of action by Promise about the American Club. They felt they could do it because LIU Promise has done nothing."

According to the Tide, the group chat has since been deleted. In response to this incident, however, Berthel sent an email to students addressing this use of hate speech.

"As I shared in a message to LIU Post students in March 2022, 'The use of hate speech will not be tolerated and is contrary to Long Island University's values and our commitment to fostering a community of respect and inclusiveness. Every member of our community has the right to feel respected and be equally valued,'" Berthel said.

On April 3, BSU held a protest in response to LIU Administration's lack of action and the group chat incident.

When asked why BSU is speaking out so strongly about this situation, McCollum replied that she is tired of the way they are being treated.

"I can't speak for the who-

le of BSU because I am a piece and part of it, but I can speak for the students who have come to me personally, and we are tired of the negligence, ignorance, and the outward and overt disrespect that LIU Promise has for students of color," McCollum said.

While chapters of Turning Point USA have been banned, suspended, or not approved on school campuses throughout the country — including Lynn University, Emerson College, Point Loma Nazarene University, and Mountain View High School — going forward, LaPollo said that the Post SGA also does not have control over enforcing the removal of the American Club's affiliations.

"That's up to the American Club to decide," LaPollo said.

Looking to the future, McCollum emphasized to Seawanhaka that her and BSU's fight will not end with her, as she is "passing on" her activism to others.

"I want to make sure this place is better for the people who come after me," McCollum said. "I can't leave it a mess — it wouldn't sit right with my spirit."

About Us

Seawanhaka is the student newspaper of Long Island University Brooklyn and the only on-campus news source since 1928. Celebrating our 93rd year of publication, Seawanhaka strives to bring fair and balanced news coverage to the Brooklyn campus community regarding a multitude of relevant subjects.

Seawanhaka has served LIU as a viable source of information, and a means to prepare Journalism and Media Arts majors for successful media careers. Seawanhaka's student staff operates the newspaper under the tutelage of LIU's first-rate journalism faculty members.

All reporting, editing, and publishing is completed by a team of passionate students who believe in freedom of expression and of the press, afforded to us by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

With an archive of 92 volumes, over 800 print and online issues, as well as an enhanced online presence, Seawanhaka continues to deliver the best coverage of local news, sports, and the arts. Additionally, yet most importantly, Seawanhaka serves as a voice for the students of LIU Brooklyn.

Students of all majors are encouraged to join Seawanhaka to have the chance to publish work or polish writing skills. Staff meetings are on Thursdays at 10:50AM on zoom or in room S-219.

Diverse views are presented in Seawanhaka and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editors or official policies of the university.

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The Best of Journalism 2021 Celebrated at the George Polk Awards

BY OSCAR FOCK
News Editor

ON Friday, April 8, the annual George Polk Awards luncheon was held to celebrate some of the incredible journalistic achievements of 2021 year. After a one-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the award ceremony was back to be held in-person and almost all awardees were present and on stage.

Ralph Engelman, faculty coordinator of the George Polk Awards, was thrilled to once again be able to host the luncheon.

"I thought it was particularly exciting, number one because of the great roster of winners, and number two that it was in-person. The gathering of the fourth estate, the crème de la crème of investigative reporting in person, is very inspiring," said Engelman after the ceremony.

The George Polk Awards and Long Island University, who has been presenting

the award for over 70 years, had a new award to give out this year. The inaugural Sydney H. Schanberg prize for "exceptional and passionate long-form investigative or enterprise journalism," named after war reporter Sydney Schanberg, was awarded Luke Mogelson of The New Yorker, for his story on the Jan. 6 insurrection. Mogelson was one of the recipients unable to physically attend the luncheon, but he sent a acceptance speech-video from Ukraine from where he is currently reporting.

One after the other, the awardees were called up on stage to accept their plaques. The thank you-speeches were varied: some gave insight into their reporting process, others praised the importance of investigative journalism, and one, notably, roasted the Phoenix Police department for its questionable practices, a sequence that made much of the audience laugh.

After the ceremony was over, Seawanhaka reporters

got a chance to speak to some of the winners.

Maria Abi-Habib from The New York Times, who shared the award for foreign reporting with fellow Times journalist Frances Robles, said that while she was happy for the award, to her it was about something bigger than herself.

"While it feels wonderful, It's more important to me that Haiti won the award rather than myself," she said.

Jeff Horwitz of The Wall Street Journal received the George Polk award for business reporting for his investigative series called "The Facebook files." He highlighted the legacies of George Polk and previous awardees.

"Given the history and actual bravery of a lot of the people who did this work, it almost feels a little silly to be getting it for something where the worst that I was going to receive was a serious tongue-lashing from Facebook PR. But I mean, this is definitely the most impressive award I've ever gotten," he said.

Local and regional reporting was also celebrated at the ceremony. The two-person team of Daniel Chang and Carol Marbin Miller of the

Jeff Horwitz of The Wall Street Journal giving his acceptance speech. He and a team of reporters uncovered issues within the social media giant Meta, in a series of articles called "The Facebook Files."
(Photo: Ryan Kelly)



Miami Herald received plaques for the state reporting award.

Chang recognized the importance of the prize: "It continues to bring attention to these types of stories that help people who otherwise wouldn't really have a voice and may not be known about. Its amazing how much of an impact it had on people's lives for something that was not very well-known."

The New York Times also won the award for military reporting, for its story on U.S. air strikes in the Middle East. Azmat Khan, a freelancer who played a vital role in writing the story as an on-the-ground reporter, echoed

Chang's message.

"It's a recognition of the fact that this work matters, that the costs of our wars should be an editorial priority. So the recognition here means a lot," she said.

