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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

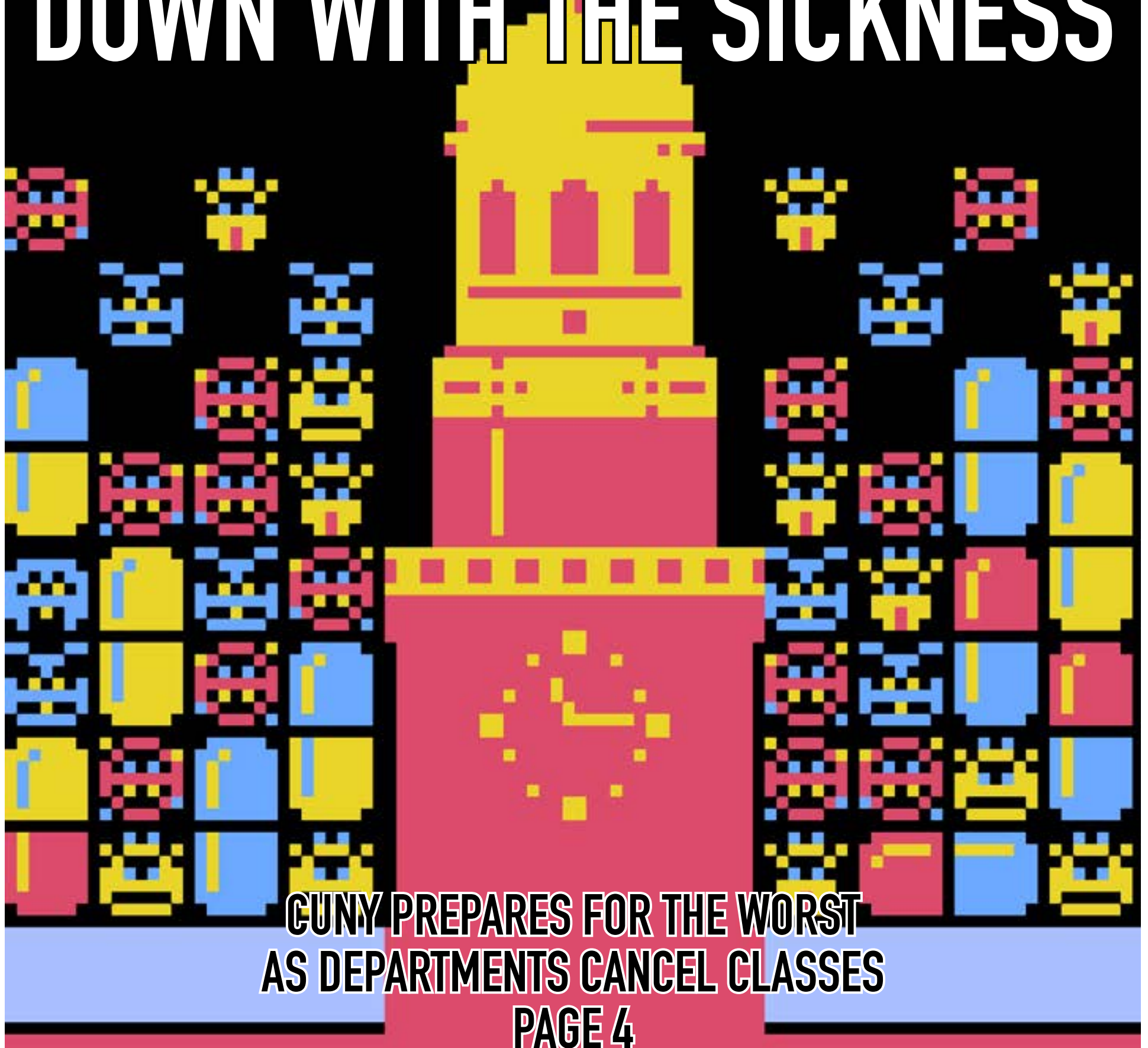
# **VANGUARD**

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**PHOTO CREDIT: NINTENDO/QUIARA VASQUEZ**





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# BC Elects 2020: The Presidential Candidates

By Ryan Schwach  
*Managing Editor*  
Reporting Assistance  
from Quiara Vasquez

With the Democratic primaries boiling down to two candidates, a possibly less contentious presidential election comes to Brooklyn College this month, when three hopefuls vie for the role of President of Undergraduate Student Government (USG). This year’s candidates are Ethan Milich, Michael Davis, and Dapo Ibrahim.

Last year saw the drawn-out merger of the two deprecated student governments into USG, which resulted in the need for a second petitioning process and a delayed election. The election eventually ended with the winner,

Carlos Calzadilla-Palacio, disqualified, giving sitting president Alyssa Taylor the seat. The second-ever USG election will be to replace President Taylor, who is graduating after two semesters on the job.

The first candidate for President comes right from Taylor’s initial ticket last spring: former USG Vice President and current University Student Senate (USS) delegate for Brooklyn College, Ethan Milich. Milich, a former United States Marine, ran with Taylor in last year’s election, and served as Vice President until late October. Milich resigned his VP position, citing he was “no longer the best person to be serving as the Vice President,” but he retained his seat as delegate to USS.

Milich will be running with Samuel Ganthier, a member of BC’s Black and Latino Male Initiative.

Dapo Ibrahim, a current member of the USG Senate, is the second candidate in the running for USG President. Ibrahim’s name was tossed around to replace Milich as Vice President last fall, a position that was ultimately filled by Jessica Johnson. Ibrahim sits on the policy council and sustainability committees in the USG Senate. His running mate is Chika Otisi, an Urban Sustainability who runs his own company.

The third and final candidate for USG President is Michael Davis. Davis recently resigned his seat as a member of the Senate, citing interference with

an internship at the Mayor’s office, which he says will not interfere with his campaign. Before his resignation Davis sat on the student affairs committee, and he is also formerly an intern at Brooklyn College’s NYPIRG office. Davis was the first candidate to officially announce his bid via social media.

“Let’s organize, get the signatures needed to get on the ballot, and be the change we want to see,” Davis wrote in a Facebook post on Monday. His running mate is Vanessa Nessaco, a member of the Political Science Club and the treasurer of the newly-formed Queer Student Activist Alliance.

Petitioning to get on the USG ballot began this past Monday, and will last until Friday, Mar. 20.



(L to R) Ethan Milich, Dapo Ibrahim, and Michael Davis. / Facebook

The Vanguard’s Quiara Vasquez and Ryan Schwach will moderate the USG Presidential Debate during common hours on Tuesday, March 24 ahead of the election, which will run from March 30 through April 1.  
Pick up next week’s Vanguard for full profiles on all three candidates.

# Fraudulent Honor Society Targets BC

By Zahra Khan  
Staff Writer

The National Honor Society may sound familiar to high school students: it's an nationwide organization for high school students in the United States. Some of us have probably even been a part of them. Some students at Brooklyn College received letters from The National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi). Humza Ahmad, a Brooklyn College Student received a letter and realized it wasn't the same thing.

Ahmad, a student studying TV and Radio, posted on the Brooklyn College In the Know 2 Facebook page stating,

"Just a heads up that the National Society of Leadership and Success is a SCAM."

Ahmad was approached by the organization because of his high GPA. According to the National Society of Leadership's website, candidates are selected "based on GPA and/or leadership potential." The organization seemed sketchy to other Brooklyn College students. Ashira Z. Silver posted on the Facebook page, "the same semester that I got invited, my GPA was right under 3.0." For Ahmad, the organization seemed sketchy when they asked him to pay a one-time installment fee of \$90.

"I got the most recent

invitation on February 7th, 2020 and the first one on February 15th, 2019. It was definitely suspicious because the e-mail is not from a Brooklyn College e-mail I recognized," Ahmad said. "Also, Brooklyn College usually talks about honors if there are any."

The National Society of Success and Leadership isn't certified by the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS). When you search NSLS online, most of the stuff that comes up are bad reviews of the society. A comment posted on Better Business Bureau® Website said "I have called the customer service line 3 times now. Each time I am told they

will look into and escalate it. Today I spoke with supervisor Kay, she told me they cannot access my son's account either and they will not refund my money". The website had many complaints dating from 2019 about how it's unreliable and isn't exactly selective with who they let in.

