SPECTATOR SPECTACLE

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Photo Edited by Dylan Kaufman
CUNY Board Of Trustees Approve Refunds For Unverified Students

By Matt Hirsch
News Editor

The CUNY Board of Trustees met on Monday, Oct. 25 to approve refunds for students that did not submit their vaccine verification and are administratively withdrawn from person and hybrid courses after failing to comply with vaccine mandates.

The Board of Trustees approved to fully reimburse out-of-pocket tuition payments for withdrawn students as a last-minute addition to its agenda for Monday's meeting. Additional details for the refund will be available soon, according to CUNY's official website.

These refunds come in the midst of controversy surrounding the vaccine mandate. Recently, a petition emerged from Queens College for CUNY to amend its withdrawal policies to accommodate a case-by-case basis. And last week the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) approved funds to seek legal counsel to potentially sue CUNY, pending the decision to refund academically withdrawn students.

Tough USG President Aharon Grama previously noted to The Vanguard, “there’s no reason to go to a prolonged war with the administration if it’s not needed.”

976 vaccine verification were approved from Oct. 3 to Oct. 7 at Brooklyn College, just before the deadline, according to BC Media Relations Manager Richard Pietras. Despite CUNY policy calling for withdrawals after Oct. 8, no unverified students have been withdrawn from classes at Brooklyn College.

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“To date, no student have been withdrawn from classes,” said Pietras in a statement to The Vanguard. “Brooklyn College continues to advocate for students who are in process of meeting the mandate and urges everyone to continue to submit their verification records.”

Four People Shot Near Campus

By Matt Hirsch
News Editor

Four people were shot on Glenwood Road and Nostrand Avenue last Tuesday, blocks from Whitman Hall, according to Detective Muniz of the Deputy Commissioner’s Office of the New York City Police Department.

Tough most students are still remote, there is concern among the Brooklyn College community.

“I haven’t been to campus post-COVID, but if I were to go I would probably be more nervous going towards the Flatbush side where it happened,” BC student Rayna Pajares-Held told The Vanguard, referring to the shooting. “I feel safe on campus because of the security and I’ve never had issues, but of course I’m going to be more on high alert.”

Shooting incidents are down 52 percent compared to last year from 25 to 12 cases in the 70th precinct, where Brooklyn College is located, according to NYPD CompStat. However, Glenwood Road and Nostrand Avenue borders the 67th precinct, where 44 shootings have already occurred in 2021.
BC’s Conflicting Audience Policies Raise Concern

By Matt Hirsch & Gabriela Flores
News Editor & Editor-in-Chief
Reporting assistance by Michela Arlia
Arts Editor

As the fall semester began, some Brooklyn College students, faculty, and staff were allowed on campus at the Theater Department and Conservatory, but not for Athletics events. COVID-protocols enforced by the university, such as maintaining six feet of social distancing, have led to the difference in audience policies.

The policies have been largely effective so far, with only 16 confirmed COVID cases at BC out of 4,400 tested this semester, according to CUNY's official website. Eight test results came from non-CUNY testing sites.

“The priority of the college is to ensure a safe environment for audiences and spectators at all of its events,” wrote Richard Pietras, Brooklyn College’s Media Relations Manager, in a statement to The Vanguard.

Audiences attending the Theater Department’s performances must be vaccinated, book tickets 24 hours before showtime, and complete a health questionnaire the day of the show. Performing artists and staff are required to be vaccinated as well, per BC Theater’s patron safety policy. Once Brooklyn College confirms a prospective audience member’s information, they can pick up their ticket at will call and show proof of vaccination through their BC Navigator’s green key or a CUNY Cleared4 Access Pass.

In the theater, audience members are seated six feet apart wearing masks. "I think these precautions were the right call. I think having a plan with a lot of details is useful because it gives very specific guidelines to follow,” said Stephanie Beckman, a junior in the BFA Tech and Design program.

However, in contrast to the Theater Department, the Conservatory of Music at BC was set to perform in front of audiences earlier this month but received a last-minute notice that there would be no spectators.

“I understand some things happen from time to time as an inconvenience. But this was a very big blow to the morale of the students,” said Allan Randall, a post-grad Music Performance student at BC. “I have heard people say, ‘Then what is the point of this concert?’”

Though, limited audiences are expected to be allowed soon, according to Concert Office Coordinator Bim Strasberg.

A no-spectator policy is in place for Athletics at the college and some other CUNY campuses like Baruch.

“For sporting events, assigned seating and working with the general public is much more difficult to manage. Therefore, at this time, the college is not allowing spectators at games—similar to other CUNY campuses—while working to develop a system to allow for the safe return of fans in the near future,” Pietras wrote.

Some Brooklyn College students opine that frustrations against these ongoing differences in audience policies and cancelations are bound to happen.

“I think everyone should have an audience, or no one should,” said Beckman. "It’s unfair for one department to be able to do live performances with an audience while another is not. Also, the whole point of having a live performance is to have a live audience.”

As the college opens its doors to limited theater attendance, athletics retain a staunch no-spectator policy. /Edited by Dylan
USG Co-Prez Aharon Grama Running For USS Chair

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

As the University Student Senate’s (USS) newly-elected officers assume their roles on Monday, Oct. 25, Brooklyn College’s USG Co-President Aharon Grama continues to run for the unfilled chairperson position after slightly leading three rounds of voting.

