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OH S T

**CORONAVIRUS SHUTS
EVERYTHING DOWN
PAGES 1-7**



GENERAL INQUIRIES
THEBCVANGUARD@GMAIL.COM

CLUB HOURS
INDEFINITELY CANCELLED
(THANKS, COVID-19!)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
QUIARA VASQUEZ
QUIARA@ZOHO.COM

MANAGING EDITOR
RYAN SCHWACH
RSCHWACH11@GMAIL.COM

BUSINESS MANAGER
FARHAD RAHMAN
FARHADRAHMAN55@GMAIL.COM

LAYOUT EDITOR
CAMILA DEJESUS
CAMILAWITH1L@GMAIL.COM

DIGITAL EDITOR
CARMEN SAFFIOTI
CARMENSAFFIOTIO@GMAIL.COM

SECTION EDITORS
NEWS: NATALINA ZIEMAN
NATALINAZIEMAN@GMAIL.COM
FEATURES: MOISES TAVERAS
MOISES.T59@ME.COM
OPINIONS: ALLISON RAPP
ALLISONRAPP22@GMAIL.COM
ARTS: JACK COLEMAN
JACK.COLEMAN05@GMAIL.COM
SPORTS: CONRAD HOYT
CONRAD.HOYT@GMAIL.COM

COLUMNISTS
MICHAEL CASTANEDA
RYAN GLEASON

CARTOONISTS
MO MUHSIN
GABRIELLE TORO VIVONI

STAFF WRITERS
NASRA ABDALLA KHAMIS
MICHELA ARLIA
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IAN EZINGA
MAKEET FINCH
STACY FISCH
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KENDRA MARTINEZ
MILETTE MILLINGTON
KWAME PEREZ
PAOLA SACERDOTE
MARTIN SAMOYLOV
JOHN SCHILLING
MAYA SCHUBERT

PHOTOGRAPHERS
CHLOE ABOSCH
CHRISTIANNA COX
ARICKA M. DAVIS

FACULTY ADVISOR
ANTHONY MANCINI

A Frightful Week, as BC Grapples with Impending Coronavirus Pandemic

by Ryan Schwach
Managing Editor

Since last Wednesday, day-to-day life for Brooklyn College, CUNY, and the whole world has changed indefinitely.

With the quick and commanding spread of COVID-19 across the globe, city, state, and federal governments have taken drastic actions to halt what the World Health Organization has officially labeled a pandemic.

Brooklyn College and CUNY have not avoided this reality, and it has been a turbulent week since last Wednesday. This is everything that transpired up to this point.

At 2:12 pm on Wednesday, Mar. 11, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced what many across campus had suspected, namely, the moving of all CUNY and SUNY schools to online learning.

“Starting March 19, @CUNY and @SUNY will move to a distance-learning model for the rest of the semester,” Cuomo announced on Twitter. “This will help us reduce density and reduce the spread of this virus.”

Less than an hour later, at 3:04 pm, the CUNY Twitter page posted another update, announcing a five-day recess from classes entirely from Thursday, Mar. 12 through the 19th, to give students and faculty time to manage the transition to online classes.

Late Thursday night, President Michelle Anderson sent an e-mail to the Brooklyn College community saying that the first student of the college had tested positive for COVID-19.

“The student takes two classes on Tuesday evenings and she was last on campus on March 3,” Anderson wrote. “She did not

develop symptoms until Thursday, March 5.”

The campus was closed on Friday, Mar. 13 in order to deep clean the building the student had been in. Campus was reopened the following day.

On Saturday, Mar. 14, Chief Legal and Labor Relations Officer Tony Thomas announced a full cancellation of all “non-essential, non-instructional” gatherings on the Brooklyn College campus until the end of the semester. This included all sports games and student-run events, but Thomas said the college has not yet decided whether to cancel commencement.

“We understand that, for our campus community and visitors, these changes may be disappointing. We apologize for any inconvenience,” wrote Thomas.

In the following days, students and teachers worked to transition online, and the campus

held on-site training for professors to help with the switch.

It was also announced on Sunday, Mar. 15 that all recreational facilities on campus will be closed until further notice.

As we approached one full week since Governor Cuomo’s decision, it was announced that a second BC has contracted coronavirus. The student is currently at home with mild symptoms, and was not experiencing any symptoms while they were on campus early last week. As a precaution, the campus will be closed again on Wednesday, March 18.

