

Rez Hall Issues Continue
p. 3

An In-Depth Look at Conservatives at BC
p. 8-11



THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

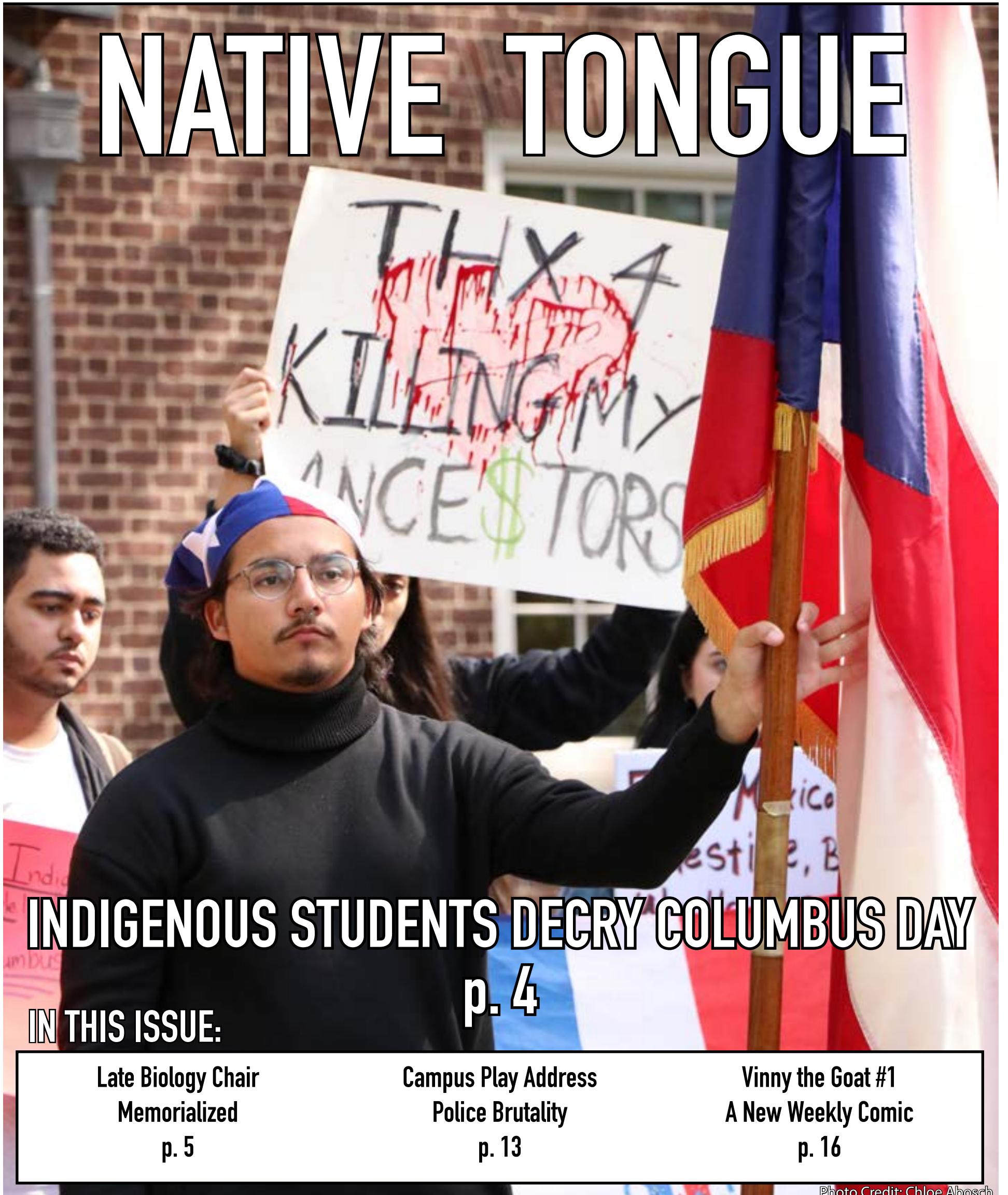
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NATIVE TONGUE



INDIGENOUS STUDENTS DECRY COLUMBUS DAY

p. 4


IN THIS ISSUE:

Late Biology Chair
Memorialized
p. 5

Campus Play Address
Police Brutality
p. 13

Vinny the Goat #1
A New Weekly Comic
p. 16

Photo Credit: Chloe Abosch



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USG Update: Senators Fill Vacated Seats

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government senate held its routine meeting Tuesday Oct. 15 during common hours and addressed normal business, including future events and committee reports. Also, the Senate passed a resolution expelling a member from Senate meetings and appointing two new members after seven members have resigned since the election on top of this week’s expulsion.

The USG Senate, which was previously the Student Assembly under CLAS, acts as the legislative body for the government, and does much of what any legislative body does including voting on issues and resolutions, organizing events, and keeping the executive branch in check. “It’s also a training ground,” said Ethan Milich, who provides over the senate as USG Vice President.

Last May the student body elected 20 students to the USG Senate, which went down to 13 after seven chose to abdicate their positions for various unknown reasons. (All of the resigned members



The Undergraduate Student Government’s Senate meeting. / Ryan Schwach

were unavailable for comment before press time) Although, Milich sees this as an opportunity to increase student government participation by bringing new people into its ranks “I want to bring awareness and activism to student government,” he said.

Before today’s meeting the senate had nominated and confirmed seven new members to the Senate and at Tuesday’s meeting added two more into the fold, bringing the new total to 22 members, still three short of the max number of 25, which Milich hopes to rectify. Among the newly appointed Senators is Brandon Silver, a sophomore pre-med student who addressed

the body briefly before being confirmed. Silver heard about the seat vacancies USG as trying to fill from Senator Devorah Shifrin, who currently sits in the rules and ethics committee, but at the time “Didn’t know much about it [USG].” He later decided to join the senate, with some goals in mind such as implementing more food options for students dealing with allergies on campus (Silver himself is allergic to gluten and dairy), as well as working on the Library’s open hours and making sure it is always a quiet place for students to work. “We should enjoy being here, we are here for a long time,” he said. Apart from the member expulsions

and confirmations the USG Senate discussed other internal business including a series of workshops for members on how to operate within the body taught by other members such as workshops on drafting legislation, funding clubs, and planning events. As far as the events that affect students are concerned USG is gearing for the Fall Fest at the end of the month, Finals and Chill (Which will feature puppy therapy), and also the new initiative meant to increase outreach where students are asked to take pictures with USG members wearing their government shirts for a chance to win tickets to a New York Jets game.



The Undergraduate Student Government’s Senate meeting. / Ryan Schwach

Rez Hall Floods, Students Forced to Move (Again)

By Maya Schubert
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the first three floors of the Residence Hall at Brooklyn College flooded, displacing a number of students and adding to rising tension among residents.

On the morning of Saturday, Oct. 5, a running toilet caused a water main break that flooded the third floor and leaked down into the second, first, and basement levels of the building at 1 Kenilworth Place. Residents of flooded rooms were quickly moved to empty rooms.

The flooding came only about a week after students on the sixth through eighth floors of the Residence Hall were moved to the lower five due to renovations.

Among the students affected by the flooding was Brooklyn College freshman Jorge Fernandez. On Saturday afternoon, Fernandez returned to his dorm after a night out with friends and found his apartment flooded with sewage water. Leaking had begun from the bathroom ceiling, and the water spread across the dorm. As Fernandez began trying to clean the bathroom, a leaky piece of ceiling plaster fell on his head.

“It was stinky—like full of pee and water, like dirty water,” Fernandez said.

An off-duty RA told Fernandez he and his roommate, who was away for the weekend, could switch rooms temporarily while the flooding was cleaned, so Fernandez moved his and his roommate’s belongings into a smaller room on the same floor. He left only his roommates’ shoes, which had been destroyed by

sewage water.

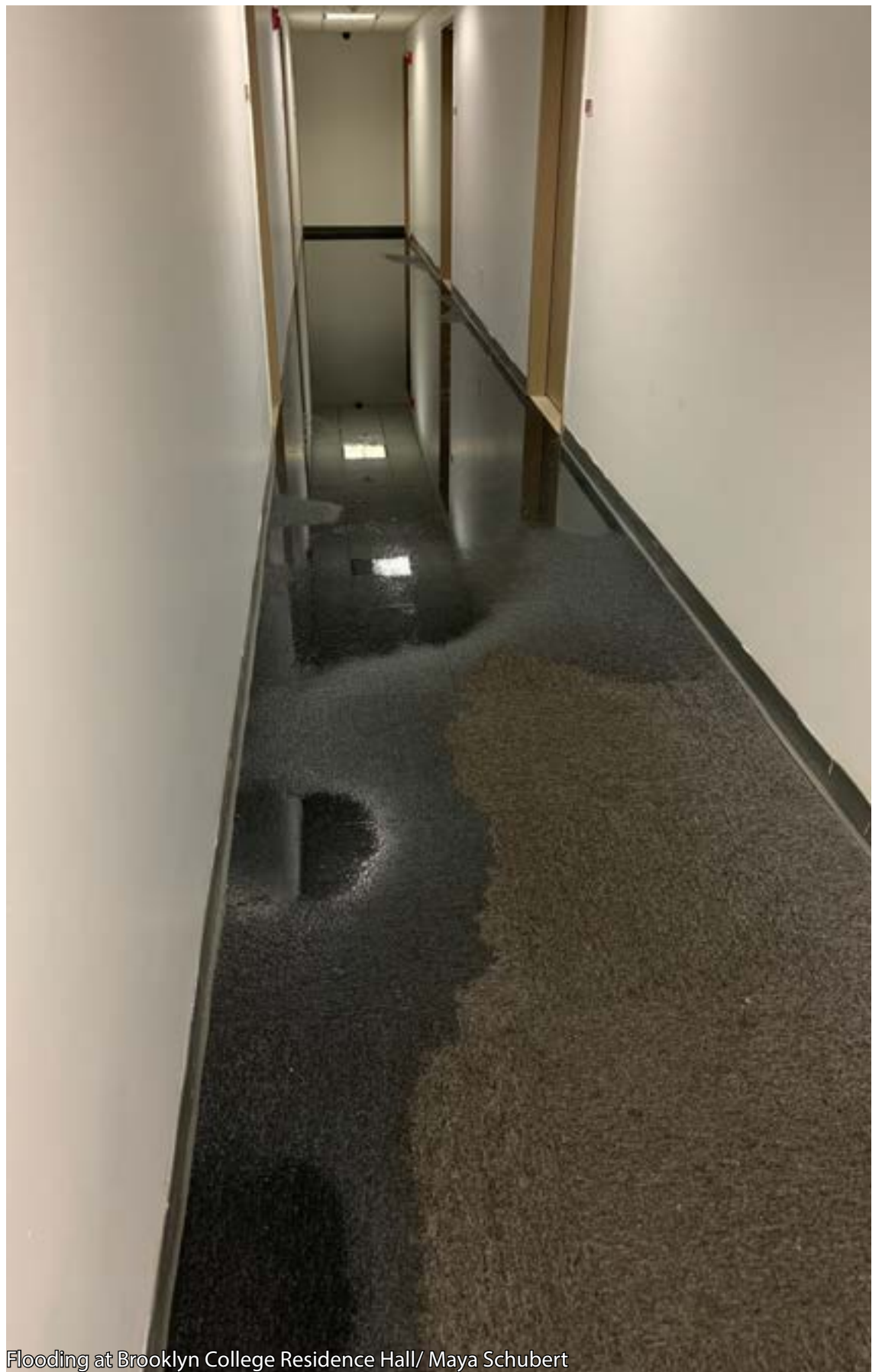
The residence hall’s office was empty because it was the weekend, so it was Tuesday by the time the Fernandez and his roommate spoke with a staffer. They requested to move out of the building entirely, but were told that their year-long contract could not be shortened.