If elected, Grama intends to institute structural changes in how USS organizes and functions, incentivize student leaders to attend committee meetings, modify bylaws, among other plans.

“I think it [USS] could be better and that’s why I decided, ‘Hey, someone needs to go inside over there, shake things up, and make sure that the body will actually operate like it’s supposed to do and meant to do. And not what has been going the past few years,” Grama, who served as the body’s Vice Chair of Technology Fee Affairs, only one of three Delegates, or student representatives sent university-wide, to reach the CUNY Vice-Chancellor for Technology about the ongoing phishing emails sent university-wide.

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Grama said, explaining that currently most committee meetings are canceled since not enough Delegates appear. Under his committee-centered around technology affairs, only one of three representatives usually attended. “If we address that, then finally we’ll have a body that can do stuff,” he said.

Grama also aims to have USS leaders, despite their title, be considered representatives of the body holistically by administrators when presenting their suggestions or concerns of student issues. After his various attempts to reach the CUNY Vice-Chancellor for Technology about the ongoing phishing emails sent university-wide, for instance, Grama’s suggestions and calls to address the cyberattacks were ignored because they were seen as his own opinion rather than that of USS.

“We have students who send their money to these scammers, and we have nothing to not only help them with resources, but we have nothing to stop it,” Grama said.

As the USS Steering Committee decides when the election for chairperson will continue, the position will be temporarily held by the newly-elected Vice Chair for Legislative Affairs, Cory Provost.

Grama is currently in the lead by five votes against candidate Salimatou Doumbouya.

“I was really happy with the results even if I was in the lead by a little bit because I knew it would be a challenge, and I knew that people might disagree with what I’m saying,” he said. “[...] Sometimes, someone needs to step up. Criticize whatever is wrong with the college, whatever is wrong with the body.”
By John Schilling
Managing Editor

Colin Powell, the four-star general and first Black U.S. Secretary of State, died on Monday, Oct. 18 at the age of 84. Despite being fully vaccinated, Powell died due to complications from COVID-19, according to Powell's family who announced his passing on Facebook.

Powell also suffered from multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer found in the plasma cells that can compromise immunity, according to CNN.

He was a first-generation American born in Harlem in 1937, beginning his military career with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at the City University of New York (CUNY), where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology in 1958.

"The City University of New York mourns the loss of Colin L. Powell, a true American hero who began his lifelong mission of service to his nation here at The City College of New York," CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez released in a statement. "Powell will be remembered as a soldier, a general, a statesman and a pioneer who broke racial barriers wherever he went throughout his distinguished and historic career."

After his time at CUNY, Colin Powell rose to national recognition after serving in Vietnam as an advisor to the South Vietnamese Army from 1962 to 1963, and as a major from 1968 until his return to the United States in 1971.

From 1987 to 1989, Powell served under President Ronald Reagan as the 16th United States National Security Advisor. In this role, Powell is credited with negotiating arms treaties with the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War, according to the New York Times.

Soon after, Powell was selected to be the 12th United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President George H.W. Bush. In his position, Powell juggled over two dozen incidents, including an effort to remove General Manuel Noriega from power during the invasion of Panama in 1989 and "the Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations in Iraq" during the Persian Gulf War in 1991, reported History.com.

His efforts resulted in what became dubbed as the "Powell Doctrine" in which he advocated for "overwhelming force" in military operations to prevent as many casualties as possible. "Our strategy to go after this army is very, very simple," Powell told reporters in 1991, at the start of the Gulf War. "First, we're going to cut it off, and then, we're going to kill it."

Powell's strategy proved to be successful as the coalition led by the U.S. emerged victorious from the Gulf War, and Powell's reputation rose to high prominence as he considered running for president in the mid-1990s and early 2000s.

His legacy, however, would be called into question when he was appointed Secretary of State by President George W. Bush in 2001 and went on to build a case for the 2003 invasion of Iraq, which stirred controversy when Powell used evidence disputed by a 2004 Iraq Survey Group report that falsely asserted that the Iraqi government had weapons of mass destruction.

Powell later looked back on his advocacy of the Iraq War and referred to it as a "blot" on his record, according to the New York Times. Despite this, former President Bush had nothing but praise to offer Powell upon the news of his passing.

"He was a great public servant, starting with his time as a soldier during Vietnam. Many Presidents relied on General Powell's counsel and experience," the former president released in a statement. "He was highly respected at home and abroad. And most important, Colin was a family man and a friend."

While some may remember Powell for his military accomplishments and national reputation, Powell's legacy lives on through City Colleges of New York Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, which was established in 2013 and transformed from the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies that he had founded at CUNY in 1997.

According to Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, the school is committed to "developing the next generation of civic-minded leaders committed to public service and rooted in the social sciences," and now more than ever, it bears the responsibility of forming leaders like Powell.

"Speaking two and a half weeks ago with his daughter Linda Powell, a member of the school's Board of Visitors, he reiterated the great pride he derived from his origins and upbringing, including the many lessons he learned at CUNY," Matos Rodríguez continued in his statement. "General Powell's devotion to the nation, and the history-making roles he played in shaping foreign policy during the last 40 years, will always be remembered and celebrated, as will his devotion to public service and to the students of the City University of New York."
How Social Media Affects Mental Health

By Serin Sarsour
Features Editor

Recently, two former Facebook employees, Frances Haugen and Sophie Zhang, have come out with stories accusing Facebook of being detrimental to the mental health and body image of its users. Many psychology students at Brooklyn College thought that their decision to blow the whistle on Facebook was reasonable.

