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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

Fall 2019, Issue 5

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Tuesday, October 8

RENOVATION UPS....



Construction completed on the Whitehead Plaza... but began anew at 1 Kenilworth. / Ryan Schwach

RESIDENCE HALL @ BROOKLYN COLLEGE

...AND DOWNS

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Fighting Alzheimer's With Baked Goods

By Bobbie Bell
Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 3rd, 2019, graduate students at the Diana Rogovin Davidow Speech Learning and Hearing Center hosted a bake sale for World Alzheimer's Day, and to raise awareness of suicide prevention.

Second year graduate students Daniella Lahno and Danielle Kancelaric sold bakery items in front of the Whitehead Breezeway for the cause, despite the cold, rainy Thursday.

"It is a topic that most people don't talk about," said Lahno, the treasurer of the graduate Speech-Language Hearing Organization, "Bringing awareness leads to an important conversation that we as a society need to have." Lahno emphasized that knowledge is power, and that refusing to discuss illnesses such as Alzheimer's Disease will not help us find a cure.

Kancelaric, the president of the organization, notes that "suicide and depression are often linked." Recent

studies have proven this statement. According to a recent study from Harvard Medical School, studies saw "a significant link between worsening depression symptoms and declining cognition over two to seven years that was influenced by Alzheimer's disease pathology," as per the article. The article on Harvard Medical School's website entitled, "Depression and Alzheimer's" by MGH Public Affairs thoroughly presents these findings.

However, it is also emphasizes that studies are still on going. This is a primary reason why spreading awareness matters. "We want to bridge the idea that awareness can lead to prevention," Kancelaric says. This played a big factor in the graduate students deciding to host a bake sale for both world Alzheimer's Day and suicide prevention awareness together.

Heung-Yun, known as Theresa Yang, is an assistant professor at the college and helps oversee this graduate student organization. Yang



Danielle Kancelaric (left) and Daniella Lahno (right) manning the bake sale. / Bobbie Bell

acknowledges that while it is important that students attend class, "the graduate student organizations allow students to socialize with each other while supporting important causes like these."

An article written in 2013 by Judith Graham entitled, "Does Depression Contribute to Dementia?" references a report noted in the British Journal of Psychiatry. As stated, "The researchers found that depressed adults over the age of 50 were more than twice as likely to develop vascular dementia and 65% more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease compared to adults in the same age bracket without

depression" (Graham).

Kancelaric and Lahno mentioned that they are actively reaching out to Nursing and Rehabilitation centers in New York to send cards to those struggling with Alzheimer's Disease.

The Alzheimer's Walk in New York is slowly approaching, scheduled for October 26th. Many individuals will be walking to raise money for continued study on Alzheimer's disease. As second year graduate students Kancelaric and Lahno said, awareness is key. The more we know, the more we can do to catch early signs of this disease.

EVENT LISTING

Tuesday, October 8

International Socialist Organization's Student Orientation
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Student Center Penthouse

Thursday, October 10

Korean Culture Club's KCC Fundraiser
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
New Ingersoll Hall Lobby

Undergraduate Student Government's Senate General Meetings
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Student Center Bedford Lounge (2nd floor)

International Socialist Organization's Table
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
Whitehead Breezeway

Chit Chat Club's Tabling
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Whitehead Breezeway

Brooklyn Composers Collective Mirror by Tiger West Event
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts Lobby

Muslims Giving Back's Hygiene Kit Drive
12:15 PM - 2:15 PM
Student Center Jefferson-Williams Lounge (4th floor)

ARiculate Presents The Fly
12:15 PM - 2:15 PM
Hall of Fame Rm (lower level)

Rotaract Club's General Meeting
12:30 PM - 2:15 PM
Student Center's State Lounge (5th floor)

American Sign Language Club's First Meeting
12:30 PM - 2:15 PM
Student Center Alumni Lounge (4th floor)

Brooklyn Bahaadur's Dance Practice
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Club Room (lower level)

Accounting Society's Meet BKD
12:15 PM - 4:30 PM
Student Center Glenwood Lounge (2nd floor)

Dominican Student Movement's Bachata/ Merengue Night
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Student Center Amersfort Lounge (2nd floor)

Health Professions Panel
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Student Center Maroon Room (6th floor)

Haitian American Student Association's Comedy Night
8:00 PM - 9:45 PM
Student Center Jefferson-Williams Lounge (4th floor)

Kappa Phi Chi Sorority's Open Mic Night
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Student Center Bedford Lounge (2nd floor)

Crimes Documented in Security Report

By Gabriela Flores
Staff Writer

This past Wednesday, Sept. 25, the Campus and Community Safety Services released its annual Public Safety Report to the BC community via e-alert and on their website.

Under the federal Clery Act and state laws, the Public Safety Office is required to publish a yearly report that includes BC crime statistics and college policies. The Campus Crime Statistics included crimes from on-campus and non-campus properties. The report contains “public property” statistics from local “thoroughfares, streets, sidewalks, and parking facilities, which is within the campus or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus.”

Three years ago, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) filed two on-campus drug abuse violation arrests, two drug abuse violations referrals, and two stalking cases. There were also two thefts on public property. In 2017, there was one burglary and one drug abuse violation referral on campus grounds. Two aggravated assaults and two motor vehicle thefts happened near BC. In 2018, the DPS received one report of stalking on campus, as well as two liquor law violation referrals, two drug abuse



Outside of Brooklyn College's Public Safety Office. / Gabriela Flores

violations referrals, and one referral for possession of a weapon. The NYPD handled four cases of robbery off-campus.

Between 2016 and 2017, on-campus religious hate crime through vandalism decreased from five incidents to one. No hate crimes occurred in 2018.

Most students did not know they had access to the report. A student who decided to remain anonymous asked, “Is that on BC News? Is it on the website?”