On a question of what young journalists can learn from the reporting of his story, Dave Philipps, also part of the team that won the prize for military reporting, highlighted two things: the value of persistence and essential team work.

"Whenever we do reporting on stuff that is secret or top secret, you expect to fail much more often than you succeed. And i think that its very easy to get the idea that

because your failing that your project is a failure. Not always," Philipps said, and continued:

"The other thing that was really helpful to me is realizing what other people's strengths are and trying to work together — you only win."

The other half of the Miami Herald team, Carol Marbin Miller, said that journalists must realize the importance of people.

"Find the people, highlight the people. They're what his kind of journalism is all about. and without their stories, it will have no power."

From Research to Action: LIU Hosts the International Summit on Plastic Pollution



On April 5-6, LIU hosted the International Summit on Plastic Pollution, as more than 25 scholars and leaders gathered to discuss the global plastic pollution problem. (Photo: LIU)

BY REYNA IWAMOTO
Managing Editor

ON April 5-6, members of the U.S. Senate and French Parliament, business leaders, lawyers, researchers, professors and representatives from various organizations gathered at LIU for the International Summit on Plastic Pollution.

Plastic pollution has been accumulating at an alarming rate and if action is not taken to reduce these emissions, plastic waste in aquatic ecosystems is on track to nearly triple by 2040.

In coordination with the Global Council for Science and Environment (GCSE) and the Office for Science and Technology of the Embassy of France in the United States, LIU hosted the summit in-person in the Library Learning Center and online via Zoom and Youtube. The summit began with keynote speaker Jesse Ausubel, chairman of the Richard Lounsbery Foundation Outpacing Plastic Pollution Through Science and Innovation.

Ausubel, who served as the lead author for the Manifesto of the Clean Ocean

International Expert Group of the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, spoke about the goals that are mentioned in the manifesto.

Following his presentation, it was noted by a member of the conference that he sounded "very hopeful" with the policies in the manifesto, to which he replied with a quote from a 19th-century rabbi: "The loudest sound in the world is a habit breaking."

"We have to come to be so accustomed to certain ways of life, but if you look at younger people and words coming from across society from business leaders, students, or politicians — we seem to be undergoing a change in mentality," Ausubel said. "There can be great changes in behaviors, so yes, I am hopeful."

Other presenters included Dr. John Weinstein, a professor from the Department of Biology at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, who shared data from recent research into how the pandemic has affected the issue of global plastic pollution.

While the data he collected on the U.S. Southeast Atlantic and the French Atlantic

coasts did not exhibit that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items, such as masks, were significant beach litter yet, Weinstein referenced a study that made significant predictions. The study anticipates that by the end of the century, all PPE plastics associated with the pandemic would "land on beaches (70.5%)" or end up on the "seabed floor (28.8%)."

Aside from presentations of research, the summit also included table and armchair discussions led by LIU's Director of the Honors College and Associate Professor Dr. Alexander More, discussing future scientific opportunities for working with France and other partners.

In attendance at the summit were also members of the U.S. and French governments, including Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the United States.

Joining the summit via zoom, Medina emphasized that now is "the moment for ambitious global actions and especially in the ocean, when we know that plastic pollu-

tion can get to anywhere if it's emitted."

"The impact [of plastic pollution] is truly transnational and global, and only global solutions will work to solve this problem," Medina said. "And I think the good news is that countries now recognize this."

On the second day of the summit, Ana Agostinho, the managing director of the Mirpuri Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Portugal, presented on one of the foundation's recent projects, "The Good Bottle."

In trying to develop a replacement for the plastic water bottle, the Mirpuri team created "The Good Bottle," a product composed of a compostable polymeric base in a domestic environment.

"The Good Bottle shows a 74% biodegradability rate after 45 days," Agostinho said. "Its composition is algae, so as it breaks down, it serves as food for marine species."

While the bottle is currently in an industrial phase, Agostinho and her team hope to have it competing with major brands in the future.

As the summit wrapped up, the final speaker,

Jean-Philippe Laguerre, joined the conference via Zoom.

Laguerre serves as the Director for Education in North America with Dassault Systèmes, a French software company that develops software for 3D experience products, content, and services that are designed to support companies' innovation processes.

"We serve 12 different industries and all these industries have a need for sustainability, looking for better solutions and products," Laguerre said.

While this summit was a gathering of professionals committed to the fight against plastic pollution, LIU President Dr. Kimberly Cline also highlighted the hope that events like this create for the future.

In her brief appearance on the final day of the summit, Cline said that LIU is "pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate with other universities and organizations to support long-term research initiatives and actionable policy proposals."

"We have the right people who really care and with that, we can really make a difference," Cline said.

80s Movie Review: Moonstruck

BY ELLA RUDER
Staff Reporter

AS the Academy Awards aired this past month, we flash back into past nominees and winners for these prestigious awards. Moonstruck, released in 1987, stars Hollywood legend Cher as Loretta with Nicolas Cage as Ronny and Olympia Dukakis as Loretta's mother in a romantic comedy that is set in none other than Brooklyn, New York.

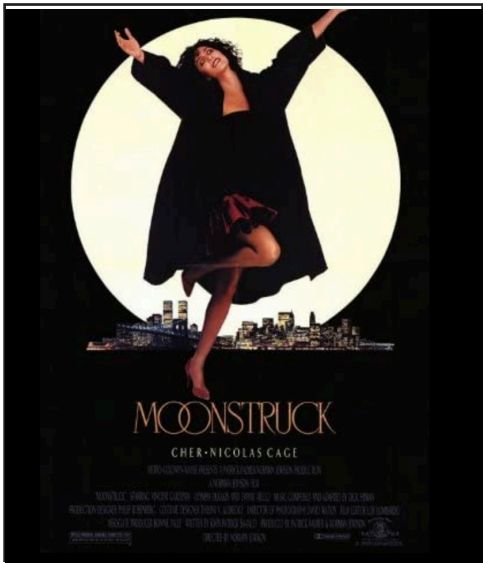
Moonstruck has won an array of awards including: Best Actress in a Leading Role, Best Actress in a Supporting Role, and Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen, along with many other notable wins and nominations. This film was not only recognized as being great cinematically but is also seen as, "an exuberantly funny tribute to love and one of the decade's most appealing comedies," by Rotten Tomatoes.

