Old Cell Block at Baruch College Is No Barrier to Learning

By RALPH BLUMENTHAL  SEPT. 29, 2015

Kevin Walsh, a graduate student at Baruch College, thought he could use a math refresher. "I haven't studied statistics for quite some time," he said. So this year he signed up for a tutoring session at the School of Public Affairs.

But when he walked into the academic support center on the fourth floor of the school's administrative building, a columned limestone structure at 135 East 22nd Street along Lexington Avenue, past a sign reading "Cell Conference Room and Tutoring Center," he was dumbstruck.

The room was a cell — a large jail cell, with bars along the walls and windows and a thick steel door with a peephole. "I laughed out loud," he said.

Students have various reactions to the tutoring center, a detention cell from the building's origin as a Family Court, which opened in 1940, one block from Gramercy Park. "I'm a prisoner," Dairanys Grullon-Virgil, an accounting major, joked.

"Oh my God!" said another graduate student, Tina Felder, an elementary school teacher working on a master's degree in school district leadership who had also signed up for a statistics session. She had high praise for the tutor, Cathy Zheng, and
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“Oh my God!” said another graduate student, Tina Felder, an elementary school teacher working on a master’s degree in school district leadership who had also signed up for a statistics session. She had high praise for the tutor, Cathy Zheng, and felt the room had “a nice charm to it, like an old hotel, an old 1920 feel to it,” although
she could not immediately grasp why. But there was a kind of poetic justice to the setting, she decided: “It takes the confines off of learning.”

The old cell is a certified curiosity, said Robert Pigott, general counsel of Phipps Houses, a nonprofit housing developer, and author of “New York’s Legal Landmarks: A Guide to Legal Edifices, Institutions, Lore, History, and Curiosities on the City’s Streets.” The book includes Baruch’s former family courthouse and the Children’s Court next door, also occupied by the school. He said he was not aware of any similar conversion elsewhere.

The tutoring room’s cell is not the only one in the building. It also houses the School of Public Affairs, which opened in 1994.

Across the hall, Don Waisanen, an associate professor of public affairs, works out of an office where the bars have been covered up by plaster walls.

“This is a very Buddhist office,” he said. “It’s had lots of lives.”

Upstairs, Dean David Birdsell has an office alongside other plastered-over cells in a former judge’s chambers, which sits behind a bulletproof door and anteroom once lined with evidence safes.

“Step back!” Mr. Birdsell warned as the heavy door dangerously slammed shut. “It’s a beast.”

A floor below his office, two green marbled portals mark the old courtrooms, still labeled “Part I” and “Part II.”

Next door at 137 East 22nd Street, in the former Children’s Court, which is celebrating its centennial this year, the Newman Real Estate Institute at Baruch holds classes in the former paneled courtroom under chandeliers and a stained glass skylight. A chipped cornerstone, partially blocked by a security guard’s box, is engraved: “For Every Child Let Truth Spring From Earth and Justice and Mercy Look Down From Heaven.”

Baruch’s Newman Library, at 151 East 25th Street, was a coal-burning power station for trolley cars on the Lexington Avenue cable road in the 1890s, and was also
home to muckraking journalists like Ida Tarbell and Lincoln Steffens, who exposed societal evils from the sixth-floor offices of McClure's Magazine.

And before it was demolished to make way for what would become Baruch's modern flagship in 2001 — the 14-story vertical campus on Lexington Avenue from 24th to 25th Street — a recording studio for RCA-Victor Records played host to numerous strivers, including a Memphis rock 'n' roller named Elvis Presley, who recorded "Hound Dog" and "Don't Be Cruel" there on July 2, 1956.

Faculty members and students were well aware that tutoring had been going on for several years in a former jail cell, but it became a wider known fact only several weeks ago, when a member of Manhattan Community Board 6 queried Baruch's community relations office about the 100th birthday of the Children's Court. Was it true about the jail cells in the building? The question was turned over to the Library Archives, where I am a distinguished lecturer working on research collections.

The answer began with the Free Academy, on the southeast corner of Lexington Avenue and 22nd Street. Opened in 1849, it was the nation's first public secondary school. It became City College in 1866. The building was replaced in 1928 by what became the college's business school, later named for the financier and alumnus Bernard M. Baruch. It has been an independent unit of the City University of New York since 1968.

In 1960, Baruch took over the former Children's Court that the city had opened in August 1915. In 1983, the school moved in next door to take over the vacant Family Court, cell room and all.

Initially the cell room served as a storage closet, Mr. Birdsell recalled. But several years ago staff members pitched in to clean it out. "They wouldn't have done that for any old closet," he said. The cell became an attraction, the most popular spot in the building. "It's an oddity, a point of pride," Mr. Birdsell said. "It's weird."

Either way, the bars are there for good, Frederick Waeldner, a staff architect at Baruch, said. "We tried to take them out," he said, "but they're embedded in the concrete."
America Is Ignoring A Way To Hurt ISIS And Protect World History

Ancient history is being dug up from the ground in Syria and sold to help fund ISIS. A bill that could help curb ISIS profiting from these artifacts passed in the US House of Representatives in June, but is still sitting in the Senate. Syrian archeological sites are being pillaged "on an industrial scale," UNESCO [...]
House of Representatives in June, but is still sitting in the Senate.

Syrian archeological sites are being pillaged "on an industrial scale (http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/sep/16/historical-sites-in-syria-are-being-looted-on-an-industrial-scale)," UNESCO director Irina Bokova said recently. Satellite images show (http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/syria-cultural-heritage-initiative/imagery-archaeological-site-looting) the land dotted with dug holes as looters seek artifacts to sell.

Looting had been going on in Syria before ISIS emerged but has escalated with the crisis.

