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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

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USG President Alyssa Taylor Appoints Board; Campaign Opponents

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

USG president Alyssa Taylor officially filled all six executive board positions as the first executive order of her tenure. She is replacing four of the original six named on her ticket, with two of the replacements coming from the camps of her former election opponents.

“A few people did not want to continue on,” admitted Taylor, sitting in her new office overlooking Amersfort Place. “Things change.”

Taylor originally came in second in last semester’s presidential election. When the winner, Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio, was disqualified from the race for making racially-charged comments about his then-opponent Hamza Khilji, Taylor became president.

“I had no interest in being a part of that, that’s the part of politics I always hated,” said Taylor, referring to the “drama” that inevitably

landed her in office.

Five of the six executive board positions which have either been renamed or consolidated from others with CLAS’ transition to USG. During her campaign for president, Taylor named appointments to these six positions, but since she came into office, four of them have chosen to not fill their positions for various reasons, forcing the new USG executive to change her selections.

Tatiana Lee replaces David Koyen as secretary, a position new to the USG body. Olivier Milord replaces Nigora Jurabaeva as club director, a position which replaces the student affairs committee under CLAS.

“They [Lee and Milord] were very instrumental in the function of USG before it was USG, and in the early stages before I had to replace positions [...] I didn’t even think twice about those two,” said Taylor.

The other two selections to the USG executive

branch come as interesting additions to the fold. Zain Qureshi and Nailah Pressley were both vice presidential candidates on the slates of Taylor’s opponents, Khilji and Calzadilla-Palacio respectively.

“Of course Alyssa and I have always been friends, but considering the tensions of the campaign, I didn’t expect her to recruit me after her victory,” said Qureshi, a former CLAS assembly member. He will be taking over as student advocate under Taylor, a position which replaces the old outreach committee.

“I will serve to make sure that their voice is strong,” said Qureshi.

Taylor stressed that she had relationships with both Qureshi and Pressley prior to the election this past spring. She’d previously worked with Qureshi on the CLAS assembly, and has participated in clubs and gone on a trip to Israel with Pressley. Adding them to the ticket, Taylor claims, was just filling those vacancies with the best

possible people that will do the job.

“I wanted to bring on people I know are qualified,” she said.

The decision plays into Taylor’s desire to unify the tickets after a turbulent and controversial election cycle which left Khilji off the ticket entirely, and the aforementioned disqualification of Calzadilla-Palacio’s victory.

“It’s no secret what happened with the election last semester,” said Pressley, an active member of the campus community. “Coming into Fall 2019...I didn’t think I would be where I am right now. It’s honestly a blessing,” she said.

Going forward for the remainder of the semester, Taylor hopes to come through on some of her goals in her new office as first USG President, hoping to improve on old events such as the newly named “Fall Fest,” as well as “Finals and Chill.”

And yes: she is hoping to bring back the puppies.

EVENT LISTING

Wednesday, September 25

Marketing Society’s Slack Workshop

12:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Student Center Occidental Lounge (5th floor)

Checkup and Chow Down: Resource Fair

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Student Center Gold Room (6th floor)

Caribbean Students Union General Meeting

6:00 Pm - 10:00 PM

Thursday, September 26

Chabad Club’s Rosh Hashanah

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Whitehead Breezeway

The Orthodox Club’s Rosh Hashanah Shiur

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Hillel

Bangladesh Students Association’s General Meeting

11:45 AM - 2:00 PM

Web Building

Greek Council’s ‘These Hands Don’t Haze’

12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Whitehead Breezeway

Actuarial Society’s Willis Towers Watson Event

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Student Center Amersfort Lounge (2nd floor)

Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity’s ‘Beta Bodega Bake Sale’

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Whitehead Breezeway

National Black Law Student Association’s Testmasters LSAT Prep Workshop

12:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Student Center Bedford Lounge (2nd floor)

ARTiculate BC’s ‘I Am ARTiculate’ Event

12:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Hall of Fame Rm (lower level)

Hermanidad de Sigma Iota Alpha, Inc’s Informational

12:30 PM - 2:15 PM

Student Center Glenwood Lounge (2nd floor)

Brooklyn Bahaadur’s Bakesale

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

New Ingersoll Hall Lobby

Puerto Rican Alliance’s Commemorating El Grito de Lares: Puerto Rican Independence Movements

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Student Center Maroon Room (6th floor)

Caribbean Students Union’s Scholars Vs. Jocks

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Club Room (lower level)

Students Protest Climate Change

By Natalina Zieman
Staff Writer

Tens of thousands of passionate student activists marched through the streets of New York City on Friday, demanding there be an overhaul in the government policies on climate change.

“We deserve a safe future. We demand a safe future,” exclaimed Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish environmental activist during her keynote speech in Battery Park on Friday September 20th.

Many signs were made by participants of the strike; some wore custom-made shirts, while others decorated banners. A few of the popular sayings on the many home-made signs included “there is no planet B,” and “we are skipping our lessons to teach you one.”

“[I am attending the strike] because I believe we need to renegotiate our use of fossil fuels and we need to instill the Green New Deal, and really make a change, because this climate change is not okay right now,” said Brooklyn College freshman Angela Rapp. “I think right now [the attendance] is

expected to be a million people global-wide. We’re not the only city doing this strike right now. It should definitely have an impact,” she said.

Sources say that activists estimates for attendance were as high as 4 million protesters globally.

Rapp went on to speak about her belief in the importance of bringing the attention of climate change to public officials, and the devastating impact it has on the earth.

“I mean I think the shortest answer is the science. It’s a bleak picture right now,” said Ryan Bossis, a former environmental engineering student. “We need to get going. It’s been several years of following this problem.”

The protesters were passionate about wanting a safer environment for the future and the sake of the earth. Many parents were seen with their young children, and when asked about their take on climate change, much of their response had to do with wanting their children growing up in a safe and clean environment.

“The fact that we have a president come into office and completely dismantle



Students and citizens protesting for the planet. / Kevin Limiti

all federal support for sustainability. It’s absolutely irresponsible. I am really pleased that New York City decided to allow [the children] to have excused absences to be here today,” said Bradley Starushen, 45. Her daughter Eliza proudly held up her home-made sign that read “don’t trash our planet,” with a picture of the Earth split in two, one half trashed and one half pristine and green.