“I believe that it is important for social media users to be informed and aware of all the things that come with using it, such as body image issues and other influences it can have on mental health,” said BC sophomore Samaa Hussein.

Haugen claimed that Facebook was aware that its platform negatively affects the way teenage girls view themselves, and the company refused to edit its software to prevent hate speech and other harms to its users, according to The Washington Post.

“We constantly are being exposed to standards of living that don’t seem attainable. There could be money, materialistic things, and beauty standards,” said Alexandria Morales, a BC sophomore. She explained that these implications make young adults feel as though they are not good enough to meet impossibly high standards. As a result, Morales concluded that Facebook and other social media apps negatively affect people’s mental health, making many feel depressed and insecure.

For Eliana De Sa, a BC third-year student, these tools that social media can have on youth remind her of an animated movie she watched with her brother called “Ron’s Gone Wrong.”

“[...] Little kids were trying so hard to be liked and loved by gaining followers and likes that they were willing to do anything. And when they didn't obtain that result in numbers and likes and followers, they themselves would feel like failures,” De Sa said, describing the parallels the film has to the feeling of not being enough that young people arguably know all too well.

To BC sophomore Reann Satyabhashak, some content creators and social media influencers should also be held responsible for harming young people's mental health and body image. “I don't know if it's anything the app itself can do, but the people who put out negative body images and portray an unhealthy and unnatural way to look should definitely take into consideration the effects it will have on people, especially younger people,” said Satyabhashak.

The whistleblowers also reported that Facebook prioritizes its profits over its users. The company continues to make money off of teen girls’ insecurities rather than combat the hate speech, false information, and unrealistic standards the app possesses and displays, they explained.

“People want to look like the models they see on social media, but what people don’t realize is how much editing, photoshopping, and face tuning goes into creating the perfect picture for people to put on social media. It is not always natural,” Satyabhashak said.

De Sa believes that people should not wait or rely on Facebook to make changes to reduce its harm to people’s mental health and body image because that may not happen any time soon. She believes that people should take matters into their own hands.

“I definitely believe it’s just a matter of awareness and showing prevention methods. Like in one of my psych classes, we were talking about apps that help with anxiety and depression and help cope with it. And it's important to also speak to therapists and professionals,” said De Sa.

De Sa believes that Facebook still has a lot of work to do and should shed light on the negative impact social media has on people. “I think when they put aside the profits and they start focusing on people's health and viewing people, not as numbers or ways to profit, but people with real lives, then they can start implementing resources that will help individuals... such as warnings and time limits,” De Sa explained.
BC Welcomes Dr. Lisa Lowe, New Hess Scholar-In-Residence

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

To open their week-long series with Brooklyn Colleges new Hess Scholar-In-Residence Dr. Lisa Lowe, the Ethlyn J. Wolfe Institute, hosted Lowe and other panelists on Monday, Oct. 25 to discuss the global and local experiences of Asians and Asian Americans. Lowe, the Samuel Knight Professor of English at Yale University, is the first Asian American to be a Hess Scholar, with her appointment coming in the midst of BCs efforts to formalize an Asian American studies program on campus.

Hess Scholars are appointed each year to leaders and academics who have immense knowledge in their respective fields, enabling Brooklyn College students and others to learn from their studies, experiences, and perspectives.

From the racial violence that Asian immigrants faced in Southern Brooklyn between the 80s and 90s, to the displacement of indigenous Lenape, who were incarcerated in World War II. 

Dr. Lisa Lowe is the 16th recipient to serve as BCs Hess Scholar-In-Residence.

For the Chinese-speaking community, contextualized different segments of history. Tough before delving into their discussion, the Wolfe Institute invited indigenous activist and long-life New Yorker George Stonesh to give a land acknowledgment.

Growing up, Stonesh shared how he felt like an "unknown quantity," asking those around him about his indigenous identity and being met with answers that didn't put his questions to rest. Nonetheless, despite being raised in the Upper East Side, his grandparents showed him the way of the Lenape, whom were the original inhabitants of New York and other areas. One of the many teachings Stonesh loves ones imparted to him was the significance of prayer, a decision that he says was taught by his indigenous ancestors to European explorers and colonists.

However, what distinguishes Lenape and indigenous prayer from others is one important aspect: no prayer asks for anything from "the Creator." 

"If you do what is right by maintaining respect for yourself, your nuclear family, your clan, your nation, your confederacy, and those people around you, you don't need to ask for anything because it will come to you, and it will come to you in a devotional that he says was imparted to him was teachings Stonefish's loved ones. One of the many areas. One of the many in New York and other campuses. "In closing, we know that violence against Asian Americans is not new, and neither are community organizing efforts in response," said Dr. Wong.

"The examples in Southern Brooklyn show how policing of violence that Asian Americans have faced and in the 1980s and 1990s." Following Truong's synopsis, Brooklyn-based Professor Zohra Saed shared an in-depth food history and her family's experiences, delving into Central and Southeast Asian histories. Hess Scholar Lowe continued, detailing her findings of the earlier histories of Asian immigration to the United States from the 19th century that resonate with Asian Americans today in Brooklyn. Lowe drew connections from Truong's discussion of local anti-Asian targeting and global anti-Asian violence, such as the wars launched against the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam by US forces.

