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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

# **VANGUARD**

Fall 2019, Issue 3

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Wednesday, September 18

## 2020 VISION

BC WEIGHS IN ON DEM PRIMARY



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the Last of the Class of '32

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# Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist Obituary

By Gabriela Flores  
*Staff Writer*

On Tuesday, September 10, 2019, the BC Family's sole living member of the first graduating class of 1932, Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist passed away at 107 years old.

Ethel was born into a Christian family in 1912, sharing her faith as president of Brooklyn College's Young Women's Christian Association. As an active student, majoring in English and Latin, Ethel was involved in the Publicity Committee for Sophocles' tragedy Antigone, the sorority Alpha Delta Pi and Senior Prom Committee. Despite her undergraduate years being at the peak of the Great Depression and nationwide nadirs of

several universities, Ethel graduated cum laude.

Brooklyn College's beloved alumna overcame her challenges optimistically and with her captivating lovely smile. From bustling through our elm tree-filled campus as a collegiate theater producer to earning a mere \$14 a week as a Macy's employee post-graduation, Ethel embodied a New York go-getter. After living in the evergreen neighborhood of Fresh Meadows as an investment firm staffer, Ethel resided in Flushing House Assisted Living. There she continued her impressive craft of quilting, and creating floral and rhombic appliqués.

During her lifetime, Ethel witnessed the many dynamic changes our country has undergone,



Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist's 1932 yearbook picture.

through interwar and many others, we will diplomacies to the not forget Ethel. revolutionizing Civil Rights Movement. Legendarily, We send our sincere condolences to the Lagarenne Hagquist family. she experienced one of America's most defining centuries. For that reason

## EVENT LISTING

### Wednesday, September 18

**Bitcoin Explained**  
12:30 AM - 1:30 PM  
Student Center Bedford  
Lounge (2nd Floor)

**Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity Meeting**  
7:00 PM, Student Center International Room (5th floor)

### Thursday, September 19

**L.I.N.K.'s Lunch N' Learn**  
12:15 AM - 1:30 PM  
Hillel

**Haitian American Student Association's General Meeting**  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Student Center Glenwood  
Lounge (2nd Floor)

**Japanese Language & Culture Society's Meeting**  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Student Center International  
Room (5th floor)

**The Muslims Giving Back's Bake Sale**  
11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
Whitehead Breezeway

**Students Partnering and Reaching Kids (SPARK)'s Interest Meeting**  
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Hall of Fame Room

**International Socialists Organization "Bernie, Socialism, and our Campus Movements"**  
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM  
Student Center Maroney-Leddy  
Lounge (4th floor)

**Chabad Club's Delve & Dine**  
12:00 PM- 2:15 PM  
Student Center Maroon Room  
(6th floor)

**The Accounting Society's Meet PwC**  
12:15 PM - 2:15 PM  
Student Center Bedford  
Lounge (2nd floor)

**The National Association of Black Accountants' Pre-Conference Meeting**  
12:00 PM - 2:30 PM  
Student Center Cosmic Conference Room (5th floor)

**The Badminton Club's Meeting and Practice**  
12:15 PM - 3:00 PM  
211 Roosevelt Extension

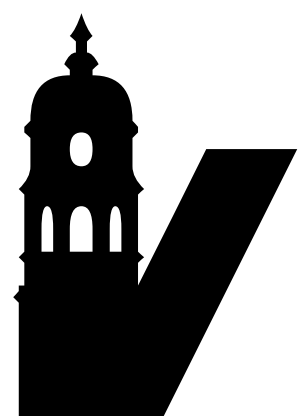
**Chabad Club's Delve & Dine**  
12:00 PM- 2:15 PM  
Student Center Maroon Room  
(6th floor)

**The Brooklyn Bahaadur's Auditions (second date)**  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Student Center Maroney-Leddy  
Lounge (4th floor)

**Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority's "Food for Thought"**  
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Student Center Amersfort  
Lounge (2nd floor)

### Friday, September 13

**Islamic Society's Jummah Meeting**  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM  
Student Center Alumni Lounge  
(4th floor)



# Survey Says: Tenured Profs, Adjuncts Split Over Adjunct Pay

By Quiara Vasquez  
Editor-in-Chief

For years, CUNY educators have been pushing for adjunct pay to be doubled to \$7,000 per course, but new data suggests that a majority of tenured and tenure-track professors don't think the \$7K movement is "very important."

That's just one of many findings from a survey of over 8,000 members of CUNY's faculty union, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY). Conducted in spring 2017, shortly after the ratification of CUNY's most recent contract, the survey was released to the public last month. Clocking in at 47 pages, it contains data on everything from satisfaction with individual campus administrations to how much CUNY faculty spends on housing.

"My hot take on what this survey means is that it's a lot of really rich information that the union can use in the bargaining process," said James Davis, Brooklyn College's PSC chapter chair. "Rather than speculate about the last contract, it's a much more systematic way of measuring people's actual responses and their actual aspirations for the next contract."

The most surprising - or unsurprising - finding of the report was that full-time professors and adjuncts

are sharply divided over the issue of adjunct pay. When asked whether it was "very important" for PSC-CUNY to address "an increase in per-course pay for adjuncts to \$7,000," an overwhelming 88% of adjuncts said yes. Only 43% of full-timers said yes.