Hudis Lang, 28, was hand-in-hand with her young son Daniel when answering a question about her

reasoning for attendance. “I heard about the protest, and then I googled it to find out more information, then I saw the kids protest and I wanted to bring my son so he can join the kids’ protest. Honestly, I came here because I wanted to show him how we fight in this country to show our government that we want change, and that we come out and protest. The more people that they’ll see, will make an impact on their decisions.”

The people of New York City’s plans to contribute

to a cleaner environment varied from recycling more often, to using LED lights rather than lightbulbs containing hazardous mercury, to buying plastic water bottles less often, to cutting down on beef intake, to not using plastic straws. One person’s small action can make a huge change.

Daygan Sobotka described “Drawdown” when asked about his support for the climate strike. “Drawdown is about reducing greenhouse gases,” he said. “We need to be drawing down as much as possible, it’s important.”

Thunberg is the voice for the younger generations speaking out about the climate change crisis. This is an international emergency, with rising oceans, unpredictable and devastating weather, and the sources of our oxygen burning before humanity’s eyes. Thunberg is a huge reason that tens of thousands of New Yorkers showed up to the Climate Strike on Friday in New York City. Her words and her views will make an impact for future generations.

“I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act. I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire,” she said.



Students protesting for the environment. / Quiara Vasquez

Corrinne Greene Challenges USS Disqualification

Cites Disability, CUNY Bureaucracy for Unfair Treatment; Calls on Milich to Resign

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

The confusion surrounding last spring's student elections lingers on after University Student Senate (USS) delegate-elect Corrinne Greene was rendered ineligible on academic grounds, leaving USG Vice President Ethan Milich to take her place as second USS delegate. Greene alleges that the situation that stripped her of her democratically elected title was unfair and disenfranchising.

"This has been incredibly emotionally draining," said Greene, who was originally elected to be one of two USS delegates from Brooklyn College, along with former SGS president Fay Yanofsky, on May 2.

Brooklyn College is one of only a few CUNYs that elects its USS delegates directly from the student body. In most colleges, the delegates are elected from within their own on-campus student governments. Because Brooklyn College elects its delegates directly, the CUNY election by-laws' Article VII of the Student Affairs and Special Programs, policy 7.15 pertaining to student government and USS, states that "the college presidents shall certify the newly elected delegates [...] with respect to procedures and eligibility criteria, no later than ten days after the election." That would place it on BC Vice President for Student Affairs Ronald Jackson to certify the USG and USS elections by May 12, but due to a misinterpretation of the by-laws, he failed to do so.

"I made a mistake," Jackson admitted. He instead was following the August 10 deadline on the

by-laws, which is in place for colleges that appoint their USS delegates from within. "I thought that meant all schools," he said.

However, the point can be made that the ten-day post-election deadline is flawed, because it is not possible to deem someone ineligible on academic grounds for a semester that is not yet complete. (Brooklyn College did not conclude its spring semester until May 22, 2019.)

"The timeline for the direct elections makes no sense," said Jackson. Had Jackson not made the administrative error, and certified the elections on May 12, Greene would still have been made ineligible once the grades came in after the semester.

Once Greene's grades arrived in June, Jackson received an e-mail from CUNY stating that Greene was academically ineligible for her seat. According to the by-laws, USS delegates must have completed at least 50% of the credits they signed up for during the previous semester. Greene had only completed 4 of the 17 credits she had signed up for in the spring 2019 semester, rendering her ineligible. She cites her registered disability and personal struggles with ADHD and anxiety as her reasons for not achieving the academic eligibility rules.

"I exercised my rights to run, to vote, to take INC grades and a medical withdrawal and be a human who cares about my health and my disability," said Greene.

Jackson notified Greene that she "cannot be certified" on June 19 via e-mail, adding that Greene had until Aug. 10 to amend the issue, an extension he says was supported by USS

staff.

From that point, Greene worked to do away with the incomplete grades in conjunction with the new deadline.

Prior to Aug. 10, Jackson noticed that the tenth came on a Saturday, so he extended the date two days to Aug. 12. Greene did not complete her academic requirements and submit them to CUNYFirst until Aug. 21, nine days after Jackson's deadline. Greene blames her professors for not responding in a timely manner, because they're not on contract over the summer.

Greene also stipulates that the Aug. 10 deadline was "arbitrary," because it is not clearly stated in CUNY by-laws, and thus she should still be allowed to make up for her INC grades by the date in which she submitted. On Aug. 12, Jackson officially sent in BC's candidate certification, without Greene's name.

Although the Aug. 12 deadline is not in the

bylaws and was merely an extension to make up for Jackson's initial error, it was never official, and even if Greene had fixed the grades by then, it is unknown if she would have been made ineligible.

Regardless, Greene was deemed officially and finally ineligible to serve as USS delegate, and the position fell to Ethan Milich who placed third in the election. Milich, who also wound up as USG Vice President this semester without winning the popular vote after first-place finisher Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio's slate was disqualified in spring. Milich has come under fire from Greene on social media for "stealing" her seat. Greene alleges that Milich is being granted special treatment by USS, saying he is "capitalizing off disenfranchisement," a statement denied by both USS and Milich.

Milich has likened many of Greene's statements to "slander" and "harassment," citing an unprovoked

comment made by Greene on a now-deleted Facebook post. Although Greene has personally and publicly asked Milich to resign, Milich has said he will not resign from his position at USS, and plans to go on with his agenda, which includes running for USS chair.

"She knows how democracy works, but only if it works for her," he said.

Since the decision, Greene has been protesting its conclusion, as well as reaching out to USS legislative director Smitha Varghese, who she has worked with in grassroots campaigning.

"My hands are tied," said Varghese, who came into her new position this past April. "It was really unfortunate," she said. According to Varghese, USS actually has very little to do with its own elections, mostly staying out because it could open the door for conflicts of interest.

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Corrinne Greene. / Corrinne for USS on Instagram

"I exercised my rights to run, to vote, to take INC grades and a medical withdrawal and be a human who cares about my health and my disability."

-Corrinne Greene

“God Friends” Brooklyn College During TV Shoot

By Quiara Vasquez
Editor-in-Chief

BC students this past Friday found themselves in “God’s” presence.