A month earlier, in his second week in Brooklyn, freshman Valentino Coniglio was in a similar predicament. His toilet overflowed after running overnight and water spread across his floor, damaging belongings on his floor, including his backpack. Coniglio stayed in the room, however, and it eventually dried. Several weeks later, he was told to move, along with the other residents of the sixth, seventh, and eighth floors. He moved to a downsized room on the second floor, across the hall from Fernandez’s future alternate room.

Both Fernandez and Coniglio feel the flooding and displacement has affected their school year. Fernandez didn’t attend classes the first few days after his move, tackling homework that had backlogged over his hectic weekend. Thankfully, his professors were understanding. One of them suggested he call 311 and find out what rights he held as a resident in the hall.

“This tag of ‘Residence Hall at Brooklyn College,’ it just sounds like they’re trying to say, ‘Hey, this is a place where students are welcome. This is a place where students will get to meet, spend time, study,’” said Coniglio. “I’ve barely had time to do that. I’ve been so caught up in fixing everything that’s been literally falling apart around me.”

A list of scandals has stalked the Residence



Flooding at Brooklyn College Residence Hall/ Maya Schubert

Hall at Brooklyn College over the past few years. In 2017, student filmmaker Chris Omar began documenting the conditions of the dorm rooms on YouTube. He later chronicled a sexual assault at the building in an award-winning short documentary, “You Found a Home.” Omar also petitioned Brooklyn College to break ties with RHBC. The school complied in March of this year, announcing it would retract all advertisements and allow its lease with RHBC to expire in Spring 2020.

Almost six months later, however, the building’s sign reading “Residence

Hall @ Brooklyn College” stands unchanged, and on Brooklyn College’s website, the residence hall is still labeled on the campus map. Advertisements for the residence hall are all over the Boylan cafeteria.

In wake of the flooding and renovations, frustration runs high among the residents, most of whom are Brooklyn College students. They’ve become accustomed to the running pattern following each disaster at 1 Kenilworth. Students have complained to Brooklyn College more than once about RHBC, but the building is

privately owned and outside the school’s oversight. The hall itself seems to be run by young RAs and student employees.

“It’s just a bunch of teenagers,” said one resident.

Excluding security, the only employee who is not a student is the office book-keeper, who was not available for comment.

The owner of RHBC Management Corporation, Yosef Zvieli, visits his establishment only several times a year, according to an employee. Zvieli was not available for comment.

Students Denounce Columbus Day at Protest

By Kevin Limiti
News Editor

The day after Columbus Day, a silent procession of students paraded through campus holding signs and banners that read, “Thx 4 Killing My Ancestors,” “Decolonize Puerto Rico,” and “No walls, no bans on stolen land,” protesting the holiday meant to celebrate the explorer. Columbus Day has been a national holiday since 1937, but has grown controversial due to the historic effect that European colonization, due in part to Columbus, has had on Indigenous populations in America, not to mention the genocidal actions of Columbus on the Indigenous peoples he encountered after making his accidental discovery of the lands of the Western Hemisphere in 1492. “Our action today at its most fundamental level stands in solidarity with the Lenni Lenape and all indigenous people in the United States and beyond whose lands was stolen to create settler states,” said Daniel Vasquez Sanabria, a Puerto Rican

and Latin Studies major and representative of the Puerto Rican Alliance. Sanabria helped lead the march, holding a Puerto Rican flag. Onlookers watched and took photos as the group moved through campus. When the protest moved in front of the library, Sanabria began with a land acknowledgment for the Lenni Lenape, an indigenous people who originally lived in New York City before it was settled by Europeans. “We acknowledge that indigenous people continue to live under siege, surveillance, and colonial structural violence on their own occupied land and the reservations they were pushed into. We stand in support of the return of their lands. This acknowledgment is a call to commit and take on the responsibility to dismantle the ongoing effects of settler colonialism,” he said. Sanabria articulated the need for connecting struggles from the past to the present. “This land acknowledgement does not exist in the past tense,” Sanabria said. “Colonialism is a current ongoing process and we



Noel Altaha speaking at the Columbus Day Protest. / Chloe Abosch

need to further build our mindfulness of our present participation to it.” Sanabria called out Brooklyn College for observing Columbus Day and not Indigenous People’s Day. Throughout the protest, a band could be heard playing not far from the library, something which he noted in his address. “Brooklyn College made this almost impossible to have and they did not allow us to have voice projections here but they did allow a whole band to play in the loudest section of campus,” Sanabria said. “The school has never

cared enough to actually do something about indigenous people’s day even though they let us have this event.” Noel Altaha, a social worker, also spoke at the event, starting off her speech with an introduction in her language that she said was thousands of years old. “We come on trails that have already been paved before us and when we come into institutions that are not designed by us we recognize that the ancestral knowledge is almost being taken from our people. There is a lot in the silence that has been felt in the walk

that we did,” Altaha said. “We’re still here and we’re still going to be here in the future. Our people have always been here. The concept of a city is not new to our people. The borders of the south or the north are not made by us.” Altaha also warned the students to protect themselves at Brooklyn College. “This can be a very violent space in the sense that these institutions are not designed for us,” Altaha said. “If the policy of genocide were to exist than we would forget who we are,” she said. Afterwards the floor was opened to other students to speak. One student read a riveting poem called the “Wrong Kind of American” in which she said she was a; “still crying about the Orlando Shooting kind of American, the Michelle Anderson where are you kind of American, and, of course the f—k Christopher Columbus kind of American and if that makes me the wrong kind of American, then it’s the wrong kind of American I’m happy to be.”



Sign at the Columbus Day protest. / Chloe Abosch

Bio Dept. Plants Trees in Dan Eshel's Memory

By Quiara Vasquez
Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, Oct. 10, Brooklyn College's biology department gathered in the library auditorium to memorialize their late chair, Dan Eshel.

Eshel taught at BC for 22 years before his death in November of 2015. According to his successor, Peter Lipke, the Department of Biology was so "devastated" by Eshel's untimely passing that it took nearly four years to properly memorialize him. But memorialize him they did, both with a moving ceremony in the library auditorium, and with a permanent monument to Eshel and his wife: a pair of trees, planted on the East Quad.

Lipke and Eshel met in 2006, when Lipke transferred to Brooklyn after decades teaching at Hunter. The two had an instant connection - they had both been studying yeast - but soon they began to connect on a deeper, more personal level.



The biology department comes together around Eshel's memorial plaque. /Aricka M. Davis

"I came to know him as a low-key colleague, notable for his complete indifference to self-promotion," Lipke reminisced during the memorial.

Despite his modesty, his life story was quite impressive. Born in Israel in 1953, Eshel was 20 at the dawn of the 1973 Yom Kippur War. At one point he volunteered to walk through a field of bullets, sustaining gruesome injuries. As he recuperated, he watched his fellow soldiers die, including his best

friend. But rather than let tragedy define his life, he devoted himself to science - and to his beloved wife, Ilana.

Eshel came to Brooklyn College in 1993, and touched the lives of every student and colleague he met. Over a dozen speakers came to his memorial that Thursday to share stories of their time with him.

Deputy chair Theodore Muth recalled coming to Brooklyn College in August of 2000 to find his lab missing basic supplies, when Eshel intervened.

"Dan cleared a bunch of space in his lab and invited me down, where I had access to centrifuges and freezers," said Muth. "It's not an exaggeration to say that in my first semester, I spent more time in Dan's lab than my own." Muth found himself turning to Eshel all throughout his career - first when navigating the tenure process, and then to help his Israeli-born wife acclimate to America. Sometimes, Eshel would invite Muth to his apartment complex in Hoboken, just to spy on his neighbor Eli Manning in the gym.

But the most touching tribute came from

Eshel's longtime friend, professor emeritus Ray Gavin. Gavin was there in 1993 when Eshel first came to campus, and in his memory, '93 was an "exciting year." It was the year campus-wide e-mail had finally come to BC; and it was the year the biology department received a million-dollar grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to hire a molecular biologist onto the faculty. The department interviewed five people for the open position, but Eshel was far and away the favorite. Gavin interviewed Dan and Ilana Eshel over a meal at a Manhattan restaurant - the first of many in a friendship that would last two decades.

"We listened to Mozart, gazed at the skyline, and ate lentils - every vegan's favorite!" Gavin remarked. One night, over dinner, Gavin commissioned a life-size portrait of himself from Ilana.

"I'm still waiting!" he joked.

"Dan Eshel died in the midst of his usefulness," Gavin said. "Although he did not finish the course, he always kept the faith."

While the ceremony made it clear that Eshel

had left his mark on the campus, that mark on the campus was literal as well. After the memorial, the crowd congregated in front of New Ingersoll, where Gavin and Ilana Eshel unveiled a plaque in Dan Eshel's honor. To its left and right, the campus planted seeds which will eventually sprout into a pair of trees - one salt cedar, and one oak.

The choice of trees is a symbolic one, meant to represent Eshel and his beloved wife.

"The book of Genesis informs us that the prophet Abraham planted an Eshel tree in Beersheba," Gavin explained. "Eshel" comes from the Hebrew word for a tamarisk tree or salt cedar; the name "Ilana" derives from the Hebrew for "oak tree."

"Dan was the deep-rooted, tolerant tamarisk," said Gavin, "and Ilana the long-living and majestic oak."

It was an understated and heartfelt tribute to an understated man. But perhaps the most heartwarming tribute to Eshel came when he was still alive. He had just delivered his final lecture of the semester, in what would be the final lecture



Dan Eshel's memorial plaque. /Aricka M. Davis

CUNY Profs' Current Health Plans vs Medicare-for-All

By Carolann Lowe
Staff Writer

The CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies' Murphy Institute conducted a panel discussion on Friday to discuss the benefits of Medicare-for-All, and whether the policy would negatively impact union membership.

The event was moderated by Basil Smikle Jr., a former adjunct professor at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies who now works as a political commentator on CNN and MSNBC. Also on the panel were Robert Pollin and Barbara Caress. Caress is a practitioner at the Marx School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch College. She also has many years of experience as a healthcare consultant for clients such as the New York City and State Health Departments, the Community Service Society, Local 1199, and the SEIU, to name a few. Pollin is an economics professor, and co-director of the Political Economy University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is also the founder and president of a green energy company named PEAR (Pollin Energy and Retrofits).