"I first felt like it was a scam when I read how the e-mail tried to talk me up by making me feel special," Ahmad said. "No official e-mail would be trying so hard to get you to join their organization. It seemed unprofessional."

So what does this mean? Is the organization a scam? Although the organization claims to promote leadership

skills and give out job opportunities, a different story emerges to a student who does their research. Most of the comments associated with the organization claim it is a scam and how it's not beneficial to apply. Ahmad recommends that students do their research before committing to any organization.

"I would say it's really upsetting that innocent students might fall victim to such organizations if they do not read online reviews," he said.

So Brooklyn College students: do your research and don't just commit to the first place that's willing to give you an opportunity.

# State Official Proposes Beer Tax to Fund CUNY

By Nasra Abdalla  
Khamis  
Staff Writer

Manhattan Assemblyman Harvey Epstein wants to double the beer tax from \$0.14 per gallon, to \$0.30 per gallon to fund public colleges according to the 'New York State Assembly Memorandum in support of legislation' form.

This announcement was introduced by Epstein on Dec. 30, 2019.

"New Yorkers and immigrant New Yorkers can get access to higher education and we really need to support higher education for public schools," Epstein told the Vanguard. "Private colleges have needs, but the reality is that public colleges are the place for lower income for many New Yorkers as a pathway to a higher education."

If this law, which was

proposed at the very end of last year, goes into effect, the price of beer in New York could increase to boost the State's public colleges and universities.

"CUNY has been very supportive. SUNY less so, just because the governor does not like new taxes, but I do think that it is really an important message that we dedicate funding for CUNY and SUNY," said Epstein.

According to "A New York lawmaker wants to double the beer tax. Here's why," an article in the Times Herald-Record by Jon Campbell, "the tax would generate about \$96 million annually for the state, or \$51 million more than the current tax."

"It's a hard path for any new tax in an election year. People do not like new taxes, but we have one of the lowest alcohol taxes in the country," Epstein said. "We have



Harvey Epstein: down on beer, up with CUNY. / nyassembly.gov/

\$0.14 per gallon, the difference people feel in their cost is a penny and a half per 12 ounces on a bottle. Not tremendous money on the consumers, but it is millions of dollars that can go for higher education."

International students pay a large amount out

of their own pocket. They will not benefit as much from this new law. Not so much on the fee tuition, but according to Epstein, "The beer tax will help with the additional services at schools. More money for professors, more money for programs, more

money across the board, but not with the tuition."

"If we don't create better pathways to help people go through college, they are never going to be able to be higher successful in our society," Epstein said.



# Brooklyn College Prepares for Virus Spread

## Individual Depts. Switch to Online Classes, But CUNY Remains Open Despite Student Panic

By Natalina Zieman &  
Ryan Schwach  
*News Editor & Managing Editor*

Students and faculty at Brooklyn College prepare for the worst amid the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic. As of now, the Philosophy and Physics Departments have moved classes online with more expected to follow.

There are over 700 cases, 27 deaths, and counting, of people affected by the rapidly spreading virus in the United States as of this past weekend. New York governor Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency on Saturday, March 7 after the number of cases in the state rose to 142, twenty of them in New York City. The city and the MTA are taking action by disinfecting buses and trains routinely every three days, along with their regular daily cleaning process.

An email from Brooklyn College Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration Alan Gilbert was sent out in response to CUNY’s plan to keep campuses safe and clean.

“In addition to our regular cleaning schedule, the Buildings and Grounds team and their crew of custodial staff have been working around the clock to regularly disinfect all touch points on campus, such as hand railings, doors, and dispensers. We are currently awaiting delivery of new no-touch dispensers for hand sanitizer, which will be installed across the college,” he wrote.

Changes around campus have been sparse. Posters were taped to doors, reminding students to wash their hands to keep themselves from getting

sick, and emails are sent out every week to update students about the campuses’ response and plans as the pandemic continues to spread.

“I can’t speak for all CUNY schools but I haven’t seen any changes in regards to Brooklyn College’s action towards the coronavirus besides sending out emails,” said Farhana Choudhury, “I believe there can be more that needs to be done. There needs to be a change in the way certain things are for example, removing bathroom sink faucets, installing automated paper releasers and having soap in all the bathrooms.” Alan Gilbert’s BC-Fix-it plan 2.0 aims to better the upkeep of the school’s bathrooms, which is wanted by students now, especially.

“It’s [BC’s response] not very good, but I don’t think it could be better,” said Peter Lipke, Chairman of the Biology department. “Because it’s dependent on a whole lot of stuff that we don’t know yet. We don’t know how widespread the disease is in New York.”

There is a petition going around called “Save The CUNY Students” on change.org. The petition, started by a concerned CUNY student, is calling for CUNY to shut down the schools until the virus is under control, and the state has proper testing capabilities. It also states: “Students’ education should not come at the cost of their health.” It currently has over 23,000 signatures, a number that will undoubtedly continue to climb.

“I think they [CUNY] should’ve followed suit with the rest of the private colleges in New York who have suspended classes and gone virtual,”



Posters all over Brooklyn College warn of coronavirus. / Camila Dejesus

shared a BC student who asked the Vanguard to be kept anonymous. “The janitorial staff at BC can only do so much, but the issue here is that no matter how clean hand railings are, students are still gathering in close quarters in classrooms and public transport where the threat of exposure is likely to take place.”

Private city colleges such as NYU and Columbia have closed their doors in precaution of the rapidly spreading disease. Many CUNY students took to social media to share their opinion about how unfair that is, because a large portion of the private schools’ students do not have to commute every day, while most CUNY students commute via public transportation, where there is most exposure to the virus.

But it is difficult for colleges to close in the middle of the semester when the tuition is already paid and the classes are only halfway through their curriculum. “Most of the colleges that have cancelled classes are on the quarter system and they are at the end of the quarter.

We [Brooklyn College] are just approaching the middle of the semester, so things are much more difficult for us,” said Lipke.

“I fear going to class at this point,” stated Zach Pellecchia. “We go to a commuter school and the fact that the school is promoting going to class, even though the city has promoted less transit use and the school isn’t being properly cleaned, is despicable.”

Gilbert sent out an email on Monday March 9, about if the school has to close, all the students’ CUNY information is up to date, so online classes will be accessible. “Should CUNY campuses be required close in an effort contain the spread of COVID-19, it is important to ensure that all of your contact information is up to date and that you have access to all important Brooklyn College and CUNY online systems.” Verifying CUNYFirst and Blackboard logins is among several priorities for NYC public school students.

“My personal plan [if the school were to close] would be to continue my class over Blackboard,” said Lipke about the

preparation for if the school were to close. “The lab issue is going to be a serious issue, because they are in-person labs. There is no substitute for that kind of learning.”

In an email to students sent Tuesday afternoon, BC President Michelle Anderson looked to quell anxieties, “Fear and concern can take an emotional toll. During stressful times, I encourage you to take care of yourselves and each other,” she said. President Anderson also talked about the possibility of classes moving to online. “Brooklyn College is currently open. However, I have granted faculty the authority to move their classes to an online format, if appropriate.” As of press time, several professors have moved their classes online. CUNY John Jay announced late Tuesday night that they would be closing college for Wednesday, the following day, March 10, due to a case within the student body.

There are currently rumours circulating that a BC library employee has tested positive for Coronavirus, Brooklyn College has denied this.

# BC Prof's Super Tuesday Tweet Goes Viral



By John Schilling  
*Staff Writer*

In the midst of an eventful Super Tuesday, Brooklyn College Professor Yana Kuchirko took to Twitter to express her thoughts on the current state of American politics. She didn't expect what would happen next.

"I shared this graphic, one I had found online, because it vividly illustrated to me something important," Kuchirko told the Vanguard.

"I certainly didn't expect the tweet to receive as many reactions as it did."

Kuchirko, an Assistant Professor of Psychology, was flooded with over 39,000 retweets, 170,000 likes, and 1,700 replies on her tweet.