A film crew came to the Brooklyn College campus on Friday, Sept. 20 to shoot a pair of scenes for the television show “God Friended Me.” The first scene was filmed around 11 a.m. in front of the library; a second scene was shot around 2 p.m. in the newly renovated lecture hall in 148 Ingersoll Extension.

The show, which airs Sunday evenings on CBS, stars actor Brandon Micheal Hall as an atheist who receives cryptic messages from a Facebook

account claiming to be God. Hall was on campus during the shoot, as was his co-star Violet Beane.

Film crews frequently shoot on location at Brooklyn College, taking advantage of the campus’s distinctive and scenic exteriors. Most recently, over the summer, Will Smith was spotted on the East Quad, shooting scenes for his film “Gemini Man.”

It’s not a coincidence the film crew arrived on Friday. Usually, film crews shoot on the quad on days where few courses are scheduled, to avoid interrupting students on their way to class. Sometimes this is not the case, as was the case in December 2017,



God Friended Me star Violet Beane (seated) prepares to shoot a scene in 148 Ingersoll Extension. / Quiara Vasquez

where film crews blocked off large portions of the East Quad while shooting a scene for an episode of FX’s “The Americans,” much to

students’ dismay.

According to a producer for the show, the scenes shot at Brooklyn College will be in the eighth

episode of “God Friended Me”’s second season, slated to air later this November.

Corrinne Greene Challenges USS Disqualification

Cites Disability, CUNY Bureaucracy for Unfair Treatment; Calls on Milich to Resign

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Varghese does, however, contend with many of Greene’s grievances, saying Greene attacked the USS body unfairly.

“There’s been a lot of misinformation [...] It’s been very toxic lately, and really unfair,” Varghese said. “She is asking for favors.”

She also disagrees that Greene’s disability is an issue here.

“We have students with disabilities in USS,” Varghese said.

She does agree that the system does not help, concurring with the point that the current 10-day certification rule lacks in logic.

“There are too many by-laws in my opinion,” she said.

Once the determination was made, Greene looked to appeal the decision and get back the USS

seat, but there is currently no appeals process in place for a situation of ineligibility in the USS by-laws: something Varghese, Milich, and Greene all agree should be changed going forward.

Regardless of any granted extensions or other deadlines, CUNY General Council Daniel Simonette upheld the decision to render Greene ineligible based on the May 12 deadline, which legally speaking is the actual rule in place at Brooklyn College.

“Since Ms. Greene’s transcript indicated that she had a number incomplete grade as of May 12, 2019, she was not eligible pursuant to the eligibility guidelines issued by the Board of Trustees and therefore could not have been certified,” Simonette wrote in an e-mail. “She subsequently is not eligible to serve.”



Ethan Milich (left) with Alyssa Taylor. / Alyssa and Ethan for USG

As of now, Greene remains ineligible and Milich will continue to serve as a Brooklyn College delegate

to USS.

“We have done all we can to help her,” says Smitha Varghese. “We followed the

rules and guidelines.”

“She knows how democracy works, but only if it works for her.”

–Ethan Milich

BC Socialists Discuss Issues

By Carmen Saffioti
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Sept. 19, the Brooklyn College Socialists held their first meeting of the year. During common hours, returning members and new members alike began the discussion by going around and stating what they were interested in in regards to socialism, campus movements, and Bernie Sanders. While the flyers advertising for the club's first meeting had a focus on Bernie Sanders, club members seemed more interested

in talking about campus movements and socialist policies that would affect them directly. One of those being the Free CUNY! Movement.

On its website, Free CUNY! states that they are "New Yorkers organizing to make CUNY free again. We believe that free, high-quality higher education is a human right."

Free CUNY! is not just advocating for a tuition-free institution; they are also advocating for stipends to "make sure poverty doesn't hold any student back from success," the Free CUNY! campaign points

to the fact that CUNY was tuition free before CUNY was majority non-white: "The city imposed tuition in 1976—the first year that the incoming class was a majority students of color," as per their website.

When asked what a Free CUNY means to them, attendees stated things such as free MetroCards, less stress, and more time to study. "We need free CUNY," said sophomore Nicole Yamorski. "People may not understand: sometimes I have to choose between paying a bill and eating lunch. That is not a decision that I should have

to make."

Attendees of the club were also made aware of a Free CUNY! Arts + Propaganda meeting that took place Friday evening at the CUNY Grad Center.

Members of the Young Democratic Socialists of America were in attendance as well. This is following a tabling that the organization did outside of campus on Bedford Avenue in which they campaigned for Bernie Sanders.

There was a sense of excitement in the room. The ideas reviewed during the meeting resonated with new members such

as Victoria, who said in regard to Free CUNY! "With the tuition hike, my mom was panicking... moneywise I wouldn't have to worry. It would make my family relieved." Aiden, another new member and a freshman, said "I didn't qualify for FAFSA so my family had to pay out of pocket. My family isn't wealthy so it is a financial strain."

The BC Socialist will continue to discuss issues important to them at their Thursday meetings.

Table Tennis Club Looks To Rebuild

By MA Rahman
Features Editor

As students and athletic teams get reacquainted for the semester, the BC table tennis team is racing to rebuild itself following the graduation, and subsequent dissolution, of its proud divisional championship winning team.

Ying Li is the current President of the BC Table Tennis Club. She's been a member of the club's E-board nearly since its founding in August 2016 by her friend and former teammate, Shanlin Li.

Ying Li, a senior student now, finds herself to be one of the last remaining members of the former standout table tennis team from a CUNY school.

"It was great," Li reminisced. "We were the only team from CUNY to partake in a lot of the table tennis tournaments."

However, now that most of that team has graduated, she's looking to rebuild. When she's not preoccupied helping students get settled into the club with attendance and basic questions, Li observes prospective members that demonstrate prowess on the table tennis court. She then offers particularly talented members the chance to be a part of the

women's or men's table tennis team.

Li laments that the task of rebuilding has not been easier and wearing out her patience, as she points to how many students she finds come by only for temporal casual enjoyment out of the game.

"Many of the students come by just to play table tennis for fun," said Li, stressing that students have to devote a considerable amount of time to the sport for BC to have a successful team this semester. "We are looking for students that are serious and competitive at the sport," she noted, slightly frustrated by the possibility there may not be another successful team from Brooklyn College for the semester.

