

BC NAMED MOST ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COLLEGE, STUDENTS SAY THERE IS STILL MORE TO DO

Pg. 2



THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

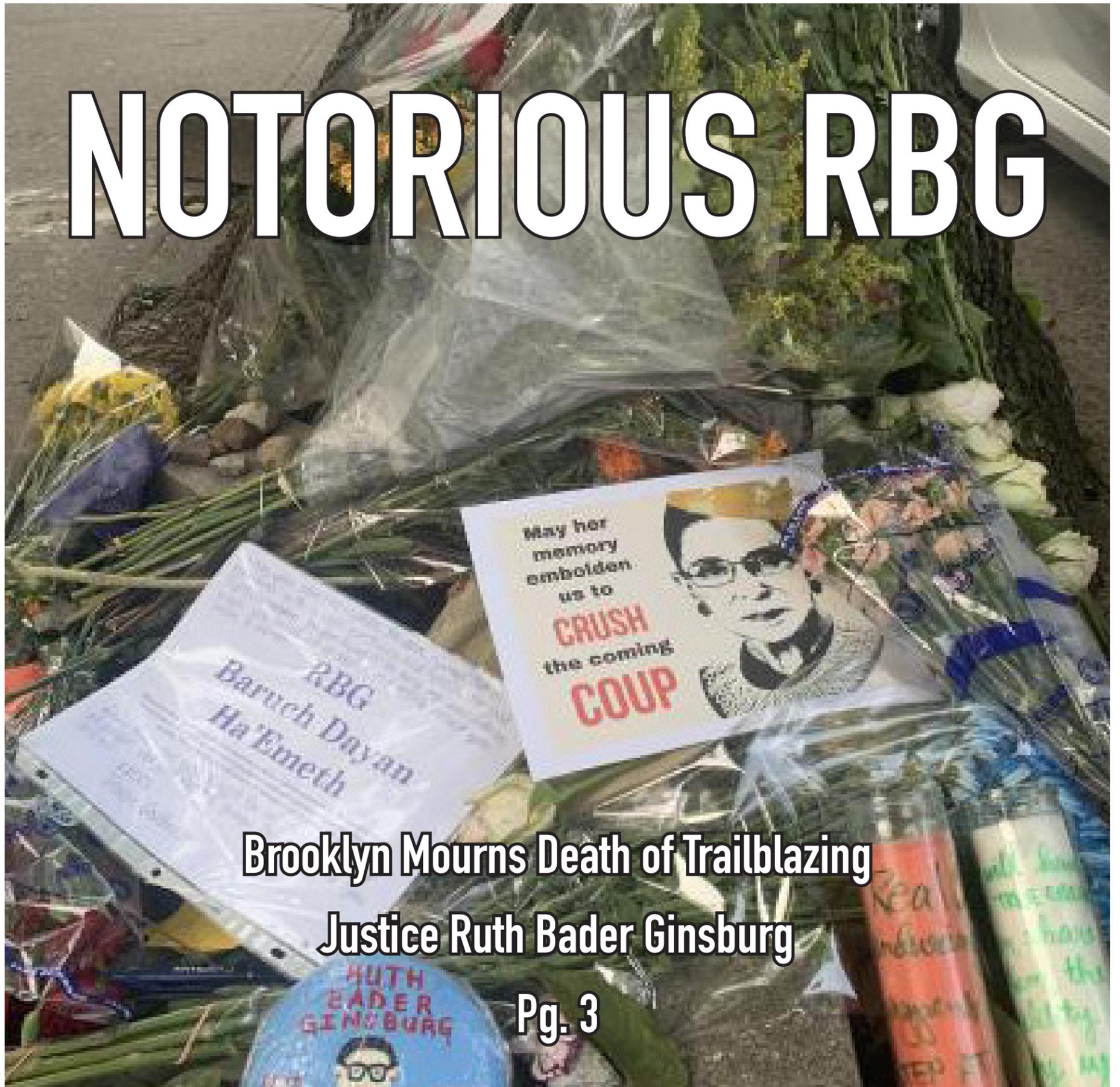
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NOTORIOUS RBG



Brooklyn Mourns Death of Trailblazing Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Pg. 3

Inside Physics Dept.
Hybrid Course
P. 5

“The Living Mural”
P. 9

Giants Lose Barkley
P. 15

A memorial outside RBG's childhood home in Midwood, Brooklyn./ Allison Rapp

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Ruth Bader Ginsburg Dies at 87

By Gabriela Flores
Features Editor

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Brooklynite who served as the second woman on the Supreme Court, died last Friday evening due to complications with pancreatic cancer. She was 87.

“Our Nation has lost a jurist of historic stature. We at the Supreme Court have lost a cherished colleague,” said Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. in a statement that announced Ginsburg’s death.

Growing up, Ginsburg lived near Brooklyn College on East 9th Street, graduating from James Madison High School in 1950. From Bedford to the Supreme Court, Ginsburg spent 27 years on the bench deciding on several landmark cases that shaped women’s rights in America. As she became known by her initials, RBG struck down many forms of discrimination, from the Virginia Military Institute’s male-only policy to the gender-based classification between a widow and widower under the Social Security Act of 1935. She was set on the then-radical pursuit of gender equality. One of her most popular dissents was her take on “today’s demolition” of the Voter Rights Act that restricted the protection of minority voters.

“It is like throwing away your umbrella in a rainstorm because you are not getting wet,” Ginsburg wrote in her dissent, making her a feminist icon for younger generations. A law student coined the justice’s nickname “Notorious RBG,” a play on the rap name “Notorious B.I.G.” of Brooklyn-native Christopher George Latore Wallace.

According to the New



Ruth Bader Ginsburg died on September 18, 2020./ Getty

York Times, after being the lone female justice for a time, RBG became the senior member and de facto leader of the court’s four-member liberal wing. She is survived by her bloc composed of three female and one male justices.

“People ask me, ‘When will you be satisfied with the number of women on the court?’” Ginsburg told National Public RadioCSPAN. “When there are nine.”

Ginsburg’s road to law and advocacy for women’s rights stemmed from a desire to carry out her mother’s legacy and aspirations.

“I pray that I may be all that she would’ve been had she lived in an age when women could aspire and achieve, and daughters are cherished as much as sons,” Ginsburg said during her Supreme Court nomination broadcasted over CSPAN.

RBG faced many adversities that shaped her work ethic and political

agenda. While attending Harvard Law School in the late 1950s, she was one of the nine female students in a class of over 500 men. As Ginsburg said in a documentary about her life called RBG, “you felt you were constantly on display. So, if you were called on in class, you felt that if you didn’t perform well, you were not failing just yourself, but for all women.”

Ginsburg came to Harvard as a new mother to her firstborn and wife to her husband Martin “Marty” Ginsburg, who was diagnosed with a rare cancer at the time. Though she had many responsibilities, Ginsburg persevered and was supported by her husband to pursue all she aspired to do.

“He was the first boy I ever knew who cared that I had a brain,” said Ginsburg in RBG. “Most guys in the 50s didn’t.”

Days before her death, Ginsburg knew her life was coming to an end. She

dictated a statement to her granddaughter Clara Spera stating, “My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed.” In translation, according to NPR, Ginsburg wants the “2020 election to play itself out before the Senate takes up the matter of her replacement.”

Though RBG’s death marked her end as a justice on the Supreme Court, her historic contributions as a litigator and advocacy for women’s rights will continue to live through her landmark decisions.

“I don’t see that my majority opinions are going to be undone,” she told the New York Times in 2013. “I do hope that some of my dissents will one day be the law.”

Ginsburg is survived by her two children, Jane and James Ginsburg, and her grandchildren.

BC is Named “Most Ethnically Diverse” In Northern Region For 3rd Time; Students and Faculty Want College To Live Up To It

By Maya Schubert
News Editor

Last week, Brooklyn College was named by U.S. News & World Report (UNWR) as the “most ethnically diverse campus” in the Northern Region. The announcement marked BC’s third year in claim to the title from USNWR.

“This distinction is the latest affirmation that proves that when you bring people of different origins and ethnicities together, incredible things can happen,” Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Brown told the Vanguard. “Brooklyn College students come from more than 140 countries, and that offers a campus atmosphere unlike any other.”