Last Wednesday, there were 48 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York City; as of press time, that number has reached 814.

Editor’s Note: As you’ve likely already figured out, due to COVID-19, Vanguard will not be printing paper issues for the rest of the semester. We also can’t use our space on campus, which is why the issue looks like... this.

For now, though, we will keep to our previous printing schedule for the semester. If anything changes, we’ll keep you posted via social media. Our Twitter and Insta handles are both @theBCvanguard.

Thank you for reading Vanguard in this trying time.

BC’s Local Businesses Struggle with Coronavirus

by Stacy Fisch
Staff Writer

Small businesses around campus are feeling the effects of last week’s shutdown. While local businesses are taking a hit in revenue like they never did before. However, they are not going anywhere.

Before the shutdown, Camie, the owner of Orquidea Bodega near the Avenue H Q train station, had seen a decrease in customers due to the closing of the nearby Mosque and Church. Orquidea caters primarily to BC students, and without them, the deli is in turmoil.

“Two days passed, and 75% is already out of business. I’m dealing with residuals right now,” says Camie, who says 90% of students are customers of her deli. “I have no business, and it’s killing me.”

Camie is presently in the process of a loan, which will

take a week or so to get approved. Mayor de Blasio granted small businesses that have seen a sales decrease of 25% with fewer than 100 employees a loan of up to \$75,000. Camie is appreciative of the assistance; however, the City is not helping as fast as she needs help. She requires money in the meantime to purchase supplies.

“If you come to me and ask for a bacon egg and cheese I’ll tell you I can’t give you it, I don’t have the money to buy it,” Camie said. “At the same time, we are not getting that much money to invest in.”

Most shop owners like Camie want to increase profits by upgrading products, renovation, or renewing licenses. Unfortunately, she just spent \$5,000 on changing her ice coffee station, which she claimed things like these are very expensive. She doesn’t like that she spent so

much money on something that is hardly being used.

Before Camie applied for the loan, it pained her to see her seven-year business die within two days of the CUNY shut down. The loss of revenue is affecting her small staff of three to get paid.

“It’s really putting me into pain. I have to reduce the staff because I can’t keep the staff, even though they are my kids.”

Despite the pandemic and BC closures, Camie understands that she needs to wait for everything to blow over. However, it is difficult because she never underwent a situation like this before.

“As business owners, we are the one who gets the blow,” she continues, “we have to buy, we need to keep going.”

Mario & Maria is a family-run Mexican style food truck located on Bedford Avenue. They too are feeling the effects of the campus

closure.

“If the high school is still open, we should be fine,” says Susana Rojas, daughter of Mario & Maria. Rojas has been working there for three years and admitted that they serve around or more than 100 students a day, but Thursday was slow. She is expecting business to decrease throughout the rest of the semester or until the confirmed coronavirus cases in New York decrease. “It will get less and less [busy] as it progresses.”

The Rojas family will start to buy fewer supplies as they usually do to avoid wasted food and leftovers.

People who have purchased food from Mario and Maria never imagined themselves experiencing a situation where small businesses that make good revenue will lose business in one day.

“I leave school at 1:30, and I see the trucks [on BC campus] are always busy, and it’s

kind of weird not to see that today,” said Ryan, a Midwood student who purchases food from Mario & Maria occasionally.

On Thursday, a day after Brooklyn College announced the shutdown there were only two trucks on campus. One Halal truck and the usual waffle stand were missing.

Although Starbucks is a large chain store, each shop carries its revenue, and it’s just a matter of time for stores to lose business. Students who purchase coffee, refreshers, or baked goods from Starbucks on Hillel Road know that it is hard to receive your order within 3-5 minutes. On Thursday, Starbucks hardly had a wait.

“I’m actually going to be bored; time goes by quicker when it’s busy,” says Owa, a Starbucks employee.

COVID-19 Forces Clubs to Cancel, Postpone Events

By Moises Taveras
Features Editor

While transitions to “distance-learning” occur across CUNY and SUNY campuses, life at Brooklyn College itself seems to be coming to a standstill, especially for clubs and student organizations. With most meetings cancelled for the foreseeable future and the campus emptying to prevent spread of COVID-19, clubs have mostly ceased operation.

