

Financial Aid Struggles

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BC Goes Online for Fall

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THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE

VANGUARD

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THE SUMMER

WE'LL NEVER

FORGET

Harrison Sheckler's
Virtual Ballgame
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BC's 1967 County Fair
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Athletes Strike for
Change
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Photo Credit: Ronny Shama

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BC Makes Princeton Review's Top Colleges

By Zahra Khan
Staff Writer

As Brooklyn College begins its Fall 2020 session, students may be happy to know that Brooklyn College has been listed on Princeton Reviews Best 386 Colleges in the nation. Featured alongside other CUNY's like Baruch and Hunter College, Brooklyn College was praised by the review for being an "academically challenging and rigorous school."

"I think it shows Brooklyn College has a lot of potential to be great academically," said Daniela Alvarado, a BC student studying Journalism. The Princeton

Review states that although there are a lot of "student organizations and student activities" a lot of the student social life is outside the campus since most of the food spots are around the corner as well as Brooklyn's hotspots like Barclays Center, a 20 min train ride away.

Brooklyn College is diversified in its student body. "An aspiring opera singer to quirky film majors to single mothers looking for a better life for their children," the Princeton Review writes.

"It's a good college when you meet the right people and professors," said Monia Begum, a BC alumni. "But when you don't you will see yourself



The beautiful Brooklyn College campus/ **Politico**

failing and feel very discouraged to continue". 58% of students graduate in 6 years while 29% graduate in 4 years.

Regardless of the honor, BC students can agree that the school still has room to improve. "I think right now we are in

a good place but we still have a lot to improve on. Brooklyn College students wish they had more resources like furnished buildings, access to more job opportunities and clean bathrooms," said Alvarado.

Welcome Back? BC Returns For Fall, But Mostly Online

By Maya Schubert
News Editor

After a long summer, Brooklyn College has finally entered its fall semester. Students and faculty alike are adapting to a remote form, as classes, college services, and clubs deliver online.

"I'm sure you didn't expect to be starting the year behind a computing device, but safety must come first," Ron Jackson, Vice President for Student Affairs, wrote in an email last Tuesday.

Remote classes are being delivered in several different forms. Synchronous classes involve regular meetings on Zoom or Blackboard Collaborative, or synchronously viewed videos of class lectures. Asynchronous classes do not include regular meetings, with most coursework and discussion boards posted on Blackboard. Some classes combine synchronous

and asynchronous components.

Only thirteen classes will include in-person qualities, one Earth and Environmental Sciences course, two physics classes, and several film and theatre classes.

While students may be disappointed about the online format, many remain optimistic.

"I was fine with online classes last semester, and I'm sure I'll be fine this semester," said BC student Stella Yank. "I'm most worried about getting lazy and procrastinating because I feel like, 'Hey, I'm at home; there's no rush to get things done!' I'll have to work on correcting that mindset."

"I'm actually pretty okay with it [the online semester]," said student Yasmine Kehdi. "I think it's a different way to learn."

Many of BC's departments moved their courses online long before the school officially made its July 27th announcement, leaving

room to prepare. BC's Philosophy department decided to stay online before the spring semester had even ended.

"By the time that we made our decision, it seemed pretty clear where the pandemic was going," said Anna Gotlib, associate professor of Philosophy. "I was, and am, worried about things like commuting, public spaces, and small, cramped classrooms as an unsafe environment for our students, our staff, and ourselves. You have probably seen the consequences that so many colleges and universities who decided to go face-to-face are dealing with now, including growing infections and rapid shut-downs to prevent even further harm to their students, staff, and faculty."

In an attempt to keep BC's community thriving, most student organizations are maintaining a presence online. BC's Undergraduate Student

Government Organization has opened a Discord server for students and faculty to communicate. BC Women's Center recently released a calendar of semester events that includes a virtual Open House on September 15 and a regular virtual meditation workshop.

"Whether on campus or off campus, the Women's Center is still committed to providing the campus community experience to our students," the Women's Center wrote on their Instagram page.

As BC heads into the heart of an unusual semester, its body remains hopeful.

"The key to enjoying online courses, I think, is more conversation and human interaction, even if virtually," said Professor Gotlib. "We all miss our normal lives, and these classes can be a way that we reach out to each other."

Students Face Financial Aid Delays

By Maya Schubert & Gabriela Flores
News & Features Editors

As the Brooklyn College campus remains closed due to COVID-19, services like Financial Aid advisement are no longer available in-person, leaving students and advisors struggling to contact each other remotely.

“The Financial Office is not helpful at all right now,” said Brooklyn College student Pooja Soleyman.

Throughout August, Soleyman, a sophomore, tried to contact Financial Aid regarding her Pell Grant, first calling and then emailing the office. When there was no reply, Soleyman was unsure what to do about her missing scholarship. As deadlines approached, she gave up and paid out of pocket.

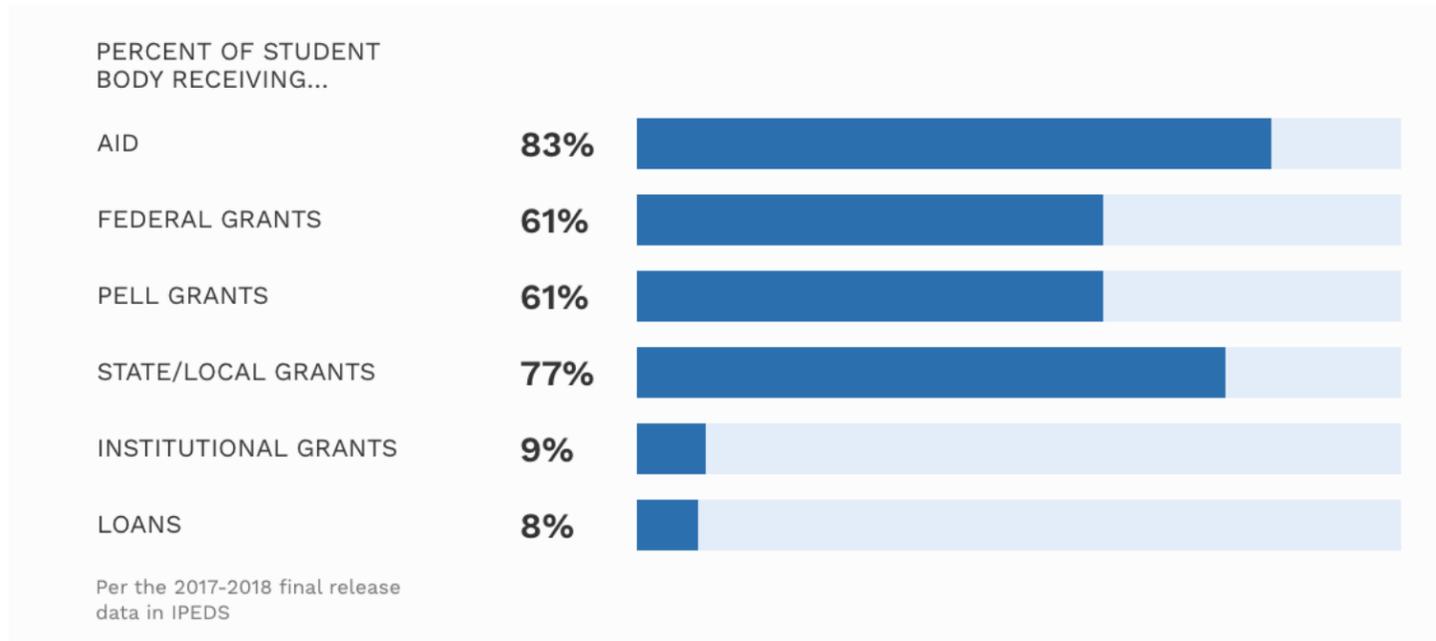
“I was at risk of losing my classes,” she said.