The film follows Loretta, who is engaged to her fiancé, Johnny, after losing her first husband to a bus accident. They begin planning the wedding when Johnny must abruptly take leave to Italy to support his dying mother. He then instructs Loretta to contact his younger brother, Ronny, who he hasn't spoken to in seven years, about attending the wedding. The brothers haven't spoken for so long due to an incident where Ronny lost his hand, which he believes made him lose his fiancé. Ronny solely blames Johnny for his misfortunes. However things quickly change as after meeting Ronny, Loretta's feelings for him are undeniable. This is when their affair begins.

While Loretta knows her feelings for Ronny are wrong, she is unable to combat her love for him. She even admits to him that she will marry Johnny because it is the "right thing to do" as Loretta desires to be a bride and Johnny was "right in front of her." This insinuates her love for Johnny is merely platonic at best, and is the easiest option for her as a widowed woman.

This raises the question of whether it's easier to marry someone who you don't love so that you can have control or marry someone you love with a limited amount of control. This idea is seen in every relationship throughout the film.

There are two roads to marriage: either having it be platonic love with a binding contract of marriage between



Moonstruck, released in 1987 is a must-watch movie for an 80s throw-back. Starring Cher and Nicolas Cage, this romantic comedy is "a funny tribute to love." (Photo: IMDB)

two people because it's what society expects of a woman, like Loretta who was in her late 30's, or having it be shared between two people who truly love each other even if society is against it.

In one scene, Loretta and her mother, Rose, share a moment of truthfulness when Loretta admits that she doesn't love Johnny. Her mother praises her for being honest because loving someone causes people to do stupid things, like lie about how they truly feel. Platonic love allows one to make rational decisions without the rose-colored glasses that appear once you fall in love.

The overpowering passion between Ronny and Loretta is electric. There is a love that she and Johnny never had, that from the beginning she recognizes as trouble. During one of the most iconic scenes, she slaps Ronny across the face for confessing his love to her, and the iconic line "snap out of it" is delivered.

While there is a deep love between Rose and Cosmo, Loretta's parents, Rose is aware of her husband's infidelity but is so engrossed in her love for her husband that she begins blaming herself. Throughout the film she asks every man "why do men chase women." Looking for an answer in hopes of possibly understanding why her husband is with another woman.

The aspect of the wife not being kept in the dark about her husband cheating is incredible. The writers don't dumb her down or purely identify her as the housewife who's unaware of her situation. Rose's reaction or lack thereof to the cheating shows a realistic representation of love. She knows the unfortunate truth, but the love of her husband allows herself to forgive, but not forget.

Rose preaches not to marry someone you love because they can do horrific things,

but that doesn't make you love them less. Love causes chaos and pain. It was said best by Ronny who proclaimed, "Love don't make things nice, it ruins everything; it breaks your heart, it makes things a mess."

This idea of love being messy is evident within all relationships. It brings a level of pain to people's lives along with the inability to have control over one's emotions. There's a depiction of human emotions that are inevitable no matter how hard one tries to deny themselves the love they desire. Yet this film shows that in the end love is worth the pain.

As aforementioned, the complexity of the characters and their love lives are explored throughout the movie. No matter the issue, there is a way to come together in the end, even when life gets messy. Family cannot be chosen, and in a way loving another person romantically is not chosen either. No matter the circumstances, the commitment to togetherness provides a sense of relief for everyone involved.

In the end, Ronny proposes and Loretta accepts. When Johnny comes back from visiting his mother, he reveals that he couldn't marry Loretta anyways and her father agrees to stop seeing the other woman. The whole family toasts, which calls attention to the theme of togetherness. The ending leaves the audience feeling content as the family gathers around the table as one dysfunctional family.

Although this film revolves around the pain that love causes, it is truly hilarious. The dialogue between characters is laughable and allows for the film to talk about the subject of love without it being a tragedy making it the perfect combination of romance and comedy.

"Turning Red," a Coming-of-Age Story Teaches Important Life Lessons

BY AMAYA HENRY
Arts & Entertainment Editor

WARNING: this article contains spoilers

Everyone is familiar with the awkwardness that comes with being a preteen. Add an overbearing mother who will not let you make your own decisions and you have got a recipe for disaster. This is the life of 13 year old Meilin, Mei Mei to her family, Lee. Her mother, Ming Lee, has been the center of Meilin's life and the influence behind almost all of her actions.

However, things take a turn when one day, Meilin turns into a giant red panda after a fight with her mother. Ming explains that one of their ancestors, Sun Lee, asked the gods to become a red panda and now all women in her family become a red panda, too, when they are coming of age and full of emotions.

The only way to get rid of the panda is to perform a ritual during the red moon, but if you bring out the panda too many times before then, there is a risk that the ritual fails and you are stuck with the red panda-trait for good.

While her family wants Meilin to give up her panda when the time comes, Meilin is not sure if that is what she wants.



Miriam, Priya, Meilin, and Abby. (Photo: D2)

During the course of the movie we see a number of themes presented. Here are some of the ones that stood out.