Short of five students for at least one proper women's table tennis team, with no one interested in coaching, and lacking much of the proper equipment and space needed to build a competitive team, Li has turned to keeping club hours open long with the hope that skillful and interested students might turn up.

Yet for students like Nelson Xu, a sophomore interested in majoring in Education, the extent of his enjoyment in the club typically revolves around killing time between class,



Table Tennis Club in action! / MA Rahman

telling the Vanguard, "It's sort of like a fun exercise to me."

Xu, like most members of the club, is a Chinese American. According to him, table tennis has quickly become a staple of enjoyment in their tradition.

"In our culture, people aren't that big into soccer, but table tennis is big," Xu explained. Xu isn't making it up. As Business Insider points out, of the 32 gold medals awarded for table tennis since the sport's introduction to the Olympics in 1988, 28 have been won by players from China.

Ying Li appreciates the enjoyment the table tennis club provides for

its members. She also appreciates the sense of community the club provides, noting the sport seems to have been ingrained in the Chinese social fabric for as long as she can remember. Still, she is determined to find students she can confidently ask to join and help form the BC women's table tennis team.

Amateur players are plentiful and so it's consequently become rather typical for Ying to teach the fundamentals of table tennis to them.

Students jovially shared their appreciation for Li's dedication to assisting them and how often she and her club alleviated them of their often bloated, and

anxiety-filled, schedules.

Josefina Huang-Li, a freshman and amateur player, expressed her pleasure to be able to play and even beat some students during the afternoon in the club. She noted that although she enjoyed the day's games, had she had the choice of doing so, she would not join the table tennis team in large part due to her schedule.

Regardless of the troubles and uncertainty on how to move forward, Li will continue to scout out players for the team in hopes of regaining the spark of previous years.

Hurricane Dorian Relief on Campus



Hurricane Dorian / US State Dept.

By **Bobbie Bell**
Staff Writer

Just weeks ago, newscasters urged individuals within the Bahamas area to take cover and prepare for what was to come. While some fled to neighboring areas such as Florida, others decided to ride the storm out. Even after Hurricane Dorian, a Category 5 storm hit the Bahamas, has dissipated, it remains clear that massive recovery is in effect.

According to Dave Bryan, Assistant Dean for Student Services, “CUNY is invested in providing

support for families,” impacted by natural disasters such as these. Student organizations at Brooklyn College such as the Caribbean Student Union are providing their support by collecting donations and imperishables that will be sent to the Isle Vibes association,

“Raevon Wheatley and Isa Mitchell came to me and said that this is what they wanted to do,” said Bryan in reference to two seniors involved in the hurricane relief effort. To Bryan, Brooklyn College students are so special because they

“just want to help others... That is integral to our students. They are always ready to help,” said Bryan.

Bryan mentioned that “it is only human to want to help in any way you can” and that the impacts of something anomalous like Hurricane Dorian can happen to anyone. “I would hope someone would come to my rescue if I needed help,” he says. This is why it makes Bryan happy to see that the students are coming up with ways on their own in which they can assist people in need.

Bryan gives all credit to the students. “I’m there for

direction, but the students come up with the ideas,” he said. Isa Mitchell, the president of the Brooklyn College NAACP chapter and the Women of Color Club, says that they plan to ship everything in the first week of next month. Mitchell is a senior at Brooklyn College, and as Bryan emphasizes, Mitchell believes that “the student leaders of Brooklyn College are always on the frontline to help those in need.”

According to Bryan, students on campus have always wanted to help people, but the school did not initially have a plan to get in touch with organizations outside of the New York area to offer support.

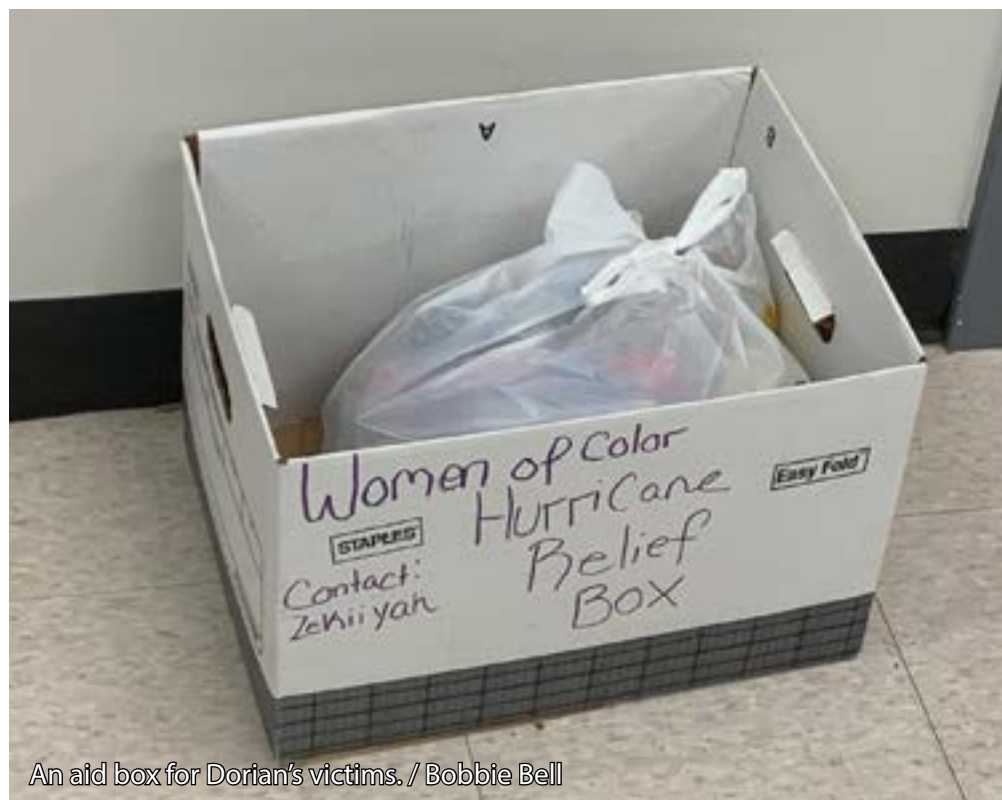
“We try our best to make sure that students affected by any kind of hardship are taken care of,” says Mitchell. She continues by stressing that regardless of if those suffering are local to the New York area or internationally, “we are all a family and when there is a cry for help, student leaders on campus are there for support.”