She admitted she had not contacted her advisor.

“I don’t even know who mine is,” she said.

After a student submits their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), it normally takes two to six weeks for their award to show on CUNYFirst, depending if additional documents are needed. The office recommends students to submit any necessary materials by March to avoid course cancellation. In some cases, however, the pandemic has extended the time frames of financial aid processing.

“If a student is still in the process of having their aid established by completing one of the required processes, we



may place an indicator to prevent course cancellation since we know that those students will have adequate aid to address the balance,” said Antonio Marrero, Director of Financial Aid, Compliance & Operations. “If we are unable to determine a student’s eligibility, it is recommended that they contact a payment advisor to review their options.”

With in-person appointments unavailable, the Office’s answering machine directs students to Brooklyn College’s website for emailing. The Financial Aid page, however, doesn’t immediately provide an email address, linking only to a “Contact” page. The Contact page provides a general Financial Aid email address and directs students to BC Webcentral to make appointments with advisors. Directions for making appointments on Webcentral are linked towards the bottom of the page.

Many students may click the Financial Aid page’s linked Important Announcements page,

which offers services through the general email. While the page warns that “due to working remotely and the high volume of inquiries there may be up to a five-business day turnaround time for a response” to emails, students like Soleyman complain of no response.

During August, right before the beginning of Fall semester, the Office experiences their peak season. With the pandemic and move to remote advisement, advisors must handle appointments back-to-back from 9 to 5 on weekdays. Then they reply to student emails for another two hours.

“There’s freshmen, new transfers, students that are readmitting back up, and everybody from high school, so that’s when it gets the busiest. Plus we’re in a pandemic, so we’re working from home and the state agencies are working from home,” said Matthew Fitzgerald, a Student Financial Services Center for Financial Aid representative, “so all of that is sort of a fantastic conglomerate catastrophe - I’m sure one would get into that

long, long wait time.”

Students can contact the financial aid call center, but they can only be assisted with general financial inquiries such as how to access the application for the NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). Representatives like Fitzgerald, are usually BC students who can only access the caller’s information available on their CUNYFirst account using their EMPL ID number. For specific financial aid questions, operators cannot help much.

“There’s going to be certain things for TAP that I just can’t look at, I wish I could but, I just have access to CUNYFirst,” said Fitzgerald. “So a lot of it must go through a financial aid advisor.”

“I tried emailing my financial aid advisor countless times to no avail,” said BC student Brendan Ahmed.

Like Soleyman, Ahmed needed to contact the office about his scholarship, but received no reply. Ahmed eventually switched tactics and contacted a direct representative from the Excelsior Scholarship office.

According to collegefactual.com, 81 percent of Brooklyn College students receive financial aid, and CUNY’s website states that over half of the system’s undergraduates qualify for federal and state financial aid.

“In the last academic year, some 170,000 CUNY undergraduates received a total of \$770 million in need-based federal Pell grants and New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards,” the website says. Per their 2017 to 2018 data release, the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System reports that \$78,497,343 in total grant aid was awarded to all BC undergraduate students.

While the Fall semester continues remotely, it is unclear when financial aid advisement woes and processing delays will subside.

“It’s been crazy,” said Fitzgerald. “It’s like the waves of Exodus have opened up of students.”

School Spirit During Online Learning

By Bobbie Bell
Staff Writer

As we enter the fall 2020 semester, we are faced with the reality that remote learning will be the new standard for quite some time. With most courses being moved online, it begs the question of what back to school shopping looks like this time of year.

Back to school commercials typically use the late summer season to promote stylish new clothing and supplies to start the academic year off fresh. But it's hard to deny that the feeling of waking up and feeling that near-autumn breeze emphasizing school's return around the corner feels distant now.

"For the first time, back to school shopping doesn't give me the feeling that I'm going back to school. It's a weird feeling," said Jonas Jackson, a senior at Brooklyn College. "I think the most ironic and interesting thing about back to school shopping is pretty much everything we're going to buy from notebooks, folders, and pens to textbooks won't be used in a classroom setting and possibly any academic setting outside of our homes because of the pandemic."

For incoming freshmen, the feeling of starting a new year on campus is all but lost, though the college has worked to give them some semblance of that through virtual events.

"We hosted a New Student Convocation on Aug. 25, and the level of excitement for college seems to still be high," said Ronald Jackson, Vice President of Student Affairs. "They understand that this is not the ideal way to begin their college career, but also understand the importance of safety."

VP Jackson says the Division of Student Affairs at Brooklyn College is doing all they can to keep students engaged and able to mingle, with the hope they can bond remotely. Events such as Student Involvement Day, which is an opportunity for students to find out about available clubs and organizations, will be held online this year on Sept. 8.

In digitizing community get-togethers, one major concern has arisen for Student Affairs. "The challenge in hosting events virtually is that you don't have the energy that being together in person brings, but we hope to be able to generate that same spirit,"



Kelsey Grennan, YouTuber and junior at Brooklyn College back to school shopping for fall 2020 semester./David Karpe

said Jackson.

Other college students, even those outside of Brooklyn College, have expressed how remote learning will shape their day to day activities for the fall. Some students refuse to allow the pandemic to put a damper on their back to school spirit. "I'm still going to shop. I get dressed up every morning for me," said Tayelor Miller, a student at Howard University.

Kelsey Grennan, a junior at Brooklyn College, is a YouTuber with 27,000

subscribers on her channel called kelsbeautytips. In a recent video, she goes back to school shopping at Target in search of stationeries for remote learning. She told the Vanguard, "It was weird filming the video with a mask on because I've filmed that video many times before and never had to do that." COVID restrictions also changed her creative process when putting together footage. In an attempt to not stay in Target for longer than necessary, she couldn't film everything

inside.

"Overall, it was a good experience and I'm happy that we are online because it feels safer that way, so I appreciate the bit of supplies I purchased to get extra motivated for back to school," said Grennan.

Back to school looks a lot different than what many imagined, but college students are attempting to do what they can to make this experience work and keep their spirits high.

Music Students Await Word On Needed Practice Space

By Paola Sacerdote
Staff Writer

Students in the music department are expressing their distress with CUNY Central's "LATE FEE" policy to drop classes, as they await approval for classes that typically require studio use, as in, on-campus access, and some fear they may have to drop the classes.

"I am thinking of dropping my classes if I don't get access to the instruments that I need," Allen Randall, a percussionist, wrote in a Facebook post to Brooklyn College: In the Know 2. "It would not make sense for me to pay for something that I do not have at my

house."

Without approval, percussion students will face late fees if they decide to drop classes. Randall counts on the classes' approvals.