According to BC’s most recent enrollment data, 24.74% of students are white, while 21.53% are Hispanic, 19.19% are Black, and 18.28% are Asian. Only .23% of students are Native American, and .16%, Pacific Islander. The remaining 15.88% are two or more races, or unknown.

While BC’s ethnicity is headlined, some at BC

claim that the school’s claim to diversity is in name only.

“Many of us, who have been working for years to challenge racism on campus, only to encounter closed doors and cosmetic fixes, did not find cause for celebration,” the Anti-Racist Coalition at Brooklyn College told the Vanguard.

Over the summer, the Puerto Rican Alliance (PRA) published an open letter to President Michelle Anderson, detailing a set of demands for BC’s administration to combat racism. Shortly following the letter, Anderson released an outline for an Anti-Racist Agenda. The Agenda, among other things, promised the organization of a BC Implementation Team for Racial Justice, and six “listening sessions” on racial issues for BC’s community.

With the PRA’s demands not fully addressed by the Agenda, a number of other students and faculty formed the Anti-Racist Coalition (ARC) at Brooklyn College. The group released a combined set of demands on their website, criticizing the Anti-Racist Agenda on the



US News and World Report names BC as “most ethnically diverse campus.”/
US News and World Report

grounds that “it exercises ill-informed unilateral decisions rather than a collaborative process with the very people who sustain Brooklyn College.”

Declaring racist culture and leadership at BC, particularly since Anderson took office in 2016, the group has cited Anderson’s repeated refusals to have an African American Policy Forum at BC. They list silences or inaction by the rest of the administration regarding requests from students and faculty for other changes.

“What such rankings ignore is that the College administration has rebuffed calls for a more community-centered approach to diversity, inclusions, and crucially, anti-racism, that ensures that those who make

the College diverse and inclusive feel safe, secure, and affirmed at Brooklyn College,” ARC said of UNWR’s rating.

Most recently, the group cites Anderson’s lack of attendance at the Anti-Racist Agenda listening sessions.

BC’s first listening session of the fall semester, focused on staff issues, was hosted by Chief Diversity Officer Anthony Brown on September 16th. A second session on student issues will be hosted on September 23rd, and a third on faculty issues will be held on September 30th.

“The diversity of our student population is a reflection of the borough that is our home and should be celebrated,” said Associate Professor and Chairperson of Africana Studies Prudence Cumberbatch. “It is important to keep in mind, however, that the diversity in front of the classroom is not as wide ranging.”

BC has not published statistics of its faculty and staff’s diversity.

“This homogeneity has implications on what can be taught, what can be intellectually examined, the types of discussion that can be had, and the ideas that can be exchanged,” said Cumberbatch.

The ARC has emphasized the hiring of more BIPOC

faculty and staff, and one of the group’s demands is that the Africana Studies and Puerto Rican Studies departments, each with only five faculty members, be the first to receive faculty lines this school year.

While the diversity of BC’s student population matches the vibrancy of Brooklyn’s larger community, the ARC, Cumberbatch, and others believe more can be done to give voice to BC’s multitudinous body.

“We are proud of the student body’s diversity but we acknowledge that there is still much work to be done to address anti-Blackness, racism, and white supremacy at the College--even when there are BIPOC folks making the decisions,” said the ARC.

“Diversity should be reflected in all aspects of campus life; and when that is true, we have the potential to be a richer and more welcoming community,” said Cumberbatch.

Outranking campuses from Maryland to Maine in diversity, BC was also rated 6th by USNWR in social mobility, 15th best public regional university, and 33rd best university for veterans.



Brooklyn College campus./ AACSB

USG Unveils New Podcast Series

By Ian Ezinga
Business Manager

Last week, the Student Government released the first episode of *Speak Up*, a podcast designed to give students a look into the ethos of different clubs. Announced on USG's Instagram and uploaded to Youtube, *Speak Up* is an extension of the administration's aim to further connect and organize the student body.

Eliel Mizarhi is a lower sophomore serving as the USG Club Director and plays the role of interviewer on the podcast. He is utilizing a form of communication that has really taken off in the last few years, and for good reason. Podcasts can be produced on a non-existent budget, allow for a coveted long-form conversation, and are easily accessible to large groups of people. *Speak Up* hopes to leverage these advantages to make good on their mission of helping students become more connected with the college.

A podcast, according to Mizarhi, also allows for "putting [clubs] in a certain spotlight that can help students understand what their club is all about and

getting to know our student leaders in a much more intimate way that one wouldn't have access to if you just walked into a club."

Clubs have long been an integral part of life at Brooklyn College for many students. Being a venerated commuter school, however, means that extracurricular activities have not always been easy for students to get involved with.

"When I was a freshman, one of the big things for me was that Brooklyn College has so many different clubs and they offer you so many different aspects that you can be a part of but I just got really lost," said Mizarhi.

The fact that life on campus has been exported to Blackboard, Facebook groups, Instagram DMs, and Zoom calls only fuel the need for students to connect with their institution. Student clubs are facing unique challenges this semester and the biggest one is curating a sort of community without a physical place to meet. *Speak Up* aims to showcase clubs and allow them to make their case for why it would be worthwhile for students to join.

The first episode of the podcast was

a conversation with Kimora McGregor, who is the Treasurer of the Psychology Club. The episode, produced entirely by Mizarhi, is a testament to the sophomore Club Director's first attempt at producing a podcast.

"It was my first time and I am recording using my earphones, on my laptop, and not using any crazy software, just a basic recording program called Audacity," replied Mizarhi when asked about the current scale of production.

While the first episode wasn't confined to the same production standards as *This American Life*, the podcast plans to serve as

a channel for students to learn more about clubs and life on campus.

The episode with McGregor discussed the role of mental health for students during a pandemic. They chatted about what it's like to be a student at this time and also some of the different contours of combating deteriorating mental health. One piece of advice from McGregor was to keep a close eye on your body for signs of your mental health not being entirely up to par, because your body reacts before your mind does.

"If you notice a large change or a subtle change, then before it

escalates, you could probably stop it before it gets to that point," said McGregor.

While not all clubs will be able to give psychological advice for staying in the saddle, there is plenty to learn from a vast and diverse collection of student clubs. *Speak Up* has plans to interview a number of clubs and host multiple student leaders for discussions in order to give the student body the feeling of being connected.



"Speak Up", the new podcast released by the BC Student Government./ BC Student Government on YouTube

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

@THEBCVANGUARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

“Run It As A Hybrid, Or Cancel The Course,” Physics Dept’s Hybrid Lab

By Bobbie Bell
Staff Writer

For many students, taking a science lab course remotely is not ideal. For the physics department, all courses are online with only one hybrid, Modern Physics Laboratory. Thus far, half the students have been on campus for labs on September 11, while the other half of students are expected to step onto the campus grounds on October 9.

With 11 undergraduate physics majors enrolled in the course, half conduct their labs on campus

at a time in Ingersoll Hall. The department has devised a plan to ensure that students are socially distanced, yet can properly conduct necessary experiments for the course.

“The laboratory course involves using sophisticated instruments and requires dark room for some experiments; which can not be fulfilled by online teaching,” said Professor Mim Nakarmi, the professor of the hybrid course. “We put experimental set ups very far apart, and only one student works with one

set-up,” said Nakarmi.

They are currently utilizing two laboratory rooms in the building to stay within proper health and safety guidelines. Nakarmi emphasized that students maintain more than six feet away from each other, and there are six feet markers on the floor so that even the professor can social distance when interacting with students.

Before the entire world was practically shut down due to the pandemic and remote learning became highly favored in this current COVID-19 state,



Brooklyn College lab set-up./ Professor Nakarmi

the physics department planned on the course being completely in-person, as did many departments.

Numerous undergrads with a major in physics needed this course to fulfill their requirements and

graduate. According to Nakarmi, the department had two options: “Run it as hybrid or cancel the course.” Cancelling the course would have been a major setback for students that were betting on taking the course this fall to graduate.

“College administrators have been very supportive to conduct the hybrid class securely. College has provided required PPEs for students,” said Nakarmi. Nakarmi has not received any complaints from the students but hopes the half that did get to conduct their labs on campus thus far are pleased with how the course is being conducted.



Brooklyn College lab set-up./ Professor Nakarmi

SAIL Center Presents “A Taste of Culture” Diversity Fair

By Paola Sacerdote
Staff Writer

With campus closed, the Brooklyn College Diversity Fair, hosted by Student Activities Involvement Leadership (S.A.I.L) Center was conducted via Zoom this year. Students from various clubs participated, wearing cultural clothing and showcasing photos of cultural or religious celebrations through artwork, music, and

dance.