Friendships are important
In the film, Meilin has a core group of friends: Mi-



All of the previous women in Meilin's family gave up their panda and so they expect Meilin to do the same. They believe that they are not capable of keeping their pandas at bay when emotions are heightened. (Photo: BBC)

riam, Priya, and Abby. When Meilin turns into the red panda, she is extremely embarrassed and doesn't want to be seen by anyone, including her friends. When her friends come to her house to check on her, she tells them everything about her family lineage.

Her friends reassure her that they love her and will always be there for her, "Panda or no panda."

Their unconditional love and support is what helps Meilin battle through this time and the troubles she is facing with her mother. They have fun together, they fight together, but most importantly they love one another. Having friends that you trust and can depend on during this stage in life is crucial.

Be true to yourself

There is a metaphor in the

— for things that her mother wanted her to do.

Over the course of the movie, Meilin begins to realize that she is in control of her own thoughts and her own decisions, not her mother. This is why, in the end, she decides to keep her panda because that is what she wanted to do. By doing so, Meilin remained true to herself and began paving the way for her future.

Growing up is not easy

Oftentimes, adolescence is seen as a time of carelessness and lightheartedness, when in reality, that is not always the case.

Puberty comes with a lot of unforeseen responsibilities: managing your emotions, balancing relationships, new sexual attractions, raging hormones; the list goes on.

There are times when life gets hard and it feels like the weight of the world is on your shoulders. In the film there are times when Meilin lets her emotions get the better of her and that is okay. At that stage of life, you are still figuring out how to navigate all these complex feelings.

Turning Red shows the harsh reality of what it is like to grow up. There are tears, there is heartbreak and there is anger. However, growing up is not completely horrible. There are good times to be had and valuable lessons to be learned.

As Meilin said: "we've all got a messy, loud, weird part of ourselves hidden away. And a lot of us never let it out. But I did. How about you?"

movie that illustrates that one should keep their true personalities away for fear of what others may think.

At the beginning of the film, Meilin went along with this and would put off things she really wanted to do — like karaoke with her friends

The Hidden Opponent Raises Mental Health Awareness at LIU

BY CHARLOTTE JONES
Staff Reporter

THE Hidden Opponent, founded by creator Victoria Garrick, is a mental health advocacy group made for and run by student-athletes. After having great success hosting a TED Talk in 2017 titled, "Athletes and Mental Health: The Hidden Opponent," Garrick went on to start the organization in the summer of 2020. Now, THO has a chapter here at LIU Brooklyn, and they are doing important work to provide mental health services to athletes everywhere.

"All The Hidden Opponent is really trying to do is eliminate the stigma behind mental health and athletics. Damage to your mental health is important to recognize and treat, just like any other physical injury," said Caitlyn Kanemitsu, the Campus Captain, President, and Founder of LIU Brooklyn's Hidden Opponent chapter.

Kanemitsu is a junior at LIU majoring in psychology and she is also a member of the women's swim team. Inspired by her own personal struggles as well as watching her teammates experience similar things, Kanemitsu set out to start a chapter of THO here. "I had seen some of my teammates back at home who signed on as their [university's] campus captain ambassadors and I thought, 'you know it's great, why not put myself in that?'" Kanemitsu said. She also went on

to say how it was comforting to know that there was a community of people who were dealing with the same issues as her and to know she wasn't alone.

This semester, THO is sponsoring multiple events for students to get involved with. There will be a chalking event in the coming weeks, where students will be able to write all over the sidewalks at campus. Participants can write anything from positive affirmations to simply drawing smiley faces.

On April 15, THO will be sponsoring the women's water polo game. There, it will have a large poster board filled with green sticky notes stating who the players are playing for. "It's just something to let people know that these athletes are humans too," Kanemitsu said.

There will also be a journaling event coming up hosted by Jill Peters. Participants will be given a journal, a stimulating prompt, and have a certain amount of time to journal in. Journaling can be an incredibly helpful release when dealing with certain struggles.

However, not being a student athlete does not bar you from joining THO.

"All of these events are open to students who are not involved in athletics. This club is open for all LIU students who care about addressing the stigma behind mental health in our community here at LIU," said Kanemitsu.

In the coming years, Kanemitsu would like to involve

more clubs on campus such as the CSA, ASA, and BSU, as well as expanding THO into more community-based involvement. Her goal is to highlight more student voices.

"This is who we are," said Kanemitsu. "This is our student body, and we're being represented through these clubs and organizations. If The Hidden Opponent can be a voice for them then I really think we should."

A THO chapter already existed on the Post campus, but due to a lack of members on the Brooklyn campus one was not able to be implemented until this past fall. However, Kanemitsu expressed interest in hosting a joint event between the two chapters, saying "Emily, the president at Post and I were talking about doing a school wide event, as 'One LIU.'"

Kanemitsu also went on to say it would be helpful if the University could offer more support. "I've had countless athletes come up to me and say psychiatric services are all booked up. What can I do?" Kanemitsu said.

While THO is a safe community for those struggling to reach out to and get involved, members are other student-athletes, not licensed professionals. "I'd like to think we have a strong support system within the teams here at LIU, but what happens when one of us needs help? None of us are equipped to handle that."

To anyone who is struggling, Kanemitsu said, "I know exactly what you are

feeling, I am no stranger to feeling isolated. You're not alone, I know you hear that all the time but that's really the truth."

If you are interested in joining THO, you can follow it on Instagram @THO_LIU-BK, register on Presence, or fill out their Google Form. The organization hosts biweekly meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays at 7:15 that provide a fun and educational look into mental health through the eyes of an athlete.

Are you struggling with mental health? These resources are here for you:

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

LIU Psychological Services Center in the Pratt Building, Room 510

U Lifeline Organization- provides a free, confidential online resource about emotional health for college students: <http://www.ulifeline.org>

Hidden Opponent club members at the women's volleyball game in the fall. (Photo: Reyna Iwamoto)

Dear Charlie,

How Do I Get Out of my Reading Slump?