While most major museums stopped buying dubiously-obtained cultural property long ago, many collectors are, willfully or otherwise, ignorant of purchases’ origins and are buying Syrian artifacts.

Profits from these sales are helping ISIS continue to wage destruction on Iraq and Syria.

Erin Thompson, a professor of art crime at John Jay College of Criminal Justice explains many items sold in the US from Syria are not big statues and structures.

Instead, they’re small items like figurines, pieces of glass and coins selling for $50-$100, but these small items add up. Thompson further describes:

Looting is driven by money. People wouldn’t be digging up these antiquities unless there were buyers down the line, and we know the US is a major market for antiquities.


The bill has two goals: to impose import restrictions on cultural artifacts from
Syria and to organize the various government programs working to protect cultural heritage.

The import restriction would limit the amount of artifacts brought into the US from Syria and buying and selling stolen relics would become more explicitly illegal.

It wouldn’t be an immediate fix, but there are clear benefits to limiting the trade of looted antiquities.

Patty Gerstenblith, a law professor at DePaul University and chair of President Obama’s Cultural Property Advisory Committee, said,

*If the demand is reduced, the economic motive for looting is also reduced.*

With these new restrictions, any illegal items found attempting to enter the US from Syria would be confiscated and held safely by the government. The law would also protect legal items brought into the US.

All cultural heritage would be stored until it could be returned to rightful owners. Although, with the country in turmoil, it’s difficult to truly say who the owners may be.

Import restrictions like this are not uncommon. A similar law was put in place for Iraq in 2004 that still stands.

However, because Iraqi and Syrian artifacts are very similar, illicit traders are posing Iraqi artifacts as Syrian to avoid the restriction.

looted antiquities from Syria and Iraq this past February.

The bill was brought to the Senate in July (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/07/09/isis-syrian-antiquities_n_7762136.html), but is still sitting there.

Dr. Andrew Moore, president of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), explains the importance of the US government supporting these restrictions.

It will send a signal that [looting and illicit trade] matters enough for Congress to take it up. That sends a powerful message to the world.


Correspondingly, the US has its own act, the Cultural Property Implementation Act (http://eca.state.gov/files/bureau/97-446.pdf), which binds it to the UNESCO conventions.

Many international groups are working to protect cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria.

Although UNESCO is unable to work directly on the ground in Syria, it’s working with art markets and national governments, including archaeology groups in Syria, to do what it can.

This involves mobilizing countries to restrict illicit trade, holding workshops for neighboring countries on protecting artifacts, tracking the art market and alerting nations of the coordinates of protected sites to avoid targeting in
potential strikes.

According to Aparna Tandon, a project specialist at the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), import restrictions are generally helpful in reducing the incentive to loot, but internal efforts are needed as well.

ICCROM has contact with heritage professionals still in Syria and is working on community policing and dissemination of information to local residents. ICCROM and its regional program ATHAR (http://www.iccrom.org/priority-areas/athar/) also run workshops and training in heritage rescue.

Archeology groups across the globe are documenting sites and damages in Syria.

The AIA is working on gathering all groups to coordinate their collective work.

American governmental groups are also involved. The US Department of State signed a $600,000 agreement (http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2014/230214.htm) with the American Schools of Oriental Research (http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org/) to document historical sites in Syria last.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement are vital (http://www.vocativ.com/world/isis-2/how-isis-turned-looting-into-big-business/) to stop trade in America. In order to be effective, border patrol must be trained to identify Syrian artifacts.

There are many factions involved in limiting the illicit trade that is destroying history and benefitting ISIS. The proposed bill would help coordinate and bring central leadership to the various American efforts while reducing a major market.

Although the American government may be slow to act on this, Moore recognizes a positive shift in public attitude.

He’s noted an increase in public awareness and care for cultural heritage, regardless of what country it’s located in, stating:

_We are all inheritors of the record of the past and it speaks to us directly today. I think people are feeling that more broadly now than ever before._
Run DMC's Darryl McDaniels To Speak Wednesday At Kingsborough

BY ALEX KELLEHER ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

Art & Music, Events

Legendary rapper Darryl McDaniels, who helped popularize hip hop music in the 80s as a member of Run DMC, will speak at Kingsborough Community College this Wednesday about his creative process in developing a line of comic books inspired by his life as a musician.

The lecture, which includes a Q&A with the audience, is open to the public and will take place from 4 - 6pm in the campus' Lighthouse Rotunda Room.

McDaniels debuted his first comic book, "DMC #1," at last year's New York Comic Con. The graphic novel, published under McDaniels' independent company Darryl Makes Comics, sets the rapper in an alternate 80s New York, where McDaniels is a masked superhero instead of a musician.

The second part of the graphic novel series is expected to be released at this year's Comic Con. Meanwhile, the entertainment website Tracking Board reports that TriStar is talking with McDaniels about turning the graphic novels into a feature film.

McDaniels was invited to Kingsborough by the college's English department, a spokesperson said. And many students are expected to wear their "Run KCC" t-shirts, which are based on the hip hop group's iconic logo.

Kingsborough is also hosting NBA Hall of Famer Nate "Tiny" Archibald this Friday. Archibald will give a basketball clinic for the men's and women's teams from 5 - 7pm in the school's gymnasium.
Donna Shalala, former Cabinet secretary, suffers a stroke

By Faith Karimi, CNN

Updated 9:17 AM ET, Wed September 30, 2015

Donna Shalala, a former Cabinet secretary during the Bill Clinton presidency, now heads the Clinton Foundation.

Story highlights

"Initial reports are very encouraging," Bill Clinton says

Donna Shalala is a former Cabinet secretary during the Clinton presidency

(CNN)—Donna Shalala, a former Cabinet secretary during the Bill Clinton presidency, is hospitalized in New York after suffering a stroke.