Originally, the college restricted student activities to events with 50 or fewer attendees, composed of BC students only, and that outside guest speakers should be limited to 3 at max. But a few days later, on Mar. 14, Tony Thomas, Chief Legal and Labor Relations Officer, sent out an email saying that, “effective immediately, non-essential, non-instructional gatherings or events should be cancelled, postponed, or moved to a virtual platform for the duration of the Spring 2020 semester.”

In the days following the

directives from Governor Andrew Cuomo and CUNY, clubs, unaware of what exactly to do, have taken to their social pages to update members.

Mostly the clubs are communicating that their upcoming events have been cancelled. Speaking to the Vanguard, the Movimiento Estudiantil Dominicano (Dominican Student Movement), or MeDo, confirmed that, “Until further notice events are cancelled. We’re in the works of trying to find alternate solutions to this but with the situation getting worse we don’t know what can be done.”

Athletes for Altruism, a new club this semester, was due to hold their charity basketball tournament on Mar. 19, before the new regulations forced them to cancel. Co-President Moksha Mehra told the Vanguard, “We have suspended all of our events and meetings for the rest of this spring semester 2020, as it would not be in the best interest of our members for all of us to meet.” Mehra

says the shuttering has hit them particularly hard because they “wanted to do as many events as possible to really get our name out there and collaborate with as many charities as possible.” In order to keep the event accessible to BC students and keep people safe, they decided against changing venues and will carry out the event next semester if all pans out. All the money they raised thus far has also been refunded.

While most clubs have outright cancelled their events, and others are still looking for an alternative, some are pivoting online to salvage their efforts.

The literary publication Stuck in the Library typically holds a launch event in the Student Center for the debut of a new issue. On Tuesday, Mar. 17, they were due to hold an event for the launch of their 40th issue, before having to cancel in the effort of “maintaining the health of the community over at CUNY,” according to Mary Halabani, President of

Stuck in the Library.

In lieu of a typical event then, the magazine has decided to shift the operation digitally, opting to release their new poetry magazine online by the end of the week and prioritizing a physical publishing event next semester. Halabani says they’ve also opted to extend the submission deadline for their literary magazine “well into the middle of next semester,” giving students more time to submit their work and re-orient their lives post-pandemic.

Likewise, the hackathon we reported on that was supposed to take place in the West End Building Computer Lab at the end of March is also taking things online.

“Online hackathons are pretty common so we’re just going to follow the standard procedure,” said Shahzoda Davlatova of the hackathon planning committee. Though they’re still working out the finer details, the hackathon is still shooting for the same time

and the same reach, even if the team can’t host it in the same place.

“I can’t really say how it’ll work yet, but we’re going to make helpful videos so people can understand what we’re doing and a virtual workshop for questions about setup,” said Davlatova. “Also all mentors and workshops are still happening,” she added, confirming that the schedule should remain unaffected.

The earliest upcoming events listed on Bulldog Connection now are at the start of May. This seems in line with the procedures being taken city- and nationwide to best “flatten the curve” of the spread of the virus. Assuming that the efforts to social distance and take classes online prevail, the hope is that these gatherings can take place. For now though, affairs on campus remain up in the air.

On the Record – Miles Davis, “Kind of Blue”

By Allison Rapp
Opinions Editor

COVID-19 has brutally rammed its way into the lives of pretty much everyone by now.

What began as bits of news from overseas has rapidly turned into a series of closures and lockdowns far beyond our initial expectations. If there’s any consolation to be had, it’s in the knowledge that we are all entering uncharted waters together.

Last week, I attended a city council meeting featuring a handful of health department officials who did their very best to assure the public that New Yorkers were relatively safe, so long as they followed basic hygienic protocol and stopped shaking hands for God’s sake. Since then, things have clearly taken a different turn, and I, like many others, have found my nerves growing with each passing day. The closing of Brooklyn College was, for lack of a more comforting phrase, a nail in the coffin. We’ve reached a critical point.

My dad has tried to convince me to rent a car and return home to Buffalo to hunker down with family, and I haven’t necessarily ruled it out. As of yet, there are no confirmed cases in my hometown, but my biggest fear is carrying the virus back and being the cause for the first.