BY CHARLIE

Dear Charlie is an advice column that allows readers to ask Charlie for guidance on how to deal with problems. Whether it's about love, friendships, or frustrations, Charlie is here to give you tips and ideas for tackling life's everyday challenges.

Readers can ask Charlie for advice through DM via our Instagram @liubknews, or anonymously through a Google form on our

website.

WHILE reading can be a perfect way to relax, it can also be overwhelming. Looking at a book with a daunting number of pages, sentences with unknown words or just a complex narrative in general. It all can feel intimidating and it gets difficult to continue with something that you once enjoyed. Here are some ways to get out of a reading slump:

Read in parts and not all at once

Some books can be very informative but on a mentally heavy topic. For example, I started reading, "The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move" by Sonia Shah. And while I want to learn more about our environment and what it is going through, it gets overwhelming and de-

pressing to read about the world slowly falling apart as we speak.

So what I do is I read this book in sections. A chapter here and a chapter there. I find that those breaks help me slow down, take some time and process especially complex ideas. It makes it lighter and easier in my mind

Take a break from reading

Sometimes a break from reading all together is necessary because while reading can be an escape, it can also be intimidating. Taking a break from reading can allow you to come back to a book with a refreshed state of mind and can allow you to actually enjoy what you're reading.

Try a different genre of reading

You don't have to finish a book, if it gets hard to go through it. Reading is supposed to be enjoyable. Spicing up the genre that you're reading a lot can also be exciting. Maybe instead of reading romance novels you try a science fiction one and look at the literature from a different angle. There's also many quizzes online, like on Buzzfeed, where you can answer questions about yourself and your preferences and they give you a book recommendation. This helps find new books inside your favorite genre as well or a book, similar to the one you already enjoyed.

With these three tips hopefully you will find your love for reading once again. Happy reading, my friends!



Dear Charlie

ADVICE COLUMN

www.LIUBKNEWS.com

Caribbean Student Association Hosts “The Main Event”

BY ALEXANDER DELEON
Staff Reporter

ON Friday, April 22, The Caribbean Student Association (CSA) held “The Main Event” in the WRAC here at LIU Brooklyn to showcase the various music and dance styles of the Caribbean while also having performances from Roc Nation students as well.

CSA was started at LIU this past Fall by two Caribbean students who were new to living in New York, these being Jael Nelson who is from Jamaica and Chevelle Joseph who is from Trinidad and Tobago.

The CSA’s eBoard consists of Jael Nelson, Chevelle Joseph, Kaylah Yearwood, Eden McGee, Amani Nation, and Leonard Pierre-Paul.

Their goal for CSA is to foster their community and to provide a voice to Caribbean students at LIU Brooklyn. They also aim to provide an outlet for students to enjoy and celebrate their culture while also allowing other students to join and learn about the Caribbean’s dynamic culture. Everything the organization does is inspired from the Caribbean diaspora and they are committed to collecting and integrating all of the islands’ culture at LIU Brooklyn.

When asked what was the cultural significance of this event to, Reynolds answered “The event was a way to celebrate our Caribbean Culture through dance. It also allows other people to experience that culture even if they aren’t Caribbean.”

Music is one of the most unique aspects of Caribbean culture that distinguishes them from other nations around the world. Caribbean music genres include Soca, Calypso, Reggae, Dancehall, Zouk, Parang, Chetney, Denner, Bachata, Merengue, and Salsa.

Vice President Chevelle Joseph stated members of the eBoard grew up listening and dancing to these different styles of music and now have a deep passion for them.

They feel it’s important to share this aspect of their culture with the space and platform that LIU Brooklyn’s campus has provided them with.

Vice President Joseph also stated that, “We think it’s time our culture is shared with the world in a space that is safe and open where those

who are related to the culture are able to shape the narrative in terms of how our culture is received.”

Additionally, while mentioning the importance of building a welcoming community for Caribbean students at LIU, Joseph added, “Not only do we want to build a community where all are welcome to come out and learn about and celebrate the Caribbean culture...we especially found it very important to create a space where those of the Caribbean diaspora can commune and interact with those that share similarities.”

To start the event, Joseph described the lack of representation for Caribbean students at LIU before the inauguration of the CSA and how that impacted the CSA’s motive of building a platform for Caribbean culture here at LIU Brooklyn.

“When I arrived at LIU, being that it’s situated in Brooklyn, I found it very surprising that there was not already an organization of this type and from speaking to other Caribbean students such as my president Jael Nelson I found that Caribbean students felt underrepresented. What makes this event significant and where the idea of CSA stemmed from is the notion that to be heard in a space of this magnitude. [We] need to be seen and must have representation.”

The event itself was filled with several performances

and dances by students and members of the CSA, representing the various styles of Caribbean music and displayed their appreciation for the culture.

There were solo and duet performances choreographed by the performers themselves.

The Krosfyah team dances was choreographed by the founder and captain of the Krosfyah dance team, Kaylah Yearwood.

Yearwood founded the Krosfyah dance team in honor of her father Edwin Yearwood who is a well known Caribbean Soca artist who started a band named Krosfyah when he was 19 years old.

Yearwood always admired her father and felt naming the dance team after his band was a great way of paying homage to him.

She also expressed how dancing has always been a big part of her life saying, “I personally always loved dancing and music, and I wanted to make a statement in every school I went to. The dances are part of a long history of spreading Caribbean Culture.”

Preparation for this event hasn’t been easy as Yearwood said the team’s practice schedule intensified as the event got closer, “Practice from the start of the semester was Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8pm. A month closer to the show it became Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8:30...