“Really? Through email? When?” asked another student, doubtful she even receive the notification. Noticeably, the majority of recipients overlook their e-alerts. However, ITS and Public Safety cannot

conclude with evidence whether or not the students view e-mails from the college.

Business Management major Ahmed Jamal said that he “doesn’t have any concerns” on how the Public Safety Report was shared. He recalled a message that warned him of “gunshots fired” near campus. Since then, he feels “safe” with BC’s “immediate and effective” e-alert system.

Mia Galeno, majoring in Film and History, stated that before reading the account, she did not know of the resources and formal procedures involved with filing a misconduct report. After looking over the recent crime log, she expressed her worries

of incidents that have happened with assault and even larceny.” Galeno thinks that there must be a “more visible and accessible way to have this information known to us, students. For our safety.”

For students living in residence halls, legal aid from BC was similarly unknown. In a video titled “Sexual Assault at the ‘Residence Hall @ Brooklyn College,’” student Christine DeLisser “filed a formal report” against an RHBC employee who sexually harassed her in an elevator. The video creator Chris Omar shared that DeLisser was left to find out that Title IX has no jurisdiction over the employees of private institutions” like RHBC. The Public Safety Report emphasizes this point as RHBC is not considered to be an “on-campus” or “non-campus” property given that it is not “owned by the institution” nor “controlled by a student organization.” Housing halls are only suggested by Brooklyn College to students as options but have no affiliation to the college.

According to Chief/Director of Campus Security and Public Safety Donald Wenz, Public Safety “cannot enter RHBC,” but “will respond if they (RHBC Management) notify us if an incident took place with a Brooklyn College student,” said

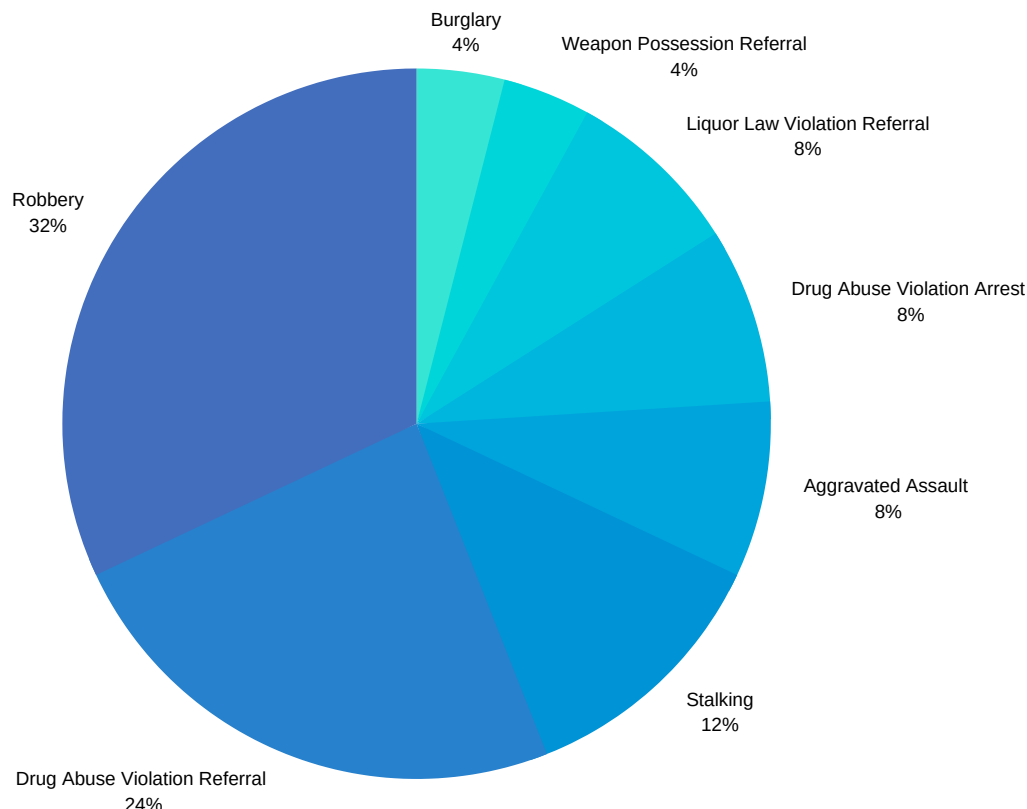
Wenz.

Wenz stated that students, like DeLisser, must report directly to RHBC Management or those overseeing their residence hall. Ultimately, BC has “no direct control” of these homes.

Notably, the report mentioned that CUNY “does not directly employ individuals to whom CUNY employees can speak on a confidential basis regarding sexual misconduct.” Instead, they are given information to “an outside company” called “CUNY’s Work/Life Program” and other “confidential community counseling resources” within New York. However, in the case in which administrators or faculty wish to proceed with filing a claim, the Public Safety Office “will take a report for anybody.” After that, Wenz states that the office will forward the disclosed information to a “detective that investigates sexual crime and sexual harassment” who will determine if “the college can arrest” the alleged attackers.

All in all, the Public Safety Report provided an extensive review of BC’s role in ensuring public safety. Nonetheless, the security summary sheds light on issues that improved or have yet to change for the collective wellness of the college.

Crime Statistics from 2016 to 2018



Whitehead Plaza Construction Ends, Woes Continue



The newly opened Whitehead Plaza. / Ryan Schwach

By Kevin Limiti
News Editor

The Whitehead Plaza has opened Friday after a year of construction work. However, the construction woes and Brooklyn College continue on.

According to Alan Gilbert, Vice President of Finance and Administration, the last remaining issue with the opening of the plaza was a statue which “[didn’t] fit in with the current décor.”

Construction was supposed to be finished before the end of the summer, but because of window scaffolding and concerns about safety from falling objects, construction continued into the fall semester.

The construction of the

plaza at Whitehead has cost about \$880,000.