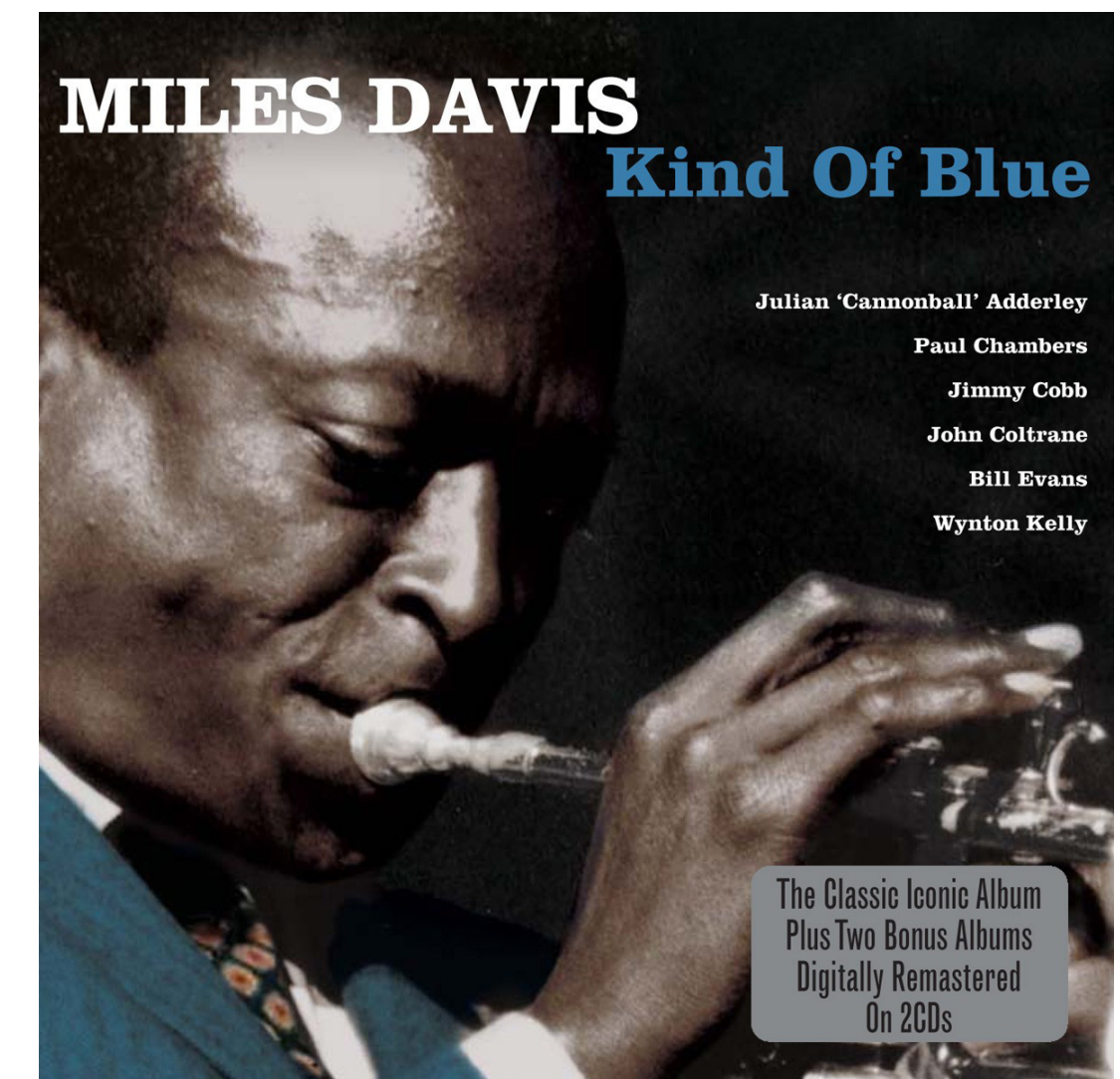
I’m already tired of seeing people on Twitter complain that journalists are blowing the COVID-19 issue out of proportion and that we should all quit freaking out. If you feel that way, I might suggest re-evaluating. If you feel

that way, you have likely never known what it’s like to live with a pre-existing health condition that leaves you vulnerable, or what it’s like to scrimp and pinch to afford rent each month, or what it’s like to wonder where or when your next meal is going to come from. Think about those people and whether or not you’d like to tell them to stop overreacting. Being too safe is better than being dead.

All this to say, the world looks considerably different now than it did just a few months ago. CUNY has shifted its game plan for the semester and we, as students, are going to have to catch up as best we can.

