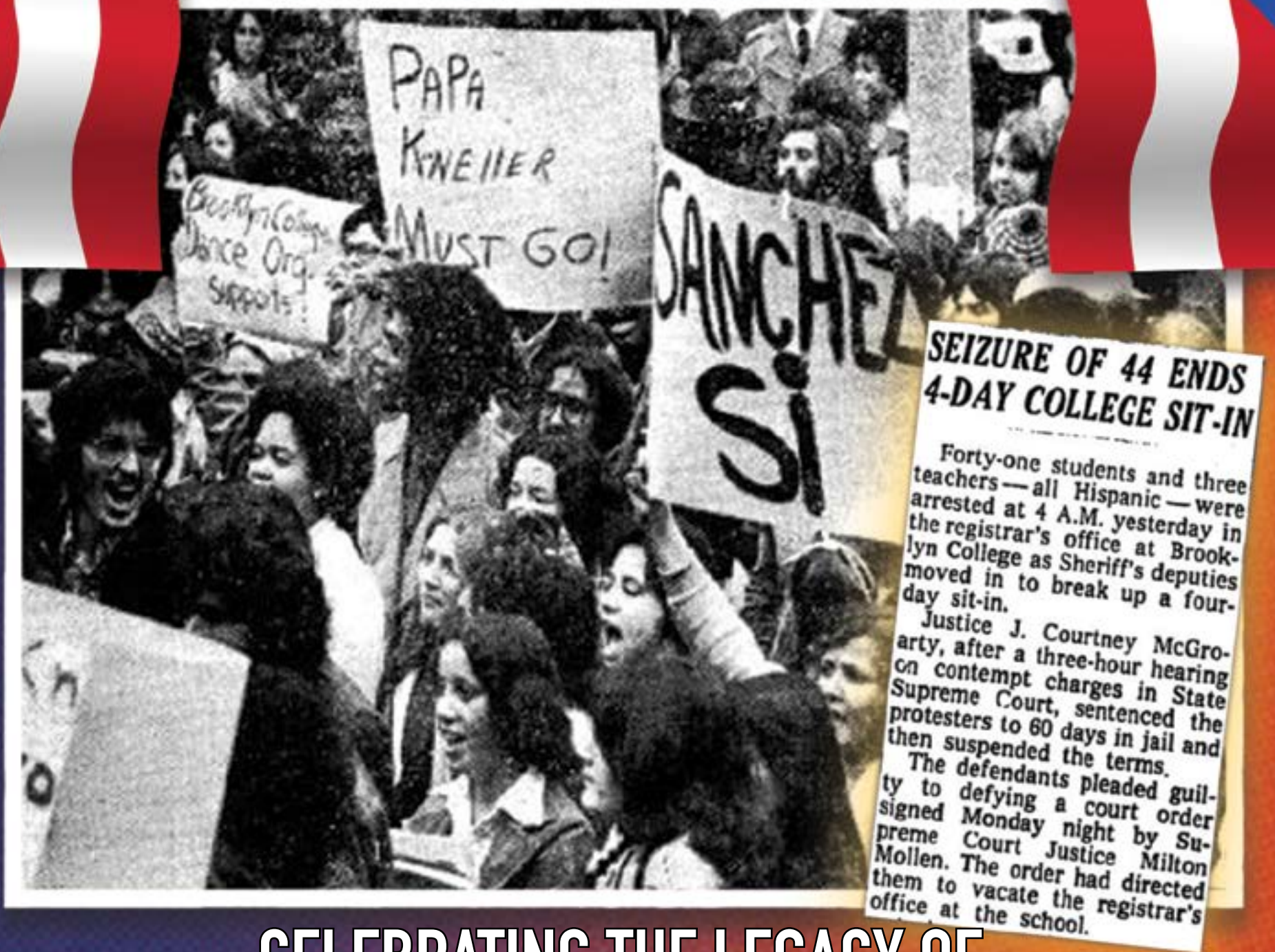




¡PA'LANTE!



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF PUERTO RICAN & LATINO STUDIES

p. 6-7

IN THIS ISSUE:

False Alarm in Boylan
Scares Student Body
p. 2

Former BC Prof Sues
Over Mishandled Black History
p. 4

THEATER REVIEW:
Lynn Nottage's "Sweat"
p. 10



General Inquiries

THEBCVANGUARD@GMAIL.COM

Club Hours

118 ROOSEVELT HALL
MONDAY: 11 A.M.-3 P.M.
TUESDAY: 11 A.M.-6 P.M.

Editor-in-Chief

QUIARA VASQUEZ
QUIARA@ZOHO.COM

Managing Editor

RYAN SCHWACH
RSCHWACH11@GMAIL.COM

Business Manager

FARHAD RAHMAN
FARHADRAHMAN555@GMAIL.COM

Layout Editor

CAMILA DEJESUS
CAMILAWITH1L@GMAIL.COM

Digital Editor

MOISES TAVERAS
MOISES.T59@ME.COM

Section Editors

News: KEVIN LIMITI
KEVIN.LIMITI@HOTMAIL.COM
Features: M.A. RAHMAN
ABDURRAHMANGROUP@GMAIL.COM
Opinions: EDMUND ZHEN
EDMUNDZHEN91218@GMAIL.COM
Arts: JACK COLEMAN
JACK.COLEMAN05@GMAIL.COM
Sports: CONRAD HOYT
CONRAD.HOYT@GMAIL.COM