Gilbert said that the window project would “pay dividends during the winter when it’s really cold out,” adding that there “won’t be as many drafts.”

Construction, renovation, and repairs at Brooklyn College have been a source of criticism for a while. Last year, articles centered around the Instagram page ‘Brooklyn College’ which spawned articles in the New York Post as well as TV segments on News 12 and CBS news.

Gilbert said that he is “not a big fan,” of the Instagram page.

“It incites people,” he said. “It’s unrealistic to expect that in a campus this size with fields everywhere, people eating everywhere,

that we wouldn’t have a bug every now and then. It’s reality. Or that a toilet won’t break.”

Gilbert said that because of “deferred maintenance” that the college is essentially waiting for something to break in order to fix it, which is necessary—according to him—in order to save costs and meet budgetary funding levels.

“The problem is in an organization that is not fully funded. Especially higher education, whether it is public or private, you hit a point where [...] things just go,” said Gilbert, citing the age of some of the buildings on campus. “If we had a billion dollars that would help but then we would also need staff to oversee all the projects.”

Gilbert also said that there were issues with staffing. “My four or five people are running around to four or five projects each,” he said. “And every one of these is very detailed and should require their own personal person from the college to oversee.”

Using the window project at Whitehead as an example, he said that his staff oversaw the project to make sure contractors were abiding by safety guidelines as well as working with professors, staff, and IT people in order to move items out of certain rooms.

Gilbert said that the typical way to hire more people to oversee various construction projects would be to either get more state funding or increase tuition, the latter of which

he says is “not a burden that we want our students to deal with.”

“Student learning is the most important priority we have so we invest most of our operating budget into faculty and construction,” said Gilbert. “That’s actually why we’re here.”

Various construction projects planned for the future include building medium sized lecture halls, renovating Ingersoll as a Science building, repairing the heating at Roosevelt Hall, and providing air conditioning for 1310 Ingersoll.

Also planned for the future is renovation of the East Quad’s iconic clock tower.

“It’s unrealistic to expect that in a campus this size with fields everywhere, people eating everywhere, that we wouldn’t have a bug every now and then. It’s reality.”
–Alan Gilbert, Facilities Dept.

How Aware Are We of Domestic Violence?

By Milette Millington
Staff Writer

October is here once again, which means it's Domestic Violence Awareness month. But how aware are we that domestic violence is happening?

The CUNY Sexual Misconduct policy, which is part of the Security Report for this year, defines domestic violence as violence or sexual assault that is committed by: a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, a person who the victim shares a child with, an intimate partner or spouse who lived with the victim, or anyone else who is covered by applicable laws of domestic violence.

"It can be a single act or a pattern of behavior, based on the frequency, nature, and severity of the conduct."

The policy also states that along with dating and intimate partner violence, domestic violence is categorized under the umbrella term "sexual violence" which also includes: "sexual activity without affirmative consent, sexual assault, rape/attempted rape, and forcible touching/fondling; stalking/cyberstalking, and voyeurism."

The Brooklyn College Women's Center is a place on campus that offers students lots of assistance, running a variety of programs. Located at 227

Ingersoll Hall Extension, the center is home to the Returning Women's Cafe, the Alice Miller Computer Lounge, a drop-in lounge and resource lounge. It also offers crisis intervention and advocacy services to students on academic and non-academic issues.

On September 24, the center hosted "My Body, My Rights," a workshop that offered legal advice for students who have been victims of sexual assault. It was led by Jessica Morack, a staff attorney with the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) infographic Facts Everyone Should Know about Intimate Partner

Violence, Sexual Violence and Stalking, "one in four women and one in nine men were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner with a negative impact such as injury, fear, concern for safety, needing services."

For those of you who have had recent experiences of domestic violence, you may be nervous to share your stories, and that's okay. But just know that there are places you can reach out to on campus. Other than physically going to the Women's Center, you can also call them at 718-951-5777. You can also call the office of Campus and Community Safety Services

at 718-951-5511, the office of Personal Counseling at 718-951-5363, or the office of Student Affairs at 718-951-5352.

There are also multiple resources off-campus in Brooklyn, as well as Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx. In Brooklyn, these include New York Women Against Rape (212-777-4000); the Legal Services Department for the Special Victims Bureau (718-575-4447); and People Against Sexual Abuse, located at 1012 Eighth Avenue, an organization that aids those who have been sexually abused, and conducts workshops on risk reduction for adults and youth (718-834-9467).

Students Asked to Vacate Rez Hall's Top Floors for Renovations

By Natalina Zieman
Staff Writer

Students on the top three floors of the Residence Hall at 1 Kenilworth have been asked to move out, due to last-minute renovations.

Three weeks into the semester, the students who were on those floors received an e-mail stating that renovations will be occurring and that they will be displaced to lower levels of the residence hall, floors one through five. No one is sure when the renovations will be completed, except management, who did not grant the Vanguard any information. The students who were asked to move rooms have already done so, but they were not told when, or if, they will move back into their originally assigned rooms for the 2019-2020 school year.

With rumors of a mold problem and maintenance not up to date, students are starting to grow tired of the Residence Hall's problems.

"I've heard there is a mold problem. No one in management confesses

to it though. One of the reasons I moved out," explained senior Kerri Pfeifer, who now lives off-campus. Many residents have experienced similar problems, especially with the office and maintenance being unavailable on the weekends.

"No joke, [my roommate and I] were moved out of our room because her pillow fell behind her bed, and when she went to look for it, it was all gross with mold, we were assuming, because that's what it looked like," explained senior accounting major Frances Sanzone. She now lives off-campus as well.

This year, there are new rumors flying around the halls, that there is a mouse problem and the building is not up to date on the New York City fire code. But apparently the renovations are to replace the pipes and to repaint the walls. Residents who were affected by the renovations were clearly unhappy with the lack of information, and the poor timing.