Raevon Wheatley, a member of the Caribbean Student Union, has

personal connections to what happened in the Bahamas. His girlfriend, Brittaney Pratt, a student attending college in Florida, has family members that live on an island in the Bahamas. Both Wheatley and Pratt are involved with Isle Vibes to transport donations to Florida, where most victims of Dorian fled after the disaster.

According to Wheatley, the roof of the church that her family attends was damaged. Luckily, Pratt’s home is okay, but “everyone there is lending a helping hand,” to reconstruct the damage. Initially, Wheatley was hesitant to ask the school for help involving the hurricane relief efforts, but to his surprise, the school was willing to help. “I went to Dave with Brittaney and honestly I was nervous to come to the school about this, but they were all very supportive,” says Wheatley.

“It is heartwarming to know that Brooklyn College supported the hurricane Dorian relief efforts in the Bahamas,” says Wheatley. As Mitchell states, “Brooklyn College students care about each other and those around us.”



An aid box for Dorian’s victims. / Bobbie Bell

A Sit-Down With Chit-Chat Club President David Hammer

By Isley Jean-Pierre
Staff Writer

Yes, there is a new club on campus. With numerous club activities taking place during common hours, you may wonder why one more? Well, it's fair to say that you want to keep this one on your radar. It appears that the Chit Chat Club wants to stand out, as they bring unique opportunities to students. The club president, David Hammer, accepted the Vanguard's request to interview him.

Vanguard: Hi David. How're you feeling today?

David Hammer: I feel very good actually. And I hope the same goes for you.

V: Very much so, thank you. Before we start off, I want to thank you for your time. Now then, can you tell me a little bit about yourself?

DH: My name is David Hammer. I'm majoring in business administration and currently one of my main goals is to build social confidence.

V: For you personally?

DH: Yes.

V: What has led you or guided you in creating this club?

DH: So, one of the things that led me there was... throughout my life, I've been on and off with being socially confident. Sometimes, I was very confident and other times I wasn't. And no matter what I tried, I couldn't be consistent with it. So, I've had other challenges in my life and one of the things that got me through those challenges was accountability. I thought if I worked along with other people on similar goals and held everybody accountable to that endeavor I would be more successful with everybody else.

V: So you believe that having shared goals with other individuals pushed you to do better in general?

DH: Yes. Exactly!

V: You mentioned accountability earlier. Did you hold yourself accountable for your choices or decision making? Or was it entirely something else?

DH: I guess I thought about it from the principals that I believe you can succeed on your own...on very tough challenges. You definitely need somebody on your

back corner helping you. So that really helped me with other things in my life, and I want to bring that to my journey to become more socially confident. And what better way to do that than make this club where

other people can also feel the satisfaction of being on that journey with other people like them.

V: Would the goal of the club be to help people build self confidence mainly? Or are there other aspects that will be involved? Tell me more about it...

DH: Yes. That's the main goal. But the club will be mostly structured around helping people find themselves. And then channelling that energy they find from their self-discovery to become more socially self-confident. So yes, it will be very hands on [our workshops], and we will teach

valuable social insights and skills. But most of the work will be actually done outside of the workshops, and that's where it will be very important for students to engage with our social

media channels. That way, they can help each other out and offer social advice and support.

We're ultimately hoping that what they take away from the workshops, they will apply them in their lives.

V: What will be your structural approach to the club meetings? What are some things that students should be aware of?

DH: I should say that the dynamic in our meetings will change over time along with the desires of our club members. In other words, it will mostly be fluid. If our club members want more hands-on than advice, then we will give them that. But if they are just looking for support and discussion, the club might morph into that. Yeah, it is extremely flexible. So, we're going to think about our resources and the desires of our club members.

V: So, it's not just about being socially involved, but to also consider what they want to achieve and what area they want to improve upon themselves?

DH: That's right. Very flexible.

V: What are your thoughts on the importance for students in general to work with others when

they share a common goal? Also, what would you say about students who may not feel

comfortable talking or approaching other students?

DH: That's exactly what we're trying to do. It's not going to happen overnight. We will give them

the tools they can use outside the workshops to practice. In terms of building their own

confidence, that's something that has many layers to it. I think they should first show

compassion towards themselves. If you don't love yourself, you are not going to be able to give

others the same respect. So, that's going to also be a component of it. We're not going to stress

it as much only because a lot of people find it a little nuanced, but we are going to mention it in

our club. If more people want it more often, we'll include it in the long run.



THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE
VANGUARD

is looking for writers, photographers, and illustrators!

For more info, contact us at TheBCVanguard@gmail.com

or directly contact Quiara Vasquez at quiara@zoho.com

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

Hookup Culture: The Decaying of Our Empathy



By Edmund Zhen
Opinions Editor

The aesthetic of the venue is uninvitingly crummy as you and your friends step in line. At the entrance miles ahead, bouncers are ushering people in like sheep, all while exercising their authority to be the professional asswipe they feel entitled to be. You catch sight of your reflection at the window and instinctively fix your posture. “I’m definitely going to score one tonight,” you think to yourself. After a few more narcissistic episodes, it’s finally your turn for the quintessential NYC-style patdown, a barrage of claps that always find nothing. Before you know it, they end the experience with a rough stamping of the hand and usher the crowd in with their condescending stare. As you make your way towards the main hall, the hairs on your arm start dancing and with a quick turn at the corridor, you step into a room overlooking a huge ecstatic crowd. The first thought that pops up is, “Who is

this DJ and what was his name again? DJ Avella? Avido? Aveeno? No wait, that’s a lotion brand.”

You go and buy yourself a Whiskey sour before reconnecting with the gang. As you take that first sip, you make sure to tilt your head a little further back in order to scan the scene; a classic, textbook move. But the vibe is definitely here and you’re more confident than ever about tonight. So song after song, you and your gang laughed with each other, celebrating the end of the workweek. You’ve all just won another battle and there are only 2000 more before winning the war... Then in the corner, a thing of beauty catches your attention.