The graphic Kuchirko tweeted showed two scales that range from the "far left" to the "far right." The "perception" scale shows the faces of various politicians with Bernie Sanders

and Elizabeth Warren placed on the far left, Joe Biden in the middle, and President Trump and Stephen Miller on the far right. The "reality" scale right below it, however, shows the faces within closer range, indicating both Sanders and Warren to be closer to the center than what is normally perceived.

"Sanders' and Warren's policies are frequently described as radical left, when, in fact, they would be considered mainstream in many other countries," Kuchirko explained.

Since Super Tuesday, Kuchirko's tweet has been met with mixed reactions. Initially, many Europeans were quick to validate Kuchirko's tweet.

"It's hilarious watching Americans trip over themselves painting Sanders as an extremist and his ideas fantasy," one Twitter user replied. "We're living the fantasy, it's a basic standard of living."

"I would love America to

really educate themselves on what socialism and capitalism is," another Twitter user added.

Despite this high praise, many users were quick to criticize the tweet. Some users, however, even went as far as to attack Kuchirko personally.

"Ah yes, a communist is 'center,'" a Twitter user replied.

"A professor at Brooklyn college [sic] posted this...I just think it's really cool that we have people with such nuanced and level headed views of the world around them teaching people how to treat the mentally ill," another user subtweeted.

Soon after, Kuchirko tweeted a follow-up message admitting that her main point of the graphic was "to dispel misconceptions of left-leaning democratic candidates being socialists or communists without acknowledging what left actually means."

Furthermore, Kuchirko admitted the graphic was imperfect, claiming it "lacks nuance," and

stating "Biden portrayed so close in proximity to Mitch McConnell is obviously not true."

Despite Kuchirko's clarification, the criticism persisted.

"Please stick to your dumb unreplicable studies about introverts and extroverts, this kind of analysis is mind numbingly bad," a Twitter user replied.

"If it's obviously misleading then it fails in any goal to dispel misconceptions about American politics by actively propagating them," another user added.

In response, Kuchirko followed up on Twitter a few days later, citing an article from the New York Times if users were interested in "more context" of what the picture was trying to say. The New York Times article is an opinion piece from June 26, 2019 titled "What Happened to America's Political Center of Gravity?"

Among the first replies

to Kuchirko's tweet, was one user who called it "democrat propaganda" and "the last thing [he] would ever believe when it comes to where the political parties are aligned."

"What this shows me is that many Americans don't realize how American politics generally skew to the right when compared with most other wealthy, industrialized countries," Kuchirko said.

"Europeans and Canadians seem to understand that point immediately and without difficulty, whereas many Americans seem personally offended by this idea."

Since Kuchirko's original tweet, Joe Biden went on to win 10 out of the 14 states on Super Tuesday, taking the lead over Bernie Sanders in the delegate count, and presidential hopefuls Michael Bloomberg and Elizabeth Warren both suspended their campaigns.



# Remembering “When Brooklyn Was Queer”

By Makeet Finch  
*Staff Writer*

Hugh Ryan, writer, curator, and speaker shared snippets of a chapter on Brooklyn College from his first book, “When Brooklyn was Queer.” The event, held at the LGBTQ Center on campus last Thursday, Mar. 5, celebrated the one-year anniversary of his book, and Ryan shared the history and motivation behind it.

“When I was growing up, Brooklyn was talked about as a place you came from, never a place you came to, and certainly not a place you went to for any type of LGBTQ-specific experience,” said Ryan. “In the 1920s and ‘30s, there was a time period where parts of Brooklyn were seen the way we might think about Greenwich Village or Harlem today, as places you would go

for particularly queer expiences and that was shockingly different, eye-opening, and revolatory to me.”

“So the book’s title is meant to invoke that history, that there was a time before now, in fact, 100 years ago, when the relationship between the queer community in Brooklyn was much like the relationship we have with Brooklyn today.”

“When Brooklyn was Queer” was awarded the New York Times Editors’ Choice in 2019. Ryan has taught at SUNY Stonybrook and has written for publications like VICE and the Daily Beast.

While researching his book, Ryan thought he knew all about the queer history of New York, but soon realized that he was only versed on the history of Manhattan, and discovered no one else had reached into the history within other

boroughs.

“The first question I really approached was, did Brooklyn, because of its relationship with Manhattan, have a different relationship with LGBTQ history than every other city we know in the world?”

Ryan talked about the significance of the waterfront where the base of the Brooklyn Bridge is today.

What Ryan discovered in his research, he found there were five types of jobs that queer people trended towards: sailors, sex workers, artists, entertainers, and particularly factory workers.

“The waterfront was the place of opportunity because it offered jobs that queer people could have, and those jobs in the mid-19th century enabled them to move to the city, find themselves, find their own desires, and share them with

other people,” Ryan said. “Queer life in Brooklyn began by the water and spread outward.”

Ryan also gave details about his second book, “The Women’s House of Detention.” The book talks about an 11-story women’s prison that once stood at the heart of Greenwich Village. He talks about Elizabeth Trondle, who was arrested and sent to jail in Brooklyn in 1913 for wearing men’s clothing and smoking in a bar. The case was sent to trial and the judge decided it was not a crime and acquitted Trondle. Upon her release, she was immediately arrested again on different charges by the same officers to get a different outcome before another magistrate, and was ultimately sentenced to three years in prison.

Ryan talked about the difficulty finding records and how he stumbled on

a box of files in the midst of working on another project. The files told all about the women’s prison and of Trondle, with reports of her being tortured the entire time she was in jail. Ryan recounted horrifying acts, like being hung by her thumbs from the ceilings so her feet could not touch the ground, and how while in prison, Trondle became addicted to heroin.

Students at the event were excited to hear what Ryan had to say.

“I used the book in some of my research last semester, so it’s really cool to go from using the book as a resource to hearing the author read from the book,” said Kellen Gold, the vice president of the LGBTQ Alliance. “It feels good to be at a college and feel welcome and accepted and to know that our history is accepted.”

## Summer Internships Deadline is Approaching

By Paola Sacerdote  
*Staff Writer*

Internships are often the way students get their foot in the door of prestigious organizations. As the beginning of March arrived, the summer internships deadline is fast advancing. For all BC students that are interested in obtaining an internship this year, the Magner Career Center is providing the essentials for the internship process.

“We host a job/ internship fair every March and October which collectively have over 200 employers,” says Magner Center Director Natalia Guarin-Klein. “Every semester we host

internship panels with employers.”

The Magner Career Center suggests that students should do at least two internships through their academic years. To assist the Center is holding around 700 paid/unpaid internships, providing students with feedback on the resume, and currently having workshops to help students interview.

Their website [tinyurl.com/intern101](http://tinyurl.com/intern101) also has resources online such as sample cover letters as well as do’s and don’ts of interviewing. For direct access to internships, students can go to HireBC, on which all students have an account, or other websites such as Internships.com, indeed.

com, etc.

Students found the Magner Center to be a helpful guide. “At first it was very difficult because I really didn’t know how to build a resume,” says JAMS student Stacey. “The Magner Center was a great start-up help.”

The Magner Career Center offers taxable stipend awards to help current undergraduate and graduate students take internships such as volunteer, off-campus research, student teaching, and internships required for your degree qualify. Most internships are non-profit and a few do pay if they are out of state.

International students also qualify for internship opportunities. “We do

get internships where international students can apply,” says Guarin-Klein, “But they also have to be sure they have received approval from the International Student Office before accepting an internship.”

You don’t have to be a clever student to qualify for an internship, it mostly depends on the position and company. Typically employers will ask students to have a relevant major; sometimes they have a minimum GPA requirement.

Employers might inform they are seeking someone who is a junior or be open to any class level. According to the Center, employers usually ask for solid computer

skills, customer service, communication skills, and previous volunteer/ internship/work experiences.

“An internship gives students the opportunity to gain work experience in their desired career while pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree,” says Guarin-Klein.

If you can’t participate in an internship due to work schedule or personal obligations the Center suggests to build experience by creating your own project or freelancing. Students may also want to work with someone who has their own business since they may be more flexible.

# Anthropologist Explores Gen Z's "Beeline" to S-U-C-C-E-S-S

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

I could've been a contender. It was 2006, and I was just one word away from getting a spot in the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Alas, it was not to be: my tweenage self balked on "forsythia," and with a single "ding," my spelling career was at an end.