"I was a little bit annoyed,



Image Credit: Residence Hall @ Brooklyn College Facebook

because why would they move us on to the floor, knowing that we would have to move us off of it later?" asked Sophia Savidis, a freshman film major. "I had finally just finished feeling comfortable in a new place which took some adjusting. And then all of a sudden it was just like 'haha psych! Let me just take that away from you.' It was just frustrating."

That frustration at being displaced was a common

reaction among the students who had to move out of their room just a couple weeks after moving in.

"I was shocked because I had just moved in and gotten everything just the way I wanted it. It felt like I finally got a new home, and then I had to leave it which was really upsetting," explained freshman Marissa Aratari. "It affected my experience here negatively because it was very tiring and draining to

reclean and relocate all of my belongings six floors down."

Although these residents experienced frustration about moving out of rooms just weeks after moving in, the renovations could benefit future and current lower classmen residents for the upcoming years.

As of press time, the management at 1 Kenilworth have declined to give Vanguard a statement.

Food for Thought

Brooklyn College Farm Share Looks to Tackle Food Insecurity On-Campus

By M.A. Rahman
Features Editor

Corbin Hill's Farm Share program at Brooklyn College offers CUNY students, faculty, and workers healthy produce options on the go via its single-day pick-up service.

Since spring 2018, the weekly subscription-based program has held an active presence on the BC campus. Located in Ingersoll Hall, the program provides produce for low-income areas and boasts well over a hundred subscribers from the campus, thanks in part to its partnership with the BC Agricultural Center.

"For [at least] 15 dollars a week, we get a bunch of produce from upstate distributed to Brooklyn College," explained Angelica Rodriguez, an Urban Sustainability major and volunteer for Farm Share at BC.

By signing up through the website for the Brooklyn College drop-off location for the Corbin Hill Food Project, users are offered a choice between paying between \$15 and \$28 a week for various bundles of fresh produce. Additional locally-produced add-ons such as eggs, bulk flour, or even raw honey are offered to "shareholders" in the



The farm share in Ingersoll let students pick up produce. / M.A. Rahman

program.

Beyond the combination of accessibility and healthy produce, there's an altruistic purpose behind the program: the need to remedy the encroaching problem of "food deserts" appearing in places like New York City.

According to the USDA, "food deserts are defined as parts of the country vapid of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthy whole foods, usually found in impoverished areas. This is largely due to a lack of grocery stores, farmers' markets, and healthy food providers."

Thus a vacuum has been left for major food distributors like Corbin Hill to fulfill with their own program, seeking to address "the needs of low-income communities through our affordable prices and flexibility with sign-up and payment options," as their website puts it.

The result is Farm Share, noted for its locations, prices and going as far as accepting the now obscure Health Bucks as valid payment.

According to Urban Sustainability major Ian Evans, a volunteer with

the program, the program's aim to mitigate the effects of food deserts is part of a wider effort by faculty members of various BC centers and services to introduce students to healthier diet options.

These include the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, and the Sustainability Council.

"We need to have more sustainable food systems that will give food to everybody," said Evans. "Especially on Brooklyn College: a very diverse campus, and with people

coming across the city, you may not necessarily have time to go to the store and pick stuff up."

Evans insists that the aims of Farm Share are altruism and convenience.

At present, studies like one from the Food Bank For New York City indicate that the status of "food insecure" persons in the city includes nearly 1.3 million NYC residents are deemed "food insecure." That is, around 1.3 million people at some point have unexpectedly gone hungry without access to a reliable food source, typically due to economic conditions.

With the success and growth of Farm Share programs throughout the country like the one at Brooklyn College, interest in the business does not appear to be dwindling anytime soon.

"Corbin Hill has been helpful against food deserts because their programs are in areas where food deserts exist," said BC Farm Share Sustainability Coordinator Julissa Lora. "They establish themselves in areas where they are needed."

"It's a bright spot on campus, and it's the favorite time of the week for many of us to meet people we don't usually work with," said Carrie Sadovnik, chair of the BC Sustainability Council.



Students volunteer at the Brooklyn College Farm Share. / M.A. Rahman

On The Record: The Clash, “London Calling”



By Allison Rapp
Columnist

I left the United States in the hands of a corrupt, incompetent, and unruly leader. I arrived in the United Kingdom where, it turns out, the leader isn't that much better.

Yes, I'm talking about the ever-charming Donald Trump and his English counterpart, Boris Johnson (or as my politics professor likes to call him, "big bad Boris"), both of whom have landed in hot water this past week.

Johnson announced an Oct. 31 Brexit deadline some time ago, a spooky date which is rapidly approaching. On Sept. 10, he suspended Parliament for five weeks, some say in an effort to squeak around any anti-Brexit deals that might come about. In a historic decision, the UK's Supreme Court deemed this suspension unlawful. Regardless, he has stated that he hasn't ruled out suspending Parliament for a second time. He has consistently used words like "surrender" and "traitor" to describe anti-Brexit deals and those who support them, though many members of Parliament have asked him

to tone down his rhetoric.

Does this sound familiar?

But as if that wasn't bad enough, things came to an even bigger head when Johnson said the best way to honor the memory of Jo Cox, a member of Parliament who was murdered by a far-right extremist in June of 2016, was to "get Brexit done." Cox had campaigned extensively for refugees in the UK, as well as supporting the movement to remain in the EU. He has refused to apologize, activity of the far-right has been on the rise, and extremists frequently praise Johnson for his words and opinions.

I thought I left the messy, racist politics behind. Day-to-day life will change very little here in Scotland if Brexit does go through, but the idea that far-right extremism is gaining momentum in places outside the States is alarming...

Which is why I was delighted to hear about Nancy Pelosi's impeachment inquiry announcement. The evidence is stacked, the American people are more than ready, the only shame is that it didn't happen sooner. Between this and

big bad Boris, the next few weeks will be nothing short of a show. So much corruption, so little time.