"I am one out of five percussionists this fall term at BC," Randall told the Vanguard. "Percussion majors have four individual rooms that are specifically designated for percussion practice studios on campus in the TOW/Whitman Hall basements. Randall previously gained attention on campus back in 2017, when protesting inadequate practice space by playing his marimba on the Quad.

Randall attended a meeting with the Music department

and was informed that they were doing everything they could to get an answer from CUNY and Brooklyn College's Provost.

"CUNY Central or Brooklyn College's Provost have no idea what the problem is with our Conservatory at the moment, nor have they answered the Conservatory's requests to allow us on campus," Randall said. "We are not talking hundreds of students, we are talking 10 possibly 15 students who absolutely need to use these practice rooms."

If CUNY Central approves access to the percussion studios, students will have 2-3 hours a week to practice their instruments. However,

they won't have access until the third week of the semester.

Percussion instruments take a lot of space and are very expensive to purchase.

"The common instruments we are to know are marimba, xylophone, timpani, glockenspiel, tubular bells, drum-set, snare drum," said Randall. "Now the instruments that I need most are the five-octave Marimba and four Timpani. On the market right now, the five-octave marimba would cost about \$22,000. The other problem with this instrument is that it is big. I - like many other percussionists/percussion majors - have no room for

this type of instrument in my house."

According to CUNY. edu: "Tuition refunds are calculated in accordance with the Tuition Refund Policy for those students who officially drop a class or classes during the first three weeks of the semester."

"The music department did everything right. I am calling on CUNY to stop the nonsense for once in their bureaucratic company and look at real simple solutions," said Randall. "Four rooms, four students. The math adds up perfectly."

Film Student Annie Bercy Directs Music Video For Ciara

By Kendra Martinez
Staff Writer

For BC film production student Annie Bercy, her craft as a multimedia creator has enabled her to highlight Black culture. Bercy's work as a music video director caught the attention of Grammy-award winning artist Ciara, whose song "Rooted" called for Bercy's visuals and their embodiment of Black excellence. Throughout the video, Bercy embraces Black identity with empowering clips of Black Lives Matter protests, Black dancers, and pregnant Ciara dancing with her baby bump.

On Juneteenth, a holiday that celebrates the emancipation of those who were enslaved in America, Ciara reached out to Bercy through Instagram about directing the video for "Rooted." The song is about staying true and close to the "roots" of the Black community. After hearing "Rooted" and Ciara's empowering

lyrics like "All my songs come with melanin, got the heart, got the soul, like Harriet," Bercy wanted to make sure her vision aligned with the track's meaning. Once she finalized her plans for the video, Bercy began managing different teams in Atlanta, New Jersey, and New York to capture shots of the featured dancers and their families. "I loved working with her, she was very efficient and knew how to bring her performance on camera," said Bercy.

Bercy's career as a director first started as a photo editor with a strong interest in media. After studying at Queens Community College, she decided to take her hobbies more seriously and became influenced by the works of renowned directors. Today, Bercy collaborates with other Black artists and showcases an aesthetic of Black culture in her music videos starring Black models, actors, and dancers.

"It was me realizing I



Annie Bercy enjoying her summer prior to COVID-19./ @AnnieBercy's Instagram Account

want to make a life out of my hobby and taking all the steps necessary to make that a possibility," said Bercy. "I started going out to events and meeting people at these events and these people connected me to other people that had their own brands and one thing led to another."

Aside from being a

video director, Bercy is a professional photographer. Back in February, she created a photo series called "WAVES" and posted it on her Instagram (@anniebercy), captioning the compilation, "A durag driven photo series aimed to break down stereotypes and generalizations of black men. Don't assume you know someone by the way they look."

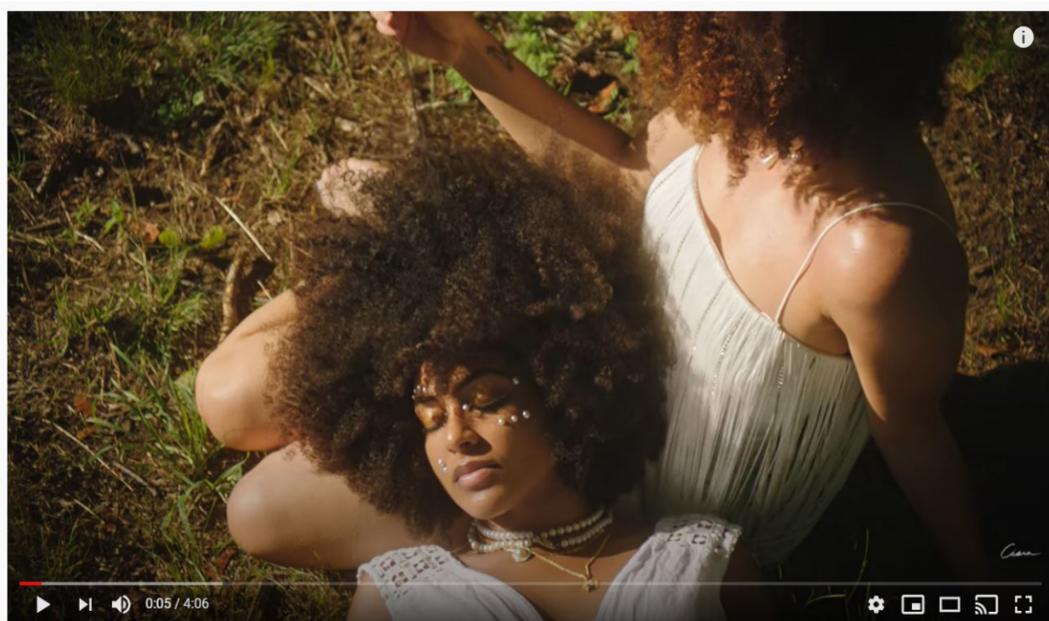
Bercy aimed to show her subjects beyond their image and society's perception of them. In doing so, she included an overhead shot of an assortment of their items to show their individual interests.

"There are thousands of things you wouldn't know about a person when you first meet them so I went further into that idea as the

project developed, said Bercy."

The work has not stopped for Bercy, as she plans to develop projects related to quarantine and work with streaming service Hulu. She advises anyone aspiring to work in media to execute their ideas, even if it's only for fun. Bercy encourages directors and content creators to see their ideas all the way through.

"[They should] take 'aspiring' out of their names and consider themselves directors only because the way that you speak about yourself changes the way that you carry yourself," Bercy said.



Ciara - Rooted ft. Ester Dean (Official Video)

The music video 'Rooted' Annie Bercy directed./ Youtube

A Blast From The Past: BC Circa 1967

By Qichelle Maitland
Staff Writer

For years, the highly anticipated Brooklyn College County Fair was held each spring, giving students the chance to showcase their clubs and raise some school funds. "It was a very big deal, you know. It was

just a trip," said Physician and Brooklyn native Seth Lewin, when reflecting on his time capturing the fair back in 1967. For Lewin, shooting on film was one of his favorite hobbies, and the campus county fair had endless subjects to photograph.

"The groups would set up on the campus

lawn with these one of a kind exhibits and build these huge constructs," Lewin said. "You would see girls in their 60s beehive hairdos with space outfits on, next to a starship enterprise. I mean it was really just a trip and a half."

