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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, through interwar and many others, we will not forget Ethel.

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 (3rd 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 Glennwood 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 FwC  
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 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
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 Vaysnhteyn, 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 ambiance 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, Caribbean Law Students Association, 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.

The evening persisted with an ambience of black pride with the Japanese language, I was like “Oh my God I want to go there” said Alum Nirvana Ganpat, explaining her age-entrapment. “I mostly study on my own and it is nice to speak to others in Japanese and it is nice to speak to others in Japanese and be understood” reflected Devante Middleton, a senior, computer science major and JCLS Vice-president, delightful of the day’s turnout.

“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 Robinson shared both in Japanese and in English after translating to students not so fluently in Japanese, explaining her exceptional seriousness.

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By Natalina Zieman  
**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 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.”
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, 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.

“In the years after her father’s death, 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.”

“Telling 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 cancer 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 repping the event’s sponsor, vegan fitness supplement company Kramp Krusher.

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.
Is bullying wrong? Is shaming of one’s body? Are germs and disease, I mean the idea that fat, big, 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 soo recently” HAHAHAAAA! 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 quesos 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

Bull$hit!
by Ryan Gleason

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 soo recently” HAHAHAAAA! 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 quesos 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

Can We All Admit Fat People Exist?

TOGETHER PAL! Also, DEAR CHIPOTLE B O W L / B U R R I T O ARTISTS, yes I know quesos 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. Here. There's no other way it can be worse than a Buffalo winter.

Glasgow is a brilliant mix of new and old. 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 is that my vocals sound nearly indistinguishable from his.

"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. Accident 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. But that one 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 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 LB? Hey, hey, how do you even comment on a lyric that basically lays it out flat for you? I had coffee with my old roommate 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...

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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 Houthis Rebel faction has claimed responsibility, The United States and Saudi Arabia have both 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 their new 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 that 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 United Nations 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—alter 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. Of the defining moments of the late 20th century was UN soldiers standing and watching as ethnic cleansing 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 Rohnigya 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 nor 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 20’s now they’re men in their mid-30’s. 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 still 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 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 making settings or Wi-Fi. Toward 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 Koening... (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 1940’s 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 1990’s. 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 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 Diva 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 bubbles floating in empty gallery space. The exhibitor means by, say, a Dim Sum making party on 110th street. I went to a Dim Sum making party there once.)

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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 composers 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 beyond our conscious, we could enter a new universe free from corporate control? No? Well, don't worry.

As my playbook 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 (Zack 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 transsexual, 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 goes 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 floating 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 and 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 V 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!

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 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. 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.