Shalala serves as president of the Clinton Foundation, a nonprofit founded by the former leader to address global issues.

She suffered a stroke while she was with friends Tuesday evening, Clinton said in a statement early Wednesday.

"Fortunately, she was with colleagues at the time and taken to the hospital for treatment," he said. "Initial reports are very encouraging."

Shalala's history with the Clintons dates back years.

Shortly after becoming President in 1993, Clinton nominated her as secretary for health and human services, a post she held for eight years.

She then became president of the University of Miami for more than a decade before joining the Clinton Foundation this year as its leader.

The veteran educator was also chancellor at the University of Wisconsin and president of Hunter College in New York.
The Man Who Manages Jay Z’s Website (and Much More)

By STACEY ANDERSON  SEPT. 29, 2015

Who Shahendra Ohneswere

Age 34

Hometown Paramaribo, Suriname

Now Lives In a one-bedroom apartment in Fort Greene, Brooklyn. “It’s a lot like my office: modern, sharp corners, not much hanging on the walls,” Mr. Ohneswere said. “There are a lot of hip-hop and punk records.”

Claim to Fame Mr. Ohneswere is a rising star in the hip-hop industry, as the curator of Jay Z’s Life and Times website and as a marketing executive for Roc Nation, for which he develops artists and manages rollout campaigns for albums and concerts. “My job is about discovery, and that’s what I love about it,” he said.

Big Break After Hunter College, Mr. Ohneswere was a marketing executive for the streetwear brand Ecko and a music journalist for Complex magazine. Then one day in 2010, he got a call from Roc Nation to design Jay Z’s new lifestyle website. The website was such a hit that he was brought on to help run the media campaign for the Jay Z and Kanye West album, “Watch the Throne.” “Musically, I was always a fan, but I also paid sharp attention to Jay’s business acumen,” Mr. Ohneswere said. “I look up
to him.”

**Latest Project** Mr. Ohneswere ran the media campaign for Made in America, a music and culture festival that took place in Philadelphia in early September. “I’m in the business of moving culture,” Mr. Ohneswere said. “There’s commerce tied to it, of course, but the real question is, ‘How do you inspire the world?’”

**Next Thing** Mr. Ohneswere is managing the marketing of Vic Mensa, a rapper and recent Roc Nation signee who is working on a debut album. He is also working on a new travel cooking show for Vice.

**Model Behavior** Of all the offbeat content on Life and Times, Mr. Ohneswere is particularly fond of “Well Dunn With Jourdan Dunn,” a cooking web series he created with the British model. The show is cheerfully haphazard, with ingredients and bawdy raps flying in equal measure. “There’s no script, no technique, she’s cursing,” he said of the series, which has featured Cara Delevingne and Karlie Kloss as Ms. Dunn’s sous-chefs. “But I was like: ‘This is the Internet. Go ahead.’”

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From Puppet Masters to Playwrights, Ten Outstanding New Yorkers Win 'Genius Grants'

Lin-Manuel Miranda stars as Alexander Hamilton in *Hamilton* on Broadway

(Leilson Barnard / Getty)

Sep 29, 2015 · by Lee Hernandez
Ten New Yorkers are among this year's slate [https://www.macfound.org/programs/fellows/] of "genius grant" winners from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The prize comes with a $625,000 -- no strings attached. The foundation awards the genius grants every year to individuals it determines are exceptional in their respective fields.

Among the New Yorkers on the list are Lin-Manuel Miranda, creator of the hit Broadway show "Hamilton". The winners stretch beyond the theater and arts world though. Among the other recipients are Kartik Chandran, an environmental engineer who works with wastewater, and Alex Truesdell, a designer who creates furniture and other tools for disabled children.

"It's a very elite club. I mean this year it's 24 out of countless people this award could have gone to," said Joe Dziemianowicz, theater critic for the New York Daily News. "It really honors standout originality, standout ambition and dedication to work."

Joe Dziemianowicz spoke to WNYC's Soterios Johnson.

The full list of winners from New York:

Kartik Chandran, 41, Columbia University environmental engineer integrating microbial ecology, molecular biology and engineering to transform wastewater into useful resources such as fertilizers, energy sources and clean water.

Michelle Dorrance, 36, a dancer and choreographer reinvigorating tap dancing by combining its musicality with the intricacies of contemporary dance.

Nicole Eisenman, 50, an artist whose paintings, sculptures and drawings explore such themes as gender and sexuality, family dynamics and the inequities of power and wealth.

Ben Lerner, 36, an English professor at Brooklyn College of the City College of New York, Lerner also is a novelist, poet and critic who has explored the relevance of the artist to modern culture.
Mimi Lien, 39, a set designer for theater, opera and dance who has created performance space to establish relationships between the characters on stage as well as between the actors and the audience.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, 35, a playwright, composer and performer whose work fuses traditional storytelling with contemporary musical styles and whose most recent play, "Hamilton", is a Broadway sensation.

Marina Rustow, 46, Princeton, New Jersey. Princeton University historian whose work has shed new light on lives of Jews and the broader society of the medieval Middle East.

Alex Truesdell, 59, an adaptive designer and fabricator, Truesdell has created low-tech and affordable tools and furniture out of such materials as cardboard and glue for children with disabilities.

Basil Twist, 46, a puppeteer and theater artist recognized for his innovative work that has helped revitalize puppetry as a serious and sophisticated art form.

William Dichtel, 37, Ithaca, New York. A Cornell University chemist working to bring a new class of nanostructured materials out of laboratories and into daily use.
Rare Fluorescent Sea Turtle Glows Red and Green

by Laura Geggel, Staff Writer  |  September 29, 2015 05:03pm ET

Below the tropical waves near the Solomon Islands, nighttime divers spotted a psychedelic vision: an endangered sea turtle glowing bright red and green.