"East Asians were only one of the many groups who have been racialized as non-white and then suspected to be wartime, racial enemies," Lowe said, noting that Arab Muslims, South Asians, and Central Asians have also faced discrimination. "If ever 9/11 can be said to resemble this earlier treatment of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in World War II." Lowe explained how this ongoing violence translates to today's ongoing anti-Asian violence during the pandemic.

"(...) The stereotype of Asians as diseased isn't new either. Long before Trump called COVID the 'Chinese virus,' there was a colonial history of Asians being constructed as diseased," Lowe said, citing how China was called "the sick man of Asia" post-opium wars.

In closing, Lowe described her contributions of implementing Asian American Studies as a graduate, dating back to her days at the University of California San Diego in the 80s. Tough now Asian American Studies are present on all University of California campuses and California State campuses, she was surprised when she moved to the Northeast and saw that of sorts for its implementation were sparse.

"I was very heartened to hear from President Anderson this morning that Brooklyn College is taking steps to have a curriculum in Asian, American history, literature, and culture," Lowe said.
By Alexandria Woolfe  
Staff Writer

On Friday, Oct. 15, the Brooklyn College Theater Department kicked off of the 2021-22 production season with Bess Wohl’s “Small Mouth Sounds,” the first production with an in-person audience since the campus reopened this fall.

The play tells the story of six people on a mission to explore something within themselves amidst an occasionally uncomfortable silent retreat.

As you meet the group members, you make first assumptions, only to throw it all away by the end of the play. The characters are introduced one by one, starting with Jan (Eric Smith), who doesn’t appear to be more than meets the eye. He’s a quiet, well-dressed man who takes the silent oath of the retreat seriously.

You then meet Rodney (Kevin Herrera), who appears to be in his element, knows how to meditate, and immediately makes first assumptions, only to throw it all away by the end of the play. The characters are introduced one by one, starting with Jan (Eric Smith), who doesn’t appear to be more than meets the eye. He’s a quiet, well-dressed man who takes the silent oath of the retreat seriously.

The next two characters begin though. He does seem eager to sure of what to expect once the retreat begins. 

As you meet the characters solely through facial and body expressions. Most of the play is performed in silence, and while there are a few lines of dialogue, the strength in silence for the whole retreat is beautiful. As they say, silence speaks volumes.

While it isn’t explicitly stated what the retreat’s purpose is, you can see that each character is in fact working toward a better version of themselves.

With “Small Mouth Sounds” being the first production BC has put on since the campus shutdown in March 2020, the buzz and excitement clearly filled the air as audience members were well received. Laughter and excitement was felt by everyone, but especially by director Ann Noling.

“Directing the first show back was challenging,” Noling told The Vanguard.

“We were all discovering new challenges and figuring out the new procedures as we went.”

Speaking on COVID restrictions for cast and crew during the rehearsal process, Noling also said there was an uplifting tone in the air.

“Tere was also excitement around our production because it was the first one to be back in person, which added to the joy when it finally all came together,” added Noling.

She later expressed some of the hardships she faced opening the production season amidst COVID restrictions and guidelines.

“It was certainly challenging to rehearse and have an audience with the new safety guidelines, but we made it work, and you get used to the restrictions,” said Noling. “Tere was a cutout audience in terms of the themes and topics shown, or rather expressed silently through the character’s movements. Noling even saw the play in a new light as opening day drew closer.

“At the time, I was attracted to it because I thought it would be a good but achievable challenge for all the students involved,” Noling said. “Te story had an extremely relatable aspect in terms of the themes and topics shown, or rather expressed silently through the character’s movements. Noling even saw the play in a new light as opening day drew closer.

“T is fall, when we returned to the play, however, I had a new appreciation for the story itself. It is a play about lonely grieving people who come together and find comfort and peace through learning to sit with each other in their pain,” she said, noting how she believes the play speaks to today more than ever.

“It is a very appropriate story for this moment, after so many months alone in isolation and after so much loss and grief, and at a time when we are all learning to share space in person together again.”

Noling is very proud of what she, the rest of the crew, and cast have come up with despite the trouble of the pandemic.

“For most of us, this is also our last show as students at Brooklyn College—most of our team graduated during the pandemic,” said Noling. “So this show was an opportunity to get closure to our time in graduate school and to work together one last time.”
School Of Visual, Media And Performing Arts Hosts Virtual Open Houses

By Aliyah Jacobson
Staff Writer

Throughout this week, Brooklyn College is hosting a series of open houses every night for graduate school programs in the arts, hoping to encourage and entice students to enroll for the fall 2022 semester.

The open houses included multiple graduate programs like Media Studies, Musicology, Music Performance, Music Composition, Performing Arts Management, and the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. To kick off the week, Music Composition held its open house on Monday, Oct. 25.

Featuring Conservatory of Music Head Alexandra Lewis and Undergraduate Deputy Director of the Music Concentration, Douglas Cohen, the event attracted a small audience of two, one of which being myself, who is graduating from the undergraduate Music Concentration program next spring.