"I had always liked taking pictures, even

when I was a child," said Lewin, who attended Stuyvesant High School, where he recalled taking his first photography course. "I received some serious training in shooting film, darkroom techniques, and those sort of things, which very much piqued my interest. I stuck with it

after that." That spring of 1967, Lewin was the president of the Brooklyn College Photo Society and the photography editor of the Kingsman student newspaper.

Continued On Page 8



Photographer Seth Lewin at the age of 18 with his camera



Photo Credit: Seth Lewin



A Blast From The Past: BC Circa 1967

Continued From Page 7

For the fair, Lewin teamed up with a friend who was a bit more of a professional photographer and owned a Bronica, which shot on 120mm film. At the time, this was the camera to have. The

cool cameras and their passion for photography drove Lewin and his friend to make a big show of photographing that particular fair in detail.

“We had to go all out, balls out, we were doing this,” said Lewin. “Since we were big photo geeks,” Lewin chuckled, “you know, in the only way

that 18-year-old boys could be photo geeks, we went out and borrowed a bunch of supplies from this camera store that used to be on Flatbush Avenue.” The same store where they would get all of the film and develop chemicals for the pictures in *The Kingsman*.

Lewin carried his

photos of the County Fair and developed them in the campus’s special darkroom, which he says was once in Ingersoll. “We used some of the prints for *The Kingsman* and I think people sold some of the prints here and there, but somehow I ended up with all the negatives,” said Lewin.

Decades later, those

same photos will make their way back to Brooklyn College’s papers.

“These photos were all packed away and something motivated me recently to just haul it all out and scan them,” he said. “Here it is.”



Photo Credit: Seth Lewin

BC Prof Ryan Murelli Receives \$1.5 Million Grant From NIH

By Gabriela Flores
Features Editor

For the next four years, Brooklyn College Chemistry Professor Ryan P. Murelli and his lab will receive \$1.54 million from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to carry out their novel studies on molecules called tropolones.

Though many organic chemists know of tropolones and their biological activity, developing them as therapeutics has been tough partly because they are challenging to make. But through the efforts of Murelli and his team, tropolones can be made more easily and effectively.

“Our research group is primarily a synthetic organic chemistry lab. So basically we study chemical reactions and then try to use those reactions to make valuable chemicals from something less valuable,” said Murelli. “We’re expanding the synthetic chemist tool belt, almost like architects or engineers. Instead of building buildings, we’re building molecules.”

Before Murelli’s research began at BC, knowledge on tropolone biological activity came mostly from tropolones found in nature. For instance, one natural product called β -thujaplicinol contained an α -hydroxytropolone, which inhibited an HIV enzymatic function known as Reverse Transcriptase Ribonuclease H that made it potentially valuable as a novel anti-HIV drug. This possibility led Murelli to take notice of the molecules.

“I grew up in the 80s when an HIV diagnosis was basically a death sentence. It wasn’t until maybe the mid-90s that other drugs started coming and people could start getting combination therapies - and HIV really became something that was manageable,” said Murelli. “So the idea of being able to contribute to the potential of an alternative drug for HIV was something that I thought

would be really cool, and ultimately made me aware of α -hydroxytropolones.”

However, the significant problem with β -thujaplicinol was that it was too toxic to be a good HIV treatment drug. While there are very few natural product tropolones, there is an infinite number of synthetic ones in a lab. Some synthetic tropolones may go well against desired targets, which might lead to fewer side effects once they are developed into therapeutics. By expanding the chemistry behind these synthetic tropolones, Murelli and his lab create the blueprints for new and better versions of the molecules.

“The goal is always getting our compounds to treat diseases at a very low concentration; basically, the less that you need to treat it, the better because that will decrease side effects,” said BC chemistry adjunct lecturer and doctoral student Alex Berkowitz, who is carrying out his PhD studies in the Murelli lab.

Funds from the NIH will help expand new synthetic methods to make tropolones, some of which were discovered by Murelli’s students. In one of his lab tests, for instance, Berkowitz made a serendipitous discovery by exposing one compound he made to the air. This exposure converted the chemical substance directly to a tropolone he was interested in creating, making the process shorter than he anticipated. Berkowitz’s unexpected finding was never discussed before in tropolone synthesis literature.

“It’s important that we develop different methods for making them [tropolones] and introduce different functionalities to them because they’re unpredictable. We don’t always know which specific addition is going to increase its potential as a drug, or its effectiveness as a drug,” said Berkowitz.

Murelli’s interest in therapeutic tropolones

initially began with HIV, but over time broadened to many other diseases, including hepatitis B virus, herpes simplex virus, and *Cryptococcus neoformans*, a deadly fungal pathogen that leads to meningitis. These studies are enabled by a vast network of collaborators like BC Chemistry Professor and computational molecular biophysics expert Emilio Gallicchio.

Gallicchio aids Murelli’s lab by creating computer simulations of how tropolones might interact with different targets. Combining technology with chemistry allows the researchers to make predictions about how these molecules will react against a specific disease or help explain their results. As discovered early on, however, the use of computer modeling has its limitations.

“It’s enormously challenging to use computers to predict how things are going to behave in a cell,” said Murelli. “It’s main value currently is to provide us with added information to try to explain trends we have already seen at a molecular level. If we ever do get to a point where it can be predictive, then it could be a complete game-changer for our drug-development efforts.”

The NIH grant will help to continue advancing these computational methods with Gallicchio and Stuart Le Grice, a key collaborator from the National Cancer Institute. Le Grice’s lab found that many of Murelli’s synthetic tropolones have activity against Kaposi’s sarcoma-associated herpesvirus, a cancer-causing virus common in untreated HIV-infected individuals. Computer modeling will help optimize molecules against this virus.

Often the challenges that arise from optimizing molecules for diseases are the mistakes committed in lab work. Whether it be a mathematical error



Professor Ryan Murelli./ Brooklyn College

or, in Berkowitz’s case, accidentally exposing a chemical to air, these flaws in research are inherent and useful. Serendipity in Murelli’s lab has built a substantial amount of knowledge on the nature of tropolones. However, with the nearly five-month closure of CUNY campuses, Murelli and his research team faced a new obstacle - learning to continue their studies remotely, without access to necessary equipment.

For Nana Agyemang, a third-year BC doctoral student, the pandemic halted his studies’ advancement to the next facet of investigation - animal testing. The Murelli lab’s collaborators at St. Louis University School of Medicine discovered a new class of molecules Agyemang had made that warranted studies in an animal model. To carry out those studies, they needed large amounts of the compound. Agyemang was in the process of fulfilling the task when CUNY closed in March.

“While we were making these molecules, when we heard about this pandemic, we had to literally stop what we were doing and stay home; which was safe for us,

but for the work, we don’t know now where we stand with the animal testing,” said Agyemang, who spoke to the Vanguard from City College’s reopened laboratory. “It takes years, data, and research, for anything to become a drug (...) I hope that someday, sometime, somebody will pick up a bottle of a tropolone drug that we helped give fundamental data to.”

Despite the setbacks brought upon Murelli’s research, he and his team continue their studies to aid their fellow scientists with drug development. In doing so, the lab contributes to the scientific community’s cumulative effort to expand knowledge and literature for future solutions.