So this week I'm listening to the band that inspired an entire previous generation to tell the higher-ups to go to hell: the Clash. More specifically, their 1979 double album, *London Calling*.

I'll be the first to announce that punk has never been my scene. I dabble in a lot of different artists and genres and my taste is wide-ranging, but I'll admit I'm a little lost when it comes to punk. Perhaps I've never been that angry in my life. But if there's one thing I can get behind, it's revolution and rebellion, and that's something The Clash have always excelled at.

Here's what makes *London Calling* a fantastic album, all nineteen tracks of it: it pays homage to a lot of good, quality rock n' roll, blues, reggae, and jazz that came before it. It came at a time when The Clash chose to deviate from what people were used to as a punk band. When they toured in the states in the late 70's, they opted for supporting acts like Bo Diddley and Screamin' Jay

Hawkins, a far stretch from their early days playing with The Sex Pistols.

And yet, Joe Strummer was always committed to the left, and that definitely included writing lyrics that emphasized how the working people of Britain were tired of those in power using their authority for nothing but their own personal fame and comfort. "In these days of evil Presidentes, working for the clampdown, but lately one or two has fully paid their due," he sings on "Clampdown."

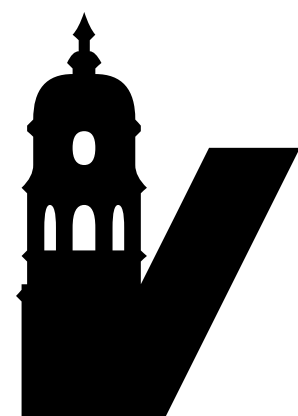
Now what's more punk than that?

A possible answer might lie within the current young population of the UK. Imagine coming of age as a teenager and one of the very first political shifts you experience is your own country removing itself from one of the largest global influences to ever exist. According to a March 2019 poll, 74% of those who were too young to vote in the 2016 referendum but are now of voting age would vote to remain in the EU. It's not certain if another referendum will be held; in which case, those young people, around two million of them, won't even have the chance

to voice their opinion. What happens with those young people if Brexit goes through? Revolution? Anarchy? Another guitar-smashing record like *London Calling*?

After *London Calling* was released, Strummer spoke about the message behind the title track. "We felt that we were struggling about to slip down a slope or something, grasping with our fingernails," he said. "And there was no one there to help us."

In New York, on the corner of East 7th St. and Avenue A, just across the street from Tompkins Square Park, is a mural of Strummer. It's brightly colored and has one of his most famous song titles on it: "Know Your Rights". These young people know their rights. It might be too late to use them.



Good Etiquette is Important For The Wellbeing of Society



New York locals walking about Manhattan. / Kaique Rocha

By Edmund Zhen
Opinions Editor

As a New Yorker, when I think of etiquette, I immediately think of the MTA. People from all walks of life, backgrounds, and cultures, clustered together in rectangular cars, being whisked away from crumbling stations into the unknown. It's truly an experience like no other. But the worst of it all is the public indecencies. Growing up in a strict family entails proper mannerism, consideration of others, and public awareness, so anything that is contrary to that, I get uncomfortable. So when I see people peeing

at the corner, spitting on the platform, or acting like lunatics, etc., I get pissed as hell.

To change that, I believe it is crucial for the government to create etiquette laws similar to Singapore's. Things like spitting, littering, public urinating, smoking in non-designated spots, etc., can land you with hefty fines and even jail time. For example, if you are caught spitting in places such as coffee shops, markets, theaters, public buildings, or public roads, you will be punished with slaps across the face as well as a \$1000 fine. In one aspect, it would be a good way to generate revenue for the city, as well

as creating a cleaner and safer space for everyone. Using that money, we can develop programs and initiatives to help those who are in need of support the most. In NYC, the number of homeless people has reached the highest since the Great Depression. The Coalition For The Homeless did a study on the number of homeless people and found that "In February 2019, there were 63,615 homeless people, including 15,344 homeless families with 22,717 homeless children sleeping each night in the New York City municipal shelter system. Families make up three-quarters of the homeless shelter

population and the number of homeless New Yorkers sleeping each night in municipal shelters is now 74 percent higher than it was ten years ago. The number of homeless single adults is 150 percent higher than it was ten years ago."

But even if we don't do this on a large scale, we could create a punitive system in schools or private areas (in alignment with the law of course) that follows this idea to teach people the things they failed to learn when they were kids. In other words, it is beneficial for society as a whole, as it builds character in people and teaches them respect, self-

control, social awareness, etc. It would also be helpful to implement other things that would help catalyze a snowball effect on this growth. Rewinding back to the MTA, how would your life be when you take the train/bus and the people were more respectful of each other and their environment? The seat and floor you use are clean. There is no loud music or people screaming "IT'S SHOWTIME" on your train. There will be no more smell or sight of urine or feces all over. Just think, how would your life be changed if these rules were implemented?

THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE VANGUARD

is looking for writers, photographers, and illustrators!

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

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

Brooklyn College Theater Department

2019 Fall Preview

By Quiara Vasquez
Editor-in-Chief

Private institutions may sweep the Princeton Review's "Best Colleges" lists, but there's one list on which Brooklyn College gives the Ivy League a run for its money - and no, I'm not talking about the fabled "Most Asbestos" rankings. I'm talking about our brilliant theater department, which for the low, low price of \$10 a ticket offers Brooklynites the chance to see some of the best theater that off-off-Broadway has to offer.

I counted recently, and I've seen 29 plays put on by the Department of Theater since 2015 (and that's not counting the trio of plays performed during the annual One-Act Festival, in which case the number balloons to nearly forty). Of those thirty-ish plays, two of them were awful, and the rest ranged from good to brilliant. I'm a little biased, of course, having known dozens of people involved both on- and off-stage in the theater department, but my friends from off-campus agree that the average BC production is pretty damn solid. And if you can't trust a 19-year-old NYU sophomore, who can you trust?