Pollin and Caress say that our current, unregulated healthcare system results in expenses too high for the average American to afford, and do not provide what people need. Pollin described the Medicare-for-All plan as "universal access without barriers," diminishing



Baruch College Professor Barbara Caress (left), Media political commentator Basil Smikle Jr. (above), University of Massachusetts Professor Robert Pollin (right)/ Carolann Lowe

worries around the cost of pharmaceuticals and whether or not people can afford prescription drugs.

But some attendees had concerns regarding effect that Medicare-For-All would have on those who receive private healthcare through their jobs.

One of the attendees of the event was CUNY School of Labor Urban Studies Professor James Steele, whose expertise is in political analysis and civic engagement. Steele was still left with unanswered concerns following the panel discussion.

"I am honestly still thinking about it because I still have many questions that have not been answered such as the transition cost," he said, "I still have concerns about employment. And they didn't get into how they would get Congress to pass this...this will be a long battle."

Some Brooklyn College professors seem to be

very pleased with the health care that they currently receive through CUNY, but are in favor of the enforcement of Medicare-For-All, even if it means losing their current health insurance. English professor Joseph Entin believes that Medicare-For-All is necessary to ensure that healthcare is more accessible to everyone, despite the many healthcare benefits that he receives as a CUNY employee.

"I am very happy with the health care which I have through the city health care program and as a result, because it is subsidized by the city so heavily, we don't pay premiums. So we pay a copay when we go to the doctor," Entin said. "To me, it seems nonsensical and outrageous that the wealthiest country in the world can't afford to give everyone health care."

"I would gladly trade in my health care for anything else if it meant that we could expand the

coverage."

His colleague in the English department, Tanya Pollard, is supportive of Medicare-For-All as it will provide healthcare. Although she's grateful for the healthcare she receives through CUNY, she's concerned about those unable to acquire coverage on their own.

"I support Medicare-for-All," Pollard said. "I'm grateful for my health insurance through CUNY, but seeing the experiences of people without health insurance makes me appreciate that coverage for everyone has to be an urgent priority."

Unions have refrained from the endorsement of a single-payer plan due to the possibility that organized labor unions will no longer be a vessel to obtaining access to health coverage.

"This really isn't my level of expertise but I believe that our main concern should be everyone's ability to

receive healthcare in America," said James Davis, chair of Brooklyn College's chapter of the Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY), the union representing CUNY staff and faculty. According to him, labor unions should be less worried about the fact that they will no longer be the source through which people receive healthcare benefits, and more mindful of those who lack a basic necessity that some cannot afford.

Smikle Jr. told the Vanguard of his hopes that Medicare-for-All can be implemented with the concerns of the people in mind. He describes the approach of Medicare-for-All as a "contentious manner of implementing tremendous consternation over transition interest." In his mind, if people pay more attention to these needs, Medicare-For-All can finally come to fruition.

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

How to Make It as a Documentary Filmmaker

A How-to from Bryan Sarkinen, Cinematographer

By Michael Castaneda
Columnist

It’s hard to break into any profession. One of the more niche careers to break into is “documentary filmmaker.” So, I thought I’d talk to somebody who has already, you know, has done it. This brings us to Bryan Sarkinen. Bryan’s work has been seen on HBO, Netflix, and CNN - and at your local art theater. Bryan was back in New York City in between Moonshiner shoots (Number 2 in the redneck reality cable shows).

One way people dismiss your choice to get into film business is by saying you have to know people in the film business. I’m not saying that there is no truth in this, but this was not Bryan’s personal experience. Bryan arrived in New York City from Western Massachusetts as just another nobody attending New York University. On his way out of Port Authority, he got mugged, only to frustrate his attackers by being broke.

Bryan double majored in Film and Journalism. Unlike most NYU students who tend to the Trust Fund Baby side of life, this guy had to work while going to school.

Bryan took advantage of all the media sources where he could gain experience. He worked for the college radio station and basement video checkout where he got his hands on all sorts of video gear. He eventually started a show for The College Television Network called “The Final Cut”, where he interviewed celebrities on their press runs (this was broadcast to hundreds of college campuses). In his downtime, he watched every movie and every bit of live music he could see.

Then one of life’s hardships happened, and he left college. Without a NYU diploma to get him in the door, he had to fend for himself with just the connections and friendships made with four years of college. He did about every type of film job he could get his hands on - other than porn. He shot wedding videos. He filmed his share of awful rock bands from New Jersey that came to CBGB’s for collegemusic.com. Some of this stuff, he could have been made a career of, some people make wedding videos for the rest of their life.

However, instead of staying with an obvious cash cow, he started to

take lower-paying jobs with higher profiles. He started working for P. Diddy’s Bad Boy Films from a connection he made while interning at The Today Show in college; ultimately going on tour with Diddy, as his videographer. He had to prove himself to the tour crew. Bryan went in with a rendition of a Biggie Smalls jam with his own dance interpretation in tow. Snoop Dogg, who was on tour with Diddy, was so impressed that he promised to get Bryan laid. He didn’t.

Again, it was time to step into the abyss and do something new. Bryan entered into the burgeoning — at the time — reality TV market. He worked a show called “Bikini Barbershop New Jersey” for Mark Cuban’s then HDNET, which was just as classy as it sounds. It only lasted a season, but that got his foot in the door to that market.

By keeping a wide variety of projects open and making connections along the way, Bryan worked his way to doing cinematography for people like Andrew Rossi, Erin Carr and other high-profile directors making socially responsible documentaries.

Erin Carr’s “At The Heart of Gold” was just named one of the



Filmmaker Bryan Sarkinen. / Michael Castaneda

fifteen most important HBO documentaries by Esquire Magazine. His documentary “Bronx Gothic” directed by Andrew Rossi featured MacArthur genius award winner Okwui Okpokwasili.

“It’s really the telling of socially conscious stories that excites me,” Bryan said. “To be able to educate and inform is key to making the world a better place.”

Listening Bryan tell his story, what I can summate is that he used all the resources at his disposal at all times. He worked hard. He has sustained countless injuries on the job. He seems like an amiable and (quite frankly) goofy guy.

Nevertheless, Bryan has managed to make it doing what he wants to, and accomplishing it the way he wanted to.

Brooklyn’s Best Eats: A New Destination for Students

By Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

There’s a new place to eat for Brooklyn College students on the corner of Kenilworth and Hillel Place. Brooklyn’s Best Eats, adds to the list of food destinations for students and hopes to bring its own flavor.

The new location is owned and operated by brothers Adel and

Abraham Zindani, who are two of seven sons of a Yemeni immigrant, and as a family they own ten similar food locations in the city. Brooklyn’s Best Eats is their first in Brooklyn.

“It’s a family thing,” said Abraham, the younger of the two brothers, who studied criminal justice at John Jay.

Coming from nearby

Bensonhurst, the brothers found this space up for rent and they “Always wanted a space by the college,” said Abraham. After working through a tumultuous two-year process trying to get the place open, they finally opened their doors in time for the fall semester. “We’re here for the students,” said Adel.

So far the brothers say they are getting

positive feedback from their new customers “We are getting good vibes,” said Adel. Although they admit that any new place sometimes takes some time to get going, and that they are somewhat hidden from the crowds of Flatbush and nestled into somewhat of a corner on Kenilworth. “It’s all about patience,” said Abraham.

Brooklyn’s Best Eats

has a menu of signature sandwiches and salads as well as the normal sandwich stop staples of bagels, eggs, and snacks. Currently, their best seller is the Chicken Chipotle Sandwich which is a chicken cutlet with fresh mozzarella, avocado, lettuce, tomato, and chipotle mayo.

It's now a familiar sight to anyone who's walked the East Quad: a student stands behind a plastic folding table on the Whitehead Breezeway, peering out at the trickle of students ambling to and from class, handing out buttons and fliers. He's talkative, with a close-cropped beard. His name is Christian Cozlov, and watching him hand out buttons and chat with passersby, you'd never guess that a little under a year ago he was the most controversial student on campus.

As a member of the Brooklyn College Young Republicans (BCYR), Christian Cozlov gained a reputation as a

right-wing provocateur, infamous for walking around campus wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and a sweater reading "Build the Wall." His antics eventually cost him the goodwill not only of the college's left-leaning student body, but with his own club, and BCYR put him on probation.

Cozlov says that he now regrets his past behavior. "I felt like being edgy or something on campus," he told Vanguard. He's now traded in his MAGA hat for a wardrobe of sedate polos - and he's traded his membership in the Young Republicans for one in Turning Point USA, the far-right organization which now has a Brooklyn College chapter headed by Cozlov.

Any right-wing

group would have a hard time getting off the ground at a school like Brooklyn College, where the majority of students are liberals, or even socialists. It's no secret that college students tend to lean to the political left, but Brooklyn College in particular has a tradition of left-wing activism as old as the college itself, from anti-fascist demonstrators in the 30s to the militant Black and Puerto Rican radicals of the 60s to the modern-day socialist revival figureheaded by Bernie Sanders (who himself attended Brooklyn College, albeit for under one year). There are at least a dozen clubs catering to these left-wing students: Brooklyn College Socialists, the Student Union, and Students for

Justice in Palestine most visible among them. But there's still a small group of conservative students on campus, mostly functioning under the radar.

Some of Cozlov's former colleagues from the Young Republicans are wary of his more "in-your-face" brand of conservatism. A schism has formed between the more moderate politics of the BCYR and the more radical politics espoused by Turning Point USA, one which mirrors the split between "never-Trumpers" and the president's vocal legion of supporters. As the two fledgling conservative clubs jockey for members in an overwhelmingly liberal campus, the biggest threat to their longevity may be themselves.



The Elephant in the Room

by Quiara Vasquez

The story of the Brooklyn College Young Republicans (BCYR) begins in May 2018, with Isabelle Guillemain. Guillemain had attended high school in the Upper East Side, where her conservative beliefs made her an outlier in her liberal-leaning high school.

“I stuck out like the sorest thumb,” she recalled. “I was a purple sheep - because black sheep are real and purple sheep aren’t.”

Guillemain’s conservative awakening happened in 2012, watching Mitt Romney debate Barack Obama for her seventh grade social studies class. Before then, she didn’t have any concrete political views, owing to growing up in a politically mixed household.

“I had been hearing a lot of political-minded stuff at that point because my mom was always a Democrat and my dad was always a Republican, but they didn’t stay in their party line,” she said. “Particularly with Obama, they weren’t always fans of him.”

Guillemain didn’t vote for Trump in the 2016 elections (she was below the voting age on Election Day), and her support for the president was lukewarm at best. During the primaries, she threw her support behind Ted Cruz, primarily for his unabashed pro-Israel foreign policy.

“In the past, other presidents haven’t really done so much, not even recognizing they [Israel] have the right to determine their own capital,” she said. When Cruz discussed Israel during the debates, she thought “he [Cruz] literally looked weepy,” noting that “his wording and his emphasis really touched my heart.”