Three weeks before the show Tuesday through Thursday 6-9 pm and Saturdays 11am-2pm”.

Yearwood said creating the dances were “pretty simple” and she felt that it “made the dancers super excited to learn them because they were fun to do.”

Dancing brought another side out of the dancers and pushed some of them out of their comfort zone. She said although this came along with challenges, nothing was too difficult as this allowed her to learn how to be a better teacher and play to her dancers’ strengths.

However, there were some last minute cancellations and other difficulties that Yearwood faced, but she emphasized the importance of the team around her and how her co captain Jaiden Bailey, her human resources representative Rayanna Huggins, and the rest of the eBoard came together to make sure the show still went on to its best abilities.

“We sat down the night before the show till 12 (am) planning and organizing to the best of our ability. We kept our calm, thought rationally, and overall it was a success,” Yearwood stated.

The event had many great dance performances including duets and even a solo from Krosfyah team member Imani Reynolds titled “Need a Fete.” Imani claimed this was her favorite dance that she performed as she also choreographed her solo performance.

When asked what was the cultural significance of this event to her Reynolds answered “The event was a way to celebrate our Caribbean Culture through dance. It also allowed other people to experience that culture even if they aren’t Caribbean.”

The performers themselves felt the importance of this event and acknowledged how this event will impact the lack of Caribbean representation on campus.

Along with the wonderful dance performances, there were great music performances by artists Destiny, Mse-maji, Mjay Brown, Fari Wopavelli, and Krosfyah team member, Aj Smoove.

To join the CSA, you can find more information on their Instagram page @liubk_csa.

The Marketing Society Returns to LIU Brooklyn

BY DANIELA PEREZ-LEAL
Staff Reporter

THE LIU Marketing Society is active again, led by new President Nicholene Silipino and Vice President Isabella Harvey.

“I’m happy that I get to be a part of this Society. Being president of this Society is an experience that is preparing me for all the challenges that will come after I finish college,” said Silipino, a junior majoring in marketing.

The Marketing Society hopes to organize events, build connections with the business world, hold workshops to improve students’ business skills, arrange visits to companies and not-for-profit organizations, and improve social media marketing skills.

It offers its members the benefit of forming a professional network with students and potential employers, opportunities for internships, improving business etiquette and making lifelong friends.

This Society is seeking individuals who are collaborative, creative, leaders, positive, and possess necessary skills such as time-management, adaptability, and organization.

“I love the team that we have in the Marketing Society. It’s refreshing to see students stepping up and really helping with the organization,” Silipino said.

The Society’s executive staff is formed by Silipino, Harvey, Secretary Danny Seliger, and Social Media Manager Hannah Paps. Currently, staff members are marketing students at the business school at LIU Brooklyn. In addition, the Society has the guidance of marketing professor, Yuko Minowa.

According to the Faculty information of Long Island University, Professor Minowa teaches consumer behavior and marketing management. At LIU Brooklyn, she served as the interim chair and the

acting chair of the Managerial Science Department, the area coordinator of Marketing, the chair of numerous committees and an adviser of student associations.

The Marketing Society was on hiatus for one year, due to COVID-19 restrictions that the student community has faced during the past few years. However, over the years, the Society has gone through various inactivities during the transition period that comes with a new president.

“Throughout history, Society has had the participation of aggressive leaders. Students who have always taken the initiative to pursue activities and opportunities. It is wonderful to see these students grow because when they tap into their potential and become successful leaders in college, they will continue to be successful in the workplace,” Minowa said.

“I am very happy that the Marketing Society is active again and it is exciting to see a new team of students working together with values and enthusiasm,” she said.

The Marketing Society is an opportunity for students to become more involved in campus life and meet other students and faculty within the LIU Brooklyn School of Business. It is open to the entire LIU Brooklyn community, allowing students from different majors to meet and network.

Currently, members of the Society meet every Tuesday from 11:00 am to 11:45 am at the business school and via Zoom, offering participants the opportunity to attend in person or remotely. s that the Society is hosting.

Nicholene Silipino (left) and Isabella Harvey (right), new president and vice president of the LIU Marketing Society. (Photo: Daniela Perez Leal)



TOP: The official Caribbean Student Association Logo. (Source: The CSA’s Instagram page @liubk_CSA.)

BOTTOM: Members of the Krosfyah Dance Team (Source: Kaylah Yearwood)

Seawanhaka Sports Rundown is a weekly roundup of five stories that examine developments in sports news at the local, state, national, and international level.

BY MADISON MCCARTHY
Sports Editor

Juan Soto Hits 500 Career Hits

23- YEAR- OLD outfielder Juan Soto picked up his 500th career hit during Friday's game against the San Francisco Giants. Soto became the 2nd-youngest player in Nationals franchise history to reach the milestone, with only Bryce Harper achieving the feat earlier. In 2019, he was part of the team to deliver the franchise's first World Series. Earlier this month, Soto became the youngest National ever to reach 100 home runs in his career.



Juan (Photo: G Fiume/Getty Images)

An NFL Christmas

CHRISTMAS day just got a little bit sweeter for football fans as the NFL announced there will be three games this Christmas. The NFL will capitalize on Christmas day falling on a Sunday and continuing to play on Dec. 25th for the third year in a row. The league will have three games on Dec. 25 for the first time: two in the afternoon on CBS and Fox, followed by a prime-time contest on NBC. For Week 16, the league will have its regular Thursday night game on Dec. 22. Eleven games will be on Dec. 24, including a night game on NFL Network. After the Christmas triple-header, the week will close with a Monday night contest on Dec. 26. The three NFL games will be in direct competition with the NBA, which used to own the monopoly on Christmas Day play. The NBA has played five games each Dec. 25 for the past 14 seasons.