Columnists

MICHAEL CASTANEDA
RYAN GLEASON
RENDY JONES
MO MUHSIN
ALLISON RAPP

Staff Writers

MICHELA ARLIA
BOBBIE BELL
IAN EZINGA
GABRIELA FLORES
ISLEY JEAN-PIERRE
CAROLANN LOWE
MILETTE MILLINGTON
CARMEN SAFFIOTI
MARTIN SAMOYLOV
JOHN SCHILLING
MAYA SCHUBERT
NATALINA ZIEMAN

Photographers

CHLOE ABOSCH
CHRISTIANN COX
ARICKA M. DAVIS

Faculty Advisor

ANTHONY MANCINI

Unproductive: All In Favor

Advanced Production



In this advanced production course, students will produce and direct the second episode of Unproductive's All in Favor, an original webseries written by TREM students. You will work in a real-world production, fulfill all crew positions, and numerous other production related areas. This is a unique learning opportunity for motivated students to work on a series that demands the highest production values.

Course Title:

TVRA 4824: Advanced Multimedia Production
Prof. Lomidze

Winter Session/January 2nd-23rd
Tues/Thursday & Friday 10am-5pm

- Prerequisites: Either TVRA 3729 or TVRA 3871 or permission of the Department Chair.
- This course can be applied as an advanced department elective toward your degree.

Please contact:

Professor Brian Dunphy
profdunphy@gmail.com
Whitehead Hall, Room 303a

Brooklyn College
The City University of New York

Department of Television and Radio

THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE
VANGUARD

We're not publishing next week due to Thanksgiving! Our final issue of the Fall 2019 semester will be out Wednesday, Dec. 4th.

False Alarms Go Off in Boylan



Students huddled in the cold outside of Boylan Hall due to the false alarm. / Gabriela Flores

By Gabriela Flores
Staff Writer

Brooklyn Students were left waiting outside in the rain on Monday, Nov. 18, as alarms sounded in Boylan Hall after some steam leaked from the basement. Many did not know if it was a real emergency or not.

“I was in class, and my professor wasn’t sure if it was a drill or not,” said Mahir Imityzz, a Computer Science major. “Everyone thought it was some kind of high school fire drill.”

For about fifteen minutes, the swarm of students stood outside Boylan’s premises. Some asked a nearby Public Safety officer what was going on, to which he ensured the evacuees that nobody was harmed in the unexpected incident. “All I can say is that everyone is safe,” said the Public Safety officer.

Noticeably, there was ambiguity surrounding alarm. Previously, BC’s halls were equipped

with an outdated alarm systems that sounded off nuisance alarms, or false alarms, frequently. As a result, occupants have delayed their evacuation during fire drills and emergencies over the years. “I’ve been here for 16 years, and people have been taking their time and not taking alarms seriously,” said Public Safety Lieutenant Arkeen Dunpal.

Some students have been distinguishing a false and real alarm by listening to the length of the siren. “Someone from my class said that if the alarm is more than two minutes long, it’s real. And that’s how we all knew it wasn’t a drill,” said Imityzz. However, Dunpal argued that this tactic is inaccurate and potentially fatal. “Hopefully, people don’t go off that time in their heads, because you can die from smoke inhalation in under a minute,” he said.

To change the common

narrative of ‘false alarms’ campus-wide, Public Safety has replaced most fire systems with new ones connected to a central monitoring station. “Its central monitoring station calls the nearest fire department, and the fire department usually gets here under a minute,” said Dunpal.

The alarm sensors at Boylan detected the leaking steam, with occupants remaining unaware of the incident. “It was just steam, so people probably wouldn’t have seen it,” said Dunpal. Upon the central monitoring station’s call, two fire trucks arrived at the scene as BC members continued to exit the building. Thereafter, firefighters proceeded with their routine to extinguish any possible threat. “We work on isolating the problem, and then, house technicians will fix the issue,” said an unnamed firefighter.

In previous evacuations, the BC community was preparing for unexpected incidents like the one on Monday. Fire drills are performed on-campus in compliance with the NYS Education Law 807, which requires that BC and other colleges/universities execute at least three fire drills per year. For each semester, Public Safety conducts two drills to satisfy this requirement. These practices allow personnel and BC members alike to know what to do when an emergency strikes. “During a fire drill, we already have a plan [...] but, when it really happens, it’s going to be up to the students to remember or choose the nearest exit without delay,” said Dunlap.

As for non-ambulatory occupants, they must locate themselves to a nearby refuge area called Disabled Persons Fire Emergency Assembly Area during evacuation. These meeting spots

are supported by FDNY, being that Public Safety officers are unable to handle the relocation of these individuals. “Recently, we had a meeting with the Disabilities office, and we brought down the Fire Department,” said Dunpal. “These areas are where the fire department expects non-ambulatory people to be. That’s our plan for those people.” According to Lieutenant Dunpal, no disabled persons were reported to be in Boylan during the steam leakage.

As of now, the steam issue at Boylan has subsided. With the regularity of fire drills and consistent improvements in evacuations, Public Safety believes that the BC community can better the chances of their security during future emergencies with their full participation in drills. “People get annoyed, but it’s for safety purposes,” reiterated Dunpal. “It’s serious right away, so get out of the building.”