As the meeting ran short due to the lack of student turnout, both Lewis and Cohen were left to debate how they were going to spend the hour that they had scheduled to be there. The department heads spoke about their hopes that Brooklyn College will fully reopen in the spring, which arguably would be a dream for many students. One prospective graduate student even reflected that it is hard for them to learn online, especially in the arts.

Although the music department is operating mostly in person, they are not allowing students to attend the conservatory’s performances. This serves as a challenge for those who want to support friends, hear music live again, and hope to boost the morale of fellow students who are struggling to perform for empty theaters.

Lewis and Cohen also spoke about the master’s program which is designed to be manageable and completed in two years even if you are working. Brooklyn College’s Music Graduate program, they mentioned, also features theorists from around the world, and professors from CUNY to Yale who offer the best of every program. Options for students wishing to apply for this graduate program are voice performance, choral singing and conducting.

For voice, BC has Professor Ursula Oppens, who not only teaches piano at the graduate level but pushes students to the best of their strengths and makes it enjoyable for all.

Choral singing and conducting led by Professor Malcolm Merriweather, who directs the symphonic choir and conservatory singers, pushes graduate singers by providing private teachers to broaden their range, allowing them to practice on their own, and be the best performance artists they can be. With students from around the world, Merriweather brings out the best in all of them so that they graduate with more knowledge than they came in with.

The graduate center hopes that with their multiple virtual open houses, they can still attract talented students and that the college will be thriving and fully in-person come spring.
Deep Dive: Romanticization Of Male Murderers And Portrayal Of Women In “You”

By Melissa Morales

Staff Writer

When Netflix’s “You” was first released in 2018, it immediately became one of the most popular and trending shows in the media. The series follows protagonist Joe Goldberg who has a habit of becoming obsessed with the women he meets. He stalks them and finds ways to get close to them - even if that means killing people that pose a threat to his conquests. Eventually, when Joe finds out that the women themselves know he is obsessed with them, he usually ends up killing them too.

The show is jam-packed with twists and turns that take viewers on a wild ride. It’s mysterious, dark, and compelling, but what it also does is play into two very important topics in the entertainment industry: the romanticization of male murderers and the portrayal of women characters.

Penn Badgley, who plays Joe Goldberg, is extremely talented when it comes to playing versatile roles throughout his acting career. He is also handsome, but when looking at his character Joe, sometimes that notion of handsomeness quickly falls deeper into social media’s current trend of romanticizing and even idolizing many male murderers, abusers, and assassins in films and TV shows.

It’s not just the “good looks” of these characters, but also their charm entwined with the darkness deemed “attractive” of their persona that concocts this romanticization of violent men in the media, that in turns excuses or dismisses their behavior and actions. Badgley reflected on the romanticization of Joe during an interview with Stephen Colbert back in 2020, saying it revealed how much viewers can “be patient and forgive someone who has a body like mine, color, gender, skin and privileges.”

Moreover, casting decisions may also have an impact on how viewers idealize certain personas. Many showrunners tout the notion of westernization by highlighting “dominant” white male characters, which can arguably translate to what some women in the real world may find attractive. Casting predominately white, attractive, and young actors for these “killer roles” adds to this glamourization and may lead viewers to fetishize abusive male characters. Consequently, large fan bases may form, fantasizing and idolizing these fictional violent men without questioning their morals and only looking at their appearance.

With “You,” it’s almost ironic that the majority of people romanticizing these male killers are women because the murderous protagonists they are romanticizing are abusing, victimizing, and killing women. It is brings up a very interesting perception of how “You” in particular portrays women through two different lenses.

On one hand of the spectrum, the show focuses on the mindset of an obsessive male murderer and the complex thought process behind his strageties. It also specifically and explicitly reveals the particular women he tends to obsess over and victimize, which are not only victims of his abuse, but also victims of an old construed perception of women in the media.

On the other hand, however, not all of Joe’s victims fall into this category. Many of them dismantle the “traditional, submissive” role, despite some still becoming romantically involved with him at one point or another. Karen M atny from season 1, for example, doesn’t depend on Joe. She knows herself and is actually the one who initiates the relationship with him without getting caught up in his obsessive habits.

Additionally, Candace Stone, who Joe believed he killed before the start of the same season, rises “back from the dead” to plot her vengeance against him. While she didn’t get to execute her plan, she still was able to unsettle him enough in his pursuit of another woman, Beck.

In season 2, we were introduced to Love Quinn, who became one of Joe’s obsessions. She breaks traditional gender roles by being capable of all the murderous things Joe does. She manages to survive Joe’s almost-murder by confessing that she is pregnant with his child. We follow Joe and Love into season 3 with their newborn son, Henry, and additionally where Joe finds a new love interest Marienne, who is very strong-minded and independent in her own right.

Tough she begins to have feelings for Joe, she leaves him with her daughter from a different relationship after hearing Love’s warnings about him. T is arguably subverts the “soft woman” archetype by including strong female characters as well as examples of docile ones.