(Photo: ClutchPoints)

This Sports Rundown was originally published online on April 23.



(Photo: LIUAthletics.com)

New LIU Women's Soccer Coach

FORMER professional goalkeeper and LIU assistant coach, Lucy Gillett has been announced as LIU's newest Head Coach. After leading the team through spring workouts, the "interim" in front of Coach Gillett's title is no longer necessary. Before joining the sharks as an assistant coach in 2021 Gillett served as the assistant coach at St John's University and became a professional goalkeeper with Brighton & Hove Albion as well as Crystal Palace in England. According to LIUAthletics.com, "Gillett played a combined four collegiate seasons at Hofstra University and Springfield College. She went a combined 21-8 with 12 shutouts and 0.79 goals against average during the final two seasons with Springfield, in 2013 and '14, while qualifying for the NCAA Tournament both seasons."



MiLB's Lucas Sweany on Life as a Pro-Athlete

BY JOSEPH SIMILE
Sports Editor

I recently had the chance to sit down with Lucas Sweany, a prospect in the Minnesota Twins farm system. Sweany was able to lead me through the effects of COVID-19 on the MLB Draft process and the ensuing undrafted free agency process, as well as life as a minor leaguer going through rehab.

One of the major ways COVID-19 impacted Sweany and many other young baseball players was the reduction in draft size.

While in 2019 the draft was 40 rounds, 2020 saw the draft shrink to only five due to COVID.

Q: Has becoming a professional athlete lived up to your expectations, and what is different than you anticipated?

A: For me, it's a little different because I've been hurt the whole time I've been a professional athlete. I signed a few months after CO-

VID hit, and I wasn't hurt then, but before my first spring training, I got hurt. So right when I came here, I was hurt, went through rehab, got surgery, and now I'm almost back to being healthy again. So for me, it hasn't quite lived up to my expectations yet, just because I haven't really gotten to participate at all. But I still do have high hopes for when I play.

Q: How has COVID-19 affected your career up to this point? A: It really affected the draft process a ton. I was expecting to go around the tenth round or maybe a little later, so I missed out on an opportunity for a lot of money there. But I just bet on myself and signed as an undrafted free agent, just wanting to go into pro ball. COVID really messed up not only the draft process but also my whole first year. But I think it's been pretty normal the last six to ten months, at least I'd assume. I didn't play any pro ball pre-COVID so I don't really know what it was like previously. I think it's getting



Lucas Sweany
(Photo: Pacific Athletics)

back to normal now I'd say.

Q: What does your day-to-day life look like as you're rehabbing and ramping up getting into the season?

A: Ever since I've been here, it just goes: In the morning I do my prehab, then I'll either throw, or not throw and lift or do a stretching & mobility routine, and do conditioning on certain days. Most days I'm



(Photo: Adam Baron)

MAAC 2022 Women's Water Polo Award Winners

THE Metro Atlanta Athletic Conference; home of LIU's Women's Water Polo team, announced the All-MAAC, All-Academic Team, and major conference awards this week. Sophomore Elena Camarena was named Co-Defensive Player of the Year and earned a spot on the All-MAAC First Team. Sophomore stand-out Paola Dominquez earned herself a spot on the All-MAAC Second team in her second season as a Shark. LIU led the conference in All-Academic team members with 13 Sharks eligible for the team. MAAC All-Academic team members must complete two semesters at their institution and hold a cumulative grade point average of 3.20 on a 4.0 scale. This year's All-academic team is as follows: Jenna Anderson, Rebecca Ansell, Elena Camarena, Jessica Dean, Kate Fischer, Jeannet Garcia, Kate Hinrichs, Rachel Loomis, Xonhane Medina, Faith Ocheskey, Diba Peiravani, Taylor Thurlow and Julia Zebak.



(Photo: Getty Images)

White Sox's Tim Anderson Suspended

CHICAGO White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson was suspended one game and fined by MLB after giving fans the middle finger during Wednesday's game in Cleveland. While Anderson is appealing the suspension he is continuing to play in this week's series. According to espn.com, Anderson had the following to say about his actions: "I have to apologize for my actions," Anderson said Friday. "There are a lot of people who really look up to me. I take full accountability of what I did. But it's something that I have to learn from and grow from."

done by 12 when I eat lunch, and then I have the rest of the day free. There's a lot of free time here, especially when you're in rehab and not playing games.

Q: Who would you say has been the biggest help in getting you to this point of now being able to play baseball professionally?

A: There's been a lot of influences in my life. My dad has really helped out [with] paying part of my tuition to play college baseball. My agent was a real help in the whole signing process, and I've had several pitching coaches pre-college that really helped me develop as a pitcher.

Q: Was there a moment in your career or life where it clicked for you that you had the talent and you could become a professional baseball player?

A: For me, that would be my senior year of high school. That senior year of high school I really developed thanks to one pitching coach I had (Dave Giberti). I had a really insane season that year, I threw three no-hitters and I was second in the nation in strikeouts. I ended up

committing to Pacific at the end of that year, and then I realized I had a chance to get drafted after a few years in college.

Q: After going undrafted, were the Twins the only organization to reach out to you?

A: When the undrafted period started, the Twins were the first team to call, but I was expecting the Braves to call first because they had been hot on me during the whole draft process.

Q: How long was the period of time between when you received the call from the Twins and when you decided to go with them?

A: The first day of the process was a Sunday, and they called that night around six o'clock, and I ended up signing the next day around two or three o'clock.

Q: At the end of the day, when it's all said and done, what do you want people to remember about you and your career?

A: I would say I want them to remember how hard a worker I was and how good a teammate I was. That's really what I strive to be.

Shark Scoop is a weekly roundup of five stories that examine developments in global, national, and local news, as well as a top headline in entertainment and sports.