So welcome to the world of freelancers, where a significant portion of our work load is completed from the comfort/isolation (depending on how you look at it) of our homes. It gets lonely, frustrating, and none of us ever really master the job, but it can be done, rest assured. With CUNY’s shift to “distance learning,” working from home is now the everyday reality for students who are used to boarding subways and buses every day. For a lot of us, the transition will be awkward, but as someone who’s participated in an unspeakable amount of remote work over the last several years, I come this week bearing the recommendation of one of my favorite work-from-home albums: Miles Davis’ *Kind of Blue*.

One of the first things you’ll need to sort out as a new remote university



student is what type of worker or studier you are. Do you like to listen to music that’s loud and forces you to stay awake, though you’ve spent the last eight hours working on the same project? Or perhaps you need something a little more soothing to keep your deadline-induced anxiety at bay? Do you like to listen to music with words or no words? Maybe you don’t even like to hear music while you’re working at all, opting for near-silence instead.

The opening track to *Kind of Blue* does, technically, have lyrics. Most self-respecting jazz fans know that the central riff of the tune ends with a two-note bit in which the words “so what!” are typically declared. For me, while I’m writing at least, I prefer purely instrumental albums. Anything with lyrics severely messes up my flow and I find myself paying far more attention to the words than to my task.

Less distraction equals more productive work time, but I can’t help but mumble “so what!” to myself while the album plays.

A brief tip, though perhaps not entirely feasible in the current climate, is to head to a coffee shop or restaurant to snag a few hours of work. If you feel comfortable heading out and about in the coming weeks, consider doing this. I find that when I’ve been working from home for too long, I wind up distracted no matter how hard I try to stay focused. Suddenly I’m seeing that my carpet needs vacuuming, or that my pantry could really stand to be arranged, and before I know it, I’ve lost several hours of my valuable work time. By no means should you compromise your health or safety at present, but working from a cafe not only keeps you on-task, but offers a bit of support to local businesses. (Down with Starbucks!) And

bring your headphones - Miles Davis sounds pretty good paired with the gentle, bustling noises of a small cafe.

For me, *Kind of Blue* is just calm enough so that I’m relaxed, but not too slow as to put me to sleep. Ideally, this shift to online will be as temporary as possible, and while working from home may sound like a nice luxury, you’ll find that it can present its own set of challenges. Perhaps use this time to listen to an album or two as the soundtrack for your new work-from-home lifestyle, and definitely use this time to pay close attention to your body and its symptoms, consider the safety of those around you, and make the choices that will keep you and your loved ones healthy and around for the long haul.

COVID-19 vs. the Spanish Flu

By Michael Castaneda
Columnist

I wanted to write a piece titled “Love in the Time of Novel Corona-Virus” but that didn’t seem appropriate. People are scared. The global markets are in free fall more days than not, and this could very likely lead to a recession just when Brooklyn College students are entering the job market. Long story short: there’s not a lot of love going around.

When scary events are happening, we as a community in the pursuit of learning must follow our tradition. We must hit the books.

Let’s take a look at some things that we know about the current pandemic and compare them with the Spanish Flu of 1918.

So, “Coronavirus” is a poor name for this, because almost any cold or flu is similar to it. When you google symptoms of COVID-19, you’ll see fever, runny nose, and other ailments that are typical in any common cold.

COVID-19 is better because it stands for CoronaVirus Disease 2019, and calling it “Wuhan Virus” is just racist. Did you expect that racist attacks were just going to happen to people from Mexican heritage when Trump was elected?

Few people under 30 have died with COVID-19, and the rate of mortality for the majority of college students is less than one percent. That should hopefully be good news. Still, be cautious, even though new H.I.V. cases are low, you should still use a con-

dom.

So why are younger people at a significantly lower risk? One possible reason is something known as “antigenic imprinting.” This makes the case that the first flu you get will create a blueprint in how your body will fight all other flu’s for the rest of your life. Your immune system will remember how it fought your first flu and fights the next in the same way. So you could make the argument that if your first flu was a modern one, like the SARS outbreak in 2002, then your body would be better prepared to fight this one.

It should be noted that information on COVID-19 is probably not entirely accurate. Many governments have been trying to control the story. The Chinese, Iranian, and United States governments have been aggressively trying to limit the information.

Now let’s get to Spanish Flu. It gets its name because the Spanish press was the only free press in 1918 that reported the deadly flu.

The Spanish Flu likely started in Kansas, with the first outbreaks being reported on an army base. It likely traveled to Europe via American soldiers going over to fight in World World I.