“It’s always useful to be able to discover something new and expand upon that because we’re allowing the rest of the scientific community to learn that as well when we publish our reports,” said Lauren Bejcek, a fifth-year doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate Center. “The more information that’s out there that people can read and learn about, the more problems we’ll be able to solve collectively.”

BC's Made in Quarantine Film Festival Shows

Life During Virus

By Chaya Gurkov
Staff Writer

Although most of us probably won't be waving quarantine life away with tear-studded eyes and heavy hearts, a number of students in the Undergraduate Film Program wouldn't let those endless days be forgotten in our rush to get out of them. Whether it's a writer, singer, or filmmaker- an artist never lets a good story go to waste.

In a collection of short films dubbed the Made In Quarantine Showcase, undergraduate students from the schools Film Department documented life during the COVID-19 quarantine.

The 23 films, ranging from a minute to up to an hour, are an ode to the creative capabilities of the filmmakers who were relegated to finding a story within the square feet of their home. But as the saying goes, necessity is the mother of invention and creativity is its driving force.

The stories, while each unique in its perspectives, fall roughly into three distinct categories of overall feel and narrative. Click on the first film in the showcase, and a video dubbed "Closing In" will start playing on your screen. Deceivingly innocent at first, only a couple moments in you'll find yourself squashed alongside Derek in a shrinking room- a clear parable for the suffocating, anxiety-ridden life of one living through a pandemic.

Thus, the first archetype. Although some have more overtly negative underpinnings, this group is characterized by the lockdowns drawn-

out days of bleakness. In *Solita*, a minute long film by Valeria Lima, our protagonist glosses her lips and darkens her eyelashes with mascara for a date with her laptop and desk. She ticks off the days on her calendar monotonously and throws dirty clothes to an already full laundry basket. A need to find entertainment in things that would otherwise bore us seeps out of Johnny Chen's two minute film dedicated solely to images of various corners.

All these films are united not only in their pessimistic undertones but by a lack of color as well. The muted greys and blacks of these three films illustrate how the repetitious days of quarantine seem to drain one's day of its regular vivaciousness and color.

There's a wholly different tone to Julian Mejia's *Essence of Quarantine*. A soft operatic melody kicks off Julians slow-motioned waking activities and is abruptly cut when he is pulling up the shades in his room to let the light in or when he's miming the drum beat in Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight" as he waits for the water to boil for his coffee.

The angelic voice paired with the slo-mo is humorously intertwined with the video when Julian seems to uncover this unnatural backdrop creeping back in after short interludes where it's absent. Pouring the cereal into his bowl, shuffling cards- for Julian, a whole new dimension of enjoyment is added to these regular activities and one can't help but laugh at his giddy amusement.

Although the film ends with his parents questioning how much



Poster for "Made in Quarantine Showcase"/Brooklyn College website

more they can take of Julians antics (his voice is loud in the background exclaiming how cool everything is now that he's discovered this magical world of slow-motion opera movements) as the T.V. plays its grim coronavirus news in front of them, his movie portrays the second narrative grouping of positivity.

Most of the short films are repetitious in their content. The humour gives a cheerful vitality to Julian's video and sets it apart from the previous group's dulled tones. Joiizzy Dee's *Mask Off the New Norm* also incorporates music as an integral element beside the masked-up main character who ventures outside his home to shop in a local pharmacy and to get a haircut. Deliberately or not, the ironic use of Future's "Mask Off" as the background song picks up the video's mood.

Some of the pieces are stand alone stories and classified by their individual anecdotes. Creative stories like Chaya'le Akselrod's *Covid 19 Nights* depicts a one night stand turned relationship after lockdown keeps the couple in close proximity to one another, a close resemblance to the Max Nichols movie, *Two Night Stand*.

There's also a creative storyline to *Stuck by Monroy Jimenez*. One can't help but relate to the protagonist's procrastination as distractions from playing his trumpet to washing the dishes deflect him from completing his school paper. In the beginning of Frank Gallagher's *For Tiki*, a pep talk of becoming a long-awaited champion plays while we are taken through the main character's room and shown close-ups of his football paraphernalia.

We watch him grab his shoes, put on a headband and plant a kiss on a football poster with the words TIKI emboldened on it. We are abruptly dropped from that build up when the next shot shows a T.V. screen with a football game splashed across it. We don't get to see a live action sweaty football game go down during quarantine, but for a good moment this film had you thinking you would.

Whatever mood one is in, there are plenty of options to choose from in the 23 film quarantine showcase. These films not only portray the range of experiences during the four month 2020 quarantine but are significant in their documentation of an unprecedented time in modern history.

Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

BC Student Hosts Digital Rendition With MLB Stars

By John Schilling
Arts Editor

Harrison Sheckler, a Brooklyn College student pursuing a Masters in Piano Performance, started the Major League Baseball season off on the right note this past summer, with a virtual choir performance of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" featuring numerous baseball players, fans, and musicians.

According to a press release, nearly 200 musicians contributed their voices or instruments to the project, including many of Sheckler's Brooklyn College classmates. Jeffrey Biegel, Sheckler's Brooklyn College piano professor, is also featured in the performance.

"I love to collaborate with fellow musicians and artists," said Sheckler. "My two passions are baseball and music and to have an opportunity to combine those two is a dream come true."

The video was released just in time for Major League Baseball's Opening Day on July 23, after the season had been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Because we will have to cheer on our favorite baseball teams from the safety of our own homes this season, I wanted to create a fun and engaging video to help bring fans closer to the game," Sheckler said. "And what better way than to sing the 7th inning classic 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame'?"

The project began when Sheckler contacted former MLB pitcher Bronson Arroyo, who



"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" Virtual Choir:Orchestra featuring MLB Guests ...

29K views · 1 month ago



542



8



Share



Download



Save

"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" virtual choir video was posted to Harrison's YouTube channel and has gained about 30,000 views./ [YouTube/Harrison Sheckler's channel](#)

is also a musician and the namesake of his own band, with the idea. According to Sheckler, Arroyo "loved the idea" and was "instrumental" in recruiting many of the baseball players involved.

"Bronson Arroyo is amazing. He has an amazing resume and is extremely humble and gracious with his time," Sheckler said. "Unfortunately, I wasn't able to work with him in-person on this project... but I am very thankful to my audio engineers Armin Meyer and Grant Bayer who ran the studio session in Cincinnati with Bronson and Fox Sports Reds' announcer Jim Day to record their audio for

the video."

Among the many players that can be spotted in the video are Bret Saberhagen, Scooter Gennett, Jeff Frye, Jonny Gomes, and Ryan Dempster, who opens the video impersonating and cosplaying as Harry Caray, a famous baseball sportscaster. The performance also features ESPN baseball columnist, Jeff Passan, and former MLB umpire, Dale Scott.

The video continues with Bronson Arroyo leading the singing and Sheckler leading on piano. The rest of the players, fans, and musicians rotate in and out of the video as the song progresses. By the end, the video shows everyone

who participated in the project.

Since its release, the performance has been met with high praise and has gone on to amass over 30,000 views on YouTube.

"The video has been received positively by fans and music lovers all across the country," Sheckler said. "The MLB guests involved are also extremely excited about how it turned out and have been sharing it on their social media pages which is exciting!"