The divers immediately began filming the creature, a hawksbill sea turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata), following it for a few minutes until it swam away.

"It was such a short encounter," said David Gruber, an associate professor of biology at Barnard College in New York City and a National Geographic emerging explorer. "It bumped into us and I stayed with it for a few minutes. It was really calm and letting me film it. Then it kind of dove down a wall, and I just let it go." (See Images of Glowing Sea Turtle and Other Light-Emitting Creatures)

The finding is an important one: Though researchers have already found biofluorescence in aquarium-housed loggerhead sea turtles (Caretta caretta), this is the first time scientists have identified biofluorescence in a reptile in the wild, Gruber told Live Science.

Biofluorescence occurs when an organism absorbs light from an outside source, such as the sun, transforms it and then reemits it as a different color. (This is different from bioluminescence, a chemical reaction that helps creatures, such as fireflies, flash light. Some animals also host bioluminescent bacteria, such as flashlight fish.)

The field of biofluorescence has taken off in the past decade, with researchers identifying all sorts of biofluorescent marine animals, including corals, fishes, eels and sharks. The work is so groundbreaking that Gruber and his colleagues helped make a forthcoming Nova special called "Creatures of Light," he said.

Turtle time

The divers weren’t looking for glowing sea turtles on July 31, Gruber said. They had waited until nightfall — luckily they had a full moon — and took a boat to shallow water near Nugu Island, located in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific. Recent news of crocodile attacks had them on guard, but they dove into the water, and used blue lights to look for biofluorescent sharks.

Then, the turtle came along.
"This turtle almost seemed completely attracted to the blue lights that we were filming with, and just swam right into me," Gruber recalled.

Under the blue lights, the turtle fluoresced "a brilliant green," on its head, flippers and plastron (the underside of its shell), he said.

The shell glowed both red and green, but it's likely the red came from biofluorescent algae, Gruber said.

"This turtle was just hanging out with us. It was in love with the lights," Markus Reymann, the other diver and the director of TBA21-Academy, a group that pairs artists and scientists together, said in a National Geographic video. "And it was glowing neon yellow."

Gruber later showed the film to Jeanette Wyneken, a professor of biology at Florida Atlantic University. From the looks of it, the 3-foot-long (1 meter) turtle looks like a female that is nearing adulthood, she told him.

Gruber also spoke to some locals who kept captive juvenile hawksbill sea turtles, and found that they fluoresced green under a blue light. [The 7 Weirdest Glow-in-the-Dark Creatures]

Critically endangered

The hawksbill turtle may fluoresce to help it blend in with glowing coral reefs.

Credit: Copyright David Gruber

The hawksbill turtle breeds in more than 80 countries and is found in the Caribbean Sea and Indo-Pacific Ocean, but it's also critically endangered, partly because of climate change, illegal trade, bycatch (in which commercial fishers catch turtles by mistake while collecting other fish) and hunting, Gruber said.

"The Solomon [Islands] are one of the places where there's a large rookery of them," he said. "It's like a little hotspot where the hawksbills are still very healthy."
But it's difficult to study a critically endangered animal. Instead, Gruber says he'll probably study biofluorescence in the loggerhead turtle first, just because they're more accessible.

Still, it's anyone's guess why turtles would need to glow.

"It could be a way for them to communicate, for them to see each other better, [or] to blend into the reefs," which are also biofluorescent, Gruber said. "It adds visual texture into the world that's primarily blue."

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Editor's Recommendations
Former UM president Donna Shalala suffers stroke

HIGHLIGHTS
Shalala fell ill after event in Manhattan for Clinton Global Initiative

She served as UM president from 2001 until last month, when Julio Frenk took over

Statement says Shalala was alert and joking with Clinton, who visited her in the hospital
Donna Shalala stepped down as UM president last month after 14 years. Kane Velasquez

By Miami Herald Staff and wire reports

Former University of Miami president Donna Shalala suffered a stroke Tuesday night after a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative in New York.

Shalala, 74, stepped down from her UM post earlier this month. She is a former Cabinet secretary and CEO of the Clinton Foundation.

Clinton and his daughter Chelsea Clinton issued a statement saying the 74-year-old Shalala was stricken Tuesday evening following a meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative, the foundation's spin-off organization that seeks solutions to international problems. Its 2015 meeting began Saturday in New York.

"Fortunately she was with colleagues at the time and taken to the hospital for treatment," Bill and Chelsea Clinton said. "Initial reports are very encouraging."

She was alert and making jokes in the hospital, the New York Times reported.

Shalala took over at the Clinton Foundation this year. She became president of the University of Miami after serving eight years as Health and Human Services Secretary. She also was
chancellor at the University of Wisconsin and
president of Hunter College in New York.

She served as U.S. Secretary of Health and
Human Services while Bill Clinton was
president from 1993 to 2001, and stepped
down as UM president Aug. 16 after 14 years.
She was succeeded at UM by Julio Frenk.

"The University of Miami family is keeping
former president Donna Shalala in our
thoughts," the school said on Twitter. "We are
praying for her full recovery."
Richard (RJ) Eskow  "Become a fan"

**Sanders vs. Clinton: Who Has the Best Plan for America's College Students?**

Posted: 09/29/2015 3:37 pm EDT  |  Updated: 09/29/2015 3:59 pm EDT

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*Sign up [here](#) to get alerted when RJ posts a new segment on money and politics.*

The differences between the college financing plans offered by Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton are important - both for their impact on the middle class, and for what they tell us about the candidates and their governing philosophies.