The United States government censored reporting of the 1918 flu. President Wilson passed the Sedition Act in May of 1918 that made reporting any bad news about the war illegal because it would lower morale and turn people against the war effort. This allowed the

Spanish Flu to spread and kill like wildfire.

During the summer of 1918 there was a War Bonds Parade in Philadelphia in which more than 200,000 people attended. Within 48 hours, the city’s hospitals were overrun, 4,500 people died as a result, and people were buried in mass graves.

It should be noted that a virus does not last long in the body after death.

In Philadelphia in 1918, the number of deaths probably overloaded the system responsible for disposing of bodies. This is something we could see again if morgues become overwhelmed, as mass graves are more efficient than cremation.

A lack of transparency seems to be the worst thing you can do with an epidemic like the one we are seeing today. This is the lesson of the 1918 Spanish Flu.

In an effort to cover up the issue at hand, just as was done during the Spanish Flu,

Iranian officials did nothing when COVID-19 was reported in their country. They said it was fake news. Then it took over their country and mass graves were again being used. Additionally, customs agents at JFK airport were aware of COVID-19 in December, which was a month before China officially acknowledged they had a public health issue.

So how bad was Spanish Flu? Recent estimates cited it had a death toll of 50 to 100 million people. One-third of the world’s population caught it. Remember,

this was when the world was much less interconnected. But also remember, the medicine has advanced a lot since then.

But to put this in perspective, more Americans died from Spanish Flu than in U.S. Wars combined. It was the deadliest flu virus our country has seen so far. More people died in the first 25 weeks of Spanish Flu, than in the first 25 years of the HIV/AIDS virus.

President Trump’s Grandfather, an immigrant, was one of the first victims of the 1918 Flu. President Trump is a known germaphobe.

Spanish Flu started in 1918. It’s deadliest years were 1920 and 1921 and it ended in 1957. It made the jump from birds to humans, and finally adapted to humans by the late 1950’s. It is known as the mother of all flu’s because almost all current flu strains can be traced back to it.

Getting back to antigenic imprinting for Spanish Flu -- unlike COVID-19, people between the ages of 20-40 were the hardest hit by the Spanish Flu. This was likely because older people at the time had seen a similar strain of flu in the past, presumably the Russian Flu of 1889.

Since younger people have stronger immune systems, their bodies responded better to the Spanish Flu virus. Unfortunately, this worked against them. A Cytokine storm occurred. This is an autoimmune response where the body sends fluid into the lungs to fight the

disease, causing people to drown from inside their bodies. Spanish Flu, also known as Avian Flu, festers deep in the lungs and led to a fast death. People could feel fine in the morning and be dead before the day was over.

Spanish Flu was deadly at the start, but when summer turned to fall, it came back stronger because it had mutated to a deadlier virus. Viruses are always mutating. I imagine that today’s COVID-19 also stands a chance of mutating into a stronger or weaker virus.

Can there be a cure? Maybe. All flu viruses have common parts to their genetic code, which makes it possible to develop a cure in the laboratory.

This is why flu shots can be good in mitigating symptoms of COVID-19. Other reasons to get a flu shot is so as not to confuse the normal flu with this one. It can reduce the overloaded health care system and also having the flu sucks.

Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds is actually really effective. COVID-19 spreads in droplets from one person to another. The virus is surrounded by oily materials that soap is really good at destroying.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization officially called COVID-19 a pandemic. It’s a scary word. What it means is that the work will change from containing the virus to mitigating it.

Curtains Close on BC’s Performances as Coronavirus Takes Center Stage

By Michela Arlia
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Mar. 11, at around 3:30 pm in the Department of Theater’s costume shop class, phones and Twitter accounts started buzzing off the hook. With countless online petitions going around urging CUNY and SUNY campuses to close due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the class did not even have to look at their screens to know what news was breaking throughout the campus, state and city.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced on Wednesday, March 11 a full shutdown of all CUNY and SUNY campuses, where students would begin remote learning sessions starting Thursday, March 19. With all the hustle and bustle of the actions being taken in the moment, one question stood for all performance majors; what would happen to all of their events?

What would happen to all of the hard work put into developing shows such as *Small Mouth Sounds*, a production set to open in the coming weeks, or the rehearsals for productions such as *Rhinoceros* that just

started their pre-production process Monday, March 9?

Not only are concerns raised for the theatre department, but for the music conservatory as well. What would happen to all of the planned concerts and senior showcases that students have been working towards for months and even years?