Pre-Trial Hearing Held For Multimillion Dollar Lawsuit Against CUNY By Former Professor

By Kevin Limiti
News Editor

On Friday, Nov. 15, a pre-trial hearing was held in Downtown Brooklyn for a multimillion dollar lawsuit in which a former Brooklyn College professor accused CUNY of losing up to \$12 million worth of research material on black history.

Professor Joseph Wilson, who was a tenured professor of political science, was fired in 2016 after being accused of misappropriating grant money by CUNY, who claim he enriched himself with \$200,000. Wilson claims that CUNY security guards conducted a warrantless raid afterwards, carting off decades worth of his research. Among the confiscated items were writings, books, an undiscovered transcript of a Martin Luther King Jr. speech, and Wilson's personal correspondence with music legend Ray Charles.

"Everything we're talking about is Dr. Wilson's property," said James Klein, Wilson's lawyer, during the hearing. Klein said that Wilson's research was "collected over a lifetime of his professional career."

In attendance at the



Joseph Wilson (right) is suing CUNY for allegedly mishandling his research. / Dave Sanders

hearing were other professors who came out in support of Wilson.

"The argument [the defense] is making is like you stole all of Warren Buffett's money, and he wanted his money back, and you only give him a five dollar bill," Klein said.

Klein also said that the defense gave them an hour to sift through unmarked boxes of Wilson's material, a claim the defense lawyer called, "hogwash."

The defense claimed that Wilson destroyed his own evidence by leaving it with Professor Lynda Day of the Africana Studies department and telling her she could do what she wanted with the boxes.

"Everything [the

defense] said is totally untrue," Klein said.

An exasperated judge said, "This is ridiculous. It's not very palatable to have lawyers accusing each other of lying."

Prof. Day told the Vanguard that the notion of Prof. Wilson destroying evidence, "makes no sense at all." According to her, research material at the Graduate Center for Worker Education was destroyed "willy-nilly," and she had to make room for an incoming faculty member after the Political Science department moved some of his books and flyers to the Africana Studies department.

"The CUNY administration and his department never treated

him or his materials with the dignity that his long service at CUNY should have afforded him," she said.

Professor Kevin Johnson, an adjunct professor at the Metropolitan College of New York, John Jay College, and Medgar Evers College, was a former student of Wilson and attended last Friday's hearing. Johnson was convinced that Wilson had not done anything worthy of him being fired, saying that he had "impeccable character."

"I would trust my life with him," Johnson said. "That's based on his integrity, his honesty, his commitment to humanity, and to worker education."

Johnson dismissed the internal investigation

that resulted in Wilson being fired.

"He [Wilson] was never arrested or brought up on charges, so that's bogus. He fell out of favor. He challenged people," Johnson said. "Why would he do something that would result in him being terminated or released from the college? Clearly, he has been the victim of character assassination."

Administration officials declined to comment, citing that it was a legal case. Legal counsel for the administration said they could not disclose information about past or current personnel.

The next hearing is expected in January.

The New York Times



All Brooklyn College Students receive a digital subscription courtesy of the CUNY.

Sign up at: www.nytimes.com/bc

OR

Scan the QR code.

USG Holds Two Town Halls To Hear Student Concerns

By Kevin Limiti
News Editor

Brooklyn College Student Government's (USG) political committee held two town halls this week with the aim of bringing in more student voices and ideas into their efforts to improve life on the Brooklyn College Campus.

The town halls were held Thursday, Nov. 14 in the evening and Tuesday, Nov. 19 during common hours, serving sushi for the first town hall and Chinese food for the second.

"It starts with you guys," said Zain Quershi, a member of the political committee and student advocate, during the first town hall. "It's really your voice to let it out."

The town halls covered a wide range of topics. For instance, USG President Alyssa Taylor said that she was looking into an initiative to bring back the college bookstore, a grievance from students ever



Student government representatives fielded questions. /Christianna Cox

since Boylan's bookstore was closed in the fall of 2017. One student voiced her displeasure that the Starbucks next to Whitehead was closed down and called the prices at the Boylan cafeteria "outrageous."

Financial aid was a hot topic for both hearings,

with one student saying that he lost his financial aid because he could not get into some of his classes.

"This is something that has been a problem and is actively being looked at," said Lilian O'Reilly, Vice President for Enrollment, who was in attendance

at the second town hall. "We certainly don't want anyone losing their financial aid." O'Reilly encouraged individual students to speak with her afterwards.

Ronald Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs, also was in attendance for both

hearings and spoke to the concerns of students who were having tech issues.

Other issues included the heating of Ingersoll Hall - to which Quershi admitted that they, "haven't found a solution."

Also in attendance at both hearings was Hamilton Raymond, Associate Director of Student Activities. The political committee was also concerned about how they could widen Bulldog Connection, which is intended to connect students with activities and events, to be used by more students. Raymond cast some doubt at the website's future, saying not enough students were using it.

"You don't use it, you lose it," Raymond said.

While nothing was resolved in the town halls, just by having them USG has signalled that they are intent on finding avenues to address student concerns.



Students at the town hall. /Christianna Cox

PRLS Holds Count Down to 50 Year Celebration With Encuentro Panel



CUNY Students at the "Diverse Cultural Expressions" round table. / Chloe Abosch

By **Bobbie Bell**
Staff Writer

On Thursday, Nov. 14, student Hispanic organizations including the Puerto Rican Alliance, Mexican Heritage Student Association, and Dominican Student Movement hosted "Possible Dream Encuentro: Countdown to 50 Years." As the Puerto Rican & Latino Studies (PRLS) Department approaches its 50th anniversary in 2020, many joined

to acknowledge and remember all that the department has faced to become the strong, noble department it is today.