Admittedly, I don’t believe this “age of romanticization” of morally wrong individuals will end anytime soon nor do I think the long-standing domestic image of women will completely vanish from the media. However, things are gradually changing and making room for progression by acknowledging these issues from shows like “You” that delve deep into these concepts and break some of the molds within them.
Review: The Best (And Worst) Halloween Movies I’ve Seen

By Muhammed Muhsin
Social Media Manager

Last year, I watched thirty-one Halloween movies with my partner and roommate to correlate with the thirty-one days of October. With each day I ranked, rated, and reviewed each film. It is marathon was such an event that we are currently doing it again this year. Since we were not quite done with the marathon yet, I thought it would be nice to give my three best and three worst movies from last year, with an abridged review explaining their placements.

Third Worst: “Halloweentown”
Disney Channel Original Movies (DCOMs) have never been considered groundbreaking pieces of cinema. “Halloweentown” had a low bar and still was a disappointment. We watched this work of art a day before Halloween and I felt betrayed by my nostalgia goggles because I didn’t remember it being this bad. My biggest gripe comes from the acting. Besides Debbie Reynolds, who played grandma Aggie Cromwell, no performance was remotely decent or compelling for that matter. The characters are already written as unlikeable people and the actors just drive that point home. I found myself frustrated at every pivotal point in the movie and bored throughout the rest. The lack of character does not end in the performances but also the whole aesthetic. The set is a generic “totally not England town square, and a set in Burbank.” New is a generic “totally not whole aesthetic. The set does not end in the bored throughout the point in the movie and frustrated at every pivotal unlikeable people and the are already written as performance was remotely Aggie Cromwell, no who played grandma comes from the acting. I didn’t remember it being nostalgia goggles because and I felt betrayed by my a day before Halloween had a low bar and still have never been considered Disney Channel “Halloweentown” last year, with an abridged to give my three best and with the marathon yet, I doing it again this year. review each film. This day I ranked, rated, and October. With each movies with my partner and roommate to correlate with the thirty-one days of October. With each day I ranked, rated, and reviewed each film. Every single serious moment was hilarious, while every comedic moment was dull, and I hardly understood why anything was happening. I feel like the lack of quality wasn’t too surprising since it was based of a theme park ride.

Second Worst: “Hubie Halloween”
It is unoriginal to hate on Adam Sandler, but also this is a weaker Sandler outing even by Sandler standards, which is an odd thing to say considering it does the Sandler Standard.” “T e cast is mostly Saturday Night Live alumni. T e kids are all Disney Channel stars. Julie Bowen is the hot woman Adam Sandler ends up with, even though his character is gross and a danger to himself and others. And of course potty humor. If you took a shot for every pee joke your liver would shrivel within minutes. Don’t worry, there’s more to complain about besides crude humor because Adam Sandler made sure to make every antagonist a person of color. To be quite honest, that’s an improvement over having them be the butt of the joke and/or Rob Schneider doing a racist accent. T en again, Netf ix will say yes to anything no matter how blatantly it is with its of ensive nature. At least with this movie you get captions to understand the slurred blabberings.

First Worst: “T e Haunted Mansion”
It was dif cult deciding whether this or “Hubie Halloween” was worse. It all came down to personal preference. “T e Haunted Mansion” was just bland. Eddie Murphy is fine, Wallace Shawn is fine, but neither are actors who save bad movies for me. T e best way to describe this movie is cluttered. T e sets are cluttered; there’s hardly any variety in lighting, and the set dressing is all ugly and tacky. T e story felt like it went on for hours, and it was one of the shorter movies we watched. Every single serious moment was hilarious, while every comedic moment was dull, and I hardly understood why anything was happening. I feel like the lack of quality wasn’t too surprising since it was based of a theme park ride.

Second Best: “Paranorman”
LAIIKA Studios had three movies in this marathon and I can assure you all of them cracked the top 10. “Paranorman” is a loving homage to classic monster f lms while adding a commentary on the fear-mongering present in most of these old ficks. T e story of a boy who sees dead people has been done before, but this one is infi nitely better than any other. Below the surface, there’s a moral about mob mentality and the destructive history of this country. Stop-motion animation and Halloween go together like cheese and toast, and LAIIKA Studios always raises the bar on what can be done with plaster and wire. If you have seen “Coraline” and haven’t seen “Paranorman,” you are really missing out.

First Best: “Over T e Garden Wall”
I have made it a point to show at least one new person this miniseries on HBO Max every Halloween, and literally everyone has said it was nothing short of amazing. As a mini-series that originally aired on Cartoon Network, there is something magical about experiencing this adventure on a chilly October evening. Drawing heavy inspiration from early 20th century American opera, the music of this series will play in your head every time you think of the leaves changing. T e animation is incredibly unique. While the main character’s designs are incredibly simple, they are incredibly expressive, and exist in such a rich world of oddities and an ambience that will give you goosebumps.

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If you want to see the complete list with the full reviews, here is the link: https://letterboxd.com/darthmu/list/halloween-2020/.
Album Review: Can’t Swim’s “Change Of Plans”

By Iliana Calderon  
Staff Writer

Can’t Swim, a New Jersey rock band, released their brand new album “Change Of Plans” on Oct. 22 to all available platforms for music streaming. While they have been well known for their more pop-punk songs such as “Come Home,” “Right Choice,” and “Stranger,” this album has more of a post-hardcore influence to it. With songs like “Standing In The Dark,” “To Heal At All, You Have To Feel It All,” and “Opposite Of God,” we see that they switch the genre from their previous work. In other songs like “10 Years Too Late” and “Altamonte Explode,” we have that balance between hardcore punk and pop-punk. Nested between these varying influences, the album also features some softer songs, such as “Everyone That I Know, I Hate.” Even with its lean into post-hardcore sounds, the album still has that little bit of softness present.