This semester, the campus is staging four plays by acclaimed

playwrights of color, two of whom have Pulitzers and two of whom have Netflix shows. (Which is the higher accolade, I'll leave up to you.) That's a pretty high pedigree to begin with, and some of the actors involved in these productions have great track records at the college.

Maybe the only bad thing about this season's crop of plays is the posters the college has seen fit to advertise them. "Posters" might be stretching it. "Scribbles" might be a better word here. They're very "abstract," which is a nice way of saying that they look like they were drawn in MS Paint by a five-year-old. Were they drawn in MS Paint by a five-year-old? I sincerely hope the answer to that question is yes. I cannot stress enough: what the Department of Theater lacks in graphic designers, it more than makes up for in literally every sort of creative talent.

Without further ado, the four plays we'll be seeing this semester.

From Oct. 11 to Oct. 17, students can see Antoinette Nwandu's "Pass Over," directed by Cristina Duarte, in the Don Buchwald Theater. "Pass Over" is an allegorical play about racism and police brutality, taking just as many cues from "Waiting for Godot" as it does the murder of Trayvon Martin.

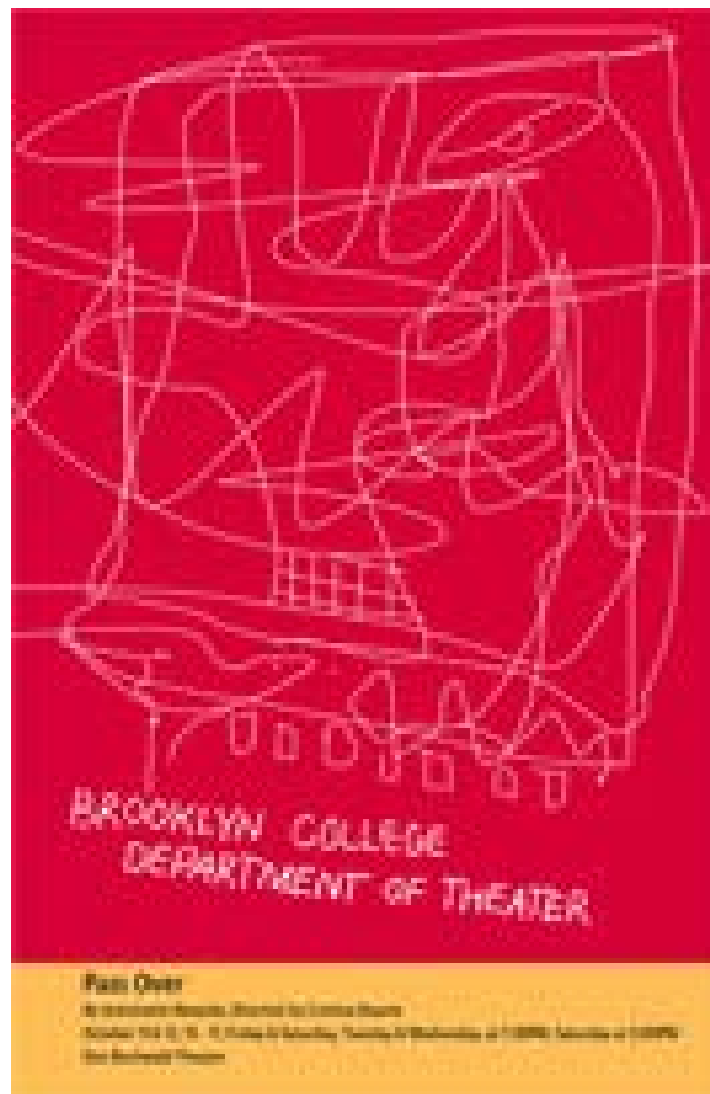


Image Credit: Department of Theater

Nwandu is the most obscure of the four playwrights, but that's not the same as being the least talented. Spike Lee is a fan - he tapped her to write for the Netflix adaptation of his film "She's Gotta Have It" - and as they say, "game recognize game."

Just one week later, from Oct. 25 to Oct. 30, at the New Workshop Theater, students can see Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins' play "Gloria," directed by Michael Page. The play starts out like your average workplace comedy, set in a Manhattan magazine headquarters. But things take a dark turn when an employee shows up with a gun and hopes of revenge. And just if you were wondering, Jacobs-Jenkins wrote the play three years before the Capital Gazette shooting in 2018. (I would call it prescient, but at this point in America, writing about a mass shooting feels almost banal.)

The most well-known of the four plays coming to the Tow Center this fall is Lynn Nottage's "Sweat," which is playing in the Buchwald Theater from Nov. 15 to Nov. 23. The play centers around a Pennsylvania factory town on the brink of economic collapse, and the workers there who find their lives collapsing with it. Racialized resentment ensues. The play won the 2017 Pulitzer for Drama,

beating out recent BC grad Sarah DeLappe's "The Wolves" (which received an excellent on-campus production last year). I think DeLappe should have gone home with the prize - and bluntly, I think she would have gone home with the prize had Donald Trump not won the presidency, and American intelligentsia not felt the subsequent need to throw Middle America a bone. But Nottage is a playwriting heavyweight, and director Tara Elliott is a BC veteran with a rock-solid reputation.

Stephen Adly Guirgis' "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot," directed by Matthew Williams, finishes off the quartet of plays in the New Workshop Theater from Dec. 6 to Dec. 11. The play re-imagines the case of history's most famous traitor, placing Judas on metaphorical trial in a metaphorical courtroom. Guirgis is a bit of an eccentric, and his earlier play "Jesus Hopped the A Train" was recently staged at Lehman to great effect earlier this year. Will CUNY go two for two? I'm excited to find out.