“We aim to create a safe space where students can be themselves, where they can share their common concerns as well as their common joys,” Assistant Director of the fair Renée Straker introduced the event.

Even though the fair was held online students were able to engage and enjoy the art, music, conversations, and games. Students and members of different clubs presented

slides showing art, dance, and fashion of their culture. A variety of clubs including the Computer Science Club, Muslim Women Educational Initiative, and Glamazon, BC’s only fashion club, joined the fair and introduced their clubs with video and slides of cultural content.

The fair created group online questionnaire games to get students engaging with one another. A DJ also played

music throughout the event.

Sharnette Collins, treasurer for Black Student Union, informed participants of other upcoming events the S.A.I.L Center is having this semester.

“We want to have a venting session,” Collins said, “For us to come together and be able to talk about what has happened the past few months with COVID. We are also planning to have an event

on how COVID-19 has impacted the black and brown communities and what we can do to help our friends and family.”

The event gave a space for students to interact with each other and learn about the culturally diverse clubs, organizations and departments that are represented on Brooklyn College’s campus.

“Race, Violence, and Power,” Prof Kobie Coleman Gives Lecture on “Counter-Violence”

By Gabriela Flores
Features Editor

Police brutality in America has led to many discussions on how to end the ongoing mistreatment of Black people, along with the history of race relations that suppress them and other people of color. In his lecture, “Race, Violence, and Power,” BC Philosophy adjunct professor Kobie Coleman makes the case that counter-violence, or the self-defense of oppressed communities, is a confrontation that will permanently overthrow the “massive domination” that is systemic racial injustice.

“I think it’s unrealistic for anyone to assume that massive domination, injustice, inequality, will not someday produce a counter-force sufficient for its overthrow,” said Coleman. “Historically, this has never not been true, right?”

In his lecture, Coleman points out the spirit of the American Revolution that fueled a violent overthrow of the British empire in the name of liberty and independence. He also describes “lesser-known rebellions,” such as the Haitian Revolution of 1791, that have “developed the African diaspora.” These acts of violence carried out by the oppressed against their oppressors are representative of counter-violence.

Violence is often defined vaguely as an inflection of harm, which fails to recognize its potential connection to power. As Coleman puts it, violence is rooted in the “ongoing, normalized social practices, organized by power relations.” Violence and power can go hand and hand;



Protest against police brutality in Trafalgar Square after the murder of George Floyd./Dominic Lipinski, Associated Press

once one recognizes this relationship, Coleman argues that one can begin to see that different forms of violence can be “a buttress to power.” To know the moral quality of violent acts, or how justifiable they are, one must evaluate society’s reactions.

“The way I see it, we have a far too simple idea of violence. We need qualitative distinctions that go with different kinds of social relations and different kinds of historical processes,” said Coleman.

Coleman defines three umbrellas of violence: isolation, conventional, and emancipatory counter-violence. Throughout his discussion of police brutality, he focused on the prevalence of conventional violence, or the practice of conformity to institutional power, and his advocacy for the rebellious spirit of counter-violence. In narrowing his explanation of these distinct terms of violence, Coleman

defined which acts of harm are justifiable and which are not.

Using the murder of George Floyd, a Black man who was killed last May by Minneapolis police, Coleman described the unjust violence of the officer who caused Floyd’s death as conventional violence.

“We can admit that it’s not a group of flawed individuals who happen to be police officers from one department to another, upon city, upon city, upon city, who are putting Black people at the risk of death,” said Coleman. “Rather, it’s easy to see there’s an institutional bias in place where Black people are profiled by the police and targeted for harassment and arrest. If you resist or at least pretend that you are resisting, then you are targeted for murder.”

Ultimately, Coleman argues, the institutional ideas are learned by officers as a result of the racial injustice that is rooted in America’s history of slave catching

and bounty hunting. Counter-violence against these interconnected acts of conventional violence can be exhibited by the oppressed Black community who cannot depend on the rule of law to “assert or protect their interest.”

“Political power, for instance, is bundled up in a state restricted or at best administered in very small doses to individuals or groups who demonstrate an affinity that serves states’ interests. Even if it’s against their own interests,” said Coleman.

As Coleman argues, it is imperative to observe that the most appropriate method of evaluating social change is understanding that acts of racial injustices have historic records. In pursuing the permanent end of systemic racial discrimination, four different possibilities centered on violence are likely to occur. The first is unjust nonviolence, which defines the passivity or submission to oppression; on the other

hand, unjust violence is a contingent reinforcement of oppression against identifiable constituencies like policing. Thirdly, just nonviolence is a direct form of counter-violence that is passive in nature; its counterpart, just violence is the means of self-defense.

As the discussion for eradicating police brutality continues, understanding the precedents of such violence and abuse of power has become a necessity to develop social change.

“In the wake of the continued violence against Black men and people of color, the persistent and endemic racism in our country, we are all in desperate need to hear from informed voices that can speak on these important issues, and provide us with tools of reflection, understanding, and change,” said Robert Lurz, Chair of the Brooklyn College Philosophy Department.

BC Prof Ian Olasov Wants You To “Ask A Philosopher”

By Chaya Gurkov
Staff Writer

It might come as a surprise to someone walking through the colorful stands of vegetables and fruits in an NYC farmers market to see a table with nothing but two bowls filled with strips of paper, another with some candy, and a sign hanging over the edge with the words “Ask a Philosopher” emboldened on it.

One may courageously venture towards the booth and start asking what this is for or maybe launch into a problem that’s been on your mind for some time.

There is a good chance that one of those faces you are chatting with belongs to the originator of this idea, a Brooklyn College philosophy professor named Ian Olasov, who’s newly published book *Ask a Philosopher: Answers to Your Most Important and Most Unexpected Questions* is modeled after the conversations the table has sparked.

Although he was curious from the start, Olasov’s journey into philosophy

really began in his junior year of high school when a whole new realm of understanding opened to him from his philosophy teacher Bruce Matthews’ classroom. The teachings of Plato, Paul Tillich, and Immanuel Kant opened his mind to a world constituted by thinking.

“These questions, which I had been trying to answer through reading like science fiction and reading novels, I realized that these were questions that people had actually addressed head-on. There was this whole discipline,” Olasov recalled. “This is what philosophy was really about - the moral questions and the metaphysical questions, which I cared about the most.”

The transition from the classroom to podium came in the form of a speaking series Olasov founded in the Brooklyn Public Library, a familiar forum in which ideas are engaged with and discussed. But by taking philosophy into the streets, Olasov uncovered a new type of platform, one that was more

interdependent on both parties present at the discussion.

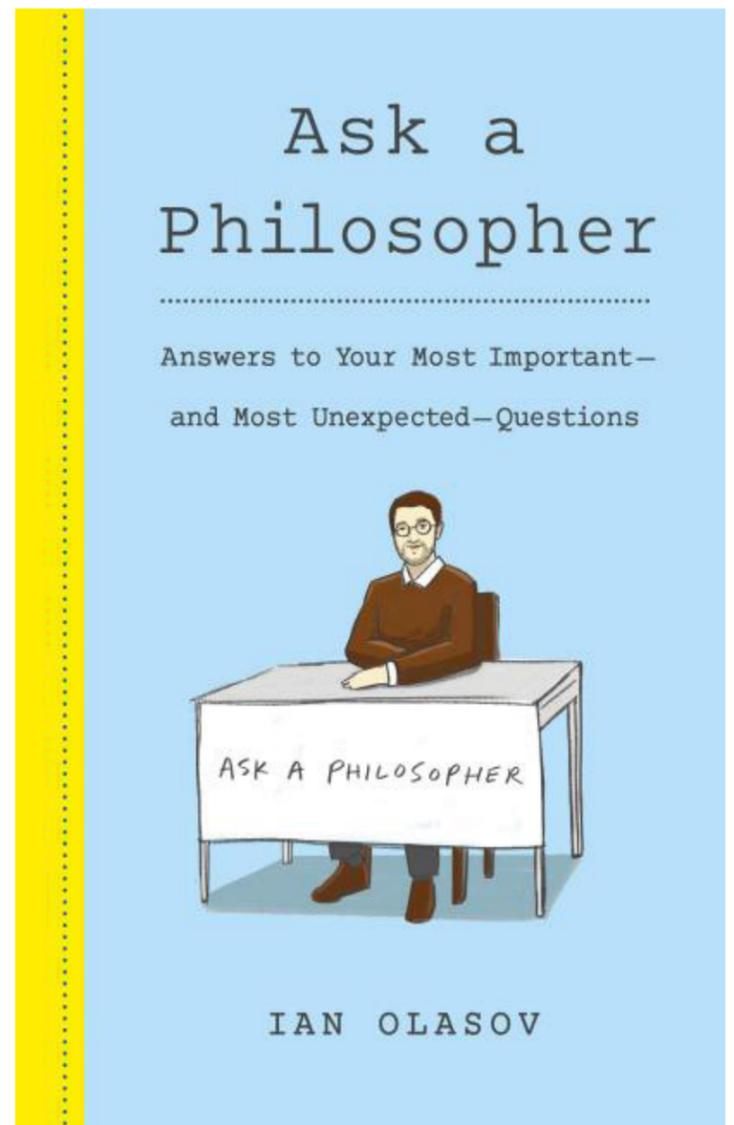
“At the speaker series the terms and the direction of the conversation are really dictated by the speaker. It’s like, what problems do they care about? But at the Ask a Philosopher booth—the rationale for this is, well, it’s what problems does everybody else care about?,” Olasov said.