While administration at the moment does not have all of the answers and are as shocked as the rest of the student body, two undergrad students share their opinions and what little information they know.

“They’re not 100% sure what is going to happen, but as of right now they are postponing productions until they can figure out a solid plan,” said student Nia Blizzard, an Assistant Stage Manager for Brooklyn College’s upcoming production of *Rhinoceros*.

Everyone is playing a waiting game at the moment, wondering what is to happen to the accomplishments they looked forward to presenting to the community.

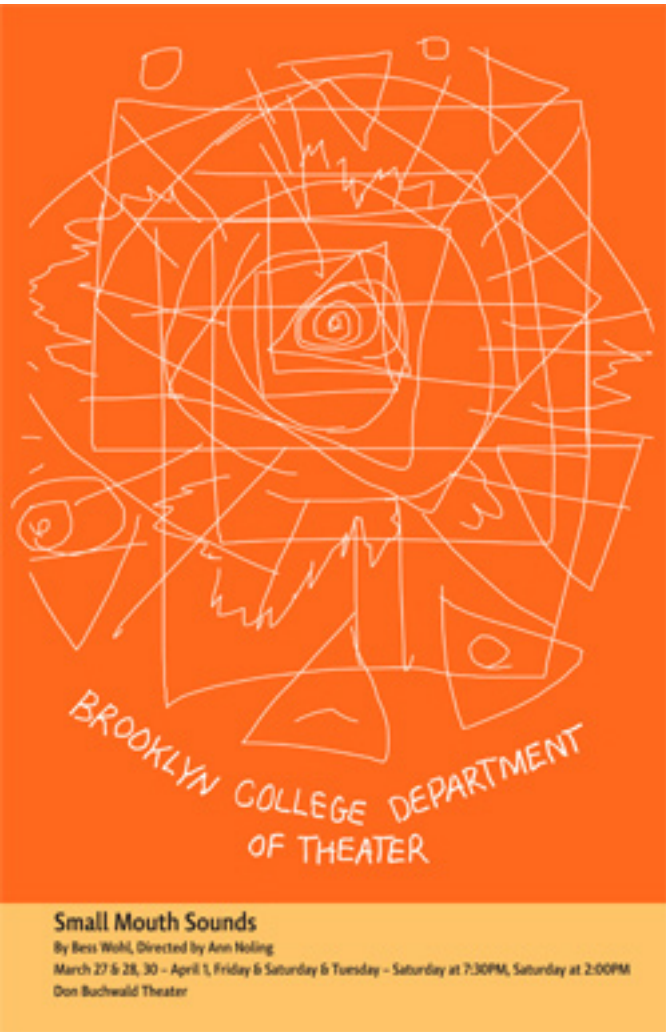
Senior Melissa Fishman is a member of the conservatory of music at Brooklyn College. She says it’s just a matter of postponing and

waiting. “We’re all a bit confused for sure, We cancelled events at least until next week and we postponed our big orchestra event until further notice,” Fishman said.

Though there is little information known on all performances across campus at the moment, students such as Fishman and Blizzard say as more is known, everyone will continue to update the Brooklyn College community.

“All our events are gonna have limited audiences and basically even our parents can’t come which sucks,” says Fishman.

An e-mail sent out to the students majoring in Theatre by Undergraduate Deputy Chair for the Department Laura Tesman reads, “The department has officially postponed the remaining three productions of the season, and are assessing our best options to return to producing them. As we continue to get information from the university as to when we can start to think about reassembling together in person and as a collective we will continue to address resuming the season. This might mean that we move



some of our productions into the summer and/or Fall semester as possible solutions.

“[...] We will consider all viable solutions as we understand when we will be able to come together in person again.”

Details are still being finalized on what is to happen to the performance-based

programs and majors on campus, as productions and hands-on instruction are needed for many to gain full credit for courses and graduate with the necessary credits. Hopefully, more information will come in as soon as the academic recess is over.

CUNY Cancels Athletics Amid Coronavirus

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

The sports world was shaken this past week when sports leagues across the globe postponed, or shut down their seasons due to COVID-19. Three days ago, CUNY Athletics joined the list of organizations shutting down seasons when it announced that all athletic events throughout the remainder of the Spring will be cancelled.

The NCAA has also cancelled its tournaments and “March Madness” the college basketball phenomenon that is usually such a delight this time of year.