When she committed to BC in May of 2018, Guillemain was eager to find like-minded individuals with the same set of interests: psychology, Jewish identity... and conservatism.

“After I got accepted, I was on the old Bulldog Connection, pre-Engage, and I was going through all the clubs,” Guillemain said. “It was cool that they had a Young Republicans club,

because my high school had no Republicans.”

Guillemain reached out to the old club’s e-board members, where she found a slight hiccup - the club was inactive, and she would need to reactivate it with a new e-board.

“So I texted every chat I was in, asking ‘hey does anyone want to be on the board?’” said Guillemain.

At the time, she was in the group chats for a trio of Jewish and pro-Israel clubs - Chabad, Hillel, and Bulldogs for Israel - and the e-board she scrounged together reflected that.

“A lot of the people that I recruited into YR were Jewish because that was the circles I was in, said Guillemain. “I wasn’t going to stand in front of my classes and say, ‘hi, I’m a Republican!’”

The first wave of members may all have been recruited through Guillemain’s connections with Jewish groups, but once the group was re-activated, a few goyim began to trickle in. One was then-junior Alex Tlatelpa, who had just transferred to the college from BMCC. One day, his friend and fellow accounting major Abraham Friedman (who was then-treasurer of the BCYR) mentioned a small group on campus that was meeting and asked Tlatelpa to come along.

“It caught my eye,” Tlatelpa said of BCYR. “So the next time they had an event I attended and I appreciated the different viewpoints I had a chance to hear about.”

Tlatelpa isn’t exactly the poster boy for the modern GOP. He’s Mexican-American, and during his time at BMCC he would frequently participate in pro-immigration rallies. So it comes as a surprise to many that he actually supported Donald Trump during the 2016 primaries, and ultimately voted for Trump in the general election.

“At the time, most of America thought Trump being the nominee was a ‘joke,’ that it wasn’t going to amount to much, so when I told people I was thinking of voting for Trump it was brushed off,” Tlatelpa said. “Nowadays most people

are appalled, and they have lots of questions and concerns! In some ways they have resentment.”

Tlatelpa describes his vote for Trump in 2016 as “the lesser of two evils,” borne of suspicion towards the scandal-ridden Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. After nearly three years of a Trump presidency, he now has second thoughts.

“I understand why I voted that way,” Tlatelpa admitted. “I didn’t think that much of what happened afterwards, like the travel ban or like the attacks on minority groups, would actually happen.”

While Tlatelpa was cooling on the Donald, Christian Cozlov was just getting warmed up.

Cozlov was largely uninterested in politics before 2017. At the time, he was majoring in philosophy at LaGuardia Community College, and he “identified as a Democrat liberal without paying much attention to it.” That’s when a family friend turned him onto the conservative YouTube personality Ben Shapiro.

Cozlov was instantly hooked.

“I started to really get into these videos on YouTube,” Cozlov said. “I got more and more passionate about political issues the more I researched. I started to feel like a politics nerd all of a sudden.”

Cozlov says he watched videos of both left-wing and right-wing figures, but he soon gravitated towards more conservative viewpoints. He became an admirer of Jordan Peterson, the Canadian psychology professor famous for attacking post-modernism and political correctness. He became a devotee of PragerU, a YouTube channel hosting five-minute primers on various conservative talking points. And he was inspired by Steven Crowder, who became famous for sitting down on college campuses next to signs reading, e.g. “MALE PRIVILEGE IS A MYTH - CHANGE MY MIND.”

“I thought, how cool, having debates with students with logic and

civil arguments, no flame wars,” said Cozlov. “One of the things about philosophy I really like is ethics - what’s morally just, you know? And I started to see that in relation to politics. I started to understand the difference between principles and facts.” It’s a distinction clearly influenced by the likes of Ben Shapiro (whose catchphrase is “facts don’t care about your feelings”).

After a year of viewing and his own research, Cozlov did a 180. In 2016, he “didn’t even care about politics.”

“Obviously I disagree with Trump on things,” he added. “I’m not a loyalist. I’m not a fan of things he says on Twitter. I’m not a big fan of his attacks on Democrats so much, we should be more bipartisan to get laws passed instead of having this war in the government. I’m not a big fan of his spending - there’s currently a one trillion dollar deficit, and it’s projected to be more next year, although I don’t fully blame Trump for that. And I’m very pro-Second Amendment and I think Trump hasn’t been very supportive on that aspect.”

“If I was going to compare the current Democratic or Republican nominees, I think he’s the best choice,” Cozlov concluded. “I support tax cuts. I support Trump’s decisions with Supreme Court justices.”

Cozlov says he “[doesn’t] particularly support” justice Brett Kavanaugh - he sees Kavanaugh’s appointment “as a way to steer us in the direction of more second amendment rights,” as well as reversing Roe vs. Wade in favor of a decision that would leave abortion rights up to the states. He dismisses the controversy surrounding Kavanaugh’s appointment as pure partisan politics.

“They wanted to make him out as a gangbanger, but where’s the evidence?” Cozlov asked. “My position is that there isn’t really any substantial evidence with regards to Christine Blasey Ford’s allegations, and the hearing was basically, from my point of view, an attempt to smear a conservative Supreme Court Justice.”

As it turns out, the Kavanaugh hearings would kick off one of the most contentious periods in recent campus history. However, it wasn’t Blasey Ford’s testimony that riled up the campus - rather, it was a little blog post by a business professor.

“In the future, having committed sexual assault in high school ought to be a prerequisite for all appointments, judicial and political.”

So said Brooklyn College professor Mitchell Langbert on his personal blog on Sept. 27, 2018. The post went viral almost immediately, and within a week, over a hundred students were picketing on the East Quad, calling for Langbert’s immediate termination. Members of the college administration, including BC President Michelle Anderson, were present at the protest, with Anderson herself referring to the post as “repugnant to our values as an institution of higher education.” And yet, Anderson refused to accede to student demands to “#FireProfessorLangbert,” citing the First Amendment and Langbert’s academic freedom. (Protesters cynically suggested that these lofty ideals were a smokescreen for a simpler fact: the college couldn’t fire Langbert because he had academic tenure.)

Rather than apologize for his statements, Langbert amended his blog post with a disclaimer stating that he had intended the post as a work of “satire,” and doubled down on various claims in the article, including his characterization of the Kavanaugh hearings as a “travesty” initiated by “a party of tutu-wearing pansies [and] totalitarian sissies” (read: Democrats).

None of the members of the Young Republicans interviewed for this piece were willing to sign off on Langbert’s post, even with the caveat that it was satirical. Tlatelpa described the post as “unbelievable,” Guillemain was similarly uncomfortable with the post’s content. Cozlov went a step further.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Children’s First Club Holds First Meeting

Student Group Addresses Issues Facing American Children

By M.A. Rahman
Features Editor

At their first open meeting, members of the Brooklyn College Children’s First Club gathered to discuss how to improve public awareness of the myriad issues children in early child development are affected by.

”In a nutshell the club stands for the promotion of advocacy for children and youth, learning how to be an effective leader, but also teaching them how to advocate for themselves,” Zekiiyah Joyner, the club’s Vice-President and a Children and Youth Studies major stated upon introducing herself to a throng of curious peers.

Members of the e-board for the Children’s First Club were also astonished as considerably more students than anticipated showed up to the meeting.

”We’re really looking forward to helping children globally and locally. Last semester we did a bake sale [just] for children that needed dental relief,” said Dayana Veliyeva, a junior, Computer Science major and President of CF.

Those in attendance were asked to share their ideas on how to raise student awareness of the plight of basic child development needs. In particular, they were asked to share matters that they would want to directly take part in or already felt invested in such as demonstrations against lingering issues children face like education funding.

”We’re curious as to what events you would want to see,



The Brooklyn College “Children’s First” club meeting. / M.A. Rahman

something that may personally impact you or on a larger scale,” Joyner raised to one inquisitive student.

Attendees suggested several types of calamities that club members as a whole could organize around and propose some manner of resolution to those affected by them and provide some comfort, such as raising funds for the victims of Hurricane Dorian.

Another recurrently raised issue was the scourge of domestic violence.

”Children are of course impacted by violence,” Joyner stated plainly, acknowledging the ever-concerning problem; looking to bridge the vice to the club’s pursuit, Joyner said she plans to invite a child psychologist showcase how domestic violence affects

children.

Speaking frankly, Joyner mentioned part of her drive to raise greater awareness of domestic violence was based on the activities she observed organized by another club with an altruistic aim: the BC “Women of Color” club, which garnered substantial on-campus interest from students with their events.

”It’s so true because you never know, but children can grow into criminals because of that [violence],” one student in attendance concurred and nodded in agreement with Joyner’s statement.

Students then discussed the prospects of holding an autism walk, facilitating a discussion on the symptoms of ADHD, participating in a breast cancer awareness walk which then

prompted a few personal accounts from students of ongoing and past battles persons dear to them had with the affliction.

Members were informed of an infant mortality and a cure for lupus walks events taking place in the city during the weekend.

Organizers then asked who if any of newly joined members might be able to attend either events, to which multiple responded gleefully and affirmatively to joining said events.

”They [organizers] have really revitalized the club, it’s been a few years since there has been this many students at once here” Elise Goldberg, Program Coordinator for Children and Youth Studies and advisor to the club, said ecstatic that the

club had garnered such student interest this semester.

As the meeting concluded, members agreed that a school supplies drive needed to be established on-campus for students to help curtail the growing need for basic school supplies for children from certain less fortunate households.

As of early October, a drop-off point was devised where students can drop off typical surplus school supplies like folders, notebooks, rulers, and pencils at the club’s room in room 1304 James Hall.

”Part of it is to develop your leadership skills, part of it is to get involved in student activities, part of it is to meet other students and make lifelong friendships,” Goldberg said.

The Elephant in the Room: Conservatism on Campus

”I think if you rape somebody, you should get the death penalty,” he said. ”I see the point on why that was not a good point to make. But I also don’t think he should be fired for it.”

Still, he felt like the Young Republicans should support Langbert, on account of his conservative politics.

”We’re the Young Republicans,” he explained. ”We wanted to talk about how campuses tend to be left-leaning with respect to professors. And we wanted [Langbert] to explain his idea that campuses aren’t preparing students for life, but indoctrinating them with left-leaning views.” (Cozlov was referring to a study Langbert authored a few months prior to the protests titled “Homogenous: The Political Affiliations of Elite Liberal Arts College Faculty,” which claims that Democrats outnumber Republicans on college faculty at a ratio of ten to one.) So Cozlov reached out to Langbert, and set up an event in the Student Center with Langbert as the keynote speaker, hosted by the Young Republicans.

Not involved with the creation of this event were the three members of the Young Republicans’ E-board.

Guillemain says that no one on the E-board supported the event, nor did they want to get involved, both because they disagreed with Langbert and because they were swamped with schoolwork.

Even outside the E-board, most of the BCYR were not on board.