The event lasted nearly eight hours, with panels featuring current students as well as alumni and former staff of the department. The event ended with the Don Quijote Leadership Dinner in SUBO's Penthouse, where former PRLS chairperson Maria Perez y Gonzalez was honored with a touching tribute.

Students and faculty alike expressed their gratitude for the eternal impact the department has had on their lives, celebrating the magnitude that one little department can have.

"Nothing is static, and change doesn't always happen in your direction," said Joaquin Rosa, a board member of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment (APREE). APREE includes many alumni of Brooklyn College who graduated

from the department who meet to discuss ways in which they can help their communities.

The PRLS Department has emphasized three main pillars since they began in 1968: awareness, analysis, and action. Action is definitely what the department took back in 1974 when 44 Brooklyn College staff and alumni were arrested for fighting for representation and inclusion within their own department. Known as the "BC 44," this was only one of many instances when the PRLS took matters into their own hands for change.

The movement was a response to the election of a new head of the department that PRLS students and faculty felt could not relate to the department's students and their experiences at Brooklyn College.

"The students of the PRLS department had wanted Maria Sanchez to become new chair, but the administration had wanted an alternative

candidate to fill the open position after the current department head decided to retire," said Professor Gisely Colon-Lopez, BC's first Latina salutatorian and the current secretary of APREE. The students wouldn't budge - literally.

"Students and faculty barricaded the office with their bodies where the current department still stands," Colon-Lopez said. Once they decided to take over the registrar's office, outside authorities were brought in to make arrests.

The movement continued for nearly two years. After returning to school grounds after the arrest, they chanted, "BC 44, we've come back to bring you more."

"I received a misdemeanor after that and it stays on your record. It's not something that just goes away," said Professor Antonio Nadal, one of the three faculty arrested among the BC 44.



Daniel Vazquez Sanabria, President of the Puerto Rican Alliance. / Chloe Abosch

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Korean Culture Club Members Share Their Superstitions

By M.A. Rahman
Features Editor

Members of the Brooklyn College Korean Culture Club exchanged anecdotes on their own superstition and reflecting on the peculiar habits that others students shared.

“This is really a more social type of club,” Shume Akhter, President of KCC, a senior and a Business Marketing major said, emphasizing KCC’s aim to get highlight Korean culture to curious students while fostering its own community of like-minded students allured by its contemporary culture.

Members of the club’s e-board said the discussion’s topic of superstitions and folklore was intended to serve as a brief icebreaker between the roughly two dozen club members in attendance.

“Don’t pick up something you find on



Students at the Korean Cultural Club meeting. / M.A. Rahman

the ground,” one student shared, “because if you do, we were told a bad spirit would follow you.”

Organizers also used the occasion’s discussion to segue to a video produced by some of the club’s members to highlight and contrast some of the fascinating distinctions between common American superstitions and common Korean superstitions.

The video featured

two friends that are BC students visiting Korea, who share common superstitions from their respective nations, with each friend struggling to take seriously superstitions from the other.

The comedic video, which roused the room full of KCC members with jovial laughter, was a well-edited and highly exaggerated mockumentary on the

topic, with student actors demonstrating the varying consequences of stepping on cracks in the sidewalk, or breaching any given superstition from either nation.

For students the video and discussion on the topic opened themselves up to feel less reserved from discussing some of the unique aspects of their lives, with many students of varying cultural and ethnic

backgrounds sharing and humored by their own individual irrational habits.

“I didn’t know anything [about Korean culture],” Mathew Reed, a sophomore majoring in Business Marketing and a member of the KCC E-board. “Joining the club helped me gain a better understanding of the Korean culture as a whole.”

PRLS Holds Count Down to 50 Year Celebration With Encuentro Panel

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 6

But he has no regrets, because the BC 44 had achieved their goal: the elected chair of the department decided to resign, and Maria Sanchez took over the position.

According to Joaquin Rosa, the event was a huge turning point for the department.

“You have an obligation to the streets you are living in, in your building,” Rosa said. “We need to take action.”

“We would not be here as a department without the strength and battles the department has fought,” said Cesar Ventura, a PRLS major who graduated in 2015. He describes the department as one that “cares about you and your life.”

Another alum of the department, Julia Fernandez, who graduated in 2017, agreed with Ventura, describing the department as a second home.

“They have provided me with unconditional support and I have never

been turned away,” said Fernandez, who got emotional discussing all that the department has done for her. “Learning from people that saw me as their equal, majoring in PRLS, it gave me the confidence I needed,” she said.

Current students can also testify that the department is one in which they feel safe. Patricia Dominguez, an undergrad in her junior year at Brooklyn College has taken a few PRLS courses and believes the department allows you to “embrace your culture

and not be ashamed or hide in the shadows.”

People in the PRLS Department expressed their determination to keep their program alive, even in spite of budget cuts at CUNY. During the leadership dinner, current PRLS chair Alan Aja told his audience that there was a pattern of neglect in ethnic studies programs across the entire CUNY system.