“This comes on the heels of all 25 CUNY institutions transitioning to semester-long distance learning,” the CUNYAC official site reads.

“While we recognize the deep disappointment that will be felt by our student-athletes, coaches, and communities, a continuation of the spring seasons is untenable.”

This is crushing for college athletes, especially those who are in their senior years of school and only had one last chance to play the season and possibly compete in playoffs like the NCAA tournament.

“I am always disap-

pointed when I’m not able to play tennis for one reason or another. It’s not just exercise for me and serves as such a great stress reliever and way to interact with my teammates,” said Rohan Mathur, captain of the Brooklyn College men’s tennis team. and while he is not a senior, he was still looking forward to playing this season. Regardless, he still managed to see a silver lining. “This will give me and my teammates the opportunity to get even better and prepare for our best season yet next year,” he said.

The entire world has been shaken by this global pandemic, and the sports

side of the issue is extremely painful and cannot be forgotten. Besides the economic ramifications for the sports world of this pandemic, sports oftentimes help people cope through difficult circumstances. The live spectacle of the challenges, the gamesmanship, the unrelenting competition can be a vacation away from trying circumstances.

This is as true for the Brooklyn College and CUNY community as it is for anyone. But the health and well-being of athletes, fans, and everyone else is far too important to risk playing games and having large numbers of people

gathering in finite areas of space. Governments around the world and health care professionals are urging social distancing.

One of the scariest aspects of COVID-19, especially in the United States, is that government officials and health professionals do not know the extent of this virus because not enough testing has been done. This means that we do not know when restrictions and quarantines will no longer be needed. It is extremely saddening, but for all parties involved, CUNY Athletics had to make the decision to cancel Spring sports.

Fate Uncertain for Sports Leagues Nationwide

By Carlos Daniel
Martinez
Staff Writer

Following the NBA’s decision to suspend its games for a period of thirty days on Mar. 11, sports leagues around the world have followed in their steps. The MLS has suspended their scheduled games for a period of thirty days, while the NHL is taking a hiatus, but still monitoring the current situation for when games can resume.

Meanwhile, the MLB has cancelled all spring training games and will delay its opening day by two weeks, extending the start of the 2020 baseball season to April 9th. While the NFL has no plans so far in delaying its 2020 season, teams in the league are taking matters into their own hands to make sure everyone in their organizations is safe. The XFL, in its inaugural season, will not be playing any regular season games, but remains optimistic to provide entertainment for its completely new fan base for next year. College basketball, right now in the middle of its NCAA March Madness sched-

ule, has also announced all games are cancelled, and that there will not be a champion this year in either the men’s and women’s teams.

What brought NBA’s commissioner Adam Silver to take executive action was the confirmed test of Utah Jazz player Rudy Gobert. 24 hours after Gobert tested positive for the coronavirus, his teammate Donovan Mitchell also tested positive. In a personal letter he penned to NBA fans, Silver goes on to say that “this remains a complicated and rapidly evolving situation that reminds us that we are all part of a broader society with a responsibility to look out for one another.”

Considering the fact that Mitchell contracted the virus because of the lack of self-awareness Gobert showed during a press conference in which he touched microphones around him, then Gobert having close physical with other Jazz members in the locker room, Silver’s words echo in the minds of many people as we’ve been observing the trajectory this virus has taken from person-to-person to country-

to-country.

In the end, this virus is bigger than sports. True, to the die-hard sports fan, these are the worst days of their life. However, to ensure the safety of players’ health, it would be irresponsible to let fans from outside to enter tight arenas and stadiums, knowing the potential risk they can have on others in large public gatherings.

The New York Knicks won’t be in contention for a spot in the NBA playoffs this year, game suspensions or not. On the other hand, before the NHL’s decision to halt all games nationwide, the New York Rangers and Islanders were only a few games behind from clinching any playoff spot. To see these red-hot teams stomp on the brakes in their wave of momentum, it leaves hockey fans wondering if they can continue their pursuit to the Stanley Cup playoffs once the suspension ends. And if the situation does worsen across this country, would the Rangers and Islanders’ last game be their actual last for this year? As depressing as that may sound to some, hockey fans should be



supportive of the lengths their respective teams reached this season. If the season should happen to continue after this hiatus, then expect the unexpected with all teams in the league fully rested by then. The same goes for all NBA and MLS teams, who will go out and play hard for the love of the fans, and the love of the game.

Vinny and Buster by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni

