BC Prof. Jason Moore Reimagines Storytelling With Virtual Reality Immersion

More Spring Classes Returning To Campus
Pg. 3

USG Addresses Semester Troubles
Pg. 2

NYPIRG Hosts Food Drive
Pg. 6

CUNY Alum Is Marvel’s First Deaf Hero
Pg. 7

Op-ed: Plus-Size Stigmas In Fashion
Pg. 11
Resolutions addressing enrollment and increasing costs recently made their way through the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) in an effort to help relieve the pressure students take on with each semester. The resolutions target course packets, pathway course textbook costs, and advocate for sample syllabi on both the Brooklyn College website and CUNYFirst before the start of a semester.

USG officially proposed to the Brooklyn College administration under Joint Resolution 015 that undergraduate departments be required by fall 2022 to upload sample course syllabi alongside course descriptions that are already available on the BC website. According to the resolution, institutions like the University of Texas already offer sample syllabi on their version of CUNYFirst for enrolled students. Aharon Grama, USG Co-President, told The Vanguard, “We’ve been seeing this a lot and we even see...the philosophy department is doing it.”

With a new Brooklyn College website rolling out next year, USG hopes the sample syllabi could be implemented then. “It doesn’t have to be extensive or meticulous, but it should give more details than a course description about what the format of the class would look like and assignments,” said Iqura Naheed, USG Co-President.

Joint Resolution 019 advocates for free course packets when possible, with USG proposing to the BC administration that it take effect by spring 2022. Naheed told The Vanguard, “We’ve been seeing this a lot and we even see...the philosophy department is doing it.”

“...But if it’s not necessary, it feels more feasible that things be uploaded or sent electronically [rather] than students having to pay out of pocket and go to get a course packet.”

BC students are required to take at least 14 pathway courses during their undergraduate career, which according to USG’s Joint Resolution 020, “the cost of books can exceed $150 per class, totaling over $2,000 per student for all pathways courses.” USG proposes that BC eliminates textbook costs for all pathways by fall 2022.

“These are mandatory classes. And as we know, cost is a barrier to a lot of students getting education,” Naheed said. Many science departments across CUNY use OpenStax, a free textbook service, rather than require students to pay out of pocket, Naheed explained.

Both Naheed and Grama hope to see an effective implementation of all these resolutions by the BC administration.
Prez Anderson Announces Spring Semester Updates

By Matt Hirsch and Gabriela Flores
News Editor & Editor-in-Chief

After over a year of mostly remote learning, classes in the spring 2022 semester at Brooklyn College will be 70 percent in-person, according to an email from BC President Michelle Anderson. Only 30 percent will either be online or hybrid.

In the email, Anderson mentions that 70 unvaccinated students have been officially withdrawn from in-person classes. However, if they choose to get vaccinated in the future, the WA grade can be reversed.

The final deadline for those without a medical or religious exemption to upload their vaccine verification to CUNYFirst is Jan. 18, ten days before the spring semester’s start. Unvaccinated students without exemptions are not allowed on campus, per CUNY’s vaccine mandate. Though COVID tests were readily available for all unvaccinated students at the fall’s start, the university is now only granting those with approved religious or medical reasons access to on-campus testing facilities.

Faculty that remain unvaccinated are subject to weekly COVID tests, with strict contact-tracing protocols in place to quickly inform someone if they’ve been exposed to COVID.

The vaccination, masking, and contact tracing mandates have been largely effective. There have only been 17 cases of COVID of over 5,000 tested, according to CUNY’s website.

As the fall 2021 semester comes to an end, Anderson noted how the heavy workload can impact students’ health.

“As you all know, November is when the academic work of the fall semester peaks. It can be stressful and take a toll on our health. If you feel ill or come down with symptoms of anything—from the common cold to COVID—please do not come to campus,” read the email. “As we fly through the work in front of us, please don’t forget to take care of yourself and your loved ones.”

BC Students Encounter Some WiFi Troubles On Campus

By Gabriela Flores
Editor-in-Chief

As more students returned to campus this fall, some have encountered issues with Brooklyn College’s WiFi, experiencing sudden internet crashes, an unstable internet connection, and other technical problems.