When BC opened the Murray Koppelman School of Business eight years ago, Aja’s response was a frightened “¡ay dios mio!” According to

him, when schools invest in business departments, it’s a warning sign that they plan to cut programs like PRLS in the name of austerity. He credited then-chair Maria Perez y Gonzalez with strategizing to keep the department afloat.

Those at the event last Thursday reached a consensus that the PRLS department must continue to grow and live on. The BC 44 have indeed come back to bring us more — and this time, they’re not alone.

Notes on Solitude

By Edmund Zhen
Opinions Editor

It was the beginning of the semester when towards the end of my second class, a peer asked, “Do you want to grab lunch together?” Being indifferent towards the idea but not seeing any point in declining, I agreed. And so we ate at the food court and filled the time with some ice breaker questions before leaving for our next classes.

A few days later, the same thing happened again. And again after that. After a few more days of this, silence started to fill the space. But the invitations kept coming. It didn’t take long until I questioned the insistence to have lunch together. The reply was short and simple: “Oh, I just don’t like to eat alone.”

The answer baffled me: partially because of the unexpected nonchalance

of her delivery, but mostly because I’m used to — and very comfortable with — dining alone. Nonetheless, it got me questioning a few things. Why would one ask to dine with another if there’s going to be no dialogue or interactions? What does this discomfort in eating alone mean? Does it come from the act of eating alone, or being seen eating alone?

Regardless of what this discomfort might point to, my guess is that the totality of it leads to one thing: an overall discomfort with solitude. It made sense to me when I thought about it. Many associate solitude with loneliness and the stigma behind it is almost always negative. Solitude in the public’s eye might define you as a person who’s unapproachable, undesirable, or uninteresting, because opposite traits don’t repel — they attract.



A man all alone./weedlyr on Pexels

Therefore, wouldn’t that mean I’m just a means to masquerade something? As time goes by, this train of thought was endless as it had already escalated to an existential level.

To me, solitude paints an opportunity for reflection, planning, peace and quiet from all the noise and stress that accumulates throughout the day. But to others, what does solitude entail?

I figure some might say it can be depressing and unnatural to eat alone, since dining with company has been a universal ritual since... forever? (For example, the French have always valued mealtimes as a time of communion, getting together at fixed times every day for that very reason.) But even though studies have shown that eating with

people is better for our well-being, I would still happily choose to dine alone with my own entertainment and accompanying thoughts. What’s better than recharging your social battery and keeping things light, on your own terms? And as for the lunches with said peer, it seems that they’ve found a new buddy.

Bon Appetit my friends.

Senioritis: What It Is and How to Solve It

By Edmund Zhen
Opinions Editor

I’ve been prone to chills and fatigue lately, and I blame this bodily decay on adulting. My favorite hoodie, whose superpower once allowed me to withstand 40 degree weather, now relies on sidekicks to finish its job.

But physical pain can be endured. What cannot endure is the deterioration of willpower that has gotten me this far. My level of patience and motivation to finish what’s left of my college career is so low that the purpose of my planner now is to house doodles inside their perfectly straight walls. My parents call all of this laziness, doctors say it’s

burnout, but the truth has never been clearer; it’s senioritis.

For those who don’t know what senioritis is, it’s a colloquial term for the lack of motivation or drive which students experience while trying to finish their last academic year. The last time I heard this word was four years ago in high school. Those were the days when last-minute works still landed you good grades and teachers passed out extra credit assignments like pencils. If you try that now, you’ll see yourself back in the same seats next semester.

The issue with senioritis is that it’s such an ineffable phenomenon. You get it when you know that you’re going to pass with any grade

other than an F, and that you’re competent enough to get through it with minimum effort. But we still do it, even when it means compromising ourselves in the long-term for short-term pleasure. In other words, we are essentially self-sabotaging ourselves, with almost nothing to gain for it.

All along I thought of this to be some sort of affliction students made up because of their laziness, but to my amusement, there are concrete studies proving its legitimacy. Southern New Hampshire University took the liberty to research this phenomenon and discovered it to be a type of psychology that makes us content with

our current position. It loosens our rein on our purposes, and we let ourselves operate on a lower level until the next stage of one’s academic career arrives. Abby Tincher, an academic advisor for Southern New Hampshire University, describes it as “seeing the finish line and realizing you don’t necessarily have to work as hard anymore to reach it.”

This topic intrigued more than one prestigious university. Researchers at New York University (NYU) went more in-depth, noting in their findings that it’s strictly prevalent in high-school students and that the only cure is graduation. But there are also ways we can

combat this in order to limit the damage it does with different methods proposed by NYU.

Some of them are to maintain activities that stimulate your mind so that you can keep pursuing what you love. You could also spend time not as a student, but as someone your age. Commit to healthy extracurricular activities that generate growth and excitement, or commit to an internship or a career-focused job. Doing those things may not save you completely from the grips of senioritis, but they were tested out and accepted for their level of efficiency in combating senioritis.

On The Record: Kim Gordon, “No Home Record”

By Allison Rapp
Columnist

I spent this past weekend in the South of England, pretty much as far down as you can go without wading into the ocean. After nine hours, I got off the train in Newton Abbot, a town that sits just inland in Devon County. I swung by a local pub and found myself dining with no more than a handful of other guests — the typical busy Friday night dinner rush.

On Saturday I lunched with David Knopfler and his wife, the reason for my trip. I wrote about Knopfler’s latest album, *Heartlands*, for *On the Record* some weeks back, but I learned over coffees that he’s already moved on to the next project. Back in the day, you could find him playing large-scale venues with Dire Straits, blasting their hit “Sultans of Swing”, but these days he prefers his quiet home studio.