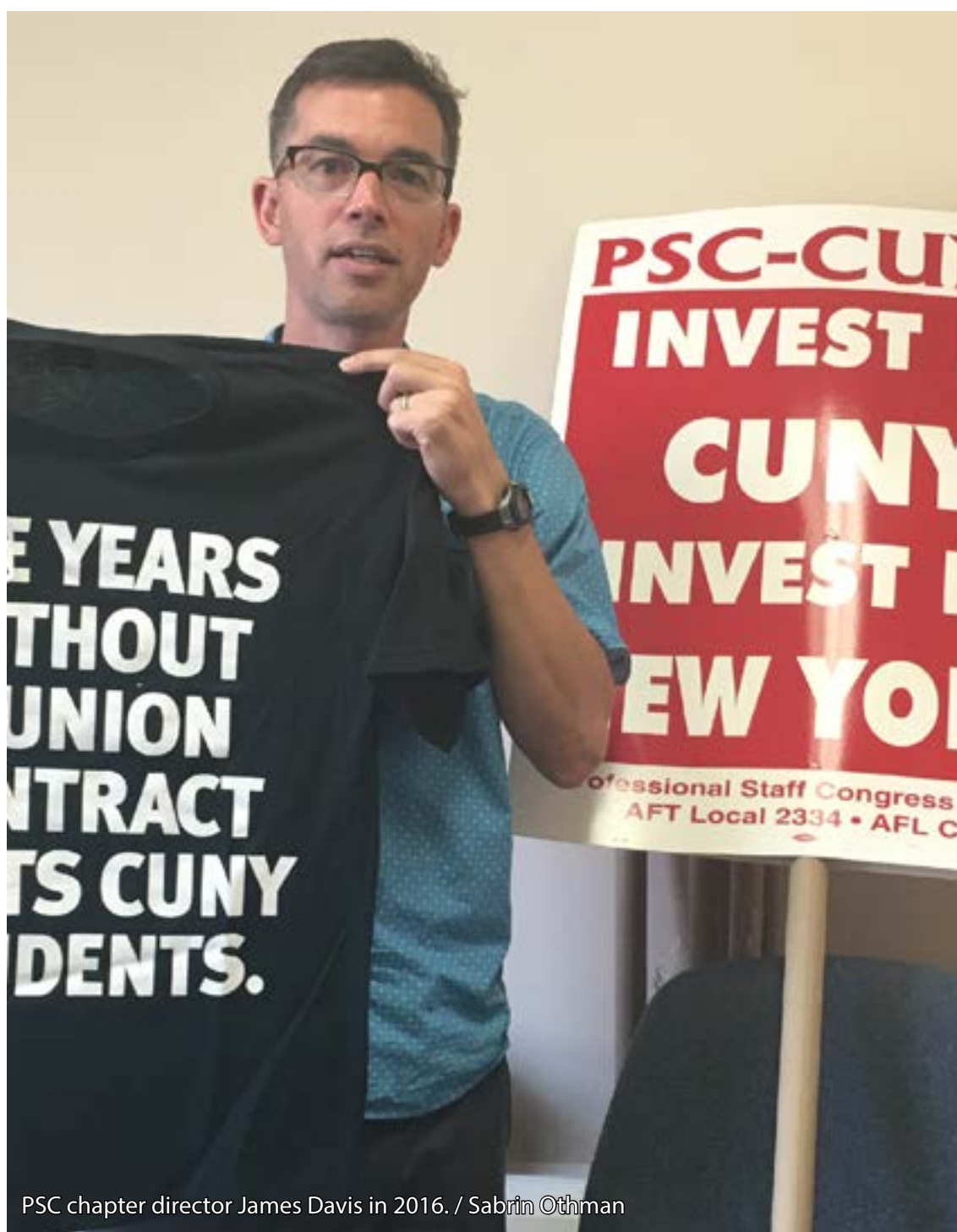
"I was troubled to see those initial percentages myself," Davis said. "As a full-time faculty member it's very clear, the urgency for major salary equity increase for adjuncts. It's discouraging to see that gap."

Although Davis admitted, that although results are troubling, a lot of progress has been made since spring 2017. "A lot of work has been done since the survey was conducted to educate full-timers in professional staff and teaching faculty of the need for adjunct wage increases," he said.

Davis also noted that despite the gap, 43% isn't nothing.

"It's encouraging that nearly 50% of full-time faculty who have no self-interest are still vocal in their support," he said.

A similar gap appears when asked how salary increases should be distributed. According to the data, 61% of adjuncts surveyed favored "equity raises" which would result in higher gains for underpaid part-time employees and



PSC chapter director James Davis in 2016. / Sabrin Othman

lower gains for full-time employees. Only 9% of adjuncts were opposed. In sharp contrast, only 25% of full-timers approved of these equity raises, while 51% disapproved.

"Some people seem to have an objection to anything except exactly the same percentage for anyone," Davis noted. "But it doesn't

take a math genius to see that's a very regressive way of applying wage increases, because the largest dollar amount will go to the people who make the most money with a flat, across-the-board increase."

Still, he argued that a "no" on the equity raise question didn't necessarily mean a lack of adjunct support.

"I don't really know when people read that, whether they have some objection to the specific dollar amount or to the very idea of a percentage increase for different job titles," Davis said.

**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD**

is looking for writers, photographers, and illustrators!

For more info, contact us at [TheBCVanguard@gmail.com](mailto:TheBCVanguard@gmail.com)

Or stop by during club hours: 11-4 Mondays/Tuesdays in 118 Roosevelt

# BC On The 2020 Democratic Candidates

By Gabriela Flores &  
Kevin Limiti  
*Staff Writer & News Editor*

The Democratic Primary debates are over, but the discussion continues on the Brooklyn College campus and elsewhere.

Currently, former Vice President Joe Biden is the leader in most polls. According to the Morning Consult, Biden leads at 32%, followed by Bernie Sanders at 20%, Elizabeth Warren at 18%, and Kamala Harris at 6%. Every other candidate is polling at 5% or below, and hasn't made any significant gains since the debate.

The Vanguard spoke to some students about their concerns, issues, and preferred Democratic candidates for the 2020 presidential campaign.

Terrance Austin, a student who migrated to the United States legally, was unsure of which candidate to support because he wanted to hear more about immigration. He believes that immigration policies have been "screwed over to high hell" and currently reflect the conflict of the "American people versus the American Dream." Austin spoke about the difficulties of immigrants getting visas stating, "at least give them the opportunity to come before denying them access."



Paulina Vaynshteyn, a Philosophy major, admitted that she believed Sanders was "crazy," but is also the candidate that she would ideally prefer. "My ideal is Bernie, but realistically I'm rooting for Warren," she said.

The biggest issue for both Sanders and Warren was health care. Sanders and Warren are both in favor of Medicare for All, which would create a single-payer, government-run health care system. In a Morning Consult survey, health

care was considered to be the most crucial issue of likely primary voters with 25% saying it was their top priority. Economic issues came in second at 22%.

Safyyah Kazim didn't watch the debate but knew a lot of people that were in favor of businessman Andrew Yang. The "Freedom Dividend," which is his name for a universal basic income program, is on his agenda if elected as president. However, she thinks that the monthly allowance

of \$1,000 could lead to a "dependency" that will be significantly affected during an economic crisis.

Yang is concerned that artificial intelligence will soon cause massive changes to the workforce and create unemployment issues paramount to the Great Depression. In a New York Times article last year, Yang said, "We have five to ten years before truckers lose their jobs and all hell breaks loose."

After the debate, Yang's favorability increased from

28% to 34%. However, he is currently polling at 3%.

In a poll conducted by FiveThirtyEight, respondents graded candidates on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the best. The clear winner was Elizabeth Warren who, according to the polling data, was considered to have performed the best of all ten candidates with a grade of 3.3. South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former Texas Congressman Beto O'Rourke were tied for second, with 3.1 in the same poll. Cory Booker, Bernie Sanders, and Joe Biden were tied for third with an even 3. Kamala Harris, Amy Klobuchar, Andrew Yang, and Julian Castro brought up the rear, each scoring below a 3.

One of the debate's most notable moments came when Julian Castro suggested that Biden had forgotten what he said minutes earlier about citizens buying into their health care. Castro's remark created controversy, with some accusing Castro of ageism.

Also cited by FiveThirtyEight was the chances of each candidate beating President Trump in a general election. Joe Biden was considered to have a 67% chance,



# Black Club Mixer

By Carolann Lowe  
Staff Writer

On Thursday, September 12th, the Student Center's Golden Room was filled with an ambience of black solidarity. The Black Club Mixer was held by the Brooklyn College African Student Union which included 13 Brooklyn College black student clubs in attendance.

The evening began with the playing of board games as an ice breaker for those in attendance, some of whom were previously acquainted with one

another and others who had never been involved in the black student clubs.