Prior to this project, Sheckler was responsible for a virtual choir performance of "You'll Never Walk Alone" from Rodger and

Hammerstein's Carousel.

The video not only featured 300 singers from fifteen countries but amassed over 1 million views and gained a significant amount of attention worldwide.

Going forward, Sheckler is eager to continue piano lessons with Professor Jeffrey Biegel at Brooklyn College and see what the fall semester has in store.

"I love to perform and hope to continue performing online and in-person for audiences of all ages," Sheckler said. "It's just a matter of time before my next big musical idea..."

Wakanda Forever

Actor Chadwick Boseman Dies At 43

By John Schilling
Arts Editor

Chadwick Boseman, the actor best known for his role as “Black Panther” in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, has died from stage IV colon cancer. He was 43 years old.

According to Boseman’s social media account, Boseman had been fighting the disease for four years, after receiving an initial diagnosis of stage III colon cancer in 2016. While receiving treatment and undergoing surgeries, Boseman remained an active presence in Hollywood by working on countless films.

Apart from his Black Panther fame, Chadwick Boseman was admired for his historical portrayals of Jackie Robinson in 42, James Brown in Get on Up, and Thurgood Marshall in Marshall.

The news of Boseman’s

passing came on the evening of Friday, August 28, as Major League Baseball hosted Jackie Robinson Day and all 30 teams took the field sporting Robinson’s iconic 42 on their backs.

“He was a brilliant actor and a dear friend,” Sharon Robinson, the daughter of Jackie Robinson, shared on Twitter. “We all loved Chad and will cherish our personal memories.”

“There aren’t words to express what an amazing human being Chadwick Boseman was,” said Josh Gad, his Marshall co-star, in an emotional Instagram Live. “Beyond just being Black Panther, Chadwick was T’Challa in real life. He was just somebody who gave and gave and gave.”

In total, Boseman appeared in four Marvel films as Black Panther with a sequel to his solo film of the same name in development for a 2022

release date, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Released in 2018, Black Panther took the world by storm, earning \$1.29 billion at the box office across the globe, according to The Hollywood Reporter. As a result, Boseman became a cultural icon and his portrayal of Black Panther earned him an MTV Movie Award for Best Performance.

Boseman’s last official Marvel credit will come posthumously in “What If...?” an animated series based on Marvel Comics that is scheduled to be released on Disney+ in summer 2021, according to Collider. Boseman is also set to appear posthumously as Levee in a film adaptation of August Wilson’s “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” which wrapped filming over a year ago and is still without an official release date.

“What a man, and what



Chadwick Boseman at the 2018 MTV Movie awards./ Times

an immense talent,” said Mark Ruffalo, his Marvel co-star, in a statement on Twitter. “Brother, you were one of the all time greats and your greatness was only beginning.”

Boseman is survived by his wife, Taylor Simone

Ledward, and the rest of his family who were beside him during his final moments, according to Boseman’s social media account.

Thank you for the memories, Chadwick. Rest in peace. Wakanda Forever. Chadwick Forever.

Magner Center Holds Digital Media & Arts Career Fair

By Michela Arlia
Staff Writer

As a new school year starts, students look for opportunities to expand their resumes. While job and internship positions are always coming and going, one issue that remains is how students are supposed to apply for positions in a world that is still mostly virtual.

On top of this issue, lies a concern how students in the arts and media departments can apply for positions, being that their areas of potential work have been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. On Thursday, Aug. 20, Brooklyn College’s Magner Career Center looked to answer all of these questions and more by hosting a mini job and internship fair geared towards the arts and media.

As part of “Hire BC month,” the Magner Center

offered fairs dedicated solely to hiring Brooklyn College students across all platforms and industries. The Media and Arts Fair was just one of the six virtual fairs scheduled throughout the month of August.

Hosted on Zoom, the event brought companies seeking employees from all mediums in the arts and entertainment industry to Brooklyn College students. Among the employers present were representatives from Ogilvy Advertising, TV Boy Production Services, Macmillan Publishers, Brooklyn Roads Magazine, Summatime LLC, and Broadway Artists Alliance of NYC.

“Each employer will have 5-10 minutes to present which will focus on their company culture, hiring needs, as well as what they feel makes a candidate stand out”, said a representative from the Magner Center

prior to the event, Following each presentation was a brief Q&A session from the students in the chat room, and the event culminated in employers collecting resumes through a Dropbox link as well as personal outreach.

The types of positions presented at the event ranged across all mediums, including publishing, music, theater and journalism. Representatives from Ogilvy and Broadway Artists Alliance of NYC presented multiple paid internship positions that included rotational programs over the course of nine months as well as arts-based education positions. Other employers from smaller businesses such as Brooklyn Roads Magazine and Summatime LLC presented positions available for content creators in the music industry, including both intern and full-time positions.

Most positions presented by employers were virtual for the semester, reflecting the events of the pandemic closing or temporarily stopping many in person operations.

“The Magner Career Center engaged employers, alumni and students through events tailored towards recruiting our students and making them standout applicants in the job search process!” said Michael Sarrao, the Assistant Director for Career and Employer Engagement and Liaison for the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts. “The Career Center engaged a total of 74 employers/ alumni with over 2,104 registered student/alumni attendees.”

Leading up to the fair, Sarrao and the Magner Center sent out multiple emails to registered guests advising them on how to prepare. Along with

researching employers and updating resumes, the emails emphasized open mindedness.

“Please don’t overlook a great opportunity: you may see that the organization is hiring for a particular role that you aren’t interested in, but this is the opportunity to learn more about it... these can be seen as possible stepping stone opportunities,” said Sarrao.

The Media and Arts Job/ Internship Fair presented by the Magner Center helped create professional connections for the hundreds of students in participation of the event, and brought many opportunities as a new semester of interning and other forms of work are being pursued.

The Magner Center plans to host more job, internship, and employer events throughout the Fall 2020 semester.

The Summer We'll Never Forget

By Moises Taveras
Managing Editor

Hey there reader, let's you and I make a classic summer pact: let's make this past summer the one we'll never forget. I can't neatly tuck the last few months away, and try as we might to make it disappear, I think it'd be a betrayal to let it slip from our collective memory.

At the beginning of the summer flick I'm cribbing this trope from, the friends usually form up and assert that they should make what's going to follow "the summer they'll never forget." It's a warm moment. When they express it, it's a signal to the audience to suspend their disbelief. Everything good that could possibly happen to these characters is going to come to pass -- what an innocent thought.

It's a sentiment that, while sweet, rings a smidge naive in the reality we exist in. Because while those characters get to act out their dreams come true, we've been in some unrelenting nightmare.

Generations of Americans have long had a series of defining events or traumas that shaped them. The Greatest Generation had WWII and the Great Depression, while baby boomers had the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, and Vietnam. Millennials had the war on Terrorism and recession of the 00s, and alongside zoomers, now share in the pain of this ongoing pandemic and never-ending social unrest brought on by increasing political polarization and the stoking of long-standing racial tensions.

This summer has been our defining trauma, this moment in time solidifying as the crux of what will drive us forward. If we were ever looking for the point of inflection in this generation's history, I'd say this is it. This is the one we



Police VS Protestors at a protest against George Floyd's murder./CNBC

can't ever let go of even if all we want to do is forget it.