What happens next is something that needs no explaining. There is no need to elaborate on the “why” due to how you could automatically understand what I mean, thus, revealing a concept long ingrained in the fabric of society. However, if you claim you didn’t understand, you probably wouldn’t be reading this

since you would still be scrutinizing in-between the lines trying to decipher. But for clarity’s sake, I am describing the hookup culture prevalent in today’s society.

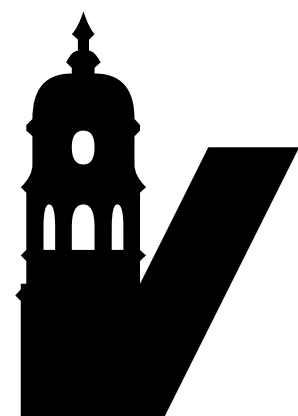
But how did it come to be? A theory is that it derives from our country’s success with capitalism and the unhealthy obsession with consumption that follows. Over time, it led us to rely on and prefer convenience over substance. Achieving high living standards is beneficial for the well being of our survival but it added little to the intrinsic value of living. It eroded our ways of communication with each other, how we build our relationships, and even in our reactions and reflections. How I would describe today’s hookup culture is people trying to maximize the experiences of intimacy and characteristics of a healthy relationship from something that is nothing more than a shell. It’s the equivalent of achieving something without merit and hard work. People are acting upon a caricature of something genuine,

but lacking the real experience(s) they are seeking.

Lisa Wade, a well-known sociologist and essayist speak more about this in her book, *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*, centering around the sexual lives of college students across the country. Her agenda is to scrutinize the subtle dynamics of the hookup culture and to better understand the reasoning behind them. With the help of 101 students and their journal reflections, they assisted Wade with honest insight into how they felt about the hookup culture. In conclusion, Wade describes hookups as something that is more than just behavior or an “established norm” in the college scene; It’s a climate. These hookups are generally meaningless and void of emotional attachment. Students have sex just to have sex and this practice of being emotionally distant catalyzed a general inability to express intimate feelings. Psychology professor and clinical psychologist, Dr. Jordan B. Peterson also

brings in his standpoint in an interview with *GeenStijl*, dictating that your choice to treat other people as casual sexual partners is inversely how you also treat/see yourself.

But the goal of this short excerpt isn’t to tell you that hooking up and having casual partners is morally wrong. If it truly makes you feel happy and is something you want to have in your life, so be it. You are the captain of your own destiny. But by speaking up on something that I don’t see a lot in social or mainstream media, I hope this could feed more into your life, ultimately giving you more power to make the best decision for yourself. Stay tuned for the complete, in-depth version of this piece in the near future.



On The Record: Graham Nash

By Allison Rapp
Columnist

Whenever I travel to a new place, I do my best to pay attention to the surrounding cultural norms and practices. I make an effort to blend in, so that I may appear respectful, understanding, and open to the way different countries operate. I am a guest in their space, it only seems polite.

Other times, despite my best efforts, it is painfully clear that I am merely a dumb American. Here is a short list of the several times I have made a fool of myself in Scotland, thanks to my stateside habits:

1. When I arrived at my university accommodations, I was told that my room was located on the first floor. I spent 20 minutes trying to unlock a poor stranger's room, until I remembered that the first floor overseas is considered the second floor in America. So much

for not having to climb stairs.

2. My old roommate in Brooklyn was an exchange student from Edinburgh, and I used to pride myself on being able to understand her thick accent, but alas, just the other day in the library I had to ask the poor coffee barista to repeat herself three times in a row to be able to understand her. (She was asking if I wanted my coffee to stay or go.) They speak awfully fast around here.

3. I did that New Yorker thing, you know the one, where you stand 15 feet out from the curb while you wait for the light to change. Turns out that's severely frowned upon here. UK drivers will happily put you in your place and make your life flash before your eyes.

So far, not so bad, but there's still plenty of time for me to embarrass myself some more. That's why this week I'm spinning Graham

Nash's first solo record, *Songs for Beginners*, because I am, indeed, just starting out here.

When I bought this album on vinyl for the first time, I was at a flea market and made the rookie mistake of not double checking the record inside, choosing to trust the outside sleeve. I got home and discovered that I had actually purchased a Lionel Richie greatest hits record. "All Night Long" wasn't going to cut it for me, so I melted the record, made guitar picks out of it, and bought the real *Songs For Beginners* a few months later.

This is Nash's breakup album. It came out in May of 1971 after his split with fellow singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell. Her own breakup album, *Blue*, which was arguably more emotionally raw, would be released about a month later. But regardless of who wrote the sadder songs,

Nash's album meant a step in a direction he had never taken before: a step on his own without bandmates David Crosby or Stephen Stills.

"Songs, they have to be recorded or they drive you crazy just being inside your head," Nash told Geoff Edgers of *The Washington Post* this summer, and indeed the album sounds like he had a lot on his mind. He talks about his birth in Blackpool, England on "Military Madness," about Joni Mitchell leaving him on "Wounded Bird," and about the political craziness happening in the US on "Chicago." (This was the height of the Nixon era.) And yet, he ties the entire album together by using the same piano and backing vocalists on many of the tracks.