E-board members from each club took turns introducing themselves and educating attendees of what their clubs had to offer as well as using the opportunity to announce upcoming social events with the intention of recruiting students to take part in their organizations. The black student clubs that were present at the Black Club Mixer included: Glamazon, Blaze Dance Team, Caribbean Student Union, ARTiculate,



Members at the Black Club Mixer/ Carolann Lowe

Women of Color, Psychology Club, National Black Law Students Association,

Haitian-American Student Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Black Solidarity Day Committee, National Association of Black Accountants, Nu Omega Chi Fraternity, and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority.

The mixer served various foods such as jollof rice, jerk chicken, plantains, cooked vegetables, cornbread, and more. The evening persisted with games and activities such

as African Jeopardy where the room was divided into two teams and competed to answer trivia questions that tested their knowledge of African culture. They also competed against each other in a friendly game of musical chairs. The remainder of the mixer was accompanied by the dancing and enjoyment of afrobeats, soca, dancehall, and hip hop music.



BC's very own Glamazon booth!/ Carolann Lowe

## Wanna Learn Japanese? There's a club for that!

By MA Rahman  
Features Editor

Brooklyn College Japanese Language and Cultural Society (JLCS) surprises and shares tales of adoration for both the Japanese language and culture with "Keirō no Hi" or "Respect for the Aged Day."

Members of the JLCS were in high spirits upon seeing one another again in JLCS's first meeting of the Fall semester with some members uncertain what the occasion might entail.

"When my second grade teacher came back from Japan with all these experiences and this new language, I was like "Oh my God I want to go there myself," said Alum Nirvana Ganpat, explaining her age-long interest in learning of Japanese culture and traditions.

The club, which prides itself on its mission

to raise awareness and engagement from students with the Japanese language and culture, boasts a considerable range of non-native Japanese members of JLCS, most fixated with some particular facet of Japanese life and society such as entertainment or culinary.

"Why I got into Japanese culture was not because of anime or manga like most people here," said JLCS President LaClaire Robinson, adding that "growing up in Saint-Vincent, my moms coworker and my music teacher were both Japanese which I thought was so cool and different that I wanted to study their culture since everyone else in Saint-Vincent basically looked like me."

Not seeking to discredit the motivations some students had, Robinson acknowledged that regardless of reason(s) students might have to

join the club, they were welcomed, but insisted that members took the task of learning the culture with exceptional seriousness.

Organizers motioned attendees around a projector where they gained their first introduction into the holiday that commemorates elderly individuals with visitations and gifts on the third Monday of September in Japan.

Following the insightful video, organizers looked to form a study circle to discuss the holiday and personal experiences of students sharing acts of kindness to elderly persons around them.

Organizers facilitated this discussion with one caveat—speakers must speak in Japanese, reaffirming JLCS commitment to its root mission of trying to engross students in Japanese culture to the



Brooklyn College Japanese Language & Cultural Society meeting./ MA Rahman

extent of gaining practical understanding of it.

"My grandmother's birth certificate has a mistake that says she was born on the 27th when she was really born on the 29th, so celebrates her birthday really two days early," LaClaire shared both in Japanese and in English after translating to students not so fluently in Japanese, before encouraging them to share their own stories.

After some time the meeting began to transpire into off-topic discussion concerning which popular anime may or may not have been terrible in the

eyes of longtime members of the "Anime" club in attendance, arousing good natured humor that JLCS organizers enjoyed rather than shutdown.

"I really enjoyed the conversation because I mostly study on my own and it is nice to speak to others in Japanese and be understood" reflected Devante Middleton, a senior, computer science major and JLCS Vice-president, delightful of the day's turnout.

Later adding "I feel a strong sense of community here now."

# Brooklyn Bahaadur Brings Bollywood Flair

By Natalina Ziemann  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College's very own Brooklyn Bahaadur dance team held auditions Thursday night on Sept. 12th.

The captain of the team is Rebecca Varghese, a junior anthropology major, who led the auditions.

Brooklyn Bahaadur was established last semester by Rebecca Varghese, a junior majoring in Anthropology. Varghese and her friend started the team because most CUNY and SUNY schools have competitive Bollywood dance teams, something which Brooklyn College lacked. Last semester, the team got onto one of Long Island's biggest Bollywood dance competition called Sholay.

The inspiration behind the Brooklyn Bahaadur team was Varghese's dance history with bharatanatyam.

"Bharatanatyam is a very old, ancient art form," Varghese

explained. "It's similar to yoga, in that the poses and the things that you do are spiritual. But it's also like a cultural art form. There are different components to it."

"Natyam' means acting. So within the dance, there are a lot of facial expressions, and your hands have to be expressive, and the way your body has to be held is very structured."

The team's main dance form is Bollywood cinematic dance, which Varghese described as "kind of like if you take Indian classical style dance and you combine it with hip-hop," but they put their own spin on the dance styles.

The music that the team danced to was different than if you were to attend a hip-hop dance class, because the music varies between hip-hop, R&B, and Hindi music remixes. Although the music is very upbeat, the teams dance moves were flowy and full of emotion.

During the auditions, Varghese and her team



The Brooklyn Bahaadur Team in action! / Natalina Ziemann

were very patient when it came to teaching the new students technique, going quite literally step-by-step. They made sure the auditioners were comfortable with the moves, continually offering their help and guidance. Their main thing, though, was making sure everyone was having fun. The team is warm-hearted and welcoming. The only thing she expects from auditioners, as the captain, is "to come here with an open mind."

"It's not about 'I messed up this step' or 'I didn't get that right away,'" Varghese explained. "It's really about your attitude, how much fun you're having with it, because we're all going on to different careers from here, and what we're doing here is having a lot of fun with it. We have to work hard at it but at the end of the day it's really about enjoying it."

Bahaadur is the Hindi word for brave and bold, which is what the team wants

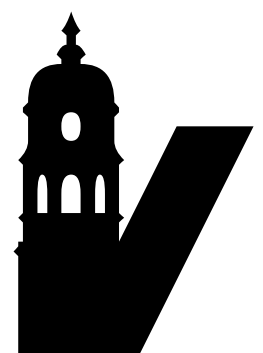
to bring to the dance circuit. They strive to be a little different and a little edgier, as well as emulate a family dynamic within the squad. Everyone on the team relies on each other, not just for dance, but for outside things like in school, or if they need a friend to talk to.

It is evident from just one meeting that Brooklyn Bahaadur is a very welcoming group, with a strong captain and team. Anyone and everyone is welcomed with open arms. So if you like dancing, and you want to do it, this is a great area for you to showcase your talents, make a ton of friends, and have fun!

"Just come with an open mind and bring a positive attitude," Varghese said. "I really value teamwork and kindness as well."



The Brooklyn Bahaadur Team practicing. / Natalina Ziemann



# BC Alum Organizes Esophageal Cancer Run

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

This Saturday, Sept. 14, over 100 attendees and over 50 runners congregated in Brooklyn's Marine Park to do just that at the 1st Annual Esophageal Cancer Awareness Run/Walk which was sponsored by the Salgi Esophageal Cancer Research Foundation. When Brooklyn College alum Dara Mormile '03 lost her father Joseph to esophageal cancer in 2010, she realized that there was an urgent need to better educate the public and to raise money in order to combat the illness.