But in the past decade, spelling bees have become a barometer for the prospects of Gen Z. So says Shalini Shankar, anthropology professor at Northwestern University and the author of "Beeline: What Spelling Bees Reveal About Gen Z's New Path to Success." Shankar has spent the past decade interviewing dozens of spellers and (her term) "Bee Parents," and placing these Gen Z kids' hustle in a broader context of ever-evolving notions of childhood.

She discussed her findings this past Friday, Mar. 6 at CUNY's Asian American/Asian Research Institute. The choice of venue was deliberate: Indian Americans have dominated the Scripps National Spelling Bee every year since 2008, including last year, when seven Indian Americans (and one white girl) won simultaneously. (The media dubbed this precocious bunch the "octochamps.") Kevin Negandhi, who hosts ESPN's telecast of the Scripps bee, has called the event the "Indian Super Bowl."

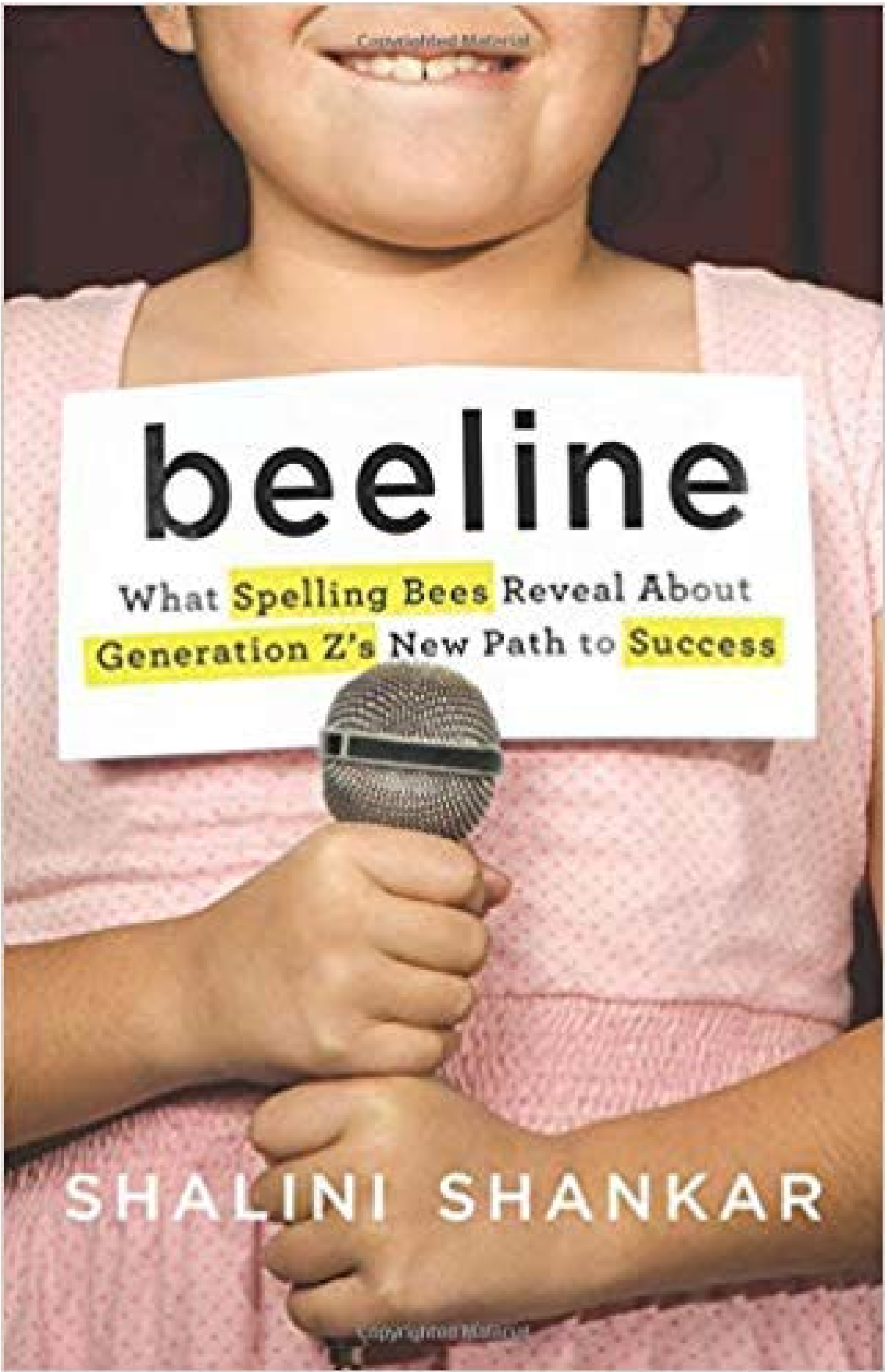
So why this particular group of kids? Shankar attributes their dominance to the particulars of Indian immigration to the US. During the 1980s, the need for STEM labor grew faster than Gen

X could provide it. The 1990 Immigration Act, signed into law by George H.W. Bush, incentivized STEM workers from overseas to work in the US; accordingly, the population of Indians in the U.S. skyrocketed, going from 800,000 in 1990 to almost 5 million by 2020. These STEM workers and their children enjoy some level of socio-economic privilege thanks to their white-collar work, but they lack the generational wealth of their white peers. With a firm belief in the power of education, and without a safety net, Indian American parents in these circumstances often turn to academic competition as a way to ensure their children's wellbeing.

Why spelling, then? For starters, many Indian immigrants received English-language education; there also exists a "minor league circuit" of smaller spelling bees exclusively for children of Indian descent, microtargeting these communities through advertisements on Hindi- and Tamil-language TV shows. But Shankar singled out 2002, and the release of the documentary "Spellbound," as the turning point. The film depicted the 1999 victory of Nupur Lala, one of the first Indian-American spelling champs, and put Scripps on the map for many brainy kids - and for many Indian American parents.

"If she can do that," Shankar explained, "so can my kid."

Eventually there was a feedback loop - Indian American kids started winning, so more Indian American kids started competing, until spelling bees became an "Indian



thing." Predictably, this has led to some Internet backlash from "twacists" (Twitter racists), and some deeply ignorant media coverage in mainstream outlets. (CNN's Alisyn Camerota, for instance, made a comment implying one Indian American champ spoke fluent Sanskrit at home - akin to assuming Latinos speak fluent Latin.)

Ultimately, though, these kids reject the often-racialized media narrative surrounding them - what Shankar calls the "forever-foreigner trope." She recounted how one champion told

her, "I don't want to be an Indian American champion of this thing - I just want to be a champion of this thing."

For Shankar, whose previous books have tackled Indian American youth culture in Silicon Valley during the dot-com boom, these kids' ethnicities are doubly relevant due to her research's secondary aim of diversifying so-called "generational studies."

"We hear a lot about baby boomers and Generation X and millennials and Gen Z, but very rarely do we hear about how minorities fit into this schema," Shankar told

the audience. Gen Z is the most racially diverse generational cohort yet, but that the majority of the academic literature written about "zoomers" ignores this racial diversity.

Popular literature is even worse in this regard.

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# The Road to BC's First Ever Hackathon

By Moises Taveras  
Features Editor

“Computer science students are the second largest major on campus.” This is the point that Shahzoda Davlatova, president of the Computer Science club seems to belabor and repeat to her team a million times a day. It’s to the point where, as the saying leaves her lips, her teammate across from her literally echoed it, barely above a whisper but down to the tee. It’s a point that the team behind Brooklyn College’s first ever hackathon fully understands and helps land the magnitude of the effort that these students have miraculously willed into existence. Rather than a point of pride, for this group, that fact is a catalyst to motivate change.

Hack Brooklyn, a student-led hackathon being held by the Computer Science club, the Women in Computer Sciences club, and the Engineering club at BC, is finally coming together at the end of the month on Mar. 29, and aims to give BC CS students an opportunity they may have not had before. “I wish there were more resources for computer science students here,” Davlatova said, speaking to the lack of resources the major has available for its students compared to other schools. “They have maker spaces, which is like this place where people can use stuff to just prototype and build stuff...And our students can barely get a class. They can barely get a seat in a class,” she said. “Some students have to like take out loans to stay a semester behind because they couldn’t find seats.”