Olasov’s book format is structured after the question and answer prototype, with some interesting and humorous stories from the booth sprinkled throughout the chapters.

But one of the most distinctive features of the book is its almost whimsical construction, most apparent in the topics which range from heavier subjects like “why should I care” to the bizarre yet amusing questions like “is ketchup a smoothie?” (Spoiler: Ian’s answer is it only becomes one when you ask that question. So for the love of all things good, never ask).

A theme Olasov explicitly details with a quote early on is that “philosophy can be both perfectly continuous for everyday life and also utterly transporting.” Olasov carried out this saying in his transition from an on-stage-lecturer to finding his seat amongst the crowd. It is also the more fundamental reason the book contains such a vast spectrum of philosophical inquiry.

“There are different ways of enjoying philosophy. There are different ways of getting value out of philosophy,” Olasov said. “And part of it has to do with the sort of harmless fun of working through puzzles pressing against the limits of our everyday



“Ask a Philosopher” by Ian Olasov./ Amazon

ideas or norms, and part of it isn’t harmless.”

Reframing how we see philosophy from ideas contemplated by the brilliant amongst us to the logical and ethical concepts we find ourselves engaging with every day is a step in the right direction.

With that precept, Olasov makes a straightforward plea to the reader to “take your thoughts seriously,” after writing about an encounter with a sharp 12-year-old girl who’s question to him at the booth consisted of comparing the great psychoanalysts Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung.

“You’ve got a brain, and you can use it,” Olasov stated simply.

Writing down your arguments, opening yourself up to human connection through discussion, and putting in the hard work to make

it make sense were some follow-ups to Olasov’s initial request, but to essentially think that you can think will always be at the heart of the matter.

So if you happen to be walking at a farmers market (given that in due time, this awful pandemic will be but a distant memory) and you pass an almost bare table saved for two bowls on it and a sign that says “Ask a Philosopher,” let Olasov’s parting words, and his hope for what people get from his book, ring in your ears.

“I hope that people see themselves as able to participate in these conversations, and you don’t have to be some brain genius to do it. Anybody can do this stuff. That, if nothing else, is what I hope people get out of it,” said Olasov.



Ian Olasov, author of “Ask a Philosopher”./ianolasov.com

Koppelman School Program Aims To Solve The Ultimate “Math Problem”

By Qichelle Maitland
Staff Writer

Recently, the Koppelman School of Business partnered with Brooklyn NoBrainer, a test preparation center, to help BC students boost their numerical literacy. Through their coalition MathMinds Project, the partners aim to illuminate the importance of thinking mathematically for adults.

“If you’re not the greatest in math, come to this place. It’s a safe environment outside of the whole grading scheme,” said Ken Globerman, BC business professor and founder of MathMinds Project.

Globerman, who considers himself to have worn many hats throughout his career, has decades of experience as a business coach and an investment professional in the private sector. His last year and a half has been spent as a full-time lecturer at Koppelman.

More recently, he began working with post-grads who were either prepping for the GMAT or GRE in hopes to continue their education. “This pattern that I was seeing was that a lot of these intelligent people were really struggling with basic fundamental math. The math that you would learn when you were in middle school or in high school,” said Globerman.

“Math is not the star performer, it’s the supporting cast,” said Globerman, who began to realize that his students who, “may be studying business administration or business management where they can excel without math, ran into certain courses where the application of math is important. That’s where the ball gets dropped.”

The mission of MathMinds is to improve numerical skills for all levels. Think Toastmasters, a nonprofit education organization that helps build public speaking, but for math literacy. Globerman, who saw how well the well-known educational

Math Minds Project



The MathMinds Project, which aims to help adult math education./ [Brooklyn NoBrainer on Facebook](#)

club took off, decided to bring on Michele Hess, the previous president of Toastmasters at Koppelman. Hess graduated this May with a degree in Business Administration and has been helping Globerman with MathMinds initiatives since the start.

“I transferred to Brooklyn College with my associate’s degree and hadn’t really taken a math class in years. This is important because so many people go into college not realizing what they don’t know,” Hess said. “They’re unsure of what they don’t know and something like this is great because you can learn from other students.”

Globerman explained that the lack of numerical literacy is widely known in Koppelman, more broadly Brooklyn College and CUNY as a whole. However, the issue is bigger than CUNY. Citing the Programme for International Student Assessment’s most recent biennial report, Globerman recalled the United States falling behind countries like Canada, China and Poland in scores. “The US does quite well in reading and language skills, but the math skills we ranked 36 on the last report and I think it’s out of 70. By many

definitions that’s pretty bad for a country that thinks of itself as the number one country in the world,” said Globerman.

So what could be done? A question that Globerman asked himself after seeing the ‘math problem’ in this country also manifested in his classroom. He found that while the university’s Learning Center was a great resource, it tends to be more course specific. In addition, even though professors have office hours for individual sessions with students, some with classes of 220 students per semester may be unavailable to help.

“It becomes difficult to provide a lot of one-on-one support. Then of course there’s paid tutors, right? But paid tutors get expensive and not everybody can afford one,” Globerman said. “Look at MathMinds as an alternative to those things.”

“Literacy skills are vital. And I think we can do a better job at making, not only students, but society aware of that,” the professor said. “When you don’t have those numerical literacy skills, you have a harder time understanding the impact of a decision that you’re making.”

Globerman’s MathMinds

plan begins with lessons that reintroduce fundamentals such as the system of equations, order of operations, and the general way that numbers work together. You know, the things you may have forgotten about since high school. Once the group masters algebraic equations and reading functions, Globerman will move on to data analytics and relevant software applications. “We want to introduce these applications and how they’re used so that whether you’re a marketing, finance or even a management student, you can but at least be aware of the latest software being used in your particular industry,” said Globerman.

The communication aspect of the group is something that Jiawen Mai, accounting major and senior at Brooklyn College appreciates. “What I really expect to get out of this program is improving my communication and leadership skills.” Mai, who is a Math Coach at the program, aids Professor Globerman in preparing presentations for the class and helps elaborate on certain exercises that the community may be struggling with.

“For me as an immigrant,

when I got to high school here, I realized that not a lot of my peers were focused on the foundations of math,” said Mai. “I do have very strong math skills, but I want to learn how to explain them to others clearly and more efficiently.”

The club is off to a great start in its early days. They meet virtually via Zoom every Friday at 12:30pm for an hour and fifteen minutes and plan to do so throughout the semester until finals week. “We’ve had about 70 students each session and while it’s geared towards the Koppelman school, it’s open to anybody at Brooklyn College,” Globerman assured.

“When you come here, you can be more open about what you know and what you don’t know,” said Globerman, who wants those needing to brush up on their skills to know that MathMinds is for everyone. He welcomes students of all skill levels as the sessions encourage peer-to-peer learning. “I don’t want this to be a small intimate thing. I prefer to use the word community, we’re developing communities, from Brooklyn College to elsewhere.”

BC Alum Keeps Live Theater Alive With: “The Living Mural”

By John Schilling
Arts Editor

While COVID-19 has made Broadway go dark until 2021, live theater is still alive and well in New York City thanks to Anna Strasser, a Brooklyn College alumna. Strasser, who received her MFA in Directing from Brooklyn College in 2018 and served as an adjunct lecturer to undergraduate theater students, is the creator and director of *The Living Mural*.

The Living Mural is a new approach to live theater performed at the Mall in Central Park every Saturday from 1-4 p.m. It is what Strasser refers to as “a direct theatrical response to the Coronavirus crisis in the United States and specifically New York City.”

With proper social distancing markers chalked out on the sidewalk and mask-wearing safety regulations in place, *The Living Mural* is made up of short, individual performances that range from original works to pieces written by household names like William Shakespeare. Altogether, these pieces make up one big picture: a mural, so to speak.

“Like a mural, we are responding to and



“The Living Mural” performing in Central Park./NY1

commemorating a specific moment in time. This moment. The time for this work is now, when live, in-person performance is needed more than ever,” Strasser released in a statement. “We seek to present theater safely and without formalities: our performance is short, raw, and responsive.”

When the pandemic first hit back in March 2020, Strasser felt the impact of the shutdown on her own work. Despite COVID-19 serving as inspiration for what would become “*The Living Mural*,” the pandemic initially crippled Strasser’s work as a whole.

“I had several gigs lined up that all evaporated and it felt like New York

City was shrouded in a cloud of fear and death and uncertainty,” Strasser told the Vanguard. “Ultimately, the pandemic had me search for what the fundamental elements of theater are, and for me it was an actor and an audience sharing space. So I sought to create a safe way to bring live theater to the public.”

Initially, when developing *The Living Mural*, Strasser sought advice from Tom Bullard, the head of the MFA Directing program at Brooklyn College. Upon hearing about the project, Bullard gave it his blessing.

“[Bullard] basically said, ‘Be safe! But go for it!’” Strasser shared. “I am still reaping the benefits

of the mentorship from Tom Bullard and Mary Robinson.”

Aside from mentorship, Strasser’s Brooklyn College roots also provided a foundation for her work. From the people she met to the experiences that she endured, Strasser credits the success of *The Living Mural* to her time at Brooklyn College.

“Brooklyn College gave me the community first and foremost. Many of the actors and playwrights participating are also Brooklyn College alumni,” Strasser said. “I met some of the finest artists during my two years at Brooklyn College. They are willing, smart and brave -- exactly the type of people we need to make *The Living Mural* a success.”

Since they first began performing four weeks ago, the reception of *The Living Mural* has been overwhelmingly positive. This was a relief to Strasser and the performers who were initially unsure how the public would respond to their work.

“People enjoy the pieces but also want to stay and chat with the actors -- about theater, about quarantine, about life in

the Coronavirus chapter,” Strasser said. “We’ve had people tell us that this is the most interaction they’ve had in months.”

Despite originally stating that *The Living Mural* would only perform through the end of September, Strasser told the Vanguard that performances will continue every Saturday as long as the weather and COVID-19 permits.

With autumn and the possibility of a second wave around the corner, *The Living Mural* may soon be forced to come to an end, but Strasser is open to reviving it in Spring 2021.

“I wouldn’t be surprised if we relaunched in the spring -- perhaps with some new pieces that explored whatever our new normal looks like then,” Strasser said.

“People miss theater, but so many of us have been so isolated that this provides a moment to share a socially distanced space with someone else. And that has been invaluable for both actors and audiences.”



“The Living Mural” performing in Central Park./NY1

Breaking Into The Art Market: Nancy Elsamanoudi

By Michael Castaneda

Columnist

Nancy Elsamanoudi is an up and coming Brooklyn based artist, but her path is not a typical one. Her parents are immigrants from Egypt. Her dad is a scientist and she grew up in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. She has an undergraduate degree in Philosophy -- this is not a typical New York artist story.

So far this year, she has been showcased in Spring Break Art Fair: Los Angeles and the special exhibition Domestic Brutes at the Pelham Art Center -- not bad for a pandemic year.

Elsamanoudi has worked her way into the art world from the ground up. "Ultimately, the work has to speak for itself," she says, but it goes beyond that. Her advice to people starting in the art world is to start building your network early and continue to grow it.

Like any other creative field, word of mouth and who you know matters a lot. Other people will inevitably have more

advantages than you. -- they might have gone to Yale for an MFA degree or have great wealth with family connections. However, she suggests you can still make solid connections with other artists and these connections may help to get your work shown.

Elsamanoudi advises showing as much as you can. She says the thing about New York is that there are so many places to show. There are large amounts of artists, galleries to generate enough reactive energy to guide you as an artist in ways that most other cities cannot give you.

It's also hard to know what people are going to like and what is going to get traction. Elsamanoudi started doing abstract work initially and nothing really took off. Then she changed to figurative work, found her voice in sexual political paintings, and things for her started to take shape. She was inspired by a quote from the Australian lesbian comedian, Hannah Gadsby.

"The history of Western



Courtesy of Nancy Elsamanoudi

Art is just the history of men painting women like they're painting flesh vases for their dick flowers," Gadsby says.

Elsamanoudi started to paint literal vases of "dicks" and a naked woman masturbating. She uses pornographic magazines as part of her sources, which she can buy cheaply in sets at sex stores. It is not uncommon to find Hustler, Penthouse or Voluptuous on her bookshelf, along with philosophy works of Kant, Kierkegaard, and Nietzsche.

She currently works in a studio in Sunset Park which is subsidized by an art nonprofit organization called Chashama. Having the studio really helps her feel like an artist, but it's the contact with other artists that is key. The Sunset Park studio is structured in such a way that you can work on your own, but also liaise with other artists. This

type of creative synergy has always been effective in this way.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology Building 20 was much the same way. It is second only to the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the advances of physics in the United States. It was built as a temporary building in World War II but lasted 55 years. Nine Nobel prizes winners and 20% of American physicists worked there in the U.S. at one time. It was known as a "magic incubator."

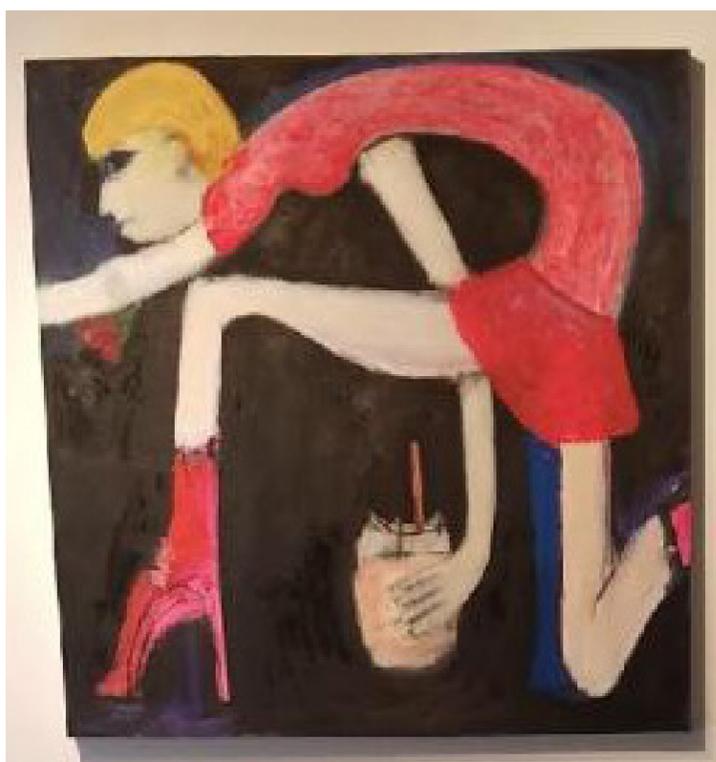
Cal Newport, a computer science professor at Georgetown University described a place where people could work deeply and privately in their offices, but also could converse with other scientists. He ascribes the success of the program to this duality. Elsamanoudi's art studio works in a similar fashion.

Now, when working

and networking with other artists, you need to develop a thick skin. Considering that some artists might be more sensitive to the world, this may be a challenge. Elsamanoudi suggests carefully protecting the artwork you place on Instagram, as others can harvest your pictures and leave you with no credit. As supportive as artists can be with each other, they can be equally as critical of your work and often behind your back. It's not a guarantee that would ever happen, but it shouldn't be discounted either.