But whether you were once in a world-famous rock’n’roll band, or a college student from Brooklyn, there is something revitalizing about taking the time to do some things for yourself and by yourself. It doesn’t have to mean isolation or selfishness, but it could open a few doors you hadn’t thought to try.

When Knopfler’s wife asked about my interest in her husband’s music, I explained how I grew up on British and American rock’n’roll. (My dad played his Dire Straits CDs so much the cases started to fall apart, and I had to buy him new ones for Christmas.) But then I told her something I’m not sure I’ve ever said out loud to anyone who’s asked that question. I said that for a long time, my music was one thing, and my journalism was another. Maybe it was because I was nervous about potential job prospects and the lack of money, or maybe it was that I hadn’t come across too many female music journalists, but I kept the two things separate. It wasn’t until I started writing *On the Record* and freelancing that I allowed myself to combine them. It wasn’t until this study abroad experience, which gave me the personal time and freedom to try something new, that I convinced myself that perhaps I could write about music in a more permanent sense. Other people do it — why not me?

This in turn brings me to the album I spun this week: Kim Gordon’s *No Home Record*. Formerly of the famed alternative band, Sonic Youth, Kim Gordon has always been daring, but this is her



very first solo album. In the past decade, Sonic Youth disbanded and her 29-year marriage to bandmate Thurston Moore ended in divorce. Now she’s back, with something totally her own.

No Home Record still offers fans the rough, experimental edge Sonic Youth once gave. Gordon uses wild guitar riffs with seemingly no pattern and some downright weird vocals in a sort of Lou Reed-esque arrangement. It’s dissonant and jarring. Those who are looking for a traditional rock’n’roll sound won’t

find it here.

Like Patti Smith, David Bowie, and many others, Gordon has always considered herself an artist first, and a musician second. “I think the record’s kind of eccentric,” she said in a recent interview. “The music isn’t something you listen to as much as experience, and the things I’m talking about are not easy to digest.”

Indeed, *No Home Record* isn’t something to spin for easy listening. It feels muddled, not necessarily in an unorganized sense, but rather in the sort of messy way that one

might describe a Jackson Pollock painting or an Iggy Pop concert. You’re not entirely sure what’s going on, or what the explicit message is, but you’re more than a little captivated.

“Bring me back, the blood is overflowin’.. the dust is settling, the detailing is sublime,” she half-sings, half-chants on “Get Yr Life Back.”

Pretty gutsy for her debut solo record. Punk, as they say, is an attitude thing, but Gordon has gone beyond that and created something that showcases her spunk, while proving that she belongs at the helm.

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

“Sweat,” or: Do You Believe in Life After Trump?

By Quiara Vasquez
Editor-in-Chief

Stage Lights up on a black guy sitting across from a white guy with a swastika forehead tat. “Oh god,” I think to myself. “This is going to be one of THOSE plays.” Scarcely a minute later, swastika-head screams the N word. Mhm.

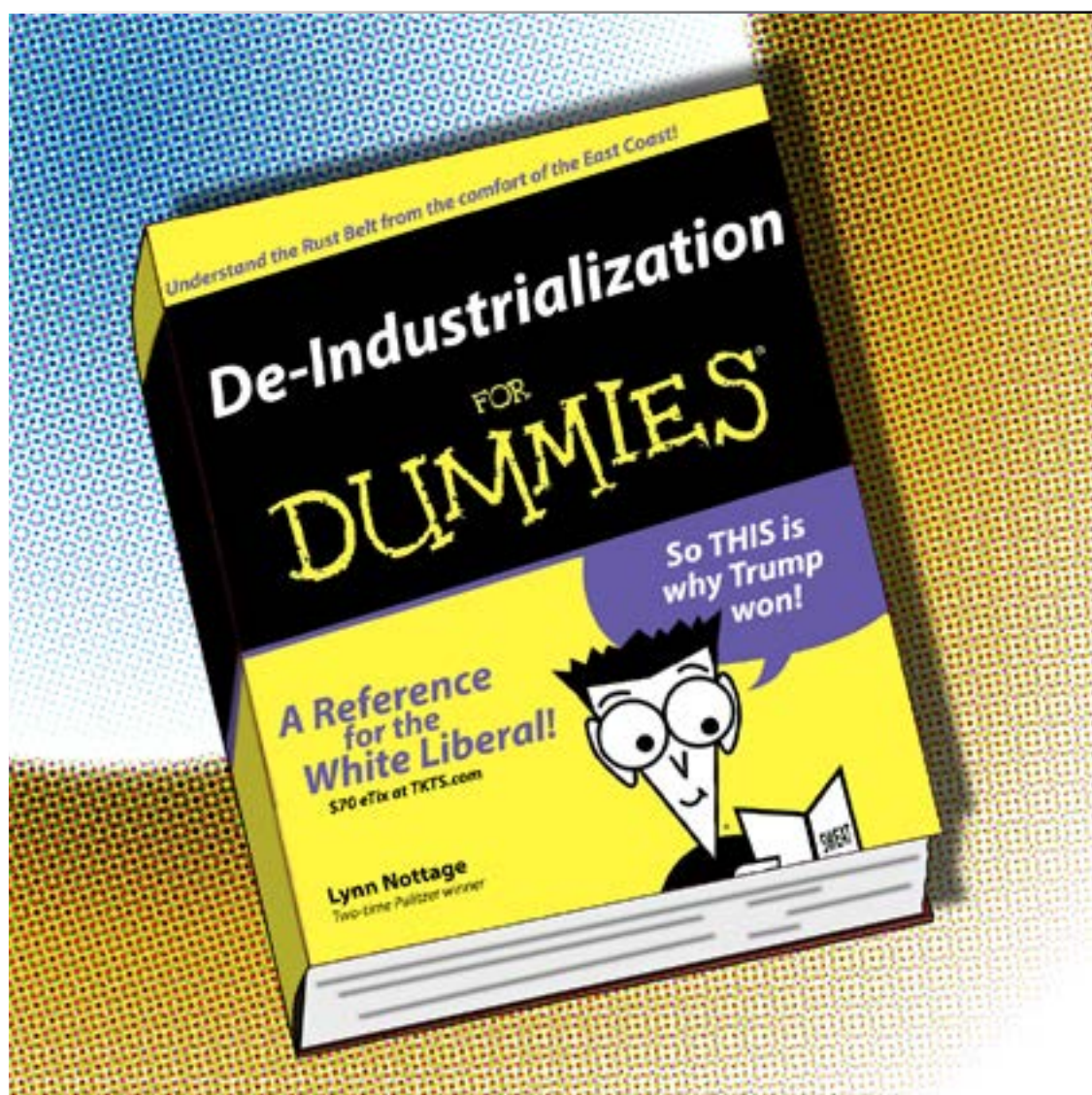
It’s not that “Sweat” is a bad play - it’s just that it has all the subtlety of a hydraulic press. The current production of “Sweat” at Brooklyn College (which’ll run through Saturday, Nov. 23) is pretty good, with the great acting and production aspects we’ve come to expect from BC’s theater department.