”The idea that a man has to sexually assault someone to consider a man is bonkers,” said Zack Nomer, who was a member of BCYR up until this semester. ”Even if we came out as defending the First Amendment, if we invited him as a speaker, it’d sound like an endorsement.” He claims that Cozlov “went behind the E-board’s back and just made an event.”

The event, titled “Effete Millennials in Illiberal Universities,” was a riveting success - for the progressive students who loudly boycotted it. Langbert’s prepared talking points were drowned out by loud dance music and cries of “sexist, racist, anti-gay, Michelle Langbert go away.”

”I’m not happy with how it turned out,” Cozlov reminisced. ”You’re invading my event with signs, with yelling. I’m a supporter of free speech. When you use your own

free speech to have other speech silenced, I don’t think that’s a free exchange of ideas.”

(”Silenced” in this case was literal - Cozlov got into a minor scuffle with a protester who attempted to unplug Langbert’s microphone.)

Guillemain was also dissatisfied - not just with how the event went, but that she even allowed it to happen in the first place.

”No one else had spoken up, so I figured, ‘I won’t veto this, everyone is happy about this,’” she said. ”No one wanted to be the one to veto it, so that happened, and I’m not so proud of it.”

”I think that’s part of why I left the club,” Guillemain said. ”I’d rather just be a member and let people who have more passion do what I want to do. I’m a people pleaser to a certain extent, and I wanted a club where I didn’t have to please as many opinions.”

She then texted everyone she knew, looking for a replacement as president, ideally one that shared her more moderate brand of conservatism. This would have ruled out Cozlov, had he any interest in taking her position.

Eventually, she reached out to Zack Nomer, a BCYR member who she knew from the Hillel.

”Zack said ‘I want to make [BCYR] super moderate,’ which is what I wanted,” Guillemain said.

Nomer is a centrist, but that’s where the similarities between him and Guillemain end. Where Guillemain is tactful and unerringly polite, Nomer is loose-lipped and chummy, with no qualms about using colorful language.

Consider his evaluation of the 2016 Republican primary field: ”You have Trump, who’s an idiot, you have Ted Cruz, who’s the Zodiac Killer, and you have Jeb Bush who’s like watching a piece of dry toast talk.” Ultimately, while he had a soft spot for Rand Paul, Nomer put his support behind John Kasich, ”because he was the most centrist one.”

When the “idiot” got the nomination, Nomer found himself in a familiar dilemma.

”I think I’ve maybe met one or two people who legitimately like Hillary Clinton,” Nomer said. ”Everyone in my family is military, and there was one speech she gave about a potential military solution with

Russia. That scared the shit out of me. I voted for Trump because I didn’t think he’d go to war to Russia.”

”Little did I know!” Nomer laughed.

As his words would imply, Nomer may have voted for Trump, but as time passed he began to drift further and further away from the GOP. By 2018, Nomer says, he was still registered as a Republican and held certain conservative values, but considered himself anti-Trump. So when Guillemain gave him control of BCYR at the beginning of the spring 2019 semester, Nomer saw a chance to push the club towards a more centrist perspective.

Almost immediately after getting the position, Nomer used his power as president to make a sweeping set of reforms meant to, as he put it, ”eliminate all radicalism from the club.”

The first of these reforms was a reading list.

”I made everybody read the Constitution, which I figured was a pretty good starting point,” said Nomer. Also on that list: the Declaration of Independence, ”The Wealth of Nations,” and, perhaps surprisingly, ”The Communist

Ethiopian History On Display in Library

Robert L. Hess Collection Offers Students Research Treasure Trove

By Carmen Saffioti
Staff Writer

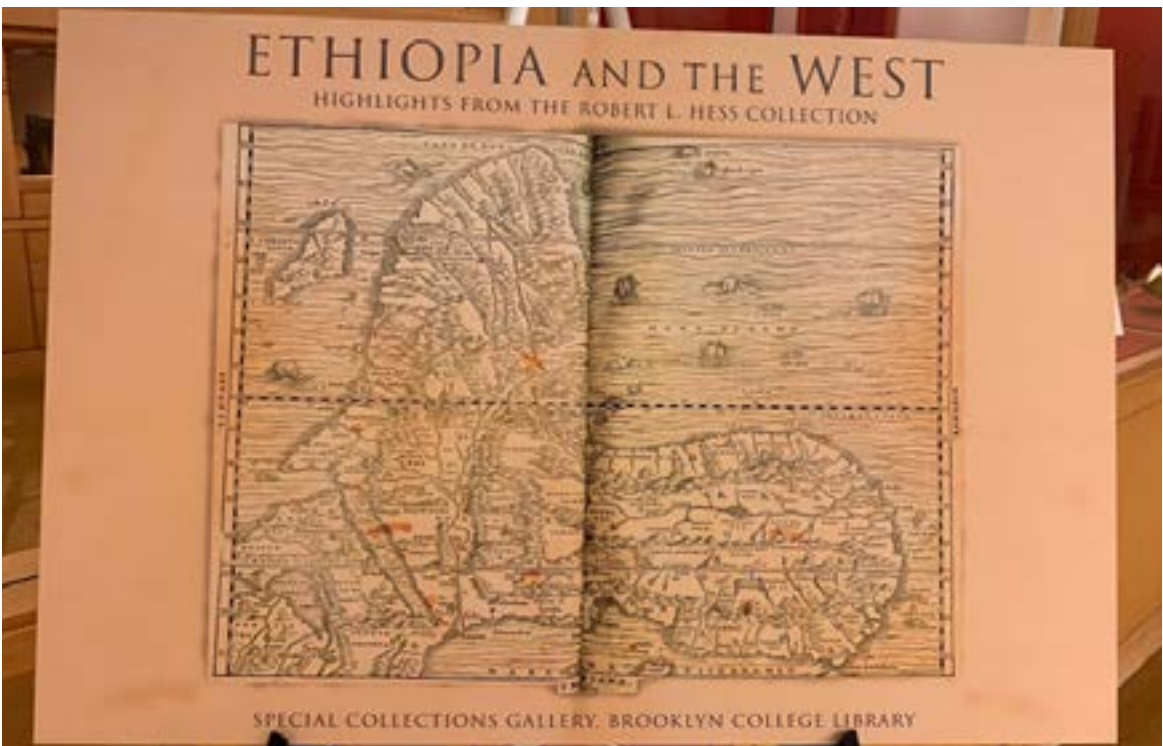
The history of the Horn of Africa has come to Brooklyn College in a new exhibit on display in the library. Ethiopia and the West: Highlights from the Robert L. Hess Collection, features manuscripts and artifacts which are located in front of the archives section. Former president of Brooklyn College, and a noted specialist in Somalia and Ethiopia studies, Robert L. Hess’ book and artifact collection were donated to the Brooklyn College Archives by his widow, Frances Hess. The Hess family also gifted the archives of Brooklyn College with an annual endowment, which was used to purchase manuscripts and photographic collections that fit the themes of the Hess Collection.

The period of East African history which this collection works from, dates to the early 20th century– a turbulent time for the region. Italy had colonized Ethiopia, exiled the Emperor and his royal family, and began to take resources from Ethiopians and Somalians. An estimated 16,000 Ethiopians were killed

during the Italian invasion. The Hess collection contains manuscripts and other materials which offer insight into these events.

The exhibit focuses on Ethiopia’s role in world history as well as the relationship between Europe and the Horn of Africa. The history that is explored in the exhibit includes the betrayal of Ethiopia by the League of Nations and the colonization of Ethiopia by Italy from 1935 to 1941. During this time, the League of Nations was established after World War 1 in order to prevent another world war. Italy, which was invading Ethiopia, was ruled against by the League. The League voted to place economic sanctions on the nation, however, they never followed through. Italy simply quit the league and continued to colonize Ethiopia mostly without any international interference.

Professor Colleen Bradley Sanders hopes that one of the results of the exhibit is “to get people more interested in using the [Hess] collection, and to know what we [the archives] have.” Certainly, for the average student, the archives section in the



A piece from the Robert L. Hess Collection, now in the library! / Carmen Saffioti

library hasn’t been proven itself useful. However, as the Hess exhibit shows, the archives offers an incredible selection in primary sources available for students to use for research. In the exhibit alone, there are journals and diaries from Italian officers from the occupation, preserved manuscripts from Ethiopia in Amharic and Gêez (Native Ethiopian languages), 17th century “studies” on Ethiopia in German, along with many others from all over the world.

Even for students who are not currently doing research on the

Abyssinian Empire, Italian colonialism, or the modern history of Ethiopia they can still enjoy the display and learn a great deal of history from it. One of the photo collections on display is from an Italian officer who married an Ethiopian woman during his stay in the country. The photo collection features pictures that he took and drawings by his wife.

While many of the texts are very informative and factual– there is a deep underlying human element to all of them. The suffering endured by the people of Ethiopia and Somalia as a result of colonialism is

unmistakable. In a booklet entitled Why was the Lion of Judah Defeated? by Ras Bitwäddäd, who was a noble and companion of Emperor Haile Selassie, a beloved African leader who spoke out against colonialism during World War II, Bitwäddäd records the “plight of the royal family, and a detailed list of notable exiles,”as noted in the exhibit. This history cannot be understated or ignored, so if you have a spare moment while passing through the library– spend it exploring this new addition to the library’s displays.

The Elephant in the Room: Conservatism on Campus

Manifesto.”

“My process is, if you’re going to debate something, you should understand the other side,” Nomer explained. “When I was learning about anti-Semitism in high school, I sat down and read Mein Kampf.”)

Nomer also instituted a dress code: Trump paraphernalia wasn’t necessarily banned, but Nomer discouraged wearing it around campus, because “as a club we’re not endorsing any particular Republican.” While the rule didn’t mention Christian Cozlov by name, Nomer admitted that the dress code was in part a response to some of Cozlov’s affinity for tops bearing slogans like “Build the Wall.”

“Christian had a shirt that said, ‘Socialism Is For F’, then a picture of a fig, and then a G.S,” Nomer said. (Figs, needless to say, stood in for a different word). “And he was wearing it to the Hillel. I said, ‘dude, you cannot wear that shit when you rep BCYR. You’re doing it just to provoke people.”

Nomer and Cozlov’s relationship was further strained when Cozlov was accused of harassment by the then-figurehead of BC’s progressive alliance, Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio.

“Carlos and I met at the Club Fair. He was tabling for the Young Progressives [of America],” Cozlov said, referring to the left-wing activist group Calzadilla-Palacio founded while at LIU Brooklyn. “That’s how I met him. He knew I was part of the Young Republicans. We started to have our banter whenever we crossed by each other.”

“I remember one time he said... he knew that I’d wear a Build A Wall sweater, so he would say something like ‘we’re gonna take down your wall.”

“There was this one time we had a spat. We passed by each other and he looked really angry and I asked, hey man, what’s wrong?” Cozlov continued. “Usually we’d say hey, not a friendly hey but a sarcastic hey. An ‘I can’t stand you’ hey? But this time he didn’t respond, so I got concerned. We usually have some kind of interaction, even if it’s not the best kind.”