There is no magic solution to break into the art world, but don't let that hold you back.

Nancy Elsamanoudi currently lives in Brooklyn, not too far from the Pratt Institute where she did her MFA. She lives with two roommates and her fluffy cream colored poodle, Fergus.



Nancy Elsamanoudi's "Happy Hour"/
Courtesy of Nancy Elsamanoudi

On The Record: Bella Donna, Stevie Nicks

By Allison Rapp
Opinions Editor

In music, politics, and seemingly every venue in between, there is an invisible resistance band that women have carried the burden of. Nothing is impossible -- hard work and thick skin will often do the trick -- but in almost every scenario in which accomplishments mean something, women are inevitably faced with a slightly higher, more slanted wall to scale.

Of course, it isn't always about the accomplishment and the accompanying photos, plaques, and ceremonies it brings. When Ruth Bader Ginsburg diligently toiled over those women's rights cases in the 1970s, she didn't do so for the fame or glory that would eventually be tied to her name -- she did so because the alternative didn't make sense. There are thousands upon thousands of words that will likely be written about her legacy in the coming weeks, and my grief has been similar to many, many others, but my most immediate reaction has been one of gratitude. I live in a state that is, traditionally, blue, and will unlikely divert from that at any point in the future. I also grew up with a set up parents who were fortunate enough to have reliable access to the various forms of health coverage I needed. When my mother graduated from

college with a degree in social work, she took a job at Planned Parenthood, and it went without saying in my household that having autonomy over our own reproductive processes was as natural a right as the right to clean water or shelter. I had very little reason to ever stop and think "Well, now what might my plan be if X, Y, or Z should happen?" Now I have plenty of reason.

After Ginsburg's death became public, Stevie Nicks penned a short tribute on her social media.

"She fought for me, and all women," Nicks wrote. "She was our girl, our champion, our finest example." One quiet and demure, the other mystical and alluring, both women have served as something not commonly found in their respective industries: a role model for other women.

"You can ride high atop your pony / I know you won't fall / 'Cause the whole thing's phoney
You can fly swinging from your trapeze / Scaring all the people / But you'll never scare me."

The opening lyrics to the title track, "Bella Donna," leave little to the imagination. Nicks is no fool, and knows precisely the way the game is played. Despite much of the rock and roll industry insisting that this was really a man's world, their words were not reality.

In between work with Fleetwood Mac, Nicks



chose to write and record her entire debut solo album for really no other reason than, well, she wanted to. The move was bold, considering the rocky connections of the members of Fleetwood Mac, and her notoriously dramatic relationship with guitarist Lindsey Buckingham. Yet, Nicks set to work with producer Jimmy Iovine, hired Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers and Don Henley for a handful of tracks, and wound up creating a record that still stands the test of time. Her message was never brash or spiteful, but straightforward and clear: I am a star in my own right and I don't need a band to get me there.

"The timeless face of a rock and roll woman while her heart breaks /

Oh, you know the dream keeps coming even when you forget to feel / For me it's the only life that I've ever known."

On "After the Glitter Fades," Nicks reminds us that the stage is almost certainly where she feels most at home. Like Ginsburg, her unprecedented approach occurred because it made the most common sense -- they blazed trails because the alternative was simply not an option.

Bella Donna would end up landing Nicks a second Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction in 2019. She is the only woman to be inducted twice, compared to 22 men.

"As with all legends, you think they will live forever, so you will get there in time," Nicks continued in her tribute

to Ginsburg. "I did not get to meet her. I did not get to stand in her grace."

If there is consolation to be had, it must be in knowing that women like Ginsburg and Nicks existed all through the 20th century from all walks of life, and they continue to exist in this day and age. So long as there are walls and barriers that attempt to bar us from our inalienable rights, there will be women like them -- like us -- who will demand the feet be taken off our necks.

COVID-19 And A Mournful Student

By Carlos Daniel
Martrinez
Staff Writer

In some of our minds, the boat is now sinking and we'd like to give up. For others, maybe we could hop on another boat in the meantime and when that one sinks, we'd figure out a way to hop onto the next. When I lost my job, I hopped on another vessel. When I was unable to see my friends again and celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and other milestones, I hopped on another and spent time with them online. For me, I was already in peril the year before. I went through a breakup with a girl, I almost lost a best friend from suicide, a good friend of mine lost his mother, and I was flunking out a lot so I contemplated about dropping out of Brooklyn College for good.

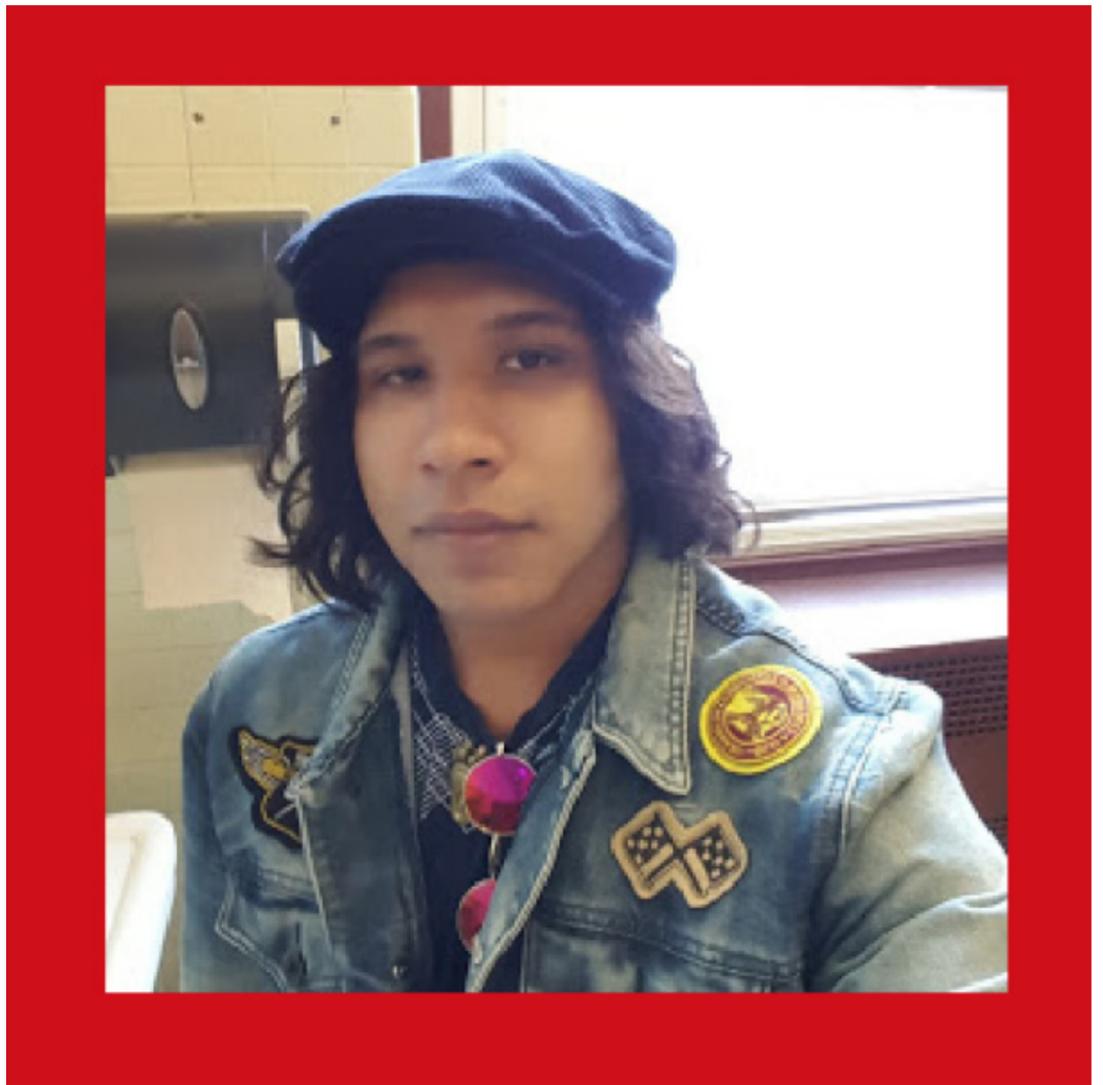
However, nothing could prepare me when I lost two relatives in a span of two months, one who unfortunately died from a recurring illness, and died all alone in his home with no one to help him. Then -- perhaps what hit me most -- my grandfather, who died from COVID-19 complications. It rocked my whole family and we became more divided than we already were. His death

made everyone more distressed, and it got so bad that we couldn't do much to help one another, especially in far distances.