Personally, I do enjoy hearing that they are back into doing more hardcore punk and pop-punk roots because I grew up with their 2017-2018 pop-punk era, and I keep it very close and dear to me since I have been a fan since I was a junior in high school. Though “Someone Who Isn’t Me,” their 2020 EP, focused more on having a pop feel to their songs, Can’t Swim is looking to slightly break away from their pop-punk/rock roots and explore with different sounds. With their recent album being more of a pop-punk/post-hardcore sound, it seems like the band will continue to bounce around different genres and tunes.

Can’t Swim will be on tour starting Nov. 4 with Silverstein and The Plot In You. They will be playing on Nov. 8 at Webster Hall and Dec. 11 at Empire Live.

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@THEBCVANGUARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA
The New York Red Bulls are finally in a playoff spot for the Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup with four games remaining. After a hard-fought win over Columbus Crew on Saturday evening, the Red Bulls Head Coach Gerhard Struber expressed his thoughts on the victory.

“This means a lot for the team,” he said. “I am very proud of my boys today.”

Head Coach Robert Sales has not announced whether or not Flacco will get the start this Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals. Quarterback Mike White looks to be the current starter and Flacco looks to be his insurance policy in case he gets injured. Flacco is now in his 14th year in the NFL has had success with the Baltimore Ravens as he was the Super Bowl MVP during his tenure with the team for their second Super Bowl title.

It was reported by ESPN hours before the trade was made that Coach Saleh raved about White and his confidence. “He’s a very calm man,” Saleh said. “He’s a great communicator, he’s got great command of the huddle. He’s got great command of the offense. He understands progression reads and how to go through a progression, get the ball where it needs to go. He understands how to slide in the pocket to throw instead of sliding in the pocket to run. He doesn’t panic.”

Philadelphia acquired Joe Flacco this season to fill in a backup role. Which may not have been necessary because Eagles already have Gardner Minshew, making it more likely they could trade Flacco to another team for a legitimate backup role.

The New York Jets have acquired veteran quarterback Joe Flacco from the Philadelphia Eagles. In return the Jets are sending a 2022 6th round conditional pick, according to ESPN. Flacco served as the backup quarterback for the Jets during the 2020 season under a different coaching staff. He now will be under first-time Head Coach Robert Saleh and his staff to fill in for the injured Zach Wilson, who will miss at least two games with a sprained knee.

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Joe Flacco served as the main backup role for the Jets last year during Sam Darnold’s tenure with the Jets, who is now a member of the Carolina Panthers. Flacco started four games during Darnold’s absence last year and would go 0-4.

The New York Jets are currently 6-4-2 and looking to make a strong finish to the season in anticipation of possibly making the playoffs. Joe Flacco is expected to be the starting quarterback for the Jets in the near future.

The Red Bulls returned to Lowercom Field in Columbus, where they lost their last game 2-1 on Sept. 14. Despite their loss, the Red Bulls were hoping to keep up their seven-game unbeaten streak.

The game couldn’t have started any better for the Red Bulls, as Cristian Cásseres Jr. scored in the 7th minute. They were only able to take the lead for eleven minutes as the Crew was able to equalize with a goal from Miguel Berry in the 18th minute.

In the second half, the Red Bulls applied pressure to the home team and were given a penalty kick in the 53rd minute. Patryk Klimala shot wide of the goal and gave the Crew a sigh of relief as the Red Bulls had to dig deeper. Klimala was able to redeem himself as he assisted the winning goal for the defender Sean Nealis in the 87th minute, which was his first goal of the season and his second since May 2019.

The win advances their unbeaten run to eight games for the first time since 2013 and moves them to sixth place just ahead of Atlanta United FC.

The Red Bulls celebrate after a pivotal win over Ohio's Columbus Crew. /Alexandria Skowronski via USA TODAY Sports

New Jets QB Joe Flacco./Bill Streicher for USA TODAY Sports

Flacco gets set as he will now backup current quarterback Mike White, looking to provide his veteran leadership to help White on the bench as he looks to get his first career start against the Cincinnati Bengals.

The Red Bulls celebrate after a pivotal win over Ohio's Columbus Crew. /Alexandria Skowronski via USA TODAY Sports

New Jets QB Joe Flacco./Bill Streicher for USA TODAY Sports
BC Cross Country Teams To Compete At CUNYAC

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

On Oct. 31, the Brooklyn College Men and Women's Cross Country Teams will compete for the CUNYAC Conference Championships. The meet will take place at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, and it will feature every team in the CUNYAC, all vying for the coveted championship. "I expect both the men's and women's teams to do great at the Championships," Bulldogs' Coach Deana Carrington told The Vanguard on how she thinks Brooklyn College will fare. "I predict that both teams will finish in the top three."

Despite the tough competition, Carrington has confidence in her teams' abilities. "When Brooklyn towels the line on Sunday, they'll have the advantage of being very familiar with their competition. In previous meets this season, the Bulldogs have seen all of their competitors at least once. Having gotten a taste for what every team has to offer, Coach Carrington shared who the Bulldogs are keeping a lookout for. "We have our eyes on a few teams," Carrington admitted, "Lehman, Baruch, and Queensborough, who we have seen at races this season." In their previous encounters, both the men and the women have traded positions with the three teams Carrington mentioned. Finishing ahead of them at times, and others finishing behind. Sunday will be the final test of strength.