Elementary and high school education is correctly seen as the bridge to a better future for young people. It is offered to all, at no cost, because we understand that society does better when the individuals within it do better.

When we made elementary school and high school free in the 1800s, the United States was a largely agrarian nation. The benefits a high school diploma provided back then - higher income, career opportunity, and the ability to fully participate in our democracy - often require a higher level of education in today's world. Will we provide them in the same democratic and progressive way our forebears did?

We know that our current system is broken. It has left more than 41 million Americans owing more than $1.3 trillion in student debt. That burden is holding back an entire generation of Americans and is harming the economy as a whole.

Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton have had fundamentally different responses to this crisis. While those differences have been papered over by some in the media, as well as some progressive groups, they are real - and they are significant.

The **Sanders plan provides tuition-free public higher education to every qualified student. The Clinton plan does not.**

The Sanders plan treats higher education the same way we have treated other forms of education in the past: Every young person who studies hard and succeeds in school should be able to get the education they need. By contrast, the Clinton plan charges tuition to middle-class students, using an as-yet unspecified formula based on a family's income.

*The Clinton approach is unnecessarily complicated.*

The Clinton plan is unnecessarily complicated and difficult to administer. It leaves a number of key questions open to manipulation by future politicians, such as: What are the thresholds for paying part of the tuition? What's a reasonable percent of family income to pay into the program?
"Compare that to the simplicity and safety of a program like Social Security, which is run at very-low-administrative cost. If you qualify for its benefits, you receive them. We don’t "means test" Social Security - and we shouldn’t. We shouldn’t do it for a public higher education, either.

The Clinton plan holds political risk.

The principles behind the Clinton plan seem closer to some of the Republican candidates’ ideas than they do to those of great Democratic presidents like Franklin D. Roosevelt. Chris Christie, for example, wants to cut Social Security benefits for Americans earning over $80,000.

Another conservative group, the Concord Coalition, proposed that Social Security benefits be cut for any family whose annual income exceeds $40,000 per year - and that includes both Social Security benefits and the cash value of their Medicare protection!

That’s the problem with ideas like these. Once the door is open, there’s always the possibility that politicians will use them to shift costs to the middle class.

The Clinton plan also requires middle-class students to work as well as study, something their wealthier peers won’t be required to do.

The Clinton plan also forces students who receive financial aid to work 10 hours a week, in addition to keeping up with their coursework.

College is a time for study and achievement. It can also be competitive. Students who are forced to comply with Clinton’s 10-hour-per-week work requirement - which is 1/4th of a full-time job - will carry a heavy burden of time and effort. Wealthy students won’t share that burden because their parents are paying full tuition.

“I'm not going to give free college to kids who don’t work some hours to try to put their own effort into their education,” says Hillary Clinton. But nothing is being "given." Students must work hard and achieve academic success in order to be accepted to college. This seems like an odd judgmental framing, especially if we believe that higher education and hard work are the doors to opportunity and improvement - for each individual student, and for society as a whole.

The Clinton plan doesn’t ask enough of the rich. It places a financial burden on the middle class instead.

It’s sometimes possible to make a burden on the middle class sound like a progressive idea. Chris Christie ludicrously claimed that "the left are defending the rich," for example, because progressives want to protect and expand Social Security benefits for everyone. (He didn’t mention the fact that progressives want "the rich" to pay their fair share in taxes to cover it.)

Hillary Clinton defends her college plan by saying that "I am not going to give free college education to wealthy kids." And yet Social Security, Medicare, public elementary and high schools, the federal highway system, and a host of other programs are also available to all who qualify.

Just as with these programs, the progressive way to finance education is by asking the wealthy to pay their fair share. If you think they’re paying enough for what they’re getting - which is what Clinton’s remark implies - you don’t create a system of fees, which will be trivial in truly wealthy households but burdensome for the middle class. You ask the rich to contribute in an equitable way.

That’s what the Sanders plan does. It’s financed by a tax on Wall Street speculators, the same wealthy people the American people bailed out after they crashed the economy. (The tax should also decrease risky high-volume automated trading, which will help everyone.)

The Clinton plan is not a "no debt" program.

While it has been described as a plan for eliminating student debt, the Clinton plan is highly unlikely to accomplish that goal. Middle-class families are struggling to make ends meet - a situation that already forced many to take on debt. Any plan which adds to their costs by charging for college tuition will inevitably force some cash-strapped families to take on additional debt.

The fact that it has been called a "no debt" plan is highly misleading.

The Sanders plan is a mainstream, practical and smart proposal.

The Sanders plan, by contrast, lies squarely in the line of great initiatives like Social Security. And it’s not a new idea. The University of California offered free tuition to all in-state residents until the 1980s. The average tuition fee at a four-year public university in 1965 was only $243. Many of the best colleges, including the City University of New York, charged no tuition at all.

Germany eliminated tuition at public universities last year because they understood that their modest fees - roughly $1,300 per year - discouraged qualified students from going to college. Other countries are doing the same.

In the end, the difference between these two plans isn’t just financial. It also reflects different views of ourselves as a nation, and different attitudes toward the middle class and the young.
TELEVISION

What’s on TV Wednesday

By KATHRYN SHATTUCK  SEPT. 30, 2015

9 P.M. (13), 10 P.M. (49) E. O. WILSON — OF ANTS AND MEN What do ants have to do with human nature? Mr. Wilson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning biologist often called “a Darwin for the modern day,” has spent a lifetime figuring it out. Inspired by observations of insects during his Alabama childhood, he made groundbreaking contributions to human evolutionary theory and population dynamics in books like “The Theory of Island Biogeography,” his 1967 work on conservation biology written with the ecologist Robert H. MacArthur. In 1975 he stirred up controversy with “Sociobiology,” which revolutionized thought about animal societies, including that of humans. This documentary examines Mr. Wilson’s life and work, exploring three themes: the wonder of nature, the evolution of human social behavior and mankind’s need to come to terms with its place in the natural world.