“Sweat” focuses on a group of steelworkers in Reading, Pennsylvania (the so-called “poorest town in America”) whose friendships begin to splinter as their jobs start disappearing in the post-NAFTA world. Slowly, they’re forced on opposite sides of a picket line, and racialized resentment begins to fill the gaps. The cast is up to the task here, sympathetic even at their characters’ most despicable—the only weird thing is that it’s bizarre seeing a crowd of photogenic millennials play characters allegedly

in their fifties.

Speaking of “millennial,” the play is set in the year 2000, and it’s not shy about it either. A ton of effort clearly went into filling the stage with era-appropriate sounds and set-dressing: a jukebox blaring Santana’s “Smooth,” then-Governor George W. Bush campaign ads, a Game Boy Advance SP (which actually came out in ‘03 but let’s not split hairs), and the ultimate pre-Napster relic, a copy of Cher’s “Believe” CD.

This sort of touches on my problem with the play—“Sweat” feels dated, and not to the turn of the millennium, but to the far-off year of 2016. Watching “Sweat” thrust me back into the days immediately after the presidential election, after the New York intelligentsia’s Trump-induced catatonia wore off, and they had to ask themselves: “how did this happen?” And lo, they looked at the Electoral College, and saw that big chunk of red between New York and California, and they asked: who are these people? What makes them tick? Is there some way we could understand where they’re coming from—ideally in the form of a two-plus-hour Off-Broadway play



with tickets at \$50 a pop? Then Lynn Nottage smiled upon the earth, and blessed us with “Sweat”—and the theater world smiled upon Nottage, and gave her a Pulitzer.

Oops, I got a little carried away there. But “Sweat” is clearly geared towards an audience that can’t tell a flat jack from a flapjack—deindustrialization for dummies. The white characters’ racism is so overt, and the dialogue so hamfisted at times, that I almost expected a character to turn

towards the fourth wall and ask, “Do you guys in the audience get that the white working class has been pitted against working-class Latinos by corporate union busters looking for a scapegoat?”

“Sweat” may have benefited artistically from a bit of restraint, but then again, I doubt we’d be talking about it in 2019 if it wasn’t so on-the-nose—or if Hillary had won. This production is too good for me to dismiss it out of hand, but “Sweat” still feels like a relic from two

years ago, when all art was forcibly conscripted into the #Resistance, and usually to its detriment.

Lynn Nottage’s “Sweat” (dir. Tara Elliott) is showing every evening at 7:30 p.m. until Saturday, Nov. 23, in the Tow Center for the Performing Arts’ Don Buchwald Theater. Tickets are \$15 for CUNY students with valid ID. More information is available at brooklyncollegepresents.org.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE AT OUR NEW URL:

THEBCVANGUARD.COM

OR ON TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM

@THEBCVANGUARD!

Care, Community, and Queerness in Ak Jansen's studio

By Jack Coleman
Arts Editor

When he moved to New York in 2015 from a small town in the Netherlands, Ak Jansen had already completed his undergraduate studies in textile design at the Design Academy of Eindhoven. As the fifth largest city in the Netherlands, with a population of around 200,000, Eindhoven was not exactly the place where Jansen saw his career, or life, taking place. In 2013, after completing an internship with a fashion brand in New York City, Jansen decided that he had to move here.

This fall semester is his first as an MFA student at Brooklyn College, but ever since he moved here, Jansen's life has been steeped in the arts. After crashing at a friend's place for a while, he eventually moved into artist Izhar Patkin's iconic East Village loft (formerly a school) with his now-husband, Sunder.