Tickets for all these plays are available online for \$15 for current BC students, but there are further discounts if you buy tickets in-person at the box office, or if you buy for all four shows simultaneously. More info is available online at brooklyncollegepresents.org.



Image Credit: Department of Theater

Looking for Alaska: A Revisit Ahead of Hulu Series



Looking for Alaska promotional image for the Hulu original series. /

By Michael Castaneda
Columnist

Hulu is coming out with an eight-part TV series called “Looking for Alaska” based on the John Green book of the same name. In anticipation of that, I thought I would read the source material.

During the summer, I read John Green’s latest book “Turtles All The Way Down,” which quite honestly blew me away with its sensitivity and insight towards mental

health issues.

“Looking For Alaska” is the second John Green book I have read and it is the first book that he ever wrote. He states in other material that he was offered a movie deal that gave him the money to move to New York with his then-girlfriend and continue to write. Nothing ever happened to make “Alaska” into a movie until a film adaptation of his book, “The Fault in Our Stars,” became a hit at the box office.

These books are in the young adult (YA) section and while I thought Turtles transcended the genre, “Looking for Alaska” certainly falls right square into the ethos.

Just to get your attention, this book has been banned in some schools and libraries for its intentionally non-titillating descriptions of oral sex, which the author says, are supposed to be in contrast with the meaningful dry humping, groping, and good old making out elsewhere in the book.

It’s hard not to feel a little manipulated by the obvious tropes of a young adult novel set in high school. Everyone knows how it feels to start a new school, make new friends, and be both excited and scared of being away from home for the first time. Many of the experiences cited at the beginning of the book are poignant for the main character but can get tired for the reader, after all, it’s mostly a collection of first experiences.

At first, the novel is mainly plot-driven, but shifts to a wholly character-driven story. The story begins with Miles,

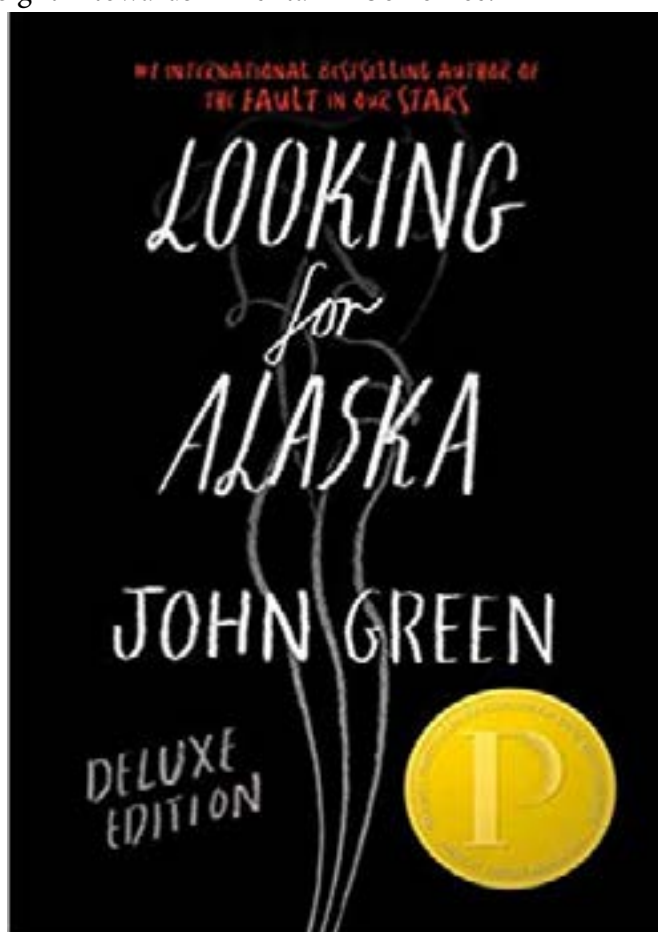
the protagonist, moving to a boarding school in Alabama and obtaining a group of friends. The main ones, including Miles, the Colonel, Alaska, and Takumi are insightfully fleshed out; Green makes you feel like you know them personally. One can guess that Miles may be a stand-in for Green. And, while he denies that the book is autobiographical as most first novels are, and most writers write what they know, the reader senses their similarity.

Miles falls for Alaska Young, who I love as a character. I believe that plenty of guys meet and fall in love with this type of girl at least once in their lives. Their dynamic is a relatable one: some nerdy introverted guy meets a beautiful emotionally unstable girl who for some reason flirts with him enough to make him feel special, but remains physically and emotionally unavailable to him. And of course, she has a boyfriend. This tension is both energizing and vexing to a mind that might not be able to handle such a dilemma. I hope I am not giving too much away here, and it’s obvious in the

trailer for the TV show, but Alaska dies.

What Green does well is flesh out Miles and Alaska as people. Alaska is not a Manic Pixie Dream Girl; instead she is a fleshed out character who is who she is for reasons of life experience. Miles, too, has thoughts and feelings of both loss and grief after Alaska dies, but his idealized image of Alaska matures too, albeit with help from his friends. His very cool friends, who happen to be as supportive as any TV friends (e.g. The Big Bang Theory and Friends), though I can’t be certain that the Hulu show will be able to get the subtleties and insights that make this book worth reading.

An Alabama prep school seems a long way off from Flatbush. The book’s depiction of the high school experience didn’t match mine whatsoever. Still, I was sad when the book ended. I wanted to spend more time with the characters. I think that says something. Now, I just have to find someone with a Hulu account.



An Italian Opera to be Performed at Hunter College



By Jack Coleman
Arts Editor

In the spirit of Italian Heritage Month, Brooklyn College's Sebastian Giordano has helped the Pietro Mascagni Foundation (all the way from Sicily!) to perform *Cavalleria Rusticana* at Hunter College's Danny Kaye Playhouse on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m.