"I think God is shining on our cause, because it's a glorious day today," said State Senator Andrew Gounardes, one of several local politicians who gave remarks at the event, proudly wore number 36 as a participant.

Also present was the other state senator for Marine Park, Roxanne Persaud. She has known

Mormile for over a decade due to her work at the Canarsie Courier newspaper, and had even given Mormile a Thanksgiving basket shortly after her father's passing as a condolence.

"Dara is showing the Brooklyn way of leading the charge," Persaud said. "She's pulled every string to get to this point, because it's personal."

Mormile's father, Joseph, had all the symptoms of esophageal cancer but Joseph, Dara, and their family doctor, had not been able to connect the dots in time.

"He had heartburn, acid flux, indigestion, trouble swallowing... he had all of that, for quite a few years," Mormile remembered. "The doctor would just give him prescription pills, like Nexium or whatever, to treat the heartburn. But it wasn't until the food literally couldn't go down that they suspected it was more serious."

In the years after her father's death,



Dara Mormile next to an image of her father. / Dara Mormile

Dara Mormile started hearing many stories similar to hers. Early screening and treatment efforts for esophageal cancer haven't advanced all that much, she says, and it's only by telling stories like hers that people are even aware of the symptoms.

"I tell people what my father went through and it's educational for them - 'oh I've had

heartburn for four, five years, maybe I should get that checked out," Mormile said.

In her father's memory, a photograph of Joseph was prominently displayed on an "in memoriam" wall, his likeness surrounded by periwinkle ribbons (Salgi claims that periwinkle is "the official color of esophageal campus awareness;" several runners wore periwinkle tops). Mormile encouraged the runners to post their own photos of loved ones lost to esophageal cancer on a "Keep Hope Alive" wall, as well as write down who they're running for.

Among the runners was Mormile's friend and fellow alum Lauren Keating '13, who was there representing the event's sponsor, vegan fitness supplement company Kramp Krusher. She

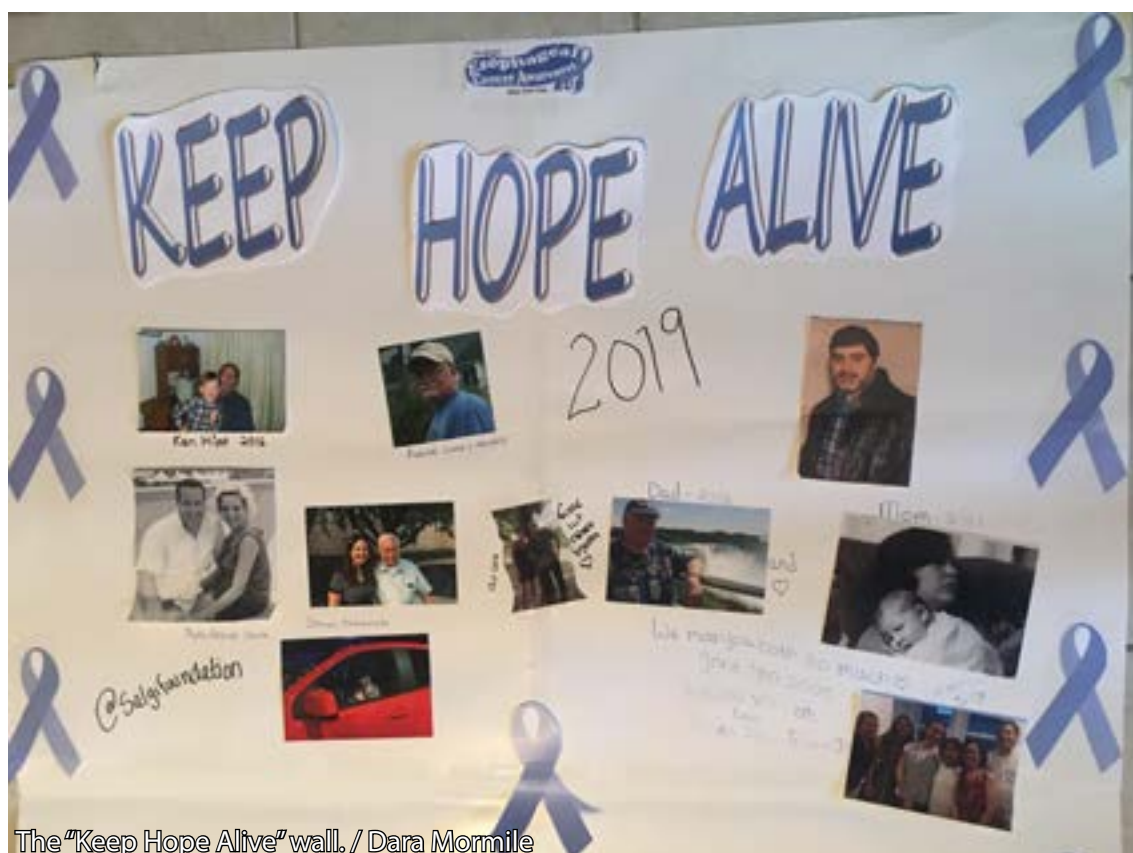
started running at a time when she was an undergraduate studying journalism at BC.

"I've done seven half-marathons and a whole lot of 5K's like this," Keating said.

"It's a lot harder now," she continued, gesturing towards her protruding stomach — she was eight months pregnant.

First-place runner Leonel Perez handily cleared the five-kilometer run in 18 minutes and 55 seconds. Gounardes and two other runners smiled their way across the finish line a few minutes later.

Of course, the day hadn't been about winning or losing; it was about coming together to tackle cancer, and in that regard, everyone was a winner.



The "Keep Hope Alive" wall. / Dara Mormile

# Here's How You Can Save Thousands in College

## Five Simple Tips to Save Money as a Broke College Student

By Edmund Zhen  
*Opinions Editor*

The school year just kicked off two weeks ago and unsurprisingly, I'm already surrendering to the monotonous lifestyle of a full-time student. My eyebags showcased themselves for NYFS, my friends are disappearing off the grid and my shoulder and back are succumbing to the burgeoning weight of books. Naturally, I resort straight to my coping mechanism, researching cheap vacation spots or cruises to motivate me to get past three more months. I would land myself at a few sweet deals and get myself really riled up and proud. Then comes the self-debates on which deal to follow through and get really indecisive when all these choices become too much.

But deep down, I know the one to determine is only one app away: my beloved Chase app. Opening it to see \$300 in my checking account and a measly \$1000 in my savings, I knew the only luxurious place I can afford is my address. I ain't going anywhere, man.

But was I always this bad with money? For sure, the calculations done at the beginning of my summer job guaranteed me at least one trip during the school year; so where the heck did it all go? Then

I remembered: Canada. Also, the dinners and the nightly excursions in the city. And who could forget about the one-on-one "lunch catch-ups" with people I cared about a lot less than the chicken and waffles in front of me? After a few heartbreaking moments, I can't think of any further without feeling like a screw-up. Something has to change.