So with the fervor of their fellow students

growing to a fever pitch and the desire to do more for their department, a group of students began talking about how a hackathon could possibly come to fruition. But to these students who have been talking about and preliminarily planning it since last summer, it seems crazy that it’s actually happening.

That’s at least partially due to the fact that planning of the event hasn’t always been the smoothest, especially at the outset. “We went to different people, we went to the department, we went to all like different offices and it sounded like it was kind of always getting sent somewhere else. And now that we’re in a place where it seems like this thing is, kind of like, snowballing on its own and now people are reaching out to us about it,” said Tyler Carway, the CS club’s treasurer and de-facto money man of the operation.

“You know what, let’s go to President Michelle Anderson’s office. Let’s see what we can do.” This was the working plan the group had in the earliest stages, according to Rohma Khan, the secretary of the CS club, back when their biggest challenge was finding a space. A meeting with Anderson wasn’t in the cards, but they were redirected to Ron Jackson, VP of Student Affairs, who ultimately put them in touch with the director of the Student Center, Mltzu Adams, who finally helped them lock down a space in WEB to host the event.

This effort alone though was time-consuming, taking up a lot of the time that the team had available to them during their finals week. In fact, they were even late to a class that week because of the meetings

they were having for the hackathon space, though their professor was understanding. Nonetheless, as time has gone on, the operation has grown into one that needs the constant involvement and attention of the students taking it on. This spoke to a larger notion that puzzled me the whole time I spoke to the group, though: How is it that with a major that big, the school never planned and hosted their own hackathon?

“I don’t know if it was just in their radar to do a hackathon. I think there’s always been some disconnect between faculty and students,” Davlatova said. While this may sound like a source of conflict, it’s been revelatory and a game changer for the students running the show. Between even the few members I spoke to, there’s a lot of shared hackathon experience. Vincent Xie, the VP

of the CS club, who manages logistics, floor planning and scheduling has been to upwards of thirty hackathons. “A lot of the hackathons that I go to and the ones that are really ran really well are usually ran by students because the students know what the students want,” said Xie.

This has led to a committee where it isn’t believed that “students should ever be out of the decision, the loop of, the discussion of the hackathon,” according to Davlatova. And because of the considerations being taken to include students heavily in this already student-led operation, on paper, this event seems to be promisingly different. Take the timing of it, for example.

The hackathon taking place on a Sunday over the course of twelve hours was a very carefully selected aspect of the plan. Davlatova mentioned

the typical 24-hour run of a hackathon made her attendance less likely because of her family and culture. Refusing to let anything get in the way of attendance, the event is taking place on a Sunday in order to sidestep Muslim students who would be praying on Friday or Jewish students who would be barred because of observation of Shabbat. This is all in an effort to champion the diversity Brooklyn College proudly touts and doubles as a rejection of the crowd these affairs typically draw.

The effort seems to be paying off. Despite the uphill battle that it’s been for the planning group to make concessions and essentially throw the biggest event the major has ever seen, it’s attracting more attention than they might’ve expected.



The hackathon crew outside their club room in 0317 Ingersoll. Top row (l-r): Tyler Carway, Junninho Thomas. Bottom row (l-r): Unis Gabbar, Kevin Tam, Shahzoda Davlatova, Vincent Xie. / Quiara Vasquez

CONTINUED ON PAGE



# Exploring Intersectionality Through Poetry

By Gabriela Flores  
Staff Writer

To kick off the BC community’s celebration of Women’s History Month, the Brooklyn College Women’s Center hosted a poetry reading: a poetic exploration of intersectionality with Black Queer writer and performer Kai Davis, alongside two BC MFA Poetry candidates. The poets shed light on the complexity of their own female experience, where gender intertwines with racial and cultural origins, domestic gender roles, sexual orientation, and other identities.

Since the mid-1970s, the Women’s Center at Brooklyn College has created platforms like Tuesday’s Drop the Mic to uplift the voices of women across campus. “The BC Women’s Center is one of the oldest women’s centers in the CUNY system, also in the United States,” said Sau-fong Au, the director of BC’s Women’s Center. “What makes the Women’s Center unique at Brooklyn College is that we work constantly with one of the oldest departments-- that is, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. We are like a sister unit.”

The event opened with imagery of war, as CUNY Edge Director and MFA Poetry candidate Monique Ngozi Nri



(L to R) Poets Anneysa Gaille, Kai Davis, and Monique Ngozi Nri, with hostess Ivy Bryan. / Gabriela Flores

read from her poem “Powdered Egg,” about the need for liberation. As a child, Nri resided in Nigeria until the end of the Biafran War in 1970, a civil war fought between the Nigerian government and the secessionist state of Biafra. According to ICE Case Studies: The Biafran War conducted by American University, there were about 100,000 military casualties. Between 500,000 and two million Biafran citizens died of starvation. “Powdered Egg” draws on these experiences.

“If you’ve never seen a woman, an ordinary woman, still running, as her head rolled down the street,” recited Nri, “you cannot understand that liberation is fought for our whole people, that fighting is more than words. That dying is less frightening than living.”

Following Nri’s performance was

Houston, Texas native Anneysa Gaille, a BC English professor and pursuing her Poetry MFA. Through her three poetic recitations, Gaille shared her experiences, from coping with the death of a friend to learning a recipe from her Lebanese grandmother.

“Her [Gaille’s] work is interested in creating an archive of events that have been debased on the basis of their affiliation with femininity or femaleness; because, archives gesture to tradition and often serve as a means in which one can be claimed or redefine narrative,” said Drop the Mic hostess Ivy Bryan.

Thereafter, Kai Davis took the stage to unravel her perspective on misogyny, the everlasting effect of ancestral trauma on Black Americans, and other issues, such as oppression and the relationship between men and women.

To start her performance, Davis prefaced her first poem “Ain’t I A Woman” as a tribute to Sojourner Truth’s groundbreaking speech, all the while serving as a response to those who have alienated her for her being a black woman. During a college discussion on how black liberation can be achieved, Davis’ former Black Social Political

Thought professor shared his belief that black women are the primary problem.

“He said, ‘In order for that [liberation] to occur, black women have to put their petty differences aside.’ So yeah, I was not really feeling that,” said Davis. “He went on to say, ‘It should be race first, gender second.’ Which is impossible for me, being black and a woman at the exact same time, all the time. Race first, gender second, just means black men first, everyone else maybe never.”

Furthermore, the homage was intended to describe the isolation she felt while attending honors classes in Temple University that were predominantly white.

“I would experience a similar disconnect, where I wasn’t allowed to be black, while I was being a woman. I wasn’t allowed to be a woman, while being black.”

Davis continued the discussion of her blackness, and the uniqueness it has within the context of our American history. The poet explained how the experiences of her ancestors are carried into her present, and into Black America, where descendants face similar injustices, fears, or worries.

“Thinking about what

that means for black folks in America, who have gone through the Transatlantic Slave Trade, sharecropping, Jim Crow, mass incarceration, the Reagan Era, and what it means to carry all of that with us, and the inevitable of passing it along to our children,” said Davis.

To conclude, Davis recited her piece “A Conversation About Respect,” which is intended to address the oppressive power dynamic between a man and a woman. In doing so, the poet addresses the complexity of oppression, and its impact on any individual.

“A person works the same way, regardless of what you are oppressed by,” said Davis. “So, it doesn’t matter if you are black, if you are queer, or if you are an immigrant, or if you just grew up poor, it all happens.”

Through each poet’s account of their intersectionality, the BC community was exposed to certain women’s issues that are often left unrecognized and unheard.

“I encourage all of you to speak out, as long as your intentions are good and pure,” said Davis. “And, if you are trying to defend yourself, or the rights and needs of other folks.”