"The place is like nothing you've ever seen," said Jansen. "The whole thing was crazy. It was a real New York story. Patkin's boyfriend, Scooter Laforge, did all these paintings on the walls; there's a room with a guy sucking himself on the wall, an Egyptian room. You've never seen anything like it."

But Jansen and his husband eventually moved out, and now reside together in Park Slope.

His studio, on the fifth floor of Boylan Hall, is riddled with fabrics, quilts, chicken wire, and clay sculptures — or as Jansen calls them, "vessels."

It's evident that Jansen's history with textile design still greatly



Ak Jansen caressing a quilted glove in his Boylan Hall studio. / Jack Coleman

informs his work, even though his scope has grown to encompass different mediums and broader concepts. Above the sewing machine hangs a piece of off-white fabric with steadily stitched thin blue lines which contrast with the sewn drawings on fabric of flowers which hang on the adjacent wall. Though the sewing process is anything but delicate, these gently rendered floral forms are abound with loose threads unfurling from their petals and stems. Jansen describes it as constantly pulling and turning the fabric in order to create them, and leaves the loose threads on purpose.

Pinned to the outside wall of his studio, a soft-spoken royal and dark blue quilt also includes loose threads which are

stitched into the body of the piece, resembling the body of a hairy bear (more the human than animal kind).

Though he initially wanted to step away from an artistic practice which relies heavily on what he was doing in his undergraduate years, Jansen realized that as he began working with clay, the same concepts were still present.

While at Eindhoven, Jansen created a book of self portrait photographs called *Process*. The book is an extremely intimate look at a young queer kid yearning for community and care in a small city.

"I was 25, struggling with identity, relationships, feeling not cared for," Jansen said about his earlier years. "It's a small city, and I never really felt at home in the Netherlands. Coming to

New York, where nobody knew me and I could do whatever I wanted, was such a relief."

Though his new work is still in its early stages, his recent interest in sculpture totally reconfigures these concepts, and opens up new possibilities in terms of form. The "vessels" are often adorned with pillow-like quilts, and filled with foam and other substances which Jansen sews himself. It's not a reversion to old or tired ideas; it's a revision, or a reinvention.

"These clay vessels are just like the body in the *Process* book," Jansen said. "This project is about care and community, and I've been looking for a way that a sculpture community could exist on terms where they take care of each other." The concepts the work

tackles are familiar and prescient to many queer people, especially in the Trump era.

As he looks into different mediums and forms for relying these interests, Jansen is unafraid of prevailing ideas that many artists seem to be affected by.

"I'm actually very interested in crafts, which for some reason has a bad rep in the art world. But I don't care, I think it's beautiful," said Jansen.

Whatever he gets up to in the future, I'm certainly excited to see it. Look out for updates from the Art Department to get a look at some of Jansen's work - as well as that of other BFA and MFA students' work, on- and off-campus.

Men's Basketball Drops Season Opener to Paterson

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

Brooklyn College's men's basketball team played well and showed signs of great potential, but ultimately fell to William Paterson University 68-77 in their season opener on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

The Bulldogs started the game slow, but after an early timeout, the team came out and was able to get its offense going.

Behind smart passing, Brooklyn was able to find open shooters and hit three-pointers, closing the deficit and rallying momentum in the first half. At the 13 minute mark, the score was all tied at 13.

Senior Michael Tesoriero brought the ball up for the Bulldogs and had a great first half. His shot was on point, making three three-pointers in the first period alone. He also was a vocal leader on the floor, running the offense and heading the defense.

After the slow start, the defense of the Bulldogs became energetic and tenacious. Players cut into passing lanes, rotated strongly for defensive help, and were strong in the paint to stop William Paterson from getting easy buckets. The early timeout that woke up the team seemed to work



BC men's basketball team playing against William Paterson University. / Damion Reid

wonders for interim head coach Jeffrey Jean-Baptiste. The Bulldogs went into the half leading 34-29.

The guard play was extremely strong by the Bulldogs. Tesoriero, along with seniors Jordan Wright and Anthony McClean, played very well off one another. On several occasions, one of them would drive into the lane, collapsing the defense, and then kick a pass out to an open shooter. Their quick feet and chemistry really worked well in

the minutes they shared together.

However, all three guards are relatively undersized, and this pointed to Brooklyn's biggest problem in the game: rebounding. Offensive rebounds were relatively nonexistent, and often they were unable to secure the defensive rebound as well, leading to second chance points for William Paterson.

Tesoriero's shot in the second half wasn't falling as much, but he made up for it with his slick

passing. There were two separate instances when he had a no-look pass that resulted in a layup for his teammate. He finished with eight assists on the day.

But William Paterson's forward, sophomore Nasir Fields, dominated the boards, and as the game went on and the fatigue began to show, his impact was too great on Brooklyn's side of the court. Ultimately, it was a strong performance by the Bulldogs, but they ran out of gas, and have a glaring weakness that

they need to address.

After their second loss of the season to Wittenberg University Saturday, Nov. 16, 78-87, Brooklyn is being outrebounded 98-55 on the season. That is a massive disparity that needs to somehow be fixed.

Though it is just two games in, Brooklyn is shooting the ball extremely well, with a 3-point percentage of .408. It will be noteworthy to see if they can keep that up, and hopefully improve their rebounding.

Buster & Vinny by Mo Muhsin