“Eventually we got into an argument, and he accused me of harassing him.”

Calzadilla-Palacio disputes this version of events.

“I was never friends with Christian, and never engaged in any ‘friendly banter,’” he said. “This is a false claim just like the other false claims I have received by a small clique of haters with political agendas against me.” (Calzadilla-Palacio did not specify who these “haters” are; this is possibly a reference to the allegation that he made racist comments against his Muslim opponent in last semester’s campus elections, an allegation Calzadilla-Palacio denies.)

“I was harassed multiple times by [Cozlov],” Calzadilla-Palacio claimed. “There’s even video footage that prompted a no contact order for the semester. He is the only person to blame for being removed from the Young Republicans for his inappropriate behavior of harassing multiple people.”

Cozlov insists that no such video evidence exists, and that while he was issued a no contact order, it was a temporary one which expired when he was exonerated of Calzadilla-Palacio’s harassment charges.

Michelle Vargas, the officer in charge of the investigation, declined to confirm or deny either student’s story, citing confidentiality concerns.

Nomer conducted his own informal investigation, doubting Cozlov’s claims that his interactions with Calzadilla-Palacio were just “friendly banter.”

“It’s friendly banter in the same way that Trump debating Hillary Clinton, saying he would throw her in jail, was friendly banter,” Nomer said. He checked in with Sau-Fong Au, the director of the Women’s Center, to see whether Cozlov had been harassing students there. Au told Vanguard the same thing she told Nomer, that she was unaware of any harassment.

While Nomer looked into the claims, he removed Cozlov from BCYR’s group chats. It was then that Cozlov started petitioning for his Turning Point chapter.

“I told Christian, ‘we can’t have this behavior in the club,’ and he turned around and started his own thing,” Nomer said, referencing Cozlov’s Turning Point chapter. “So I removed him from the club.”

Cozlov claims that he quit BCYR rather than being removed from it, due to political disagreements between himself and Nomer, as well as dissatisfaction with the lack of activity at BCYR. Turning Point is more his speed.

“They’re a well-known organization that’s well-funded, with a lot of speakers,” Cozlov explained. “I requested their activism kits online and brought them to campus.” The kits contain brightly-colored flyers with high production values, marrying conservative slogans and iconography with millennial-friendly language and pop culture references: a poster with “SOCIALISM SUCKS” in the red neon font of the “Stranger Things” logo, for instance, or a 21st century update of the Gadsden flag reading “DON’T TREAD, BRUH.”

“It’s free!” he beamed. “They’re so well-equipped with resources, because they really want to educate people on conservative views.”

Obviously, left-wing students on campus do not have such a sunny opinion of Turning Point. In his statement provided to Vanguard, Calzadilla-Palacio denounced TP as a “racist and anti-immigrant extremist organization that pushes dangerously hateful sentiments against minorities on campuses.”

Shattered Identity in Tiger West’s “Mirror”

By Jack Coleman
Arts Editor

I entered the Leonard and Claire Tow Theater at around 1:30 on Thursday, October 10. As I made my way to the box office, I received a text from Aricka (one of the Vanguard’s wonderful photographers) informing me that the performance was, in fact, in the lobby. My expectations of what I was about to see were already, partly, shattered.

Tiger West’s *Mirror*, took as its stage the first few marble steps of the lobby’s staircase, in front of the large glass north facing wall. Organized by the Brooklyn College Composers’ Collective, *Mirror* was the first part of a two part series of concerts. The performance offered to its viewers, not all of which sat in the audience, a chillingly intimate confluence of sounds and visuals. West constructed a *mise-en-scène* of sorts, effectively bending and opening up the meaning of liminal spaces—lobbies don’t typically host this kind of thing.

Mirror looks deeply into the many filters that people often peer into or see themselves through. These spaces (think, for example, the many Instagram filters and also the platform itself) are what West strives to get our minds to question. The *scène* encompassed a few terracotta flower pots, a plastic grocery bag of soil, tall bundles of grass, twigs and other organic matter; a dark purple plush armchair turned away from the audience; and in the center of it all, a bluetooth speaker resting on a table waiting to be activated. In full view of passers-by on their way to and from class, the seated audience waited for the action to start.

West, an artist and composition major here at Brooklyn, calls the subject of *Mirror* a “creature,” which, albeit played by her, is not far off from the impression that her body language exudes

throughout the twenty-six minute run time. West walks out onto the raised steps of the lobby, clad in denim overalls and a loose short sleeve denim shirt. Covering her face is a white paper-mâché mask with feathers attached and roughly cut holes, as if by a child, for her eyes and mouth. Here and there, x’s of red tape adhered more feathers on her arms. As she took a seat in the plush chair and a series of eerie sounds begin to emulate from the speaker, I could confirm that this was, for sure, not what I was expecting. The goal was to “Disrupt the status quo, the quotidian assumption of what we assume when we walk into a space, that we know what’s happening, and then to be met with this kind of stream of consciousness thing going on,” says the artist.

Originally, the piece was to include speakers in the bathroom of the building in order to further disrupt the normative presumptions of location, of where we find ourselves. Being limited by time and other factors, the performance was, in some ways, confined to the lobby with only two speakers, (the other one situated behind the audience). This all this wasn’t known to those watching, whether seated or peering in from outside the glass wall—the piece breathed enough new life into the site, no need for more speakers. But as many people stopped on the walkway and stared in awe (some smiling, some looking genuinely confused), West’s piece still clearly met some of its initial goals.

From the ambient field recordings emerges a clear voice, “I come from silence/ my lover comes from a long line of birds.” The lyrics, like this one, were recorded on the artist’s phone last summer as she walked through the woods which surround her home upstate. She calls these spoken bits “sound journals,” and they range from conjuring a sense of the startlingly intimate,

the political, and at times the absurd. Some of the words spoken are repeated and manipulated until they take the form of a synthesizer more than a human voice. Much of the voice manipulation included in *Mirror*’s score is reminiscent of Laurie Anderson’s work, where the human voice is altered by reverberation or replayed over until it begins to take new shape as well.

“The priority focus is that those windows, looking out onto the stream of students coming in and out right there, just got my gears turning. How those windows are a sort of screen and mirror, and I just really took off with the idea of that. Screens, screens, screens, there are screens everywhere!” says West.

Partly, what makes *Mirror* so enticing, is that there are parts of simple piano and guitar chords which are played over and around the more experimental elements. This makes for a contrast which is what West strives for both sonically, visually, and in the content of the piece. As we see the “creature” move about on stage, it invokes that our subject is lost and trying to find itself among these differing sounds, objects, and the faces of the crowd and beyond.

The screens are not just what we have on our phones, but all around us as well, *Mirror* heightens a sense of spatial and sonic awareness. Seen most notably when the “creature” halts the ballerina-esque movements and eventually takes a seat and looks head on into the crowd, confronting us and making us confront it as well. Then, the “creature” begins to remove articles of clothing and buries them with soil in the flower pots, finally, we recognize the space as perhaps not ours; that we are looking intimately into someone, or something, else’s interior which beforehand was simply a lobby. A space we think we know well is thus changed.

So how did this all even



Tiger West, live in performance. / Aricka M. Davis

come about? Why were my expectations of a performance from the Brooklyn College Composers’ Collective smashed so poetically? The answer lies, of course, with Tiger West, but also with the president of the Collective, Marcello Di Russo.

Di Russo, who moved to New York from Italy in 2015, has held office within the Composers’ Collective since last year. He has driven the club to its most ambitious projects. Some of which include organizing the recording of an album with the Xanthoria String Quartet, a performance at Bushwick’s H010, City Winery in Manhattan, and now this two part concert series.

“I believe in a mixed genre-future. We’re moving towards a world where boundaries are falling, changing” says Di Russo when asked about the Collective’s interest in including an interdisciplinary approach to performance. The Collective has already worked with the Sonic Arts Students, the Pasta (music performing club) and the NYFTSA (film club) to name a few.

He also believes strongly

in the power of an artistic community to outlast the time spent at school. Di Russo wants the Collective to act as more than just an organization which puts on concerts, but also as a network within and beyond school. Like *Mirror*, this talk of a community is really all about reimagining the spaces that we find ourselves in. What could be just a club for those who compose music already encompasses so many other disciplines.

Di Russo is adamant about his belief that the connections we make in school can and should last outside of it—we shouldn’t think of our time in school (or a lobby) as existing in a vacuum. So, the next time you see a masked figure prancing in a lobby, in the courtyard, or in a classroom, check it out; see what’s going on, ask a few questions.

The Composers’ Collective will have another performance, the second and last of the series, on Thursday, October 17 in the Leonard and Claire Tow Theater. This act is set to showcase works by Andrew Porter, Connor Whelan, and others.

The Elephant in the Room: Conservatism on Campus

“I’ve met people who just hate Turning Point!” Cozlov exclaimed. “At least two to three times a week, I meet people who genuinely hate Turning Point, who genuinely hate the ideas. I’ve had someone say my table’s fascist, I’ve had someone say ‘eff off.’ I’ve met all sorts of people. But overall it’s mostly just people who disagree and want to have a conversation.”

Other conservative students on campus are generally supportive of the group.

“I like Turning Point as a national

organization a lot,” Guillemain said. “I actually met [Turning Point founder] Charlie Kirk at a gala last year.”

While she acknowledges Cozlov has cleaned up his act since last semester, she’s still waiting to see whether the responsibilities of running a Turning Point chapter will rein him in.

“I know that Christian’s views may or may not line up with Turning Point’s mission, but I trust that he’ll be able to listen to the authority and learn that their view is what he

needs to adopt,” Guillemain said. “I just don’t want to scar their image on campus. I would like for them to have a good image, with or without him.”

For Zach Nomer, Turning Point doesn’t have a good image to scar.

“While I support free speech, I don’t support some of the values of the TPUSA official stance,” Nomer said. “They’ve had issues in the past with saying racist shit. They support ‘traditional marriage,’ whatever the fuck that means. They also wouldn’t shut up about the gay couple where

the baker didn’t want to bake them a cake because of their religious beliefs. I’m of the belief that sexual orientation is a protected status under federal law, so I think that’s like saying ‘I won’t make you a cake because you’re black.’”

Nomer’s dislike of Turning Point is part of a wider disillusionment with Republican ideology. He now counts himself among the ranks of the self-proclaimed “Yang Gang” - the 3% of Democratic voters putting their support behind entrepreneur Andrew Yang.

But like many former members of BCYR, Nomer has left the club to pursue other ventures. In his case, it’s his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi. BCYR’s former treasurer Abraham Friedman left the club to assume control of the Accounting Society. (Friedman declined our request for an interview, saying that he wishes to keep his presidency in the Accounting Society politically neutral.) And Guillemain herself is an active participant in many campus clubs, including serving as editor-in-chief of the student

“Pass Over”: The Reality of Police Brutality in America

By Bobbie Bell & Milette Millington
Staff Writers

Last Friday was the first performance of “Pass Over,” a play written by Antoinette Nwandu and directed by Cristina Duarte. The play does an exceptional job showcasing and highlighting issues within our society such as race and police brutality, and how racism can prevent individuals from fulfilling their dreams and “passing over to the promised land.”