At this point, I've heard every variation of that same old tune: 2020's been the worst. And while 2020 has reeked, the summer of 2020 has been a very specific hell. A virulent plague has continued tearing through the world, leaving hundreds of thousands dead, all of our structures and systems vulnerable, and the survivors of it sheltering for dear life or risking it for some sense of normalcy or even just an inkling of money.

Or maybe you went to a protest because unending police violence against black communities has stirred you to call for the reform or abolition of such institutions.

Perhaps us rapidly accelerating towards an election that has everyone positing that we're watching the deterioration of America has been a cause for concern.

And of course, whether you've been sheltered or not, it's probably been hard to ignore the fact that this planet is growing excessively warmer and dangerously inhospitable. 2020 has been outright miserable, the summer especially so, and there's still time on the clock...

This has all happened before, but never quite

like this. In our lifetimes alone, we've had numerous outbreaks and at least one recession before the one we presently face. In the summer of 2014, a lot of our generation was made starkly aware of the realities of police brutality and violence when Eric Garner was strangled here in New York and Michael Brown was gunned down in Ferguson. We've lived through uncharacteristically warm winters and some of the hottest summers ever. And as for the state of our nation...well, I'll simply gesture at the last few years.

The problems never cast a shadow this large. The wall didn't always look this insurmountable and the situations never seemed quite so dire. So yeah, for reasons entirely unlike the saccharine ones we put stock in early on, this has been an unforgettable summer. Or at least it should be.

The accompanying refrain that's become a siren song to many has been the call for 2020 to be over. People have reasonably bemoaned the horror the year's been, and yearned for the supposed release of 2021. And while I've engaged in these flights of fancy myself, the truth remains that forgetting and hoping distance will solve things only ensures that

none of the work to get out from under the conflicts threatening us gets done.

We're a wistful, forgetful bunch, but I urge you to fight that urge to take flight. Let's not forget the toll of the pandemic. Let's not forget the sacrifices we could've and should've made for our fellow man. Let's not forget how divided we were in our response.

Let's not forget the broken economy we're going to inherit. Let's definitely not let the police go unexamined and unbothered. Let's not just vote for someone who feels or sounds right. The era of our lives that will emerge from this is, and always will be, much different than what preceded it.

I long for normalcy as much as everyone, but we've got to think up and manifest something newer and bolder. It's incredibly likely there have been better times to remake the world we live in, but there's never been a more necessary time than now to act on it finally.

It's not news that the circumstances under which we all lead our lives needs drastic reevaluation and reform. And if it is news to you, you've had the privilege to turn a blind eye to it all. Structures and systems that have clearly failed a large portion of who they serve demand

change. Luckily for us, people around the world, though perhaps more specifically in our own backyard, have explicitly shown what change looks like.

When one of our presidential candidates says he's fighting for the soul of America, I can't help but think of the actual fights going on on the ground, spearheaded by folks who were all but forced to demand better. I think of communities that have come together and served their own interests because politicians and corporations have upheld institutions that threaten to tear them apart. I think about the power the average citizen didn't know they had until they had to brandish it like a weapon to survive. It's been a revolutionary summer.

I'm not here to tell you what to do but I am here to tell you change is in the air. This past summer probably wasn't what any of us wanted. Hell, the state of everything is the furthest from ideal it seems to have ever been. But that's why I'm urging you here and now to not let this be a footnote in our history. Don't forget what happened here and don't let what may come of this be forgotten either.

On The Record: The Killers, The Mirage

By Allison Rapp
Opinions Editor

As I write this inaugural piece to begin the fall semester, I've just finished the first day of classes. My back hurts from sitting at my desk for hours, I've drank more than enough coffee, and the last gasps of August heat are doing me no favors. It's unthinkable to me that this was, in effect, my very last first day of school for the considerable future, and here I am doing it from my tiny desk in my tiny Brooklyn apartment.

The best thing about this semester is that no one has been asking how our summers have been. They've all been terrible, we know that. In the beginning of the year, my summer plans would have likely included far more trips to the beach, far more afternoons in ice-cold museum air conditioning, and far more popsicles in the park. I had concert plans, travel plans, and what-the-hell-let's-get-drinks-in-the-east-village plans. Instead, I've executed the vast majority of my work from this tiny, cheap desk that I ordered from Amazon and assembled myself. I've made international calls and left dumb voicemails from a desk chair that I insisted on lugging back with me to Brooklyn from Buffalo. It's a small banker-style chair that my dad plucked from the curb one day, polished up, and became mine. I have horrific posture that this chair does not make any better, but I sit and write in it each and every day. I know it makes him happy to know the chair gets all the good use.

I cannot -- and likely will never -- believe that I spent three months living at home in Buffalo. Those of you who work hard to move out, who uproot nearly everything you're familiar

with, and land yourself in a new city miles and hours from most everyone you know will understand how bizarre it is to return home. I made a FaceTime call with someone while in my childhood bedroom and they asked to see my room. I had nothing to show. I joked that I felt like I was living in an Airbnb in my own house. When I moved out, I moved out.

But we all felt the frustration of existing in a space that we had no plans to exist in for so many weeks at a time. Before I moved back, I took long drives in my mother's station wagon -- along the river, up to Niagara Falls, as close to Canada as I could possibly get without violating international law -- anything to feel like I was existing somewhere else, at least for a little while. At the time, The Killers had just put out a single, "Caution." I listened once and hated it. Too much pop, not enough grit.

Then I took a drive and listened to it again.

With the windows rolled down and the breeze whipping through the car, suddenly Brandon Flowers was telling me exactly what I needed to hear about throwing caution to the wind and leaving the past behind.

"If I don't get out / Out of this town / I just might be the one who finally burns it down."

Lindsey Buckingham's guitar solo rips through the track like it cares about nothing and no one. I ripped down the road along the Niagara River heading absolutely nowhere, volume up to eleven, forgetting for a moment why I was there in Buffalo in the first place. I had forgotten how good it felt to hit the open road and think about only the scenery and the song.

The newest record from The Killers, *Imploding*



the *Mirage*, can only really be described as quintessentially, well, them. Brandon Flowers and the band have offered a level of consistently good music for 20 some years now, and they're hardly about to quit.

"I felt eighty-sixed," Flowers sings on "Fire in Bone," a supremely Talking Heads-esque track, minus Byrne's self-absorption. I laughed, thinking about the many hours I spent pouring over restaurant tables at the Sicilian place I worked at through high school, where we'd yell in the kitchen about which items were "eighty-sixed" for the night. Three months of driving around home was like a crash course in every venue I used to rock around in as a teenager.

I've always found the genius and beauty of The Killers is in their unusual ability to write about the fear, hope, and heartbreak of young people trying -- for the love of god -- to find something new on the horizon. The Killers do something that artists like

Tom Petty or Bob Dylan have done. Often using a young woman as a central character, they don't simply write about her as an object, but as someone both deeply vulnerable and flawed, but also restless, soulful, and passionate -- eager to go anywhere beyond the desert or her little hometown. There are big dreams to dream, big promises to fill. On "Blowback," Flowers writes about that broken but unbridled woman.