Kai Davis reciting her poem “Blood Memory” to the Drop the Mic audience. / Gabriela Flores



# Theater Review: The Inheritance, Part II



Samuel H. Levine, Kyle Stoller, and Andrew Burnap. / Marc Brenner via Variety.com

By Jack Coleman  
*Arts Editor*

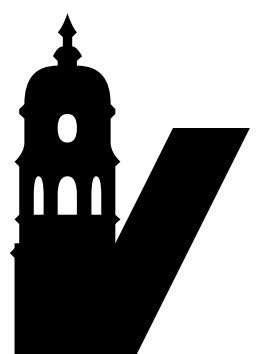
It seems odd enough to review a two part play in two separate write ups, but what's even more disorienting is that the difference in quality between part one and two is so clear, and so very disappointing. Part one of *The Inheritance*, which I reviewed last week, took my breath away at parts, and at others, left me soberly scratching my head. The casts' performances were basically perfect, the story had roped me in, and I thought that it spoke poignantly to timely issues. Most of what I was less than enthused with was easy to overlook. And it wasn't the acting in part two which put a damper on things, it was, to my surprise, the story itself. As a story which is itself about the importance and necessity of stories, *The Inheritance* lacks in the very department which it tries to sell. When our lead character, Eric Glass (Kyle Soller), falls into a relationship with the late Walter Poole's partner,

Henry Wilcox (the latter played by Tony Goldwyn and former played by Paul Hilton), things look like they're about to get interesting. When the antagonist Toby Darling (Andrew Burnap) goes off the rails and we finally learn of his torturous past as well as his relationship with the horribly and problematically constructed character of Leo (Samuel H. Levine), we think we're in for an intriguing treat. When Eric is finally given the house which holds so much weight in the first part, you might think it's really gonna get good. Then you start to hate Henry Wilcox even more than you probably already did (which is fine, he's supposed to suck); then the impressively shallow and predictable treatment of Toby Darling's suicide and Leo awkward foray into a lead character happens; then we get a few more hardly touching bits about the house. Then it ends, and nothing goes deeper than a few screaming fits from half the characters and an inordinate amount of

tears from Eric Glass. The subtle, soap-leaning slant that the first part handles so well was replaced with an all out soap-opera tear binge. This overbearing vacuum of drama was almost campy, but *The Inheritance* doesn't get such a badge because it wasn't over the top, it was simply just too much. Along the way, we're introduced to the only woman in the play, Margaret. Performed by the incredible eighty-nine year old Lois Smith, Margaret is the mother of one of the men who Walter nursed as he died of AIDS. Her soliloquy added a much needed step-away from the other characters' plot-lines, which, by this time, were becoming intensely boring. Hers was certainly one of the more affecting ones, yet its strength was bogged down by the numerous teary-eyed speeches given by what seemed like half the cast, but not all of the cast (not over the top, just too much). These less than fantastic moments seem to multiply in the three

hour long second part, including a head-ache-inducing Fire Island club scene with Toby and Leo. The odd couples' stay in the Pines, besides being drawn for far too long, added more fuel to the fire of what is wrong with Leo's characterization. We first meet Leo as a homeless sex worker whose baggy clothing and timidity struck closer to hackneyed than able to evoke sympathy. When poor Leo falls in love with Toby and realizes, whilst partying, that Toby certainly doesn't love him back, nothing really happens; they leave Island, and the story goes on. The couple does eventually, and violently, break up, but not until after Leo is "saved" by Eric, who finds him on the brink of death—recently diagnosed with HIV. It's not just lazy that Leo is poor, HIV positive, a sex worker, and saved by the play's wealthy protagonist, it's also perpetuating a story about sex work that need not be told in a play which, for the most part, is actually very timely.

It's a harmful stereotype that is aggravated further by Leo's becoming an erudite author (he ends up writing *The Inheritance*, somehow). But this all speaks to what is perhaps the overarching problem with the work. It's that in Matthew Lopez's attempt to tell both a story about stories (which was the most engaging and tragically abandoned aspect), and the 2010s gay work of drama (takes the cake, at least in length) he simply wrote a pretty mediocre story. Despite the still-hilarious back and forth from the peripheral characters and mostly sharp political commentary, the bulk of part two was cloyingly sentimental, and gave us so very little of what part one offered. Too many plot lines, too much time, and simply not enough depth.





# Brooklyn Composers' Collective at the Tow Center

By John Schilling  
*Staff Writer*

On Tuesday, March 10, the Brooklyn Composers' Collective performed a one hour concert at the Tow Center atrium. The concert was hosted by Marcello Di Russo and featured original music with many different sets and styles.

While the attendance was small, the presence was impactful. The featured acts included Will Holshouser, Eduardo Palacios & Danny Zhang, Sebastian Moscoso, Mosefer, Max Johnson, and Noah Magnus.

Will Holshouser started the concert off strong on the accordion with his "Twelve Statues in the Snow," which he joked was written in the summer. According to the program, this song "uses a loosely defined series of twelve notes that pile up into shifting, accumulating harmonies." With a straight face and intense focus, Holshouser started off softly on the accordion. As the song



(Top (L to R): Holshouser, Zhang, Moscoso/ Bottom (L to R): Mosefer, Johnson, and Magnus.)/ John Schilling

progressed, however, he utilized shifting dynamics and moments of complete silence for emphasis.

Danny Zhang also took this approach in a piano solo called "Novelette." Written by Eduardo Palacios, Zhang let the music flow out of her hands effortlessly and embraced a variety of melodies. Despite the song's soft beginning, the repetition of a louder,

faster melody allowed for a strong finish.

The next performer, Sebastian Moscoso, took a slightly different approach on the piano, starting his song off with forte dynamics. Prior to performing, Moscoso revealed to the audience his "huge love for soundtracks" which influenced his writing. The song performed, Moscoso claimed, is his "Main Theme" in what he referred to as "a mock soundtrack."

During the performance, Moscoso's song reminded me of an exuberant Broadway overture or even a song you might hear during the opening/closing credits of a movie. Similar to Zhang, Moscoso established his theme by using repetition. Despite a soft finish, Moscoso's theme had a big impact and made me want to watch a silent movie with his theme in the background. Maybe one day.

After Moscoso, the concert shifted gears with "Little Matchstick Girl," which was performed on the piano by Mosefer. A New Jersey native, Mosefer

wrote this song two years ago while commuting to Brooklyn College. "Little Matchstick Girl" was the first song of the performance to also be sung. With passion, Mosefer played the piano in a very catchy, upbeat fashion.

By far, the most different act of the day can be credited to Max Johnson, who performed a double bass solo set. The coolest feature of this performance was Johnson's use of both a bow and his fingers in playing the bass.

With a strong beat, various speeds and moments of tension, it often seemed as if the strings on Johnson's bass were going to snap. Luckily, this did not happen, and Johnson maintained a steady groove.

While performing, Johnson often made strong facial expressions and could even be heard gasping for air or humming along to the music at various moments. It was easy to see the emotion put into his performance, and I developed a newfound appreciation for the bass because of it.

Lastly, Noah Magnus stole the show as a triple threat, performing three songs via piano, guitar, and acapella. On the piano, Magnus belted "Let It Out" with his loud yet angelic voice. The song allowed Magnus' personality to come bursting through.

This was especially true when Magnus forgot the words while singing acapella. Normally, this would doom performers, as a common fear associated with stage fright.

Magnus, however, did not let up and even joked about his error.

"You know what? I'll skip ahead with no context," Magnus said.

It was at this moment that Magnus' light-hearted sense of humor and spirit became evident. The audience laughed in response and supported him the rest of the way through to end the concert on a high note.

In closing remarks, Marcello Di Russo thanked everyone for attending and encouraged the audience to come back for the second part on Thursday, March 19.