While the Bulldogs may be familiar with their competition, they are less acquainted with the hills of Van Cortlandt Park. "This year we've only had one race at Van Cortlandt Park, and most of the athletes on this year's team have never run on the course," Carrington shared. Hosting thousands of runners every year, Van Cortlandt Park is notorious for its seemingly endless rolling hills. The Bulldogs will have to barrel along with hundreds of competitors as the course narrows into the back hills, becoming a windy mess of tree roots, loose stones, and the occasional fallen racer. Even though Van Cortlandt is a famously tough course, Coach Carrington is sure her teams can rise to the occasion. "It's been challenging for them, but we were able to go to the park and do a walk through of the course, now I am confident the Bulldogs will do well at Sunday's championship."

Cross Country is most certainly a team sport, but do not overlook the individual aspect of it as well. Teams compete to place highest on the podium, but so do individuals. At the Conference Championships, Shane Kimball of the Brooklyn College men's team will look to continue his dominant season. Kimball has been named CUNYAC Runner of the Week five times this season, and has a very good shot at finishing among the top three. Regardless of the outcome on Sunday, Carrington wants to stress how proud she is of her teams for the hard work they have put in.

"I hope the athletes on the team have gained a sense of pride running and representing Brooklyn College," added Carrington. The CUNYAC Conference Championships will be on Oct. 31 at Van Cortlandt Park in Riverdale, New York.

Vinny The Goat by Mo Muhsin and Gabrielle Toro Vivoni
Men’s Soccer Defeats Medgar Evers In CUNYAC

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The men’s soccer team only had one match this past week. The Bulldogs faced off against Medgar Evers in CUNYAC conference action on Oct. 20.

The match was the last regular season contest of the year for the Bulldogs. It also happened to be Senior Night. The Bulldogs went on to win the contest in strong fashion, putting up four goals, and holding Medgar Evers to only two. The seniors showed out this game, scoring three of the four goals for Brooklyn, and having some strong defensive play as well.

The Bulldogs now prepare for the postseason. Brooklyn gained the 5th seed and will play the four seed, Hunter College Oct. 27 at 3 PM.

A whopping eleven players will be graduating from the men's soccer team after this season. /BrooklynCollegeAthletics.com

Women’s Soccer Finally Wins

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The women’s soccer team secure their first win of the season. The Bulldogs faced York College on Oct. 19. Brooklyn played the best they have all season, and beat the Cardinals, 4-0. Brooklyn player Rachel Gomez scored the first two goals for the Bulldogs, and Flor Ramos knocked in a third. The fourth goal came as a result of an own goal by York. The win was surely the Bulldogs’ high point of the season.

Brooklyn played a second game this week against another CUNYAC rival. On Oct. 23, the Bulldogs lost to Lehman College. Lehman put up four goals on the Bulldogs, two in the first and two in the second. Brooklyn scored a penalty kick goal late in the second, but it was not enough to spark a comeback. The loss brings Brooklyn’s record to 1-12.

The Bulldogs play again next Oct. 30 against John Jay College in postseason play.

The team acknowledged its graduating seniors. /BrooklynCollegeAthletics.com
BC Sports Recap (Oct. 20–26)

Women’s Volleyball Split Four Matches

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

This past week the Bulldogs had four matches this week, which they ended up splitting 2-2. On Oct. 19, the Bulldogs competed against the Bloodhounds from John Jay. Brooklyn made quick work of the conference rival. They took the first two sets, and despite dropping the third, they came back and won a close fourth set to secure the victory. The win has Brooklyn’s conference record sitting at 4-1.

The next match on Oct. 21 was also a victory. This time the Bulldogs swept the Scarlet Knights from Rutgers-Newark. The Bulldogs won the last two sets by at least 10 points each. Setter Ezri Shor had a dominant performance, notching 35 assists.

On Oct. 23, the Bulldogs competed in a tri-match in Reading, Pennsylvania. The day was tough, seeing Brooklyn drop both contests. The first loss of the day came against Rutgers-Camden. The match saw Rutgers and Brooklyn trace the first two sets with the Knights winning the first and the Bulldogs taking the second. Despite a hard-fought effort, the Bulldogs were able to take the third or fourth, and Rutgers-Camden won the match 3-1.

Women’s Tennis Heating Up

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The women’s tennis team is catching fire at the right time. The Bulldogs have won their last two contests, and are currently in the CUNYAC Championship semifinals.

The Bulldogs ended the regular season on Oct. 21 with a dominant showing against York College. Brooklyn beat the Cardinals 9-0 sweeping both doubles and singles. The win was Brooklyn’s third of the season.

After dominating York with relative ease, the Bulldogs opened up the postseason against Lehman in the CUNYAC Championship Quarterfinals on Oct. 24. Brooklyn knocked Lehman out of the tournament, winning 5-2. Brooklyn won every match besides #1 Singles and #1 Doubles.

With the win, Brooklyn advances to the semifinals against top-ranked Baruch. That match will play out on Oct. 26. Brooklyn’s next match will be Senior Night on Oct. 26, where they will face the CCNY Beavers.