“Pass Over” is inspired in part by the 2012 murder of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. It’s also based on the Samuel Beckett play “Waiting for Godot.”

In “Pass Over,” two black men, Moses and Kitch, are stuck on a street corner. They are hoping to “pass over into the promised land,” leave their neighborhood, and fulfill their ideas of what it means to attain the American Dream. But white society has other plans for them.

Whether or not Moses and Kitch reach this “promised land” is an adventure and journey taken by these two individuals that no one will want to miss.

“People should expect to be compelled,” said Duarte. “[‘Pass Over’] will make people think about what is going on today and how we contribute to some of the themes expressed in the play [such as] oppression, fear, violence, and race issues.”

Moses and Kitch are played by Kwesi Baird and Charles Fenner III. They’re both seniors pursuing their Bachelors of Fine Arts (BFAs) in Acting. Both Baird and Fenner auditioned based on their enthusiasm for the material.

“When I read the play, my heart would skip a beat,” Baird remembers. “I was gunning for it.”

Fenner was excited to act in a play with such important



The cast and crew of “Pass Over.” Director Cristina Duarte stands centered. /Bobbie Bell

themes.

“This production alludes to the control of black bodies, specifically black men in regards to police brutality in America, and the play was written by a black woman too,” said Fenner. He went on to say, “I feel blessed. I hope that it doesn’t become about me or the acting, but the message.”

Duarte agrees. The play has a special resonance for her as an immigrant.

“I came as an immigrant from Portugal and was raised i n Newark,” she said. Coming to America at the age of seven, she had her own ideas of “wanting to reach the promised land” and “passing over to [her] dreams.”

“It speaks to what is happening in the news. It discusses internal and external fears we all face. It is not only important for the Brooklyn College community to see, but for the community at large,” says Duarte.

In the play, these internal and external fears are an obstacle for the men hoping to escape their block. One obstacle is the “white man,” represented by the characters Mister and Ossifer, who instill feelings of fear and worthlessness into Moses and Kitch. Mister and Ossifer are both played by Tyler Adams, who also is a senior pursuing his BFA in Acting.

“It was an intense play,” Adams said. “I couldn’t do it without Charles and Kwesi right beside me.”

It is unbelievable how well Baird, Fenner, and Adams are able to speak volumes about a massive issue with only a few characters. Audience members Dailee Morrone and Naomi Ricketts agreed that “Pass Over” has an immense impact on all those watching. Morrone described their acting as “incredible,” and Ricketts mentioned how well they showcased “brotherhood”

throughout the play. Others in the audience shared feelings of compassion, fear, and laughter with each other. There was a steady balance of humor in the play without taking away from the severity of the message.

“I am more concerned about the message,” Fenner said. “Fortunately, we know the playwright personally and I felt like it was a responsibility for us to tell this story.” He wants people to also think about the stories of “the mothers, uncles, and best friends, who have to live without the person that they love” unfortunately as a result of the violence in the world.

“The message is so powerful, and I can’t wait to share my character’s story,” adds Baird. “I’m really excited to share the stage with Charles and Tyler, and I couldn’t ask for a better cast like this with them.”

“It was a wonderful, collaborative, and inspired process with the actors and

designers,” said Duarte. “We put a lot into the pot and made a really tasty stew that we are happy to share and hope the audience enjoys as well.”

Duarte dedicates the production to her students. She says that we all have a transitional period of wanting to fulfill our dreams, yet feeling the weight of our fears. She enjoys directing plays with “strong characters that push against those social norms,” that hold us back.

“Pass Over” will be shown until Thursday, Oct. 17 in the Performing Arts Center’s Buchwald Theater. The visual and sound effects heighten the scenes, and the set design automatically makes the audience intrigued before the play even starts. Without a doubt, Duarte is correct when she says the audience is in for a “treat.”

The Elephant in the Room: Conservatism on Campus

publication Night Call.

With all the departures from its ranks, it’s easy to forget that BCYR are still a force on campus, especially with Turning Point now jostling for space on campus. But Alex Tlatelpa doesn’t see it that way.

“I can appreciate that another conservative club is on campus and offering that kind of option,” Tlatelpa said. “I think there’s a very big distinction between both of us, Turning Point being a lot more activist, a lot more centered around awareness.”

After Nomer left the club, Guillemain appointed Tlatelpa as the Young Republicans’ president for the fall semester. He acknowledges that after the past year of controversies, it can be difficult to get students to accept BCYR’s presence on campus.

“The Langbert thing makes reaching out [to other clubs] hard,” Tlatelpa admitted. “I understand why it might be difficult for other clubs and other students to feel comfortable with a conservative club on campus given that track record.”

He stresses that his objective for BCYR is not to promote Republican ideology, but rather, to promote tolerance and understanding across political lines. Tlatelpa is soft-spoken and a little self-conscious - a far cry from the brashness of a Ben Shapiro or Steven Crowder. He’s more a fan of the late John McCain. (“He was everything a Republican should be,” Tlatelpa opined.)

“Before Trump, and probably up until George Bush, we still had ‘compassionate conservatism,’ and that’s where most of my beliefs align,”

Tlatelpa explains. “Republicans have always had a strong stance on the rule of law, but they also understood what immigrants provided to America, and offered solutions and were open to working with Democrats on immigration reform.”

Listening to Tlatelpa talk, it’s hard not to view his even temperament and emphasis on understanding as a throwback to a Republican party that no longer exists. But that doesn’t bother him.

“Where I initially wanted to start was [...] trying to re-establish

ourselves not so much as activists for a conservative culture or for conservative ideas, but as a learning group, where we can share our own ideas, our own take,” Tlatelpa explained. “When you speak to a lot of people, they have a sense that me and you having a conversation about politics is about someone winning. It’s something that’s on the top of my mind when I think about the Young Republicans.”

“Hopefully, I can get a chance to at least get my foot in the door with the rest of the school.”

BC Campus Gets Featured Heavily in “Gemini Man”

By Martin Samoylov
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College has been in many movies and TV shows before, but never quite like this. “Gemini Man” is a big-budget international blockbuster starring Will Smith and featuring Brooklyn College’s campus in all its glory. The film’s final sequence plays out between Ingersoll and Boylan Halls, with a camera capturing Will Smith standing on a cracked campus concrete tile before eventually panning toward the Bedford Avenue gate. Also in the shot are a food truck, MTA bus (likely a B11 given the model) and the West Quad Center, which is in the middle of the movie’s final frame before the scene fades to credits.

The scene was shot back in April of this year, with Smith posting a selfie-style video from campus on his YouTube channel introducing Gemini Man’s first trailer on April 23rd. Although many productions have shot on campus before, Gemini Man comes with estimated budget of over \$150 million, is directed by Ang Lee (Life of Pi), produced by Jerry Bruckheimer (Pirates

of the Caribbean), and stars an A-list cast.

Smith plays Henry, a former government assassin, as well as his younger clone who is sent to kill him. Also in the film are Clive Owen as the head of the government organization “GEMINI,” as well as Mary Elizabeth Winstead (10 Cloverfield Lane) and Benedict Wong (Doctor Strange) as Henry’s allies.

Lee shot the movie in 3D and 120-frames-per-second (fps), compared to the usual 24fps, using some of the most expensive and modern digital equipment available for movie shoots. “The technology on this movie is crazy,” said Smith in his campus video. The scene is around 3 minutes and 27 seconds long. Given the release in 120fps, there are close to 25 thousand frames of Brooklyn College in the movie.

While being the final few minutes in a movie of this scale is a first for Brooklyn College, another Jerry Bruckheimer film, 2010’s “The Sorcerer’s Apprentice” also used Brooklyn College as a shooting location. Though in that production, the school appeared to mainly

serve as a classroom representing NYU. Despite this, there doesn’t seem to be a unique connection between Bruckheimer and the school.

“The only special relationship between Jerry Bruckheimer Films and CUNY or Brooklyn College of which I’m aware is that the locations were perfect for the required scenes of both Gemini Man and The Sorcerer’s Apprentice,” said Michael Singer, Vice President for Marketing & Publicity at Jerry Bruckheimer Films.

Indeed, Brooklyn College’s almost 90-year-old and wide-open campus serves as a convenient pick for any location scout who has to find a decent-looking place for a screenplay’s “INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY” slugline.

“They love the look of Brooklyn College: it’s an old-style look; it could be any Ivy League college,” Kevin Carmine, who used to coordinate productions for the school, told the Daily News in 2008. “We’re [fictional] Hudson University on ‘Law and Order.’ We’ve been Yale and Harvard. People in Brooklyn wouldn’t be



fooled for a second - it’s Brooklyn College. But people on the West Coast might be,” he said.

In the case of Gemini Man, the audience goes way beyond the West Coast but extends all around the globe.

Web and television shows tend to shoot in New York more often than Hollywood productions. In 2018, less than 1,300 New York City film permits were issued for movies, compared to over 5,000 for shows. Brooklyn College is no exception, with plenty of shows taking advantage of the campus. According to its website, the school played host to episodes of “Daredevil,” “Jack Ryan,” “Mr. Robot,” “Elementary” and “The Americans” as well as multiple commercials for, among others, Google and Apple. Just this year, Netflix’s “The

Politician” and CBS’s “God Friended Me” also shoot scenes on and around campus.

Money from renting the campus to production goes to the Brooklyn College Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation (BCAEC), the school’s nonprofit, which has previously funded award ceremonies and other campus events.

“Gemini Man” is now playing in over 3,500 domestic theaters. The film received a B+ CinemaScore rating from opening weekend audiences. While critics gave it mixed-to-negative reviews, they almost universally praised it for its visuals and technology. And Brooklyn College certainly played some role in the former.

Brooklyn’s Hidden Gem: Boylan’s 5th Floor

By Edmund Zhen
Opinions Editor

Once common hours hit, it becomes nearly impossible to find a place to study or eat alone. This especially goes for the cafeteria where a swarm of people rushes into Boylan’s basement to grab seats. Then there are some people who enjoy eating outside, so they flock to the green patio tables outside the West Quad Building. Howev-

er, harsh weather could be so unforgiving and you either end up freezing from the New York winter or melting from the scorching heatwaves. At this point, you’re really desperate to get a seat and just eat your lunch in peace, so you go for the student center to only be annoyed by the sounds of people yelling and billiard balls clanking. So indeed, finding a place to be alone on campus can be difficult. My ad-

vice is, ditch the cafeteria or the library, there is a hidden gem unknown to many. The 5th floor of Boylan Hall. Hidden at the end of each corridor, perfectly vacant seats and medium-size square tables are discreetly hiding from the spotlight. Because of its location on the fifth floor, no one ever feels like taking a hike up there. It’s also very quiet because they are located

in the hallways that only house janitorial rooms and bathrooms. Despite the fact that so many students have class in Boylan, the tables are usually empty. Surrounding the perimeter are paintings done by students and a red couch in pristine condition. Unfortunately, if your electronics ever happen to be low on battery, you’re going to be in a slight predicament as there are no outlets next

to the tables. However, there are a set of outlets close enough where you could sit there on the floor looking like a bum or be gutsy and move the whole table there. Take it from me, if you want to enjoy your lunch with a little peace and tranquility, you might want to trek up to the 5th floor of Boylan Hall.