"And she knows where she comes from / doesn't need you dragging her all through it again / but she's gonna break out, boy, you'd better know that, it's just a matter of time."

There's a resiliency to the record as a whole.

"In the light, in the heat, through the folds, and the bends. And again, and again, and again," he sings on "When the Dreams Run Dry," using a melody that echoes one from 80s country supergroup, The Highwaymen. The Killers have come back again.

A few weeks ago, my

younger sister passed her driving test, a milestone if ever there was one in a town where you can't visit too many places without a car.

"Blasting 'Caution' while driving alone on a nice day is great," she texted me. Yes, it is, isn't it. Many weeks after I drove like that myself, it's good to know that the track is still blasting on the streets of Buffalo -- the town I moved out of and didn't finally burn to the ground. Now I blast it here in my headphones within my tiny apartment walls, though nothing about it feels trapping.

"Cause it's some kind of sin / To live your whole life / On a might've been / I'm ready now."

COVID 1, CUNYAC 0

Athletes Lose Fall Season To COVID

By Conrad Hoyt
Sports Editor

On July, 21, 2020, the City University of New York Athletic Conference and member Athletic Directors decided to cancel all fall 2020 sports. Amidst the ongoing pandemic, officials made the decision that it was not safe to hold intercollegiate competition.

“While we do not have a concrete timeline, the CUNYAC with the directors of athletics decided to postpone all fall sports practices and competition. We especially feel for our student-athletes, as we know how much hard work and dedication is involved in being an NCAA Division III student-athlete, and how much the season means to them,” said Bruce Filosa, Director of Athletics at Brooklyn College in a statement to the Vanguard.

For many students, their respective sport offers not just an extracurricular activity. It helps out with their academics too.

Men’s Tennis Captain Rohan Mathur told The Vanguard in February, “Tennis makes studying a lot easier for me because

it forces me to manage my time around practices and matches and avoid procrastination.”

Now, there is a large void left behind by the absence of a regular fall season. Student-athletes in search of a safe haven no longer have the luxury of relieving their stress on a court or field. For freshmen excited to compete on campus and beyond, the absence of sports has proved a harrowing lesson that college is not what they thought it would be.

For upper-classmen, the lack of sports represents a changed and unknown landscape. With no certainty on their return, many wonder if once sports do return, they will even be the same.

“The fact that the season was canceled was upsetting. I was looking forward to playing my senior year for BC. We had high hopes for this season, but due to circumstances it all went downhill,” said Miguel De Anda, starting fullback for the Men’s Soccer team.

“Hopefully the season will continue in the Spring and [we] hope for greatness.”

Kimani Laylor, defensive teammate of De Anda,



Brooklyn College team playing basketball pre-COVID. / BrooklynCollegeAthletics.com

told the Vanguard, “As a student-athlete heading into my junior year, I was truly looking forward to making an impact this upcoming season with my fellow teammates.”

Sports are not necessarily seasonal, even if their calendar of games says as much. The work that goes into the offseason--relentless training, working out to get better, building chemistry with teammates--sadly seems it was all for naught.

“During the offseason we stayed working, building our chemistry. We were hungry to win the chip this year. Unfortunately the season has been

canceled so that won’t be happening, but there is hope that we may have a Spring season. And if so we will be ready to go,” Laylor concluded.

The uncertainty surrounding the future is harrowing and makes daily tasks difficult. How can one plan for the future when they are unsure of what that future will even look like?

Players trained in the spring and summer for this season. And now that it’s cancelled, they have to stay fit, agile, and ready for whenever an announcement will be made on the upcoming

seasons and semesters.

In regards to playing in the spring, Filosa said, “We will explore the possibility of moving Fall sports seasons to the Spring and other creative ways to try and give opportunities to our student-athletes, but we must be mindful of the uncertainty of our time and that our primary concern will be the health and safety of everyone.”

Sports offer an escape for so many individuals. For Brooklyn College athletes, that escape, at least in an official school capacity, will have to wait.

Vinny The Goat

by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni



Sports World Strikes For Black Lives

By Carlos Daniel
Martinez
Staff Writer

Last week, across the sports world, athletes refused to play or practice in an unprecedented display of unity, protesting the death of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin and in the name of Black Lives Matter.

The league's decision to stop and reschedule its games came when the Milwaukee Bucks decided not to step onto the court last Wednesday after the shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

After seeing the solidarity from the Bucks, the rest of the league's players rapidly followed their example, with many star athletes and coaches raising their voices for an end to racial injustice and systemic racism in this country.

LeBron James, one of the biggest names inside and outside of sports, showed support for Milwaukee and the other teams playing inside the Orlando bubble.

"We as a league and we as players are stronger than separate," he said, later adding, "It's about being able to shed light on things that are going on around America, things that are going on around the world, to be able to have this platform, the NBA's platform, and we're together."

L.A. Clippers coach Doc Rivers gave a moving message at his post-game press conference.



Miami Marlins and New York Mets players leave BLM shirt on home plate in protest./ Associated Press

"It's amazing, why we keep loving this country, and this country does not love us back. It's really so sad . . . We got to do better. We got to demand better," said Rivers.

Around the sports world, other athletes have also taken a stand in support of the movement.

Despite the NFL season not starting until September 10, teams and players stopped taking practices on the field to drive their attention to what is more important than sports.

One noteworthy example was the Pittsburgh Steelers, who did take to the field on Friday but not without showing a sign of unity by having its players, trainers, along with Steelers' president Art Rooney II and general manager Kevin Colbert, linking in arms in a circle on the fifty-yard line of Heinz Field.

Head coach Mike Tomlin gave a speech in which he said, "We are committed to taking action and being a part of the solution to face social injustice and prejudice that we all face, not only in our country, but worldwide. It is our desire to be active participants in the formation of a more perfect union."

The NHL also postponed its Thursday and Friday Stanley Cup Playoff games in protest against police brutality. Despite getting criticism for not stopping the playoffs on Wednesday, after pressure by players, the NHL went forward in standing in solidarity with its players' opinions.

In a large press conference, several NHL players answered questions by reporters. Most notably Las Vegas Golden Knight's Ryan Reaves, who is Black, felt the support by players

in his league who were white.

"If you look around this room, there's a lot of white athletes in here. And I think that's the statement that is being made right now . . . All these athletes in here, to take a stand and say, 'You know what? We see the problem too, and we stand behind you.' I go to war with these guys and I hate their guts on the ice, but I couldn't be more proud of these guys. The statement that they've made today is something that's going to last."

In the MLB, the Milwaukee Brewers and Cincinnati Reds refused to play in the middle of their four-game series for a moment to reflect on what's going on in the country.

Closer to home, the New York Mets made their opinions heard too by deciding not to play their Thursday game against the Miami

Marlins in Citi Field. In show of unity, both teams took the field as if they were going to play, then took a 42 second moment of silence, for Jackie Robinson's famous number, then saluted each other with a tip of their caps and left the field, leaving behind a Black Lives Matter shirt draped over home plate.

Mets outfielder Dominic Smith, a day before he joined his teammates in standing with them in silence and solidarity, spoke out during a press conference about the Jacob Blake shooting.

"I think the most difficult part is to see people still don't care. For this to just continuously happen, it just shows just the hate in people's hearts. That just sucks. Being a Black Man in America is not easy."