Marcello Di Russo./ John Schilling



# Op-Ed: The Club Funding Rule Changes

*(Disclaimer: This is an opinions submission. It does not necessarily represent the views of the Vanguard or its staff.)*

By Christian Cozlov  
*Opinions Contributor*

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) recently implemented new rule changes to how clubs get funding. The new rules, brought by Nadav Raz, were enacted as a reaction against the club funding of the Brooklyn College chapter of Turning Point USA (TPUSA) last semester, in which the USG funding council approved \$1,500 to co-sponsor TPUSA’s speaker, Joy Villa. While the event never happened because of TPUSA’s staff deciding to cancel the event, and with the \$1,500 currently in the process of being returned, the USG administration carelessly implemented these rule changes that did not take into account how it affects new and small

clubs on campus. Vanguard reported on this a while ago; I’ll be quoting the article as I go. “The first of these requires clubs to provide accurate attendance records of past events in order to receive a grant for an upcoming event. In conjunction with this, clubs must provide evidence of an attempt at marketing the event to all of, or as much of the Brooklyn College student body as possible.” Let’s use basic logic here. In other words, if you’re a small club still trying to grow (I believe there’s an exception for new clubs, if I’m not mistaken), it’s harder for you than a big club that’s been here for years who have many followers and who are very well known in the media and the community. Reputation and an already

established history of networking gives old big clubs an advantage. Next. “In conjunction with this, clubs must provide evidence of an attempt at marketing the event to all of, or as much of the Brooklyn College student body as possible.” This seems fair in theory, but what sort of evidence is possible and sufficient to obtain is left up to question and, quite frankly, impractical. But as a matter of argument of who is advantaged and disadvantaged, let’s say this is even between the small/new and the big/old clubs. “The other two rules work to cut down on club spending. One of the new rules puts a cap on how much a club can receive for items which only benefit specific club members such as the e-board. Whether it is excessive spending

on custom hoodies or thousands of dollars on medical instruments which only sees the hands of a few students, this rule hopes to curb spending which doesn’t attempt to help the student body at large.” Whoever wrote this rule doesn’t even understand how club growth works. “Doesn’t attempt to help the student body at large” is a baseless opinion. This spending is an INVESTMENT to grow the club. Hoodies and other custom clothing are oftentimes have the use of being a walking advertisement and being visual representations of that club and helps bring awareness that that club exists for those interested. Curbing spending that would help small clubs grow, even for matters of promotions, leaves small clubs at another in the dust. “The fourth rule should

not be much of a concern for smaller or newer clubs, but hopes to create a more regimented process for allocating grants in addition to a club’s semesterly budget. The rule requires that clubs exhaust their initial budget before being able to request a grant from the Funding Council. This change will allow for a more straightforward allocation approach that does not leave too much room for clubs to receive access funding.\*” The first sentence here already gives it away that, in GENERAL, this is implying that these rule changes do concern smaller or newer clubs. New clubs only get \$250 while old clubs already start out with way more funding for the semester, so already the older clubs are at an advantage. They then have to exhaust their semester budget before they have to deal with this garbage.

\$200,000 is just sitting in our club activities budget doing nothing at all. The USG government decided to launch an attack on small and new clubs while keeping big clubs privileged.

*Christian Cozlov is the president of Brooklyn College’s chapter of Turning Point USA.*

“USG government decided to launch an attack on small and new clubs while keeping big clubs privileged.”

## Hot take? We’ll take it.

Our opinions section takes submissions from current BC students. For more info, write to thebcvanguard@gmail.com, or directly contact Allison Rapp (our current opinions editor) at allisonrapp22@gmail.com.



# On the Record: Janis Joplin, “Pearl”

By Allison Rapp  
*Opinions Editor*

When I was growing up, my parents had The Buffalo News delivered to my house every single morning. It would arrive before dawn, and my dad would typically be the first to sit down and read along with a cup of coffee. My mother usually wouldn't get around to it until she came home from work in the evenings, where she would stand at the kitchen counter flipping the pages. Once a week, the hefty Sunday edition of the paper would bring us together in the living room. My sister and I favored the Sunday comics, while my parents skimmed the local news. And then, somewhere along the way, I discovered the arts section.

The music critic at The Buffalo News has been the same guy for some twenty years now. I read his concert reviews, his takes on the Grammys, his thoughts on the local music scene, and just about everything in between. I thought he was grounded and smart, he wasn't haughty or snobbish about his taste, and for some reason I imagined him sequestered away in a dark corner of the newsroom office — private and lonesome.

As it turns out, Jeff Miers is the exact opposite of this. It wasn't until a few years later that I met his son, a ridiculously talented bassist, and then Jeff at some point, and I learned that the latter was one of the most easy going people I've ever met. He's well known in the community, but he's one of the guys. His overarching message has always been the same: music can, will, and should be a unifying



force in the world. I believed that then, and I still do now.

I spent my high school years reading Jeff's work and I was fortunate enough to have him take an interest in mine. I interned at a local Buffalo magazine and sat a desk ahead of his whip-smart wife, ran into him from time to time at different gigs, and I still regularly hear from him on Twitter. We commiserate over some topics (Taylor Swift!) and rejoice over others (Grateful Dead reissues!), and he is one of the original people I can thank for encouraging me to stay in this business — this business that isn't typically as kind to female music journalists as it is to male ones.

The majority of the music writing I read up until relatively recently was written by men. A lot of it was extremely good writing, a lot of it helped shape the way I wrote my own work, and I got a lot of wonderful pieces of advice from said men. But it wasn't until the last few years that I found women music writers (Jessica Hopper, Laura Snapes, etc.) to read and, ultimately, look up to. For several years, I

was determined to keep my journalism and my music separate. One was work and the other was my hobby, and the world of journalism was already hard enough to break into without adding another level of specificity to it. It wasn't until I saw other women at the forefront of the industry that I thought maybe I could head in the same direction.

And this is the way a lot of young women have felt about Elizabeth Warren, whose recent decision to end her presidential campaign has left many of us feeling...deflated. Warren, it appeared, was the package deal — intelligent, seasoned, level headed, and more than capable of handling the job. Yet, as most women unfortunately know, you can have it all and still not be good enough, and as they also know, you will almost always have to work doubly hard and doubly fast at the same tasks as your male counterparts to receive the exact same credit and recognition. The scales have always been tilted, we've just learned to play the game that way.

But it is still head-

spinning to watch a woman tick all the boxes and be denied an opportunity that she would clearly excel at. It's like showing up for a job interview, perfectly qualified for the position, and being told you're not quite what they're looking for. What is it then that you're looking for? In politics, music, film, sports, medicine, and nearly every single professional field imaginable, the situation is the same. Ironically, when it comes to where to exist, misogyny doesn't discriminate.

In my frustration, I turned to Janis Joplin, and spun her second and final album, Pearl. Released posthumously in 1971, it featured the massive hit, "Me and Bobby McGee." Joplin has always scared the hell out of me in a sort of kick-your-ass kind of way, but there's no denying that her vocals are pure, unadulterated, straight-up rock 'n' roll.

"All you ever gotta do is be a good man one time to one woman," she belts on "Cry Baby," "and that'll be the end of the road, babe."

Maybe it's true that all it would take is one

significant step in the right direction to change the trajectory of the entire story, or maybe it would change the minds of hundreds more people.

My favorite track is the simplest: "Mercedes Benz," which Joplin sings with nothing but a click track behind her, only it's not really a click track but rather someone keeping time by patting their thigh.

"I'd like to do a song of great social and political import," she introduces the track. She asks the Lord to help her acquire some things — a color TV, a night on the town — but it would seem to me that if you asked, she might tell you that she's more than capable of getting those things herself.

Like so many other trailblazing women — and like Warren — Joplin was often deemed "too much" or "too bold," but in reality, she was probably exactly what we needed at the time. It's a shame their lights got snuffed out before they had a chance to burn even brighter.

# Low Qui Savage: M-M-M-My Corona

By Quiara Vasquez  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Reader, I was all set to write an in-depth exploration into the two archetypes of writers in the journalism biz, and the delicate balance a quality publication must strike between them. You know, boring shit. Then all my classes got cancelled.

Okay, not all of my classes, and they didn't really get "cancelled," just turned into online classes for the indefinite future, until the federal government does something about COVID-19. But that's just semantics:

suddenly, fourteen hours worth of classes and six hours of commute time have evaporated from my schedule.

A couple years ago, I would have been jumping for joy about this. I love not going to class. I already barely attend my classes anyway. And when I do show up, I'm either half an hour late, or dozing off, or both. But now, I'm just annoyed: seniors are supposed to catch senioritis, not coronavirus.