7:30 A.M. (CUNY) CUNY TV PRESENTS ABNY New York City Police Commissioner William J. Bratton discusses public safety and quality of life. “EdCast,” at 10:30 a.m., looks at Mayor Bill de Blasio’s vision for public schools. And in “Potus 2016 With Brian Lehrer,” at 7:30 p.m., Frank Rich, a writer at large for New York magazine, talks about his cover article “Donald Trump Is Saving Our Democracy.”
Forbes editor speaks at Queens College business forum
By Madina Toure
TimesLedger Newspapers

At last week’s Queens College Business Forum, John Tanny, editor of RealClearMarkets and the political economy editor at Forbes, maintained that allowing rich individuals to keep their money gives everyone else immediate access to their wealth.

Speaking before students, faculty and alumni at the 10th annual business forum in the Student Union of Queens College, located at 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Tanny gave a presentation on his book, “The Unrelenting Beauty of Wealth Inequality.”

He argued that an increase in society's wealth gap would make goods and services accessible to more people at a faster rate.

“I don’t buy all the negativity out there, all this talk that our best days are behind us,” Tanny said.

He also noted that students need careers that capitalize on their talents and that wealthy individuals cannot spend all their money in one place, giving socialite Paris Hilton as an example.

“If you want to spread the wealth of the rich around, the quickest way to do it is to let them hold on to it,” he said.

Tanny previously worked in private wealth management for Credit Suisse and Goldman Sachs. He received his bachelor’s degree in government from the University of Texas at Austin and his MBA from Vanderbilt University’s Owen Graduate School of Management. He lives in Washington, D.C.

Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez commended Tanny for his ability to communicate complicated economic principles in a simple way.

“He makes them simple, he makes them understandable,” Rodríguez said. “He makes them accessible to any large audience.”

During the question-and-answer session, attendees expressed concerns about what they believed to be Tanny’s oversimplification of inequality.

Sponsors of the event included the Melrose Credit Union, the Queens Chamber of Commerce, the Queens Economic Development Corporation and Farrell Fritz Attorneys.

Launched in 2005, the business forum unites the business community, local government, academia and students. Influential leaders spanning a variety of fields serve as keynote speakers at the forum’s breakfast and luncheon lectures.

The next business forum, scheduled for Nov. 20, will feature Patrick Foye, the Port Authority’s executive director.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at mtoure@cnnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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Glow-in-dark sea turtle discovered: Mutant, maybe, but definitely not a ninja

On a diving expedition, marine biologists found a glowing hawksbill sea turtle — the first instance of a reptile observed to be biofluorescent.

By Cathalene Chen, Staff

September 29, 2015

It was like a dazzling spacecraft, the scientist recalls.

Beautifully striped, like an incandescent UFO gliding through the ocean floor, the hawksbill sea turtle was glowing — the first known instance of a reptile exhibiting biofluorescence, an ability to absorb the blue light of the water and emit it as a different color. In other biofluorescent animals, the gleaming result is often neon green, red, and orange.


Recommended: Name that animal (Environment/2013/0815/Name-that-animal/1)

"Out of the blue, 40 minutes into the dive — it almost looks like a bright red and green spaceship — it came underneath the camera," Dr. Gruber says in a
video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kmEyDmuUSA). "It just bumped into us... Came in front of my lens and then hung out with us for five minutes."

Eстатик about his find, the marine biology professor at City University of New York explains that the only animal known to glow two colors is coral. Other sea creatures that glow through bioluminescence include sharks, sea horses, a number of fish, and tiny crustaceans called copepods.

Bioluminescence differs from bioluminescence, which is a chemical reaction within the body that creates radiant light. Bioluminescent animals (http://blog.luminescencefacts.org/tagged/bioluminescent) include jellyfish and deep sea fish, who use their glowing to navigate, communicate, and lure prey.

Gruber and his team recorded the turtle before it dove deep into the dark waters using a video camera that emitted an artificial blue illumination identical to the blue light of the ocean. Later, when the marine biologist found a local community that kept several captive young hawksbills, he found that they all glowed red.

"I've been [studying turtles] for a long time and I don't think anyone's ever seen this," Alexander Gaas, director of the Eastern Pacific Hawksbill Initiative, told National Geographic. "This is really quite amazing."

Recommended. IN PICTURES /Photo-Galleries/In-Pictures Endangered animals /Photo-Galleries/In-Pictures/Endangered-animals

Neither Mr. Gaas nor Gruber is sure why the hawksbill sea turtles bioluminesce. Gaas, who was not involved in the discovery, speculated that it could be a kind of camouflage in this instance.

Even without bioluminescence, hawksbill sea turtles have famously colorful shells (http://www.seaturtles.org/hawksbill-turtles/), which led to massive population declines as the animals were hunted to make tortoiseshell products.

Named for their birdlike beak and narrow head, these turtles feed mostly on sponges and algae in rocky areas and coral reefs. They have a mutually beneficial relationship with corals, as the sponges the turtles consume can suface to reefs. The largest hawksbill populations are in the Caribbean Sea, the Seychelles, Indonesia, Mexico, and Australia.

Globally, hawksbill sea turtles are critically endangered. Just in the last century, they've diminished by more than 80 percent. Before international tortoiseshell trade became illegal, they were hunted almost to extinction.
PSC To Deliver ‘Wake Up Call’ To Snoozing CUNY Chancellor

September 30, 2015
By Joe Maniscalco

New York, NY - The union representing City University of New York faculty and staff is about to make good on its promise to turn up the heat on Chancellor James Milliken — and they say the push for a fair contract is as much about the kind of learning experience CUNY students have been getting as it is about standing up for members' rights.