The famous one-act opera, directed by Guia Farinelli Mascagni, will be accompanied by the Città Di Castellammare del Golfo Wind Orchestra, and will also be performed in Boston, Toronto, and Montreal. The cast is led

by tenor Alberto Profeta, sopranos Valentina Miserendino and Natasa Katàì, mezzo-soprano Marisa Rainieri, and baritone Salvo di Salvo.

"To be able to have my town in Sicily being represented in New York City is a blessing and gift that I will always cherish."

Says Giordano, who is currently working on a Master of Science degree here at BC, says that he and his father, Anthony Giordano, have been planning this event since 2018 when they saw the orchestra perform at the Christopher Columbus Parade that year. With help from the Federation

of Italian-American Organizations of Brooklyn (FIAO), the father and son duo managed to successfully import the opera to the states.

"The Mascagni foundation bringing this show to New York shows that we as Italian-Americans are able to share the beauty of our culture with the rest of the world in one of the biggest and most diverse cities in the world," said Giordano. "This type of opportunity makes me proud that I am of Italian heritage."

In 1889, as the story goes, Pietro Mascagni submitted *Cavalleria Rusticana* to a competition for young composers. Having heard

about the competition only two months prior to the deadline, Mascagni entrusted his friends, Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci, to write the libretto, which is based off of a short story of the same name. Out of seventy three submitted, Mascagni's opera, as well as three others, was chosen to be performed in 1890 at the Teatro Costanzi in Rome. Since then, the show has been performed countless times and is now a mainstay in the canon of Italian opera.

Cavalleria Rusticana is a verismo (realist) classic. The young Turrìdo (Profeta) arrives home

after a stint in the military to see that his lover, Lola (Miserendino), to his surprise, has married Alfio (di Salvo). In his anger and jealousy, Turrìdo seduces Santuzza (Katàì) and (this is where the drama really begins) Lola begins an affair with her once-lover, Turrìdo, also out of jealousy.

If you'd like to know how the story unfolds, (hint: blood will be spilled), you'd better get tickets to the show, which can be purchased online on the Danny Kaye Playhouse website or in person at the box office.

Bullshit!

by Ryan Gleason

As you can tell from my comedic writing, I don't exactly fit into the office or retail game. It's true, my job is a bit more interesting. Yeah, I sell pictures of my feet on Instagram.

I know it is a bit unorthodox, but as a struggling college student, it was an easy decision to make. I didn't think I'd be selling Polaroids of

my li'l piggies, and I'm guessing neither did my family, friends, and peers. We all have sacrifices we are forced to make in this world.

It actually isn't as degrading as it sounds. It is just like your job! You wake up, get dressed, have some coffee, rub butter on your feet and take pictures, and then wait till the end of the

week for that bank account to get a few more zeroes. I'm just like you!

Sure! My hours are up to me, and my payment is also up to me, but my job is just like anyone else's. All those working in the food service industry, sales, manual labor and blue collar/white collar industry have walked so that I may run!

My Job Vs. My Passion

Although, as much as I love sending my size 12 dumplings to your dads, uncles and friends, selling feet pictures is not my passion.

My passion is being the best gosh darn college student I can be. I want my Bachelor's! I want my high GPA! I want my social circle so tight we hang out on the East Quad every day

with a guitar and dream catchers! But in order to achieve that, to make my dreams come true and live the ideal college experience, I have to sell pictures of my hairless hooves to businessmen over the Internet.

Worth it!

Anna Curran: A Multifaceted Athlete



Anna Curran killing it for the Brooklyn Bulldog / Damion Reid

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

“I feel as if sports have made me the type of person I am today in terms of building a strong work ethic, dedication and grit. And I am forever grateful for that.”

Anna Curran is a junior at Brooklyn College and a midfielder on the women’s soccer team. She is entering her second year on the swim team and fourth year playing softball. She also played on the school basketball team for a little while. Curran is a sports lover, plain and simple. Playing tee-ball, soccer and basketball as a kid, Curran fell in love with the competitiveness and other

opportunities the sports world opened up for her.

“Aside from being extracurriculars, sports have opened me up to a possible career path [athletic training/physical therapy] and hobbies [sports photography],” Curran said.

While Curran is also a swimmer and softball player, the fall is dedicated to soccer. Her schedule wasn’t always so varied. Once upon a time, soccer was the all-encompassing sport, year-round. “Around middle school I focused more on soccer. I would balance school and recreational soccer in the fall, indoor soccer in the winter, and back to outdoor in the spring.”

Curran was born in China, but grew up in Manhattan. Starting with playing soccer, and more specifically in the AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization), Curran found that she could be successful at any position on the field.

“When I started playing soccer I’d say I was an attacking player,” she said. “But it also depended on what team I played for at the time, and what position needed filling.”

Curran now finds herself often at defensive midfield for the Bulldogs. A defensive midfielder is the first line of defense, and also the first entry into attack. A defensive midfielder has to be vocal, precise with their

passes, and always in the right position to defend.

Curran is now in her third year with the soccer team, and notes the differences between this year and her second and first years in terms of leadership.

“I have become more vocal and attentive on and off the field,” she said. “Personally, I feel as if I lead by example and help everyone on the team with anything they might need.” She noted how this can range from advice in school, game-day routines, or just life in general.

The Bulldogs are 2-6-1 this year, but have won two of their last three. This momentum can hopefully get them to .500, and from there anything is possible.

Soccer is a team sport of course, but it is important for each individual player to see improvement in their own game.

“Personally, I know I’m a lot more comfortable and confident with the ball. I definitely have seen a large improvement in my game compared to my freshman year.”

Curran plays in co-ed leagues in the summer across Manhattan and Brooklyn. For a sports-lover, one sport and one season is never enough. Professional aspirations are important, but Curran has learned that through sports, other life lessons and goals can be achieved.

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