It's especially bad as editor-in-chief of Vanguard. We are in deep doodoo, and I'm

not just saying that because our primary distribution method is to just dump stacks of newspaper onto a spindly wire framed little rack that was last cleaned in 2005. If campus closes - or effectively closes because all classes and on-campus activities get canceled - we have nothing to report on, and thus no paper to put out. And worst of all, all the good puns for our front cover are taken at this point! How many variants on "going viral" and "viral sensation" have I run into when looking into the coronavirus this

month? Eventually, I came up with a fantastic pun, but it was completely unusable because CUNY isn't using social isolation. Also, Ryan and Moises threatened to throw things at me if I ran the phrase "Sick Decrees of Separation" on the cover.

As of press time, CUNY hasn't closed, and I doubt it will, no matter how much students complain. After all, coronavirus doesn't show up in time-lapse photos of the LaGuardia belltower, so why should the administration care? Oops, that was mean.

Let me try again: you know how in K-12 education, education plays second fiddle to providing essential services like free lunch? CUNY operates on the same principle. Closing campus and replacing classes with online instruction doesn't quite work when many CUNY students rely on on-campus resources to access the Internet.

That being said, there is one bright spot in this whole coronavirus mess. My Tuesday nights on this campus often stretch into Wednesday mornings, where I have class at 11 in the morning. When I get home at 3 AM and force myself to wake up at 8 AM, I think to myself, "whatever, I'll sleep when I'm dead." Thanks to COVID-19, and the Trump administration's deeply inept response to it, my wish may finally come true.

**“Seniors are supposed to catch senioritis, not coronavirus.”**





# Anthropologist Explores Gen Z's "Beeline" to S-U-C-C-E-S-S

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“Pretty much the only book not written by middle-class white parents for a middle-class white audience,” Shankar pointed out, was Amy Chua’s “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother,” which was roundly condemned in the mainstream media as promoting an overly draconian, almost torturous style of parenting. While

Shankar noted that the “tiger mom” stereotype is fairly extreme, she also noted that Chua’s authoritative take on parenting “should come as no surprise to anyone raised by immigrant parents.”

Over the course of her research, Shankar noted that the children she interviewed were surprisingly disciplined, and hungry for the spotlight. Shankar says this is a trend within Gen Z, where childhood has

become increasingly professionalized, and children are expected to become experts at increasingly young ages. This is at odds with the white baby boomer perception of childhood as a time of play and innocence, but it makes perfect sense coming from Gen X and millennial parents, whose adulthoods were marked by increasingly competitive job markets - to say nothing of the immigrant parents Shankar profiled,

whose entire presence in the US is due to hyper-specialized technical skills.

There is a dark side to this, perhaps: according to the American Psychological Association, 91% of adult “zoomers” say they’ve experienced physical or emotional symptoms brought on by stress. Shankar acknowledged this trend, noting that stress has become a factor for her students over the past decade.

“They see stress as something to be managed at such a young age,” Shankar said of the Gen Z children and teens she profiled. Still, she emphasizes that for the families who welcomed her into her home, spelling isn’t a source of stress so much as it is a source of pride: a way to hone and show off their considerable skills.

As Shankar puts it: “It kind of is an iteration of the American dream.”

## The Road to BC’s First Ever Hackathon

CONTINUED FROM  
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After putting together sponsorship packages and reaching out to companies through alums, the event has attracted companies that have never even been on campus like LinkedIn and Etsy, as well as more traditionally tech-

oriented companies like Google. Turns out that leveraging potential hires to these companies makes them show up and show out. “The thing about the tech industry is that they’re always looking for people but they can’t fill enough spots,” Xie said.

At the end of the day, the crew seems proud of their work. They

also seem aware of how radically they’re changing things for the future of the major. “We definitely want to have this be continued. We don’t want this to be the only hackathon,” Rohma said. “This is my legacy, almost, and then I’m leaving it and then hopefully I, you know, we get to help people do better and get more resources than we did.”

Because of this, they’re already prepping the next potential e-board members to continue what they hope becomes a tradition that makes “sure that CUNY students can go further. Brooklyn College specifically can see companies come on campus and want to recruit them.”

“The hope for this is there is an active

tech community, there’s more resources, more companies and the retention rate for women and minorities are higher. For me, what got me into tech was hackathon,” Davlatova said. “I know it’s a game changer. I know it could be a game changer for so many more people.”

## Vinny the Goat by Gabrielle Toro Vivoni & Mo Muhsin



# The Strangeness of CUNYAC Seeding

By Conrad Hoyt  
Staff Writer

Brooklyn College’s men’s basketball team won the CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) tournament last week despite being the fifth seed and having a regular season record of 13-15. Their Cinderella-story rise to the top of CUNYAC was a wonderful thing to watch, but it also put the CUNYAC tournament under a microscope. Is it always so easy for struggling teams to win it all?

Brooklyn finished the regular season with a 7-7 record against CUNY opponents, good for the fifth seed in the conference. Six teams out of nine in the conference make it to postseason play, meaning many

years teams with bad, even horrid records get a chance at the CUNYAC Championship. The Bulldogs had to win three matches to win the tournament (instead of just two for the top two seeds), and they did. But of course the extra game is not just an arbitrary disadvantage constructed out of thin air. Brooklyn struggled in the regular season largely due to rebounding, and glaring issues like this usually don’t just disappear in the postseason. In fact your weaknesses become more apparent and compounded by playing superior opponents.

According to CUNY Athletics, from 2000 to 2015, only two teams won the CUNYAC Championship after finishing the regular season with a losing

record. The Bulldogs’ success in the CUNYAC tournament this year is not completely unprecedented, as Baruch won in 2007 with a record of 11-16 and Lehman won in 2012 with a record of 12-14. Still, it is not easy to flip the switch and go on a tear once the postseason starts, and the Bulldogs’ performance in this year’s CUNYAC tournament is an aberration.

The CUNYAC tournament began in varying years depending on the sport, but the first tournament was held for men’s basketball in 1965-1966 season, hence the 55th anniversary this year. Competitions began in all sports when the CUNYAC office came into existence in 1987.

A few years ago, CUNY decided to cut down the

number of teams that qualify for the playoffs from eight to six, with the top two teams getting a bye. Athletic directors decided six teams struck the right balance between allowing access to the postseason (and thus the NCAA tournament) while excluding the teams that significantly underperformed.

“This has fostered better competition for the playoff spots and given the regular season games far more meaning than when everyone qualified,” says Zak Ivković, Executive Director of the CUNYAC.

Women’s basketball here at Brooklyn College also won the tournament, though they entered with the number-one seed. This dichotomy between both teams

finding success shows what general sports fans already know: what is most important is finding a nice groove and momentum right before entering postseason play. The women’s team did not let lofty expectations get to their heads and overwhelm them, and the men’s team had a confidence that went beyond their record and they surpassed expectations.

Still, upsets like they pulled off are not common.

“That is why we play the games and that is sports,” says Ivković. “One never knows who can walk away with a victory despite their results up until that point.”

## Both Basketball Teams Drop in NCAA Tournament

By Kwame Perez  
Staff Writer

Both the men’s and women’s Brooklyn College basketball teams’ seasons came to an end Friday. The Women were defeated by Bowdoin College 91-50 and the Men were beaten by Swarthmore College 85-51.

The Women’s team struggled in the first half making only one 3 pointer and shot under 30 percent from the field. They made a valiant effort in the second half but the deficit was too much to comeback from. Junior Chanel Jemott led the team with 17 points and Graduate student Kailyn Richburg added 10. They were the only two in double digit scoring for the Bulldogs.

The Men’s team also

struggled in the first half as they were outscored by 20. They were dominated on the boards 50-26, an aspect of the game they struggled with all year. Seniors Anthony McClean and Jordan Wright led the way with 12 and 10 points respectively, and they

were the only two in double figures.

The season is over for both of these teams now, but both proved something this year. The women’s team dominated all year and went undefeated in their conference. They also accomplished the feat of

making it to the NCAA tournament two out of three years. While the Men had struggled during the regular season, they were able to defeat Hunter, John Jay and Baruch to become CUNYAC champions to earn their first NCAA appearance since 2010.

There are many stepping stones from this season for these teams to look to get even better next year, but everyone involved will surely be proud of their efforts.



The Bulldogs at the NCAA Tournament. / Brian Beard