So I started taking more time off from eating out and looking around on vacation sites and started diving into personal finances. After a few days or so, here are five things I found crucial for short and long term.

### 1. Start Saving Money.

Put away \$20 a week. Whenever you get paid from your job, always pay yourself first. Maybe keep a jar of change on your desk and dump whatever change you have in your pockets or add to it when you do something good. Whatever it takes, it's better to get a hold on your finances now than suffer when you're older.

### 2. Learn How to Do Your Taxes.

People always say that when they get a job in the future, they're just going to hand whatever is needed to an accountant and let them take charge. But do you even know how much it would cost you? Here's a spoiler. According to Credit



Is this you? / Cafecredit.com on flickr

Karma, "in January 2017, the average tax preparation fee for a tax professional to prepare a Form 1040 and state return with no itemized deductions is \$176. If you itemize your deductions, that average fee goes up to \$273." Just think what you could do with an extra \$273 a year. There are a plethora of free services like TurboTax to help you out. Or you can go on Youtube and learn it yourself. Self-sufficiency is key my friend.

### 3. Buy Things That Matter.

Buying something impulsively just because you think it looks great with a certain style is not going to cut it. That clothing or jewelry is most likely going to be worn two or three times before it gets lost or thrown out. But putting a little extra money into a laptop that could fulfill

your work AND school purposes? Definitely a good choice. Investing in things that lasts will leave you with more money than your hand can grasp.

### 4. Live and Eat Right.

As of now, the U.S does not have free healthcare. If you're not making big money and can afford to pay for superb private health insurance, then you better start living and eating right. You're going to notice some changes in your body when you hit your 20's that's going to annoy you for a bit and then it's going to drastically get worse as you age. But why go through that when you can avoid it all by just living correctly? Eat less salty, sweet, and fried foods and start intaking more veggies, fruits, and healthy meat. Maybe start looking into supplements to boost

your immune system up and definitely find a preferred form of exercise.

### 5. Invest Your Money.

Have you ever heard of something called compound interest? Or the concept of making money work for you? If you ever want to get out of the rat race and retire early, this is the way to go. Putting your money early in a 401k account or a Roth IRA will significantly increase your chance of becoming the millionaire you dreamt of as a kid. You can start by looking for financial services like Fidelity Investments or Vanguard to learn more about it. Trust me, once you realize the concept of it, you're going to wish your parents started one for you the day you were born.

## Bullshit!

by Ryan Gleason

## Can We All Admit Fat People Exist?

I have noticed that in this social climate of anti-body shaming, we have shut out the idea that fat, big, plump, and round people exist. When I say anti-body shaming, I do not mean the shaming of our bodies' reaction to foreign germs and disease, I mean those who are against the shaming of one's body.

Is bullying wrong? Of course! Is bullying someone for being super big or super

skinny bad? Absolutely! But somewhere in the message to stop hurting people's feelings, people now force a "fat ignorance".

Allow me to explain.

I am a 250 pound man. I am a BIG OL BOY! And I live a fat man's life. I wear extra large clothes, I eat more, I take a little more time walking places... you know? The usual. But that is fine, I don't mind that this has become my life.

What annoys me is that I will go out to the shops, trying to buy a shirt, and the sales associate will (in the hopes of not offending me) try to guess my shirt size and go a size too small in the hopes I go "ah yeah I guess I look like a medium I was a medium like soooo recently HAHAAAAHA". No. Just. No.

GET ME THE BIGGER SIZE AND LET'S WORK OUR WAY DOWN

TOGETHER PAL!

Also, DEAR CHIPOTLE B O W L / B U R R I T O ARTISTS, yes I know queso and guacamole cost extra! Look at me!

James Corden recently did a segment on his show responding to Bill Maher who said fat shaming was good. James replied that no, it isn't, and that fat people know we are fat, we just struggle with weight loss and are burdened with

excessive gain. EXACTLY! We know we are fat. We just want to live comfortably. Recognizing I am a big old butter ball of a boy is not the same as saying I'm a fat piece of garbage. Just get larger sizes, put that extra shit on without telling me how much it will cost, and don't make me walk too far to hang out. SIMPLE AS THE PIE I EAT FOR BREAKFAST!



# On the Record: David Knopfler, Heartlands

By Allison Rapp  
Columnist

It's true - the weather in Scotland is abysmal. It began to rain the moment I stepped out of the airport, and has been drizzling on and off for three whole days. The wind can be bitterly cold, and the sun pops out only when it feels like it. And yet, I feel right at home already. There's no way it can be worse than a Buffalo winter.

Glasgow is a brilliant mix of old and new. There are luxury apartment buildings sitting side by side with ancient stone facades. The oldest house in Glasgow was built in 1471 -- before Columbus even set foot on American soil. It's quite something to turn every corner and see a tower constructed hundreds of years ago, and yet still be reminded by the high-end fashion shops that this is one of the fastest growing cities in the UK.

"It seems like it's an open minded city," said my uncle, who helped me move in to my new living arrangements. "Progressive," he called it.

The weirdest part thus far of my exchange experience has been adjusting to the new campus. Glasgow

Caledonian was built in the 90's and is almost painfully modern. Our student ID cards swipe us into classes and monitor our attendance. So much for good old fashioned roll call. (The technology is a little shocking, but no, I don't miss the crumbling ceilings of Roosevelt Hall or the broken bathrooms of Boylan.)

The other remarkable detail sure to shock Americans like myself? The openness surrounding alcohol consumption. There is a bar on campus, and the student association is organizing an official student pub crawl for next week. It's a little crazy for someone who still has "UNDER 21" printed in bold red letters beneath my name on my driver's license. Of course, this is probably what the US would look like if we actually did more than just wrist-slap people for driving while intoxicated and took impaired driving laws seriously. Accidents just don't happen like that here in the UK. Why? Because young people have been learning how to drink responsibly since around age 16-18, depending on where they live overseas.

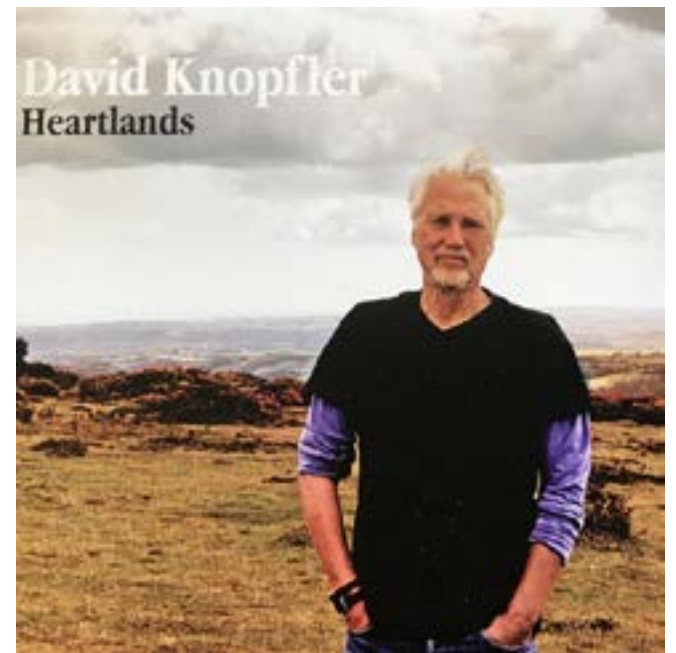
This week I'm listening

to David Knopfler's record Heartlands, released this past June. Knopfler, who was born in Glasgow, is best known for being the unfairly lesser-known brother of Dire Straits. His older brother, Mark, played lead guitar and, well, that's about all you have to do to become infinitely more famous than your rhythm guitar-playing younger brother. Most everyone is familiar with Dire Straits big hit, "Money for Nothing", which included backing vocals from Sting and won the Grammy for Record of the Year in 1985.