CUNY educators haven't had a raise in six years, and according to Professional Staff Congress President Barbara Bowen, that sad fact is making it harder for good teachers to turn down better offers from outside the system, at the same time academic departments are finding it more difficult to attract fresh talent.

"When [CUNY] academic departments go to recruit people, they have terrific candidates — but when they hear about the salary, they are stunned," Bowen told LaborPress.

CUNY professors, for example, earn more than $26,000 less than their counterparts at Rutgers University, according to figures reflecting average academic salaries at the time the last contract expired back in 2009. The union says the staggering disparity has only grown more acute in the intervening years.

Adjunct professors have it even worse. Although they teach half of all of CUNY's courses, adjuncts have no permanent relationship to the university. Many struggle to pay rent, and some must even rely on public assistance to get by.

As dire as that is, the biggest losers might be the hardworking students of CUNY themselves who have both pushed enrollment levels to historic highs, and pay consistently higher tuition costs.

More than half of the mostly minority students attending CUNY schools throughout the system come from homes with incomes of $30,000 or less. They work hard, many juggling work and studies in a time-honored effort to do better than their parents. What they are finding, however, are overcrowded classrooms and teachers spread too thin to give them the academic attention all students need.

"As a professor, you just don't have time to spend with your students," Bowen says. "I recently talked with a Columbia student who had a two-hour conference with a professor. I was thrilled for him, but heartbroken that CUNY professors rarely get a chance to meet with students — let alone two hours. You can't spend two hours with students when you have 45 students in class."

New legislation awaiting Governor Cuomo's approval could help pump more money back into a system that has seen its funding continually wither over the last three decades.

Milliken, who reportedly enjoys a whopping $570,000 salary, has previously referenced the pending funding package as an impediment to achieving a fair contract with faculty and staff. Bowen, however, argues that the CUNY chancellor has a responsibility to put a fair offer on the table.

"The city and state are both sitting on budget surpluses," Bowen says. "This is the smartest investment they can make."

Hundreds of CUNY faculty and staff are expected to rally outside Milliken's 215 East 88th Street address at 6 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, to deliver that message.
I always thought octopuses came from Mars. Maybe I'll be proved right now

Dave Bry

Now that we know that there is water on Mars, will it soon be accepted knowledge that octopuses trace their evolutionary roots back to the planet?

Tuesday 29 September 2015 11.45 EDT

Surely you heard the news from outer space yesterday: scientists have confirmed the existence of water, flowing water, on Mars. This is phenomenal news, of course, for David Bowie and the rest of us interested in the search for extra terrestrial life. Because we know that water is a necessary condition for life, as we understand it, to flourish.

Such a discovery sets our imaginations spinning while raising a raft of related questions: will this make it easier for us to send humans like Matt Damon to go live on Mars? Can we somehow siphon Mars's water to help solve the horrible drought in California so we can grow more delicious almonds? Or even just: where does the Red Planet's water, evidenced by hydrated salt detected in the dark streaks known as "recurring slope lineae" visible on the surface, come from? Whatever you're asking, if you're not imagining a subterranean ocean teeming with bizarre forms of life like the sea of monsters that the Beatles sail through in The Yellow Submarine, you're clearly not assessing all your options.

Of even more immediate concern to my mind (and, one would imagine, to David Bowie's) is the possibility that whatever might be floating around up there in that Martian water might have, eons ago, evaporated up off Mars, travelled across the Milky Way in tiny space water droplets the size of dust particles or something, entered Earth's atmosphere and landed in our oceans, where they've been sustained by the water we have here. Maybe that's where those indestructible tardigrades came from. Or, maybe, octopuses.

This is a theory I've had for a little while now. I've been reluctant to share it up to this point, for fear of being ridiculed, but now that we have established that there's water on Mars, here is a prediction: 50 years from now, it will be accepted scientific knowledge that octopuses trace their evolutionary roots back to Mars.

Have you been following octopus news over the past few years? It's been pretty mind-blowing. We're learning more and more about the feats of intelligence and sensitivity these eight-legged, three-hearted cephalopods have been known to perform. They can recognize individual caretakers. They decorate their homes with rocks and shiny objects (a
fact that was the impetus for the song Octopus's Garden that human children are so fond of singing. They open jars, carry coconuts shells like umbrellas, play with Legos and film movies on stolen video cameras.

They have a seemingly magical ability to change their color and shape and texture and patterning to match that of their surroundings or other creatures in their environment. It happens instantaneously. Years ago, snorkeling in Costa Rica, I watched one swimming over a bed of various types of coral, changing color and pattern as it went. It was like it was wearing Harry Potter's cloak of invisibility. I thought I might be dreaming. As Orion magazine's Sy Montgomery reported in his classic 2011 essay "Deep Intellect", scientists have discovered gene sequences in the epidermis of cephalopods usually found only in the light-sensing retina of the eye. Basically, the thinking goes, they can see with their skin.

Also, apparently, octopuses have psychic powers. Five years ago, during the World Cup, an octopus named Paul that lived in an aquarium in Oberhausen, Germany, correctly predicted the outcome of all seven of the German team's matches. He became a world-famous celebrity, dying shortly thereafter like James Dean.

In "Deep Intellect", Montgomery quotes Peter Godfrey-Smith, a diver and professor of philosophy at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, who says, "Meeting an octopus is like meeting an intelligent alien".

So I wouldn't be surprised if octopuses up and disappear from our planet after we determine that they came here from Mars. They'll probably leave us a note that says "so long and thanks for all the fish" like the dolphins did in the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. (It'll be thanks for all the shellfish, mostly, in the octopuses' case.)