Unable to comfort anyone at that moment, let alone myself, I spent moments in the dark with my own thoughts. It wasn't a pleasant time handling everything by myself, and I was already going through my own bouts of anxiety and panic attacks. My family and friends were of little help to me at that point.

I still had to prepare for the fall semester while also going through a time of being unemployed for who knew how long. Whether I liked it or not, I still had to get on with my life. The ship was sinking and I stood there with my knees in the water. It was hard to jump on another ship at that time -- it still is -- but I hopped on another floating device.

Some days, I'd remember the night earlier in the year when my best friend almost killed himself. I told myself that I should never allow that to happen to him again -- and that I need to be a better listener whenever he has a problem. I want to look at his own struggle as something to remind me that he's still alive and so am I, while also acknowledging



Carlos Daniel Martinez, author of "COVID-19 and a Mournful Student"/Carlos Daniel Martinez

that what he went through was brave. I'm still figuring it out myself. It's vague and blurry in my head, but somewhere in it there's got to be a positive message behind all that shared pain.

Right now, many college students probably still don't feel like speaking about their innermost pain and sorrow. They still feel like they're not ready to talk yet, which is fine because everyone is on a different time flow. While for some, help can come in weeks, for others it takes months—or even years—to seek out help. I'm not the best person for advice, but what I could say is that

it's fine for anyone who is currently studying this semester to not say anything. Feelings are still fresh, the year hasn't ended, we still cannot get a moment to relax while the country is going through both a deadly virus, racial injustice, and even the threat of more severe global climate change.

Maybe you've lost someone yourself. Maybe you know someone who did. Or maybe you feel like no matter where you are, the world isn't a safe place to be living in. All I can tell you is whatever you're feeling, you're stronger than that. And that it's okay to not search out for help at this minute. Take your time.

Don't rush things just because classes have begun and you feel like forcing your emotions to the side. Because sooner or later, you're going to come to grips with what you're feeling anyway. Let go of that pain. And then whenever the time is right for you, talk to someone. Anyone you feel you can trust well, and just let go of everything you've been holding on since the start. Let your pain be your newfound strength that you never thought you had in you from the start. Believe in yourself, and never let anyone tell you otherwise. Let this year be your year of empowerment.

Op-Ed: What Brooklyn College Stole From Us

By Daniel Vázquez Sanabria
Guest Contributor

What Brooklyn College stole from me was not my own. What Brooklyn College stole from me was the result of three long years of endless work, something which often meant I would spend the entirety of my summers on campus—even when I was not enrolled in a single summer course. What Brooklyn College stole from me was the carefully and lovingly collected information that I so desperately tried to collect to make the school a better and different space for my people. What Brooklyn College stole from me is what Brooklyn College stole from us.

Certainly, this piece will stir conversation. White people will say they are extremely comfortable with their positions and experiences across the college that the entire point of me writing this will be reduced to some less trivial aspect of this story. The higher ranking professors, some who will be (white) Latinxs, will say that they, as Latinxs, have never been exposed to any physical harm by a campus safety officer. They eventually reduce their calls for a cop-free CUNY to the horrible demise of people who actually have been dehumanized while coming to take a course that they probably had no money to pay for or had to work their [censored] off to pay for. However, this is not just my story, and I hope you listen and listen well.

During the entirety of this past summer the Brooklyn College administration began a huge public relations project. This project was centered on anti-racism, even when the college has been anything but anti-racist. However,

the only reason this happened this year and not last year is because George Floyd's death sparked world-wide protests that forced colleges and universities, like Brooklyn College, to readapt their neoliberal verbiage to survive the uproar of people, who have been locked inside for months, and who will most likely unleash their frustrations on these institutions once they open back up. But anti-racism is not a project you take on because you need to boost enrollment or get your face on a list of "Most Anti-Racist Colleges You Should Go To."

Last summer, I sat down with the BC administration to talk anti-racism. I was called a liar, and that if I wanted any of it to happen I would have to do it all by myself. Absolutely no support was offered by the college and I dropped the project because, as we have seen, no project is ensured in our little Brooklyn campus without the support, both institutional and monetary, of the college.

When the first Town Hall happened, organized by David Wells, the Program Director for the Black and Latino Male Initiative on campus, I made sure to speak about policing and surveillance from the part of the NYPD in student spaces. Once again, I was gaslit and told that the college had no formal relationship with the NYPD (even when our college president has a whole statement published on the college website, from November 21, 2017, saying she sat down in a meeting with the local NYPD precinct to ensure they could use our bathrooms). It was then that our #CUNYSummerofStruggle began.

As the President of CUNY's longest standing cultural (and activist) club, I wrote



Sanabria (Far Left) at a protest./@DanielVzqz07 on Twitter

a letter and consulted all the members I knew who had worries about policing, the underfunding of our ethnic studies departments, and any other issue they believed was the product of structural racism. Our letter was out to get signatures by June 11, 2020. To my surprise, a group of faculty and staff had drafted their own letter, which was released and sent to President Michelle Anderson on June 17, 2020. We received responses on June 19 -- Juneteenth. (Because why not use the opportunity to celebrate a holiday that was created by Black people during a time when, after not doing so for so many years, you have to show Black people that you care about them?)

Long story short, we got together and established the Anti-Racist Coalition at Brooklyn College, consisting of a group of students, faculty, and staff seeking to address the racism and anti-Blackness of the college in a more holistic sense. All of our proposals were immediately co-opted

by the president's Special Assistant, who also somehow serves as the Chief Diversity Officer (don't mind the conflict of interest there) in his poor attempt to show that he has actually been working on anti-racism. (He hasn't.)

Now we're fed this beautiful idea of an Implementation Team for Racial Justice. Mind you, I proposed we created one last year in August, after consulting many students, faculty, and staff (we knew about this last year). Somehow people expect me to just sit and be happy that they are doing something. But what are they really doing if they rejected the same idea last year? They're catering to students who, unlike me, are unaware of the realities of the college. (There's not much to see when you have to run out to clock in at work after seven hours of classes.)

They stole these ideas from us. They don't care what we have to say and there really isn't much to say right now other than a big [censored] you. Anti-racism is no after-school project and it cannot be

brought about through a committee of people who haven't even addressed their own complicity with the systems they will suddenly bring down. The school is the system and the administration upholds it. (For a big six figure salary, they can be happy about selling the blood of our people.)

They stole more than ideas from us. They stole our time (two summers of endless research if anybody wants to know,) and they didn't even see how stealing ideas and the unpaid labor of BIPOC students, faculty, and staff is a racist act. Therefore, I ask you, the Brooklyn College community member: now that you know this, what are you going to do? The college is lying to you, but what can you do to make sure anti-racism is a reality and not just the trending word of the day?

Daniel Vázquez Sanabria is the President of the Puerto Rican Alliance.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Lasting Legacy On The U.S.

By Michael Castaneda
Columnist

Last night, on Erev Rosh Hashanah, it was announced Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. She died at the start of the Jewish New Year, which is supposed to be a time of celebration, marked by apples and honey. "To a sweet New Year," people say. Well, this year is not starting that way.

As a Brooklyn College student, this loss hits a little close to home. She was from Flatbush, and her family went to the East Midwood Jewish Center on Ocean Avenue.

We knew that she had battled cancer for some time. It was suggested that she step down from the court so that President Obama could select her replacement. She scoffed at that idea. It wasn't who she was -- she was a fighter.

She was a titan in the legal world and the second woman ever to sit on the American Supreme Court, but unfortunately, we cannot just mourn the loss of an American hero like her. There are profound political implications ahead.

As we mourn, the political wheels are spinning in high gear, with a Senate confirmation hearing on the horizon. Never has a Supreme Court Justice died so close to the U.S. presidential election.

Before she died, President Trump had already announced his list of possible replacements and encouraged Biden to do the same. I didn't think about that too much at the time.

However, it looks like he might have known that the end was very imminent.