However, before all of that, there was David Knopfler. He played on the first two records, in 1978 and 1979, and then promptly quit the band. (I maintain, trouble comes with bands with brothers or lovers - I'm looking at you, Fleetwood Mac.)

So as his brother's career continued to take off, what did David do? Make his own music, obviously. Heartlands is the most recent piece of his own puzzle.

The first wild thing about the album is that his vocals sound nearly indistinguishable from his brother's, but I suppose there's very little he can do



about that. It's extremely guitar-driven, but rather than feature solos, his guitars are layered amongst other instruments like harmonicas and mandolins. His vocal melodies are gorgeous, and it makes me wonder what kind of music he might have listened to, and been influenced by, growing up in the 50s in the UK.

The most poignant song on the record for me is "Washington Decides." David actually spent a good deal of time living in the States, close to my hometown, and it's where he met his American wife. "How many kids are blown away... how many did you kill today? Do you remember LBJ? Hey, hey,

Washington decides."

How do you even comment on a lyric that basically lays it out flat for you? I had coffee with my old roommate in Edinburgh this past weekend and we discussed the mess that is Boris Johnson and Brexit. Before I knew it, I found myself saying, "It might be crazy over here, but at least you don't have shootings every other day." She nodded in agreement.

Heartlands doesn't pretend to be anything it's not. It's 45 minutes of well produced, poetic material - perfect for a rural trip through the highlands of Scotland, which might just be my plan this weekend...

## US on Brink of War with Iran While Ignoring Saudi Involvement in Disastrous War in Yemen

By Kevin Limiti  
News Editor

War drums are beating in response to an attack on Saudi Arabian oil fields by Iran. Although, Yemen's Houthi Rebel faction has claimed responsibility. The United States and Saudi Arabia have not explicitly blamed Iran—who backs the Houthi Rebels—but they do claim that it was Iranian weapons and an Iranian launch point, although they have neither offered up any evidence for this nor have they determined the exact launch point.

And yet, a fact that is entirely ignored by the mainstream media is this: Saudi Arabia is responsible for the wholesale slaughter and starvation of the

people of Yemen. So why is it that we only care when Saudi Arabia's oil fields are attacked by the Yemeni Houthi Rebel faction?

The simple answer is that oil prices will go up. The complicated answer has to do with Middle East regional power struggles—something most Americans are not inclined to listen, let alone understand.

It was Saudi led and backed airstrikes that have driven so many men, women, and children to the brink of starvation. The war in Yemen has been called tantamount to genocide. But like so many genocides, there is much lip service regarding what we could or could not do but never even the moral courage to use the title.

The title of genocide—

after all—carries weight. The kind of weight that demands action; action not useful or desirable to super powers. That is why when genocide was happening in Rwanda during the '90s, there were careful semantical games played by the Clinton Administration in order to avoid describing it as genocide or ethnic cleansing. Meanwhile, 800,000 Tutsis died at the hands of their Hutu neighbors in 100 days.

One of the defining moments of the late 20th century was UN soldiers standing and watching as Serbian troops separated Croat men from the women and children in order to kill them. Another stain on the less-than-prestigious record of the UN's response to genocide

and mass slaughter.

There are many more examples of this but I only have the space to name a few. There was the US-backed mass killings of civilians in El Salvador and Nicaragua, the genocide of 80,000 people in East Timor, Darfur, the Rohingya genocide which is still ongoing, and the list goes on.

The point is that when genocide, human rights violations or any other kind of terrible, unforgivable atrocities are being committed under our watch, the United States does not intervene unless there is some kind of benefit. And the so-called justification of the invasion of Iraq should make very clear that if foreign intervention is at

all beneficial to anybody, it certainly does neither the people of the country we are acting on behalf of nor the American people any good.

It is the depressing reality that international politics really just boils down to money, resources, and interests. There are no friends in international politics. But that doesn't mean that we have to sit back and watch the horror unfold.

One of the best things we can do is be skeptical of slanted coverage and understand that there is a history here that existed long before those oil fields were burning and will continue long after they are extinguished.

# Vampire Weekend Play Madison Square

“I Don’t Want to Live this Way but I Don’t Want to Die”

By Michael Castaneda  
*Columist*

Vampire Weekend played Madison Square Garden on Friday Sept. 6. It was the largest audience that Vampire Weekend has ever played, with an attendance of 19,000.

After 10 plus years of the band, I wondered if they are still relevant. They started with their 2008 eponymous debut album as recent graduates of Columbia University, which included indie hits such as “A-Punk” and “Oxford Comma.” The latter was so culturally successful that the term has become part of the lexicon. People will talk about it or write about it on their dating profile without even knowing how it became “a thing.”

They encapsulated their brand that is Ivy League country club. They had the vibe of children who attended St. Paul’s School (SPS) and whose parents listened to 1980s soft rock

that incorporated elements of African “world music,” such as Peter Gabriel’s “So” and Paul Simon’s “Graceland.” (Let’s save the discussion of cultural misappropriation for another time.)

This continued in 2010 with Vampire’s Weekend’s second album “Contra,” where the band was sued for using a cover photo of a woman from the 1980’s who looked like she could have attended “Beach Week” with Brett Kavanaugh.

Gone are the boys in their early 20s, now they’re men in their mid-30s. Now, standing in front of me were three of the original four; plus other musicians that I had never seen before. The band is actually now about seven people, though the original three are the central attraction. Their adopted homes are no longer Morningside Heights or Bronxville. It’s now (of course) Brooklyn and Los Angeles.

Their latest album, “Father of the Bride,” seems more like the next installment of the first album than a follow-up to their second or third. It could have been titled “Preppy Kid Gets Married.”

Getting down to the show itself, it was kinda like to going to the birthday party of a rich kid in elementary school: you could tell the parents put a lot of money into the party and you come home with a gift bag. Before the concert, you received a bracelet that would glow in three different colors, either by manual settings or Wi-Fi. Towards the end, they released beach balls so the audience could play.

The three original band members came dressed as three different genres of rock history. Lead singer Ezra Bridger... I mean Ezra Koenig... (sorry, Ezra Bridger is from Star Wars Rebels; they look so much alike) came out dressed as Elvis Presley. He wore his

usual baggy pleated slacks and big guitar. For some reason he talks like a 1940s tough guy, which is maybe an homage to Frank Sinatra. The bassist, Chris Baio, dressed and moved like Paul Simonon, the bassist of the 70s punk group The Clash. Chris, who likes to be known as “Baio,” is the cousin of Number 1 Trump supporter Scott Baio. Lastly Chris Tomson, the drummer, who looks like a guy with a lot of feelings and who maybe has a good relationship with his mother, came out dressed like any California surfer band from the early 1990s.