And then they'll somehow beam themselves right back up to Mars, where they'll continue to live, in water.
What do Lady Gaga, President Obama, and the head of Harvard University have in common?

They're all speaking out to stop sexual assault -- and not a moment too soon.

The headlines call attention to the problem on college campuses: "Survey: More than 1 in 5 female undergrads at top schools suffer sexual attacks." It's important to have this information. But we need to remember that most rapes happen outside of campus, in every kind of setting -- your kid's school, your neighbor's home, the community center down the block. And we can't leave out the church, the workplace, the military or the therapist's couch. For gay and trans people, rape may also come at the hands of police. Stranger rape still happens, of course, but even more unsettling is the prevalence of assaults in places we expect to be safe, often by people we are told to trust.

Solutions require us to acknowledge the scope of the problem. But it's also time to focus on the growing tide of activism. The problem certainly isn't new; neither is resistance. Today, we're seeing a new wave of organizing on campuses and in communities that is helping to write a different narrative. With support from the administration and popular culture icons like Lady Gaga, we can focus on what's needed and band together to make it happen.

Lady Gaga reminds us that rape is an injury with long-lasting effects. She originally recorded her song, "Til It Happens To You," for the documentary, "The Hunting Ground," about campus sexual assault. The video's widespread release is a great tool for increasing awareness:

You tell me hold your head up, hold your head up and be strong
Cause when you fall you gotta get up, you gotta get up and move on
Tell me how the hell could you talk, how could you talk?
Cause until you walk where I walk, this is no joke

The Obama administration just commemorated its first year of activism on the issue. Their message is a simple one: "It's On Us." Stop blaming those who get raped and teaching females what to do to avoid assault. We need to focus instead on the role all of us can play to stop rape culture.

Plenty of people are not jumping on the bandwagon. The Washington Post quoted a Brooklyn College professor who's baffled at the notion that someone who experiences rape would fail to report it, assuming students at elite institutions know full well what sexual assault is. He ignores the prevalence of a culture that says, "If you were partying with the guy, you must have wanted it, asked for it." Interview anyone involved with the issue and they'll tick off the barriers. Some women blame themselves for not being able to make it stop. Some are afraid they'll get in trouble for underage drinking. Others feel like "a nobody going against a somebody" and think no one would believe them. Most see no systems to help or don't trust the ones that exist.

Typically, high schools do not address the issue. More colleges are taking it up, under requirements under Title IX. But too many colleges have online "prevention" programs with no discussion or interaction with other students, aimed at minimal compliance with the law.

Groups like Know Your IX and local campus organizations across the country are doing the vital work of helping those who experience rape take steps to seek healing and justice. They're also working hard on prevention, to get college administrations to focus on meaningful training of students and those charged with handling intake and investigation of complaints, and to be transparent and produce regular reports on the outcome of those complaints.
Lady Gaga has pledged a portion of the proceeds from her video to support groups like these. All of us can help as well. The greater the power of these activists, the closer we'll get to ending gender-based violence.

Ellen Bravo's new novel, Again and Again, is a political thriller involving campus date rape and a key U.S. Senate race.

Follow Ellen Bravo on Twitter: www.twitter.com/EmilyValuesWork
MORE: Rape Campus Date Rape Lady Gaga It's on Us Know Your IX
Ta-Nehisi Coates and other authors who landed MacArthur 'genius' grants: What made them stand out

By CAROLYN KELLOGG

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015, 9:01 AM

Of the 24 MacArthur "genius grant" fellowship recipients named Tuesday, three are primarily authors.

The best known is Ta-Nehisi Coates, a writer at the Atlantic whose 2015 book "Between the World and Me" crystallized and personalized the contemporary conversations about race in America. The book, which has topped the Los Angeles Times bestseller list, is on the longlist for the National Book Award in nonfiction.

Coates, Rebecca Carroll wrote in our review, "has become the most sought-after public intellectual on the issue of race in America, with good reason. 'Between the World and Me,' rushed to print (its original publication date was set for September) in the wake of the Charleston massacre, the multiple fatal shootings of black men by police in just the last year and the founding of the Black Lives Matter movement, is at once a magnification and a distillation of our existence as black people in a country we were not meant to survive. It is a straight tribute to our strength, endurance and grace. ... While it is clear that Coates has focused on the black male, he has also written a book that speaks resolutely and vividly to all of black America."

In addition to Coates, novelist, poet and critic Ben Lerner and poet and teacher Ellen Bryant Voigt have been named MacArthur Fellows.

Lerner, 36, is widely regarded as one of his generation's most intriguing writers. He's the author of the novels "Leaving the Atocha Station" and "10:04," both of which play with the idea of a narrator, Ben, whose life mirrors some aspects of Lerner's own. He's the author of three poetry collections, including "Angle of Yaw," which critic Craig Morgan Teicher called "highly ambitious," describing its best poems as "entertaining, sharp, disturbing, and excellent." Lerner, the co-founder of the influential (now-defunct) poetry journal No, now teaches at Brooklyn
College and has a forthcoming monograph, "The Hatred of Poetry."

At 72, Voigt is the eldest of the 2015 class of Fellows. She is has published eight poetry collections, beginning with "Claiming Kin" in 1976 and, most recently, "Headwaters" in 2013. Voigt, who earned an MFA at the Iowa Writers Workshop, founded the first low-residency creative writing MFA program in 1976 -- originally based at Goddard College, it is now at the Warren Wilson School. Voigt served as the Vermont State Poet for four years, followed by a six-year stint as Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, and has written two books about the writer's craft.

Each of the grantees will be awarded $625,000 over five years.

**Book news and more; I'm @paperhaus on Twitter**

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