On the Record: Paul and Linda McCartney, “Ram”

By Allison Rapp
Columnist

I miss the big city. I find myself remembering the smallest of details that remind me of New York: pizza joints open at all hours of the night; the voice of the subway intercom telling passengers “this is a Manhattan-bound 2 train;” the racket of the Flatbush Junction. I imagine my local bodega guys, wondering about my sudden disappearance.

But I live in Glasgow, the fastest-growing city in Scotland, with a population that exceeds that of the capital city of Edinburgh. How is it that I can be missing big city life when I have it all right here? It’s funny: no matter how big, bold, and fast-paced a city may seem, nothing ever holds a candle to New York. It must be something in the air.

I’ve opted to spend several of my weekends out of the hustle and bustle by taking day trips to small, coastal towns around Scotland. As one would expect, the train and bus system here is stellar. There are multiple trips to multiple places offered per day, and their punctuality is almost alarming. (Are we sure we’re ready to leave on time? Are we positive there’s no train traffic up ahead? It’s too good to be true.) Along the way, sheep, cows, horses, and rolling hills stretch for miles. It’s the epitome of countryside bliss.

This past weekend I boarded a bus at the crack of dawn to

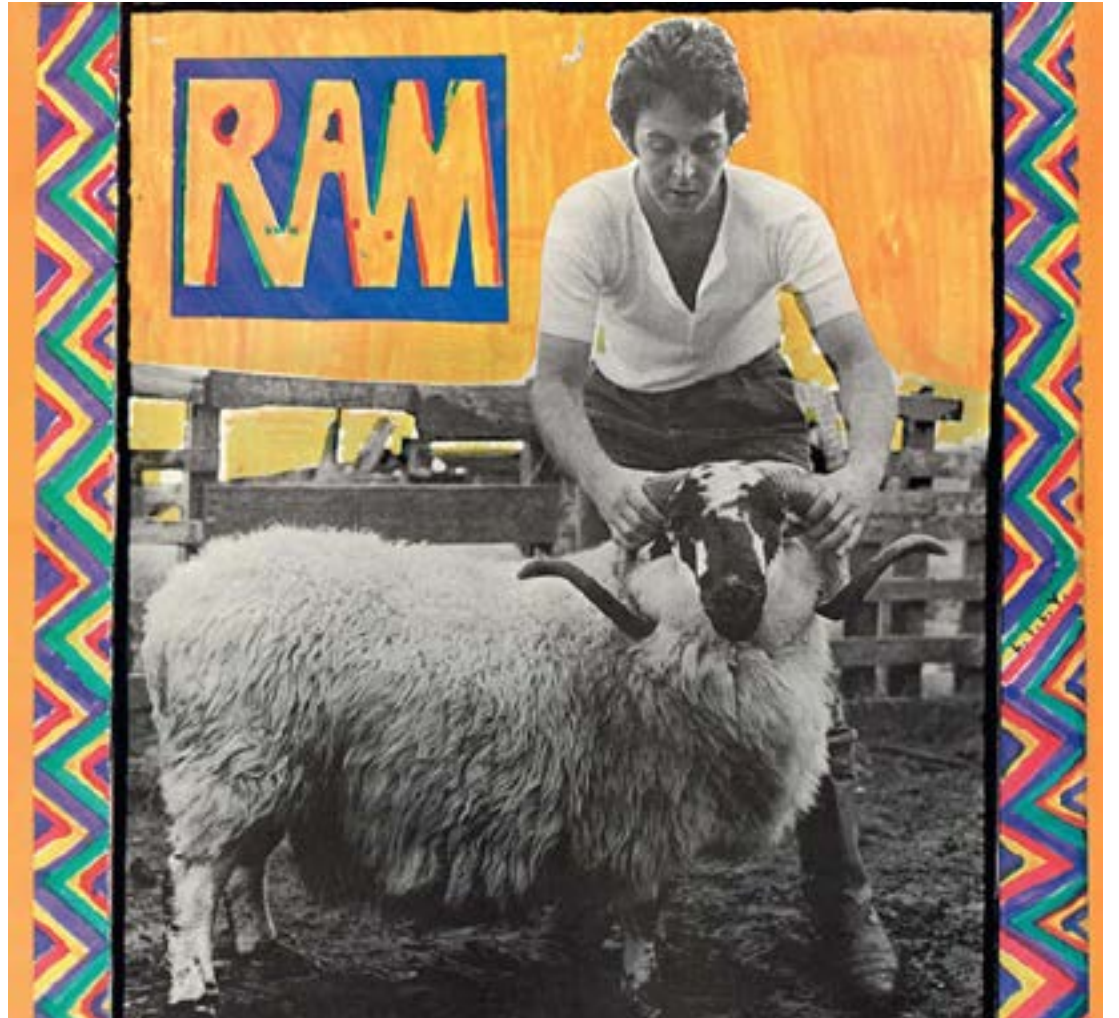
Campbeltown, on the Kintyre Peninsula, some three hours west. A lovely little harbor town complete with cafes, pubs, and famous scotch whiskey distilleries.

Perhaps it was bliss that Paul McCartney was after when he bought a farm of his own in 1966, just outside Campbeltown. The last few years of the Beatles were musically fruitful, but personally tumultuous, and he yearned for a break from it all. In Kintyre, he could be away from the flashing cameras of the paparazzi and the invasive questions of journalists and fans. In 1969, he married American Linda Eastman, and the pair eventually brought their four children to experience life on the farm.

Enter, the Ram album. Released in May of 1971 on the Beatles’ own Apple Records, it’s the only album attributed to both Paul and Linda. The Beatles had just broken up, Wings had not yet been created, and in between sat one of the most well-known rock’n’roll couples in the world.

To be clear and fair, Ram is not an album about life in the Scottish countryside -- that would be far too simple a concept for someone like Paul McCartney. But it does allude to the idea of being set apart from his former musical endeavors, both emotionally and physically.

There’s quite a bit of material on the record that wouldn’t sound out of place on a late



Beatles album. Some of the instrumentation on tracks like “Uncle Albert / Admiral Halsey” and “Monkberry Moon Delight” is experimental, pushing the boundaries of traditional songwriting. Other tracks like “3 Legs,” which features a classic 12-bar blues structure, are almost reminiscent of early Beatle days, back when the band spent a considerable amount of time learning from people like Buddy Holly and Muddy Waters. But there’s a clear sense of independence on Ram.

“Too many people reaching for a piece of cake, too many people pulled and pushed around,” Paul sings on the opening track. The Beatles were no longer. Bands which burn that brightly often don’t stand a chance in the long run.

Though not released until 1978 on London Town, one of Wings’ greatest hits was “Mull of Kintyre,” written

quite literally about the peninsula of Kintyre where the McCartney’s farm was located. On the cover of the single is Davaar Island, a huge rolling hill visible from Campbeltown. The island hosts secret caves with paintings, only accessible at low tide when a sandy causeway appears. “Oh mist rolling in from the sea, my desire is always to be here,” Paul sings.

It may have been Linda who left the most impact on Scotland, though. A statue of her sits in an immaculately-kept garden at a museum in the center of Campbeltown. She spent years not only as an inspiration to the community, but also as a generous benefactress, under the condition of strict anonymity. The locals remember her fondly.

There’s nothing quite or routine about Ram, but there is about Campbeltown. The cafe where I sipped coffee

served its regulars without even having to ask their orders, the ladies at the pub next door told me they come every Saturday afternoon at half past three on the dot, and the bartender, whose opinion of Trump is not suitable for printing, showed me the local weekly newspaper, The Campbeltown Courier. The front page story? A prominent local dairy farmer facing business woes -- the cheese supply was in dire straits.

“Heart of the country where the holy people grow,” Paul sings on the Ram album. I’m not sure the residents of Campbeltown would consider themselves as such, but it’s no wonder Paul and Linda were drawn to the land. Glasgow has much to offer, but the countryside and harbor towns might be where the true Scottish experiences are.

It’s funny: no matter how big, bold, and fast-paced a city may seem, nothing ever holds a candle to New York.

Men's Soccer Drops to 2-11 vs Baruch

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

Brooklyn College men's soccer team lost 2-1 to Baruch College on Saturday, Oct. 5, after scoring first and dominating much of the game.

The Bulldogs fought extremely hard and did not seem overly discouraged by the loss.

Miguel De Anda started at left back for the Bulldogs and had himself a very strong performance. "We need to improve on our physicality; we need to be stronger and more dedicated to the game to be able to win. We have an awesome team, and I believe if we all play well we have enough to be champions," De Anda said after the game.

Both teams had chances early on, but the game was at a stalemate going into the half. The Bulldogs had good interplay between players, such as give-and-go's between midfielders and overlaps by fullbacks over their wingers. These plays kept the defense guessing and allowed the team to get out of tight spaces.

The lineup was also very clearly different from when the season began. After many losses, the



Alex Sosa (right) controls the ball. / Damion Reid

coaching staff probably wanted to get new faces out there on the field, and change other star players' positions to see what would work. The team looked strong, fresh, and invigorated. "We were playing more like a team, we kept possession of the game, and that helped us a lot," said De Anda.

Bulldogs central midfielder, Alex Sosa, also played well, showing his crafty ability in tight spaces. In the 38th minute, he was fouled inside the box, awarding a penalty. Sosa calmly stepped up to the spot and powerfully slotted the ball right down the

middle of the net.

Although the Bulldogs had struck first, players on the field and bench loudly exclaimed to their teammates, "It's 0-0!" to maintain their calm, focus, and restrain from getting comfortable with the lead.

Unfortunately, less than five minutes later, Baruch scored on a breakaway and then scored one more time before the final whistle. The final score was 2-1, the Bulldogs suffering another crushing defeat.

"We have a few bad habits of not shooting on goal of the opposite team, and I believe if we

shoot more we'll have the advantage," De Anda noted.

The team has struggled as of late with putting the ball on net, scoring only 14 goals on 74 shots while their opponents have scored 31 times on total of 111 shots on goal.

The Bulldogs have a "shots on goal" ratio of 0.497, meaning that when they shoot the ball, it is a quality shot nearly half-the-time.

There are still games left this season for the Bulldogs to secure some more wins. They managed to pick up their second win of the season just days later, for

example, on Wednesday, Oct. 9, beating City College 2-1.

In their next game, John Jay defeated the Bulldogs 2-1 on Saturday, Oct. 12, bringing the team to an overall 2-11 on the season.

Going forward, the Bulldogs have three games to go and the playoffs are far out of reach, but momentum is a real thing, even going into next season. This team has to stay motivated and determined to grabbing some positive results in order to feel confident going into next fall.

Vinny the Goat by Mo Muhsin