The band played for over three hours and took requests from the audience. I was impressed that they extended and riffed on their music. It reminded me of old U2 concert films from the late 1980s and 1990s. This was really wonderful because you were not just getting tracks from their album exactly as you know them. Instead, it felt alive

and spontaneous. I was not expecting this. They could have easily been a really good country club band playing MSG.

If you are familiar with their work, the setlist seemed to focus on their first album and their 2013 release, “Modern Vampires of the City.” “Father of the Bride” didn’t seem to be a focus of the show too much; although one of the best performances was of their first single “Harmony Hall.” It sounded much bigger and fuller live. (Harmony Hall is Columbia University dorm on 110th street. I went to a Dim Sum making party there once.)

Ad finem, it was a really great show. One of the best I have seen. And I really wasn’t expecting that. Ah, Vampire Weekend: Zion doesn’t love you; the motherland don’t love you, but you love everything.

## Mika Rottenberg’s Playful Surrealism

By Jack Coleman  
*Arts Editor*

An air conditioner drips water onto a plant; a pony tail jutting out of the wall bops up and down; single drops of water fall from the ceiling and hit a hot skillet, dissipating each drop to vapor; and a single prosthetic-like finger adorned with a galaxy print acrylic nail slowly rotates from a hole in the wall. Through two door ways on either side of the gallery space, a number of videos take it all a few steps further:

Bunny Glamazon, the six-foot-three dominatrix, rides around a ghost city in China on a moped and sneezes plates of pasta; Chinese women harvest and shuck pearls; Tuvan throat singing rings in the background of ASMR (Autonomous Sensory Meridi-

an Response) sequences of scratching clay and slicing blocks of jelly.

So what’s it all mean? Is every object really just a symbol for the meaning of life and death? More highfalutin, skill-less, contemporary “art” struggling to find any relevance in our postmodern world? Neo-Marxist propaganda? Are we getting Punkd?

This is Mika Rottenberg’s Easypieces at the New Museum in the Lower East Side. Since the show is closing this weekend, and since I happen to be writing my thesis on it, I thought I’d do a bit of reflecting on it, and perhaps, make you wish you had seen it if you didn’t.

I wouldn’t mind if Ashton Kutcher came out of the gallery at closing night with a camera crew. That’d for sure be Art. But there

is certainly something Easypieces does to its viewers which I don’t normally see so clearly and so viscerally with contemporary art: it makes you react. Whether that reaction is laughter, squirming away disgusted, or getting annoyed (usually, it’s a mix of these plus more) Rottenberg’s work gets you there.

The objects shown are so banal, yet their meaning, function, and purpose are thrown into question when placed within the walls of a gallery space. The exhibition works to flip our perception of how these things are made and ultimately related on its head. The two standout video works of the show, Spaghetti Blockchain and NoNoseKnows take all of these concepts that we see sculpturally and heighten them to surrealist extremes.

Rottenberg draws outlandish connections amongst these seemingly alienated occurrences that cause sensations of all kinds in the characters in the films and also in the viewers. Take, for example, the transformation that we see of water into gas on those simple hot skillets in the gallery. In Spaghetti Blockchain, a colorful jelly-cake slowly melts on a griddle; then, in NoNoseKnows, we see beloved Bunny sneezing out plates of fresh noodles while below her a line of people harvest pearls (the former being an allusion of sorts to ASMR videos, which are intended to appeal to the senses of its viewers).

Rottenberg’s obsession with how things are made, connected, and ultimately ephemeral could be taken as a simple Marxist critique

of our consumerist globalized world. But a lot of what is going on in Easypieces has more to do with playing with and exposing how strange the world really is, rather than any hard and fast critique of capitalism.

What makes the exhibition so impactful is that each object that the viewer is presented with seems to take on new form and meaning. This means that viewing Easypieces is more than figuring out what the artist means by, say, a two minute sequence of bubbles floating in empty rooms: this is about exposing and opening up our perception of materials, where they come from, and how they affect us.

Hopefully, Rottenberg gives us another show soon, because I can’t get enough.

# REVIEW: Prasad Paul Duffy's "Revolutionary"



The cast of "Revolutionary." (Left to right: Izabel Dorst, Jordan Mahr, Zack Triska, Kurt Bantilan, Henry Nwaru, Seth L. Hale.) / Revolutionary the Musical

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

In the dire and distant future of "Revolutionary: A Futuristic Musical," automation and totalitarianism have forced a generation of youth onto the streets. Innocent buskers and drag queens are forcibly micro-chipped by a paramilitary force of literal "Robo Cops." Worst of all, the U.S. dollar has been replaced with something called "cryptocoin." This on-the-nose oppression cannot stand! It's high time, the innocent buskers and drag queens agree, for something... wait for it... "revolutionary!"

Unfortunately, the "revolution" presented in this musical is less Che Guevara and more Deepak Chopra, with a touch of Alex Jones. Do you believe the Illuminati control all world governments? Do you believe that we only use five percent of our brains at any given time? Do you believe that, by activating our DNA beyond our material three-dimensional consciousness, we could enter a new universe free from corporate control? No? Well, don't worry.

As my playbill helpfully informs me, "even though certain concepts like Fifth Dimensional Consciousness [!] and the Crystal Skull [!!!] may be new to some of you, the ancient wisdom they represent is universal and archetypal." I'll have to take playwright Prasad Paul Duffy's word for it. Tragically, "Revolutionary" left my chakras thoroughly inert.

Fortunately, it also left my funny bone thoroughly tickled. Between the mind-bending script and the totally earnest performances, "Revolutionary" is so funny that it's impossible not to fall for its mystic charms.

Indeed, the play and the actors are so amiable that even at "Revolutionary's" most offensive, I honestly couldn't help but smile. Take, for instance, the romantic plot between Gabriel (Zach Triska) and Maya (Kurt Bantilan). Triska is a long-haired drifter who strums his acoustic with gusto and approaches every scene with wide-eyed wonder. Bantilan plays... basically Angel from RENT, but with

psychic powers. Gabriel has the hots for Maya - but when he's informed in the crudest way possible that the object of his desire is transgender, he lets out a sheepish "no homo." "Maya's a free spirit! I'm a free spirit," Triska yelps, "but I'm not THAT free spirited!" This whole plot should be wildly offensive, and it kind of is, but Zack Triska's line delivery and bulging eyes are so guileless, he can make anything feel innocent and charming. Even inane zingers like "Home of the brave? More like home of the SLAVE!"

The music and lyrics by composer Theo Grace are nothing to write home about. Most of the songs are interchangeable acoustic guitar ballads using your standard pop-rock tropes, except for the songs that are interchangeable piano ballads using your standard pop-rock tropes. Sometimes the actors harmonize, which is pleasant. Sometimes they sing solo, which none of them are particularly good at. Sometimes they rap, which all of them are awful at, although this is largely on account of Theo Grace's

painful slant rhymes. (A sample bar rhymes "open" with "composting.")