Senate Majority leader, Mitch McConnell, who

is known by the left as "Moscow Mitch," has stated that he will confirm Ginsburg's replacement to the Supreme Court as swiftly as possible. There is understandable outrage from Democrats who were denied by McConnell in 2016, when he pushed even holding confirmation hearings for President Obama's replacement pick for the Supreme Court. He said the election should decide which president was to select the replacement. However, this time that logic doesn't hold for him. This would give the President an opportunity to name three justices on the Supreme Court, which is something that no President has done before.

There is no longer a filibuster to block that. It is now a simple majority. Even if there was a tie, Vice President Mike Pence can break that to Trump's favor.

If there is another conservative Supreme Court Justice, especially a Fox News Opinion Supreme Court Judge, there is a good possibility that many rights of Americans will be in jeopardy. The elephant in the room is abortion and reproductive rights.

Roe v. Wade (1973) has been a divisive issue in American politics for decades. Donald Trump has strong support from Christian Evangelicals, predicated on a Faustian bargain that Trump will fill the courts with conservative judges that will lead to the end of abortions in the United States.

Could Trump lose the Evangelical vote with four conservative judges on the bench? Donald Trump's words and actions often seem contrary to



New generations have begun to grow up with RBG as a cultural icon./ James Monaghan

Christians beliefs. Does Donald Trump have anything else to offer them?

Wouldn't it be to Trump's advantage to tell his base that four more years would equate to the end of Roe v. Wade? Would they call his bluff, if he lost? Do they expect him to push a nomination through before he leaves office? Would having a delayed nomination be a rallying cry for the Democrats to come out and vote before it's too late? Might it make their vote seem more impactful? If the Court is republican, we need a democratic president.

A buddy of mine worked hard on the Bernie Sanders campaign, but won't vote in the 2020 election because they believe there will be no difference, no matter who

wins the election. Last week you could argue that the presidential election vote might shape the Supreme Court for the next 20 years. Now it might not. The sense of doom could also be a reason to stay home in November.

The Electoral College system in the United States coupled with inexplicable voting apathy make these questions of who comes out to vote in swing states terribly important. A national election would not hold as much sway to esoteric groups in specific regions of the country.

It's not hard to believe that whatever happens will give more gas to the protests. We are familiar with the formula by now. We know that the president will add fire to the flames and tell his base

that it's Biden's fault. That message will be amplified through social media and conservative outlets. Comedy shows which tend liberal will poke fun at and empathize with outrage on the left. It's exhausting and ultimately accomplishes nothing.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg represented more than just a liberal legal hero -- she was the status quo for both sides of the aisle. Upon that break, people will fight for power. It's not pretty because it is not meant to be. There is little that we say or do individually that will make much of a difference, but voting in strong numbers always has. Let's not forget that.

Yanks Look To Overcome A Season of Ups and Downs

By Jose Rohdin
Staff Writer

Going into this shortened baseball season, the Yankees were a clear favorite to make it out of the American League and make it to the World Series. However, this season has been filled with ups and downs.

The Yankees would start the season off hot, starting 8-2 in their first ten games, but injuries would quickly play a factor. Starting pitcher James Paxton and relief pitcher Tommy Kahnle suffered season-ending injuries, which will significantly impact the playoff roster.

Paxton was one of the four primary starting pitchers for the Yankees, and with Luis Severino already being named out for the season before it even began, playoff starting pitching was a glaring weakness. Kahnle was a solid pitcher who had a spark out of the bullpen and made an already dangerous bullpen even stronger.

Along with that, throughout August, the Yankees stars would pick up injuries. Giancarlo Stanton and Aaron Judge both were placed on the injured list, and then

picked up secondary injuries while on the injured list, neither has played more than 25 games this season.

On top of that, DJ LeMahieu, Gio Urshela, and Gleyber Torres all spent stints on the IL. They wouldn't spend as much time as Stanton and Judge, but with those two big bats out, the team needed to rely on its secondary stars to keep them afloat.

These injuries have led to less productive seasons for those players compared to last season. Also, Aaron Hicks and Gary Sanchez seem to not be their normal selves, with Hicks batting average at .215 and Sanchez's at an awful .151.

All this led to the Yankees going 14-13 in August and having a seven-game losing streak.

A silver lining is that the injuries have allowed the Yankees to put younger players, that would typically not get a shot to play, into action with some playing time. Deivi Garcia has pitched well at times and has shown promise to be a solid starting pitcher. He has shown that he can pitch in the big leagues. Now it's just about improving



James Paxton, pitcher for the New York Yankees./Noah K. Murray

to cement his spot in the rotation for next season, possibly.

Clint Frazier, a fan favorite for Yankee fans, has finally made steady starts out in left field. He has improved his defense, only committing one error this season in 26 games. His bat has been a staple in the lineup at a .296 batting average, with 8 home runs and 26 runs batted in.

Then there is Luke Voit, the primary starter at first base this season, and with all the injuries and slumps, Voit has been putting the

Yankees offense on his back. He has put his name in the American League MVP conversation. He is leading baseball in home runs with 21 and second in runs batted in with 49. He is tied for third in runs with 39 in the American League and leads the American League in slugging with .654.

After the Yanks fell into a slump losing five straight, they answered by winning 10 consecutive games. Judge and Stanton came back into the lineup during that stretch and seemed to be getting back

into form. In a three-game series with the Toronto Blue Jays, the Yankees rattled off 43 runs and 19 home runs.

The Yankees have gotten hot and healthy in September, and with less than 10 games to the playoffs, it looks like they will stay hot going into the postseason. With the Yankees being 3.5 games out from the Division Title, it seems like they will be in a battle to finish fourth in the AL with the Minnesota Twins, who have a 2 game lead over the Yankees.

Vinny The Goat

by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni



With Barkley Out, Big Blue Looks To Salvage A Season

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

Saquon Barkley's injury Sunday was perhaps the most devastating in a slew of injuries on week two of the NFL season. The star running back of the New York Giants tore his ACL and is out for the season.

Barkley's injury underscores a more glaring issue with the Giants franchise. It is a team bereft of leadership and direction. Daniel Jones, the Giants' second-year quarterback, looks promising some nights, unpromising others. The offensive line, which has been putrid for years, is once again cataclysmic, the defense is nothing to write home about, and the front office makes questionable decision after questionable decision.

When the Giants chose to take Barkley with the number two pick of the NFL Draft in 2018, many people raised their eyebrows. As good as a running back prospect can be, the clear issue is that they are not always able to have as much impact on the field as a quarterback can. Quarterbacks chosen after Barkley in the draft include Sam Darnold, Josh Allen, Josh Rosen, and, oh yeah, Lamar Jackson.

Aside from the latter, are either of those Josh's or the



Saquon Barkley being assisted after his injury on Sunday. / Mark LoMoglio/AP

cross-town rival Jets' guy Darnold better players than Barkley? No. But when you're a franchise that is used to competing, and you find yourself in a glorious position to get better, you have to do it. And, from no fault of Barkley's, the Giants have not. The team finished 5-11 in 2018 and 4-12 in 2019. This year is not going to be better.

The Penn State product's shifty nature on the field, brutally forceful runs bolstered by his gigantic thighs, and hurdling ability make him not just one of the best running backs in the game, but also a fan favorite for Giants fans, of

which there are many. The blow from this injury cannot be overstated when not just considering the trajectory of the franchise, but also the morale of the fan base.

Where do they go from here? A solid running back can be a cornerstone for a franchise, but especially in today's game, so heavily predicated on the pass, front offices find themselves better served to start with the quarterback and move from there. A solid offensive line, a deep and strong defense, and a charismatic leader at quarterback is how you win at the NFL level. Look at

the recent examples: Tom Brady and the Patriots, Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs, Lamar Jackson and the Ravens, Russell Wilson and the Seahawks, Drew Brees and the Saints; need I go on?

So this is where the Giants find themselves: in no man's land. Do they sell high on certain players and try to start the rebuild over? Do they adopt the mindset of "we got unlucky with Barkley's injury, we'll get 'em next year?" Do they rethink the way they've been doing everything since the Super Bowl in 2012?

Ultimately, these decisions will go to

General Manager Dave Gettleman, a man who has shown himself inept at making such decisions. But, alas, this is the man running the show for the Giants right now, and most fans either do, or rightly should, fear the franchise is in a state of purgatory, with no promising prospects moving forward.

Saquon Barkley's injury is devastating to the Giants faithful, and we wish him the best in his recovery. But it isn't just a stroke of harsh luck for the red and blue; it may just be the beginning of a reckoning.