BY MIKHAIL KULINETZ
News Editor

Johnny Depp and Amber Heard Face Off in Court

IN Court proceedings between Hollywood actor Johnny Depp and actress Amber Heard continue this week. Heard, who is Depp’s ex-wife, and is an actress herself and is an activist for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The basis of the trial surrounds an article that Heard wrote for the Washington Post in 2018, describing her life as a victim of domestic violence and. In 2019, Depp sued her for allegedly defaming him in the op-ed. Both sides are accusing each other of poisoning their re-



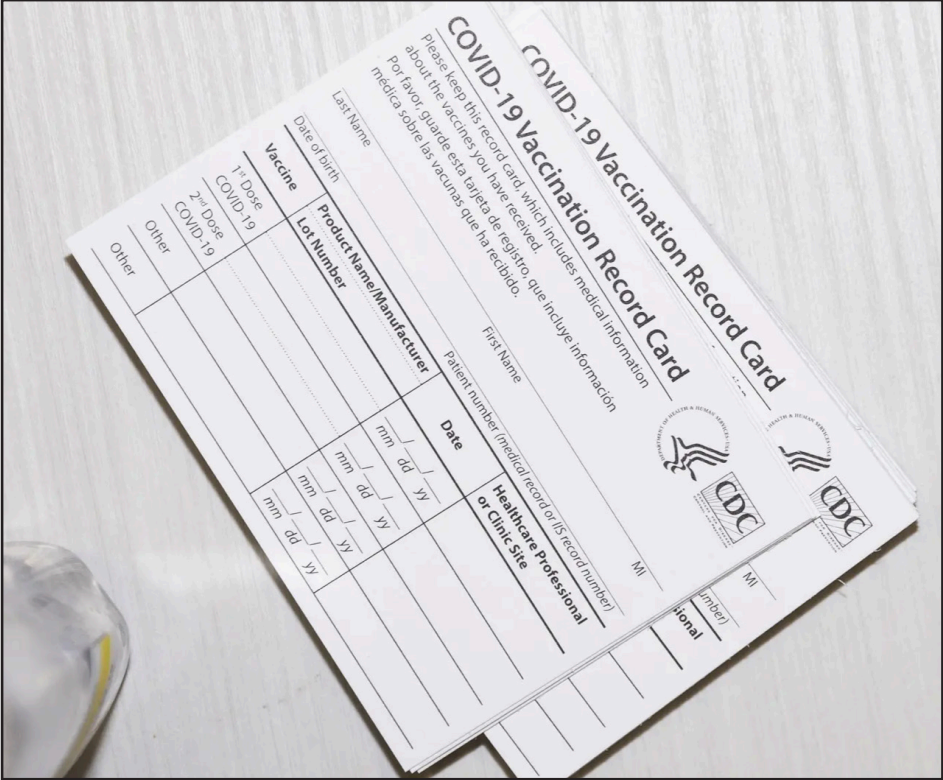
putation and repeated domestic abuse during their marriage. (Photo: JIM LO SCALZO/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

Update: The Russian Invasion of Ukraine War

PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelensky recently commented on the invasion of Ukraine and that he believes it is simply just the beginning of a bigger war. “They want to capture other countries,” said Zelensky in an overnight address recently. British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, recently spoke with Zelensky on April 23 to gain further military support. They spoke of imposing stricter sanctions and the next stages of



(Photo: GETTY IMAGES) military action which could include transferring heavy tanks to Ukraine through Polish territories. Zelensky also shared a glimmer of hope saying, “we will be able to show the occupiers that the day when they will be forced to leave Ukraine is approaching,” according to a report from the New York Times.



(Photo: Justin Lane/EPA, via Shutterstock)

NYC Teachers to be Investigated Over the Use of Fake Vaccine Cards

ALONG with the rest of the Recently, the NY Department of Education (D.O.E.) put several state teachers on unpaid leave while they investigate the use of fake Covid-19 vaccine cards by said teachers. Approximately 70 teachers were put on leave due

to the possibility of illegally using fake vaccine cards to continue working. In addition to the D.O.E, the FDNY, the Sanitation Department and several other state departments have also had the same issues with fake vaccination cards being used by their employees. This claim was submitted on behalf of school teachers and psychologists, school social

workers, school secretaries and paraprofessionals, however some already received an “error” notice. Toni Gantz, executive deputy counsel for the DOE states that, “unpaid leave is not a disciplinary measure against lawbreakers, but related more to the employees’ eligibility status for adhering to different procedures.”



Emmanuel Macron Projected to Win French Presidential Election

THE current President

of France, Emmanuel Macron, is projected to have won by preliminary vote counts with 58.3 percent and over 17 million

(Photo: FT Montage/Getty Images) votes and could be the first French leader to be re-elected since 2002. His opponent this year was far-right politician Marine Le Pen, who made decent headway in this year’s election. In 2017, Macron beat Marine Le Pen with over 66 percent of the votes, possibly making this the second time that he has beat out Le Pen. While projections are usually a reliable source for predictions, there is still plenty of time for Le Pen to pull ahead in the votes as ballots are still being counted.



Liz Carmouche and Juliana Velasquez take to the Ring

THIS Friday night, Liz Carmouche fought for the Bellator flyweight title and claimed it against opponent Juliana Velasquez. In the fourth-round, TKO halted the match

over a move made by Velasquez. It was then subsequently evident to all who watched that this verdict made her visibly upset with the referee’s decision to interrupt the contest. The fight was enjoyed by and both sides showed some powerful kicks and

hits, however by the end Carmouche started dropping elbows thus causing the referee, Mike Beltran, to see he had seen enough to stop the fight at the end of the fourth round.

(Photo: NFLcombine.net)