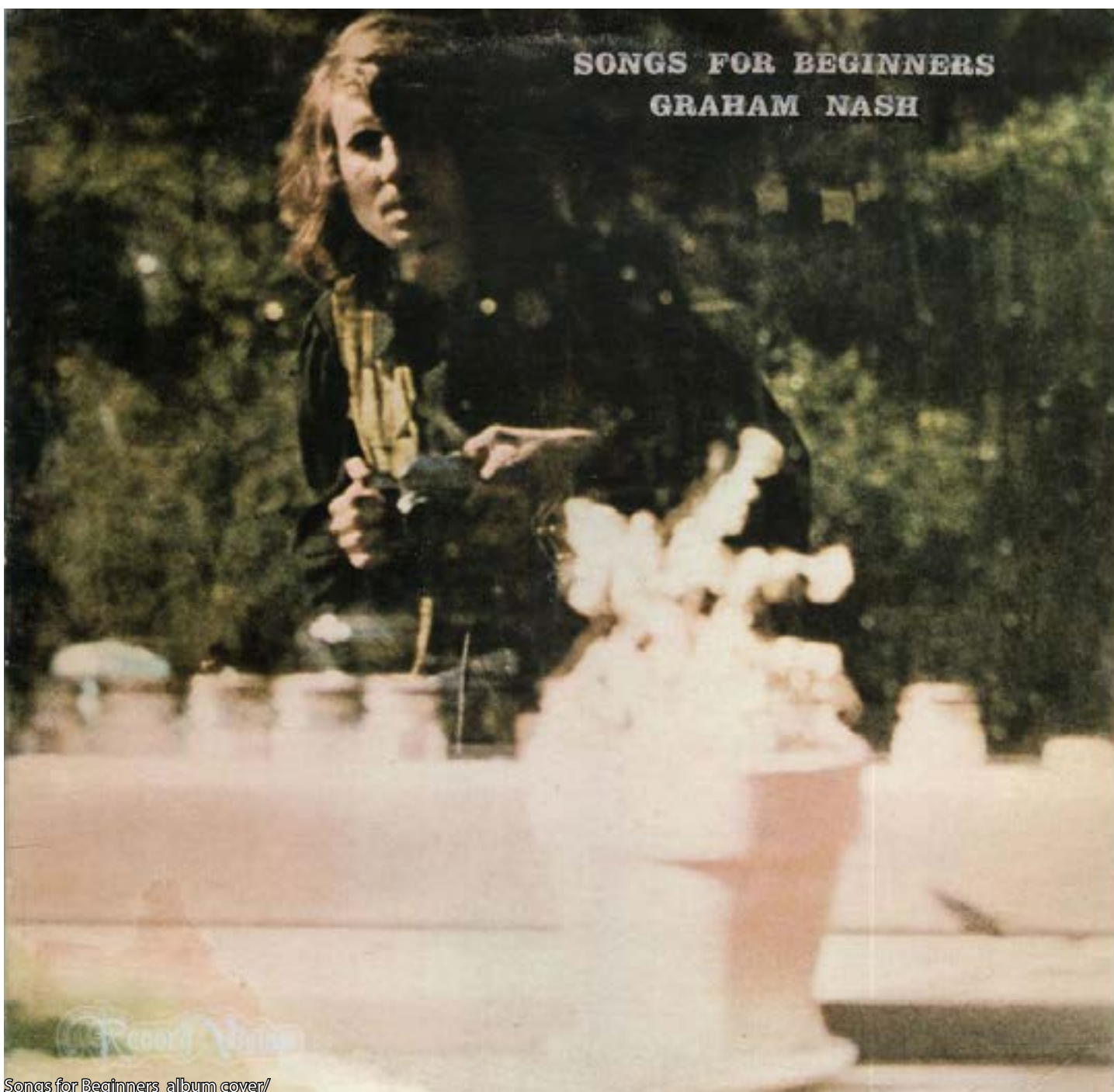
In a lot of ways, it almost feels like a concept album: this is what it sounds like to get your heart broken by someone you thought



was here to stay. "I built my life on sand," he sings on "I Used To Be A King". When Nash and Mitchell were in the middle of breaking up, she sent him a telegram from Greece (where she wrote much of *Blue*) that read, "If you hold sand too tightly in your fist, it will run through your fingers." Ouch. If you've ever wondered what it's like to be with someone who wants to leave as badly as you want them to stay, *Songs for Beginners* is a good place to start.

Aside from the sadness and heartbreak, the album is well-produced, and features several of Nash's talented fellow musicians, including Jerry Garcia, Rita Coolidge, Phil Lesh, and Dave Mason. You could say he got by with a little help from his friends.

Despite the reflective material, *Songs for Beginners* is also an album about looking forward. As Nash told *The Washington Post*, "I thought we could change the world. And it's the same today. I think musicians can change the world. Now then, the momentum of this planet is so huge that to move it a millimeter takes years of energy sometimes and I realize that now. But then we thought, 'Hey, we can help stop the Vietnam War. We can entice all the people to write to their congressmen and their senators and their president. We can do this, we can change the world.' And I still believe it, too."



Songs for Beginners album cover/

Fernanda Parrado's Metamorphosis and The Art of Rebirth

By Jack Coleman
Arts Editor

At the core of Fernanda Parrado's 2019 experimental short film, *Metamorphosis*, is the concepts of sacrifice and rebirth. Through the usage of archival 16mm film reels of documentaries about the monarch butterfly, and her own shots on a Super 8 camera, Parrado's six minute film takes the viewer on a poetic visual journey about immigration, the self, and politics.

Metamorphosis opens with scenes from a 1950s documentary about the migration of monarch butterflies. Then, sped-up footage of a man stamping immigration papers plays out as the narrator describes the tagging process of monarchs as they travel south.

Looking at the migration of butterflies as a metaphor for human immigration helped Parrado understand not only the particularity of her circumstances, but also its similarities with many other immigrants, most notably her family.

"My family, they're

are all immigrants. My grandfather is from Spain and my grandmother from Portugal," said Parrado. Originally from São Paulo, Brazil, she made her way to New York City to study film at City College in August of 2016. At times, the film seems like a letter to her grandfather, who passed away in March, and who was opposed to her going to New York.

"I didn't know anyone in New York, just went there by myself," said Parrado. "I wanted a sense of rebirth." So she migrated to New York, but almost immediately she ran into obstacles that are familiar to immigrants whose first language isn't English.

"New York definitely made me feel like an immigrant. Every time I opened my mouth, people would know that I wasn't from there," Parrado said. "It was difficult to really get that sense of rebirth."

After the title rolls through, Parrado's voice begins to narrate the rest of the film over manipulated archival footage and her own shots on a Super 8, which she had to trade in her DSLR to get.

"Memories, objects,

photos; you would try everything to show me your path," Parrado narrates, "what your culture meant to you and how that was part of me as well."

Parrado told me that the first generation of monarch butterflies to migrate south go through all the trials and tribulations, but that because of that first generation's journey, the second generation knows the way back.

In moving to New York, though, Parrado made the tough decision to be that first generation.

"I also have European citizenship, so if something happens and I'm not able to stay in New York, I'll just go over there," she said. "It's funny because my grandparents left Europe for a better life in Brazil, and I'm ready to go back there! It's really just like the butterflies. I feel like my roots are there in Europe," she says.