Similarly, the choreography is mostly pedestrian, although Duffy and choreographer Laura Pierpont are smart enough to give the two actors who actually excel at dance a showcase for their talents. Izabel Dorst gets to do some graceful ballet in an ayahuasca-induced trance, and Henry Nwaru (a recent graduate of BC's Acting BFA program, incidentally) gets to show off his breakdancing on "Go With The Flow," a pop-rap that takes its cues from High School Musical (!) rather than Hair. The slickest moves of the show, however, come from James McGonagal, who takes the role of "Robo-Cop" a little too literally.

Needless to say, anyone expecting serious political commentary from this play will be deeply disappointed. Duffy's script may extol the virtues of "fifth-dimensional consciousness," but the characterization and thematic material is firmly one-dimensional, proudly flouting the principle of "show, don't tell." And for all

its heavy-handed attempts at political commentary, "Revolutionary" feels weirdly out of touch with our reality, as though popular culture hasn't advanced beyond the Summer of Love and remains permanently frozen in the Age of Aquarius. (Case in point: a major plot point involves the quasi-fascist government hauling innocents by the thousands into unlivable concentration camps run by... FEMA.)

Still, it's impossible to hate a show so devoid of irony, and so genuine in its intentions. "Revolutionary" may be the Marianne Williamson of musicals, but is that such a bad thing? Maybe what the world needs now IS love, sweet love. Maybe we SHOULD have a space to "purify our consciousness of all societal mind control." And maybe the government IS putting chemicals in the water to make all the frogs gay. Just take the play for what it is, and bask in the opportunity to open your mind to the universal and archetypal wisdom of the Crystal Skull.

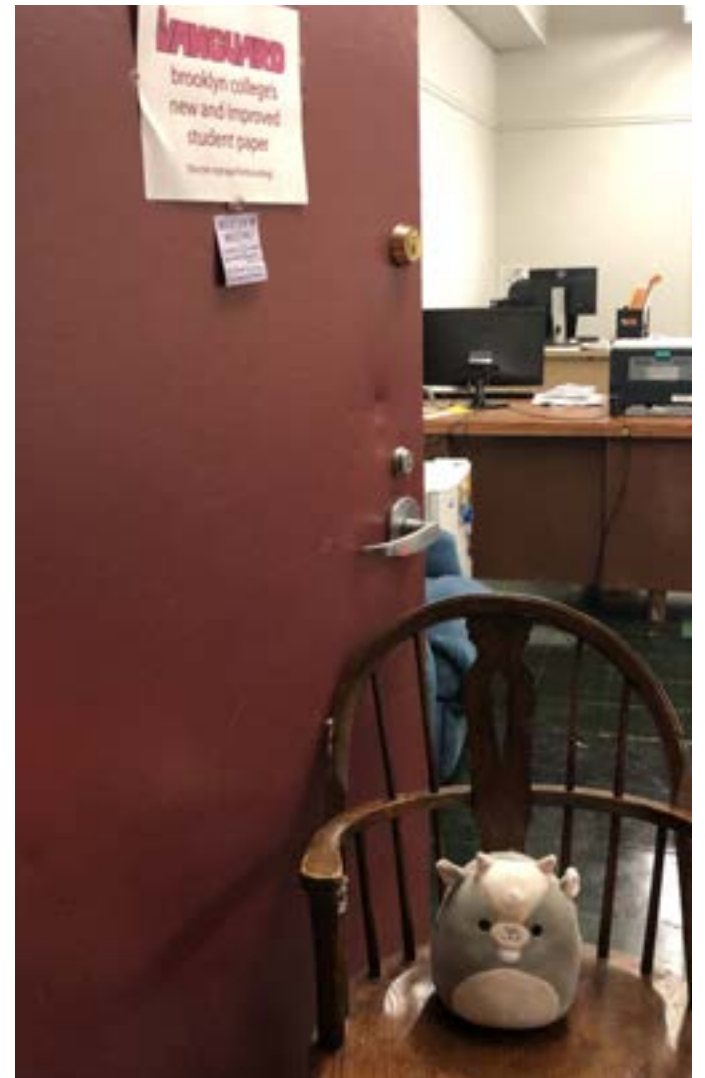
# WHERE'S VINNY?

(the GOAT scavenger hunt)



Hey, it's the Vanguard's very own Vincent Vangoat! He loves to go exploring the Brooklyn College campus, taking selfies. In fact, he loves it so much that we haven't found him in two weeks!

Think you know where Vinny is in these photos? Take a selfie there and post it on Twitter or Instagram, tagged **@TheBCVanguard**. Do it fast enough and you'll be featured in next week's issue!



## Women's Volleyball Dominates!

By Conrad Hoyt  
*Sports Editor*

Brooklyn College's Women's Volleyball team faced off against SUNY Purchase Thursday night, and dominated the match at every turn.

At home in the West Quad Building on campus, the Bulldogs were in their sleek grey uniform, and their opponents were in a royal blue. Assistant Coach Michael Pratt knew Purchase was a weaker team heading into Thursday's game, but preached to his team to play its game and not play down to the competition.

"We knew we were a stronger team," Pratt told me after the game. He also told his team to focus on defense and make a great first pass, because "everything moves from there."

Playing down to one's competition can be a surefire way to help the other team be successful. Right from the opening serve it was clear Brooklyn was focused on not letting this happen.

The Bulldogs' chemistry and organization were beautiful things to watch.

The players' touches always seemed to find their teammate right where they needed to be, showing a cohesion that is paramount to a successful unit. The anticipation of each other's and the opponent's shots led to great spikes and blocks.

Brooklyn opened up the first set 13-6, prompting Purchase to call a timeout. It was clear the Bulldogs were the more dominant side and had strength in numbers and agility. They ended up winning this set 25-14.

Number 7, Madison Cronk of the Bulldogs, showed her prowess in the air with powerful spikes and blocks that Purchase had no match for. Number 2, Ashley Fung, was also a standout performer. Look for these two to keep improving as the season goes on.

The next set was more of the same, and Brooklyn won it 25-11.

Starting off strong in the first two sets allowed the coaches to play some of the players who normally may not get to play as much. Sports are all about the team winning, but by having more players touch the court, and play the



Women's volleyball team dominating! / Conrad Hoyt

game they love, the morale and unity of the team is only going to improve.

The third set was no different than the first two, and the Bulldogs rolled to a 3-0 win. This gave them a 2-game winning streak going into a doubleheader against two CUNY teams over the weekend. One of those was Hunter College, a

team that Pratt says usually wins the tournament.

"It will be a measuring stick to see where we are," he told me.

Brooklyn split the doubleheader, beating Lehman 3-0, but losing to Hunter 0-3.

The Bulldogs are a very young team, with a few freshman and sophomore

as key players for them. Naturally this means the core should only get better as they play more with each other. Now at 5-4, and with a game on Tuesday, Brooklyn will look to keep improving and turn their young team into a powerhouse by the end of the year.