This gets at something that is expounded upon in the images and narration of the film: the eternal possibility of change, or as the title puts it, *metamorphosis*. As Parrado builds a life in New York City, she is constantly aware of the fact

that her grandparents have experienced much of the struggles that she's going through, but also that she is better for it.

"As an immigrant, I learned to forgive myself, to build a thicker skin, so that I could keep moving. Migrating like you did, in my own constant metamorphosis," says the narrator in the final seconds of the film. These lines are said over a shot of a monarch stretching out of its cocoon, reiterating the beautiful parallel between her own personal story,

the monarchs, and her grandfather. The "you" in this narration thus expands to more than those in Parrado's life, but also to any immigrant, butterfly or human.

Metamorphosis will premiere at the BAM Film School Shorts 2019 on Wednesday, Sept. 25, alongside films by students from Bard, Columbia, Vassar, The New School, and our very own Brooklyn College.



Metamorphosis Cover/ with permission from Fernanda Parrado

Bullshit!

by Ryan Gleason

It was Sept. 12, 2019, when I realized that maybe I should go see a doctor. After six years of not seeing one, I decided it was probably time for a check up. You know, just to make sure everything was working right. I don't get medical insurance through my job as an unemployed comedian, so I decided to take advantage of the clinic here at Brooklyn College.

I thought all I had to do was show up, get checked, and then leave. I mean, it's free, so I assumed it

wouldn't be a hassle. But NEWS FLASH! I had to know things! My birth date, my medical history, how I'm feeling... TOO MUCH!

I got through it though. I got through the basics and then it was time for the exam. The examiner checked my breathing and my reflexes, you know, basic doctor-y things. I was then asked if there is anything I would like to know, like, specifically if there was anything health wise I was worried about.

I said, "What are the usual concerns students have?"

"Mostly STD's," he responded.

Wow... I know right? So I told him I don't worry about that because I'm always careful. "Oh, yeah, well you never know, your partner might do heroin and catch something that way."

I told him that all my past girlfriends were drug free, and that I don't do recreational drugs at all. He insisted I get checked still. He said, "Maybe one

Health Clinic Confusion!

was cheating on you with someone who does."

WHAT?! Is he allowed to say that?!

I asked if he gets a lot of people in here who cheat on their partners. He told me he saw a man and woman walk in holding hands, grab free condoms and leave. Every week, they did this apparently. Then one week, that same man came in holding hands with a DIFFERENT woman and grabbed more condoms.

I said, "Oh man, that's messed up!" and he replied,

"I know, why couldn't he just grab more condoms the week before, with his girlfriend, so he didn't have to make the trip here twice for his side piece?" He then proceeded to usher me out of the exam room and through the door of the clinic. I asked, "Can I get some condoms before I go?" and he looked me up and down and said, "Really? You?" and laughed.

Best visit to the doctor, EVER.

Women's Tennis Wins First Match

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

Brooklyn College Women's Tennis won their first match of the season 5-4 Saturday, September 21, against Sarah Lawrence College. In a tightly contested affair, the Bulldogs emerged victorious and now sit at 1-4.

Brooklyn dominated their first and second singles matches, with star players Tamila Latif-Zade and Clara Bosch Mas both winning their matches without losing game.

Brooklyn lost their third, fifth, and sixth singles, while also dropping first doubles, but won second doubles 8-3, and third doubles 8-5. Junior Dora Batinovic won the deciding victory at number four singles, securing Brooklyn the overall win.

Head Coach David Wallis, who is also the Brooklyn College Men's Tennis coach but in the Spring, preached to his players at the start of

the season how learning and getting better would eventually lead to wins, even if it did not seem like it right away.

"I just want the new players to learn the basic techniques and build upon that each week, rather than worry about wins and losses. If they improve from match to match, then we are making progress," he said.

It can be difficult for a young team to stay positive after a bunch of early losses. Putting a lot of work in and not seeing definitive results can be discouraging in any sport or practice. It is a testament to Wallis and his players that they were able to be just as mentally tough as they were physically, and come out of the match against Sarah Lawrence victorious.

When asked about how his team took the early losses, Wallis responded, "They realize many of the teams we played so far were much more experienced, so they were not too upset with the losses. We worked



Brooklyn College women's tennis serving some wins. / Damion Reid

on improving our strategy in doubles matches so we could defeat even somewhat more experienced teams by utilizing different tactics."

In tennis matches at this level, there are six singles players who face off and three doubles pairings. Whichever team wins five of the nine individual matches wins.

With regard to strategy during matches, Wallis continued, "Our goal was to beat the teams with whom we are more competitive. Over time, the players come to realize that

they can occasionally beat more experienced teams by out-thinking them during the match - utilizing different formations in doubles and hitting to the opponent's weakness."

Doubles is a very different game than singles, but it all leads to the same goal: a team win. Doubles take cohesion and chemistry between players and singles take determination and diligence, knowing that you are all alone out there. The Bulldogs have a long way to go if they want to see

postseason action this year. However, they are moving in the right direction and making the progress Wallis wants to see as the season progresses.

"Players realize that improved techniques and strategy can win them some matches. But at the same time realize that the far more experienced teams will still be a problem for us at this point. But we just have to keep improving and train and then challenge those teams in the future," Wallis concluded.

Sports Scores

September 16

Men's Soccer Vs. Kean University
0-2

Women's Soccer Vs. Rosemont College
1-3

September 17

Women's Volleyball Vs. St. Joseph's College
3-1

September 18

Women's Tennis Vs. Hunter College
3-6

Men's Soccer Vs. Sarah Lawrence College

2-3

September 19

Women's Tennis Vs. John Jay College
3-6

Women's Volleyball Vs. John Jay College
3-0

September 21

Women's Soccer Vs. John Jay College
0-6

Women's Volleyball Vs. Sarah Lawrence College
3-1

Men's Soccer Vs. St. Joseph's College

3-4

Women's Volleyball Vs. Rutgers Newark

1-3

Women's Tennis Vs. Sarah Lawrence College

5-4

September 22

Women's Cross Country at York College
Finished 11/14 teams

Men's Cross Country at York College
Finished 12/13 teams