“It’s always been an issue, especially depending on where you are,” said third-year student Travis Matos, who noted that BC’s internet problems existed well before COVID-19. “It was so bad that I had to end up paying for my own personal hotspot, instead of using BC WiFi.”

Before the pandemic, BC administrators focused on extending WiFi coverage to areas where students and faculty congregated the most, according to the college’s Media Relations Manager Richard Pietras. $150,000 in funding was previously approved for WiFi expansion “in high density areas on campus,” per the college’s Student Technology Fee Spending Plan for the fiscal year 2021. BC is planning to spend more on WiFi this year “because of the increased need,” Pietras reported to The Vanguard, with funding coming outside of technology fee funds. BC is currently expanding WiFi to more secluded areas on campus where students study, and will shift its focus towards the library come spring.

“When you get higher up, I feel like the connection gets a little worse,” BC student Mayasa Joseph said when describing the library’s internet. Joseph, however, has not encountered any significant hurdles yet. “When you go a little lower, it gets better.”

She recalled one occasion when her friend had difficulty using the internet since they did not know which of the available networks they could connect to. “And I guess that’s confusing for some people that can’t get in but other than that there are no issues,” said Joseph.

For Janae Franklin, however, WiFi connectivity issues are common in the library and elsewhere at BC. “Before the pandemic, the WiFi would disconnect on its own automatically,” Franklin said while experiencing a sudden internet crash and phone service drop that prevented her from connecting her laptop to her hotspot.

To Matos, the college should improve and expand internet coverage not only for students but “especially within the classrooms” for professors who need to conduct classes in person.

“I noticed that it drops entirely, and pages don’t load. I noticed it’s a problem even with professors, to where they even have to stall class because their computer is not connecting to the internet,” Matos said.

As the college continues expanding WiFi on-campus, and with purchasing access points being “only one part of the process,” according to Pietras, those encountering connectivity troubles can fill out a WiFi Online Problem Report Form.
S.M. Miller passed away at 99. /Courtesy of Edward Miller via Dissent Magazine
Getting lost in narratives that take place in fantastical worlds that are far more interesting than our own has been part of human interest for as long as stories have existed. As technology advances, so too does the desire to get lost in these tales.

Now that virtual reality technology is readily available, Brooklyn College Professor Jason Moore is pushing the boundaries of immersion in narrative-driven storytelling.

“When I was a kid, I saw ‘Star Wars: A New Hope’ for the first time in the theaters... And I have this very vivid memory of watching one of the scenes when they’re in the Millennium Falcon shooting at tie fighters” Moore told The Vanguard. “I wanted to be in the Millennium Falcon, sitting in my own chair, right next to Luke, blasting those tie fighters, and be part of that incredible story.”

Moore’s love for stories would lead him to direct award-winning films featured in over sixty film festivals. But once he discovered the potential of virtual reality storytelling, he dove headfirst, eventually leading him to create the MetaMovie Project in 2018. However, to blur the line between an audience member and an active participant, he quickly realized that pre-recorded dialogue wasn’t going to cut it. This realization led to Alien Rescue VR.

“All too often the virtual reality experience was just going to be an audience member ‘playing’ the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.”

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.

In its current iteration, the Alien Rescue VR experience was going to be an audience member “playing” the main character, referred to as the hero, without the ability to interact with the world around them. Adapting the narrative around the decisions of the person behind the hero didn’t seem feasible until Moore raised $10,000 through Kickstarter to hire a cast and crew to build the world of Alien Rescue VR.
By Serin Sarsour  
Features Editor

Brooklyn College’s annual food drive, “Trick or Eat,” organized by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), gave BC students the opportunity to volunteer and go door-to-door to collect non-perishable foods and clothing donations. The food drive volunteers dropped bags off at people’s homes on Nov. 4, picking them up four days later filled with donated goods.

NYPIRG is New York’s largest non-profit organization led by students who aim to help and contribute to the well-being of their communities. Students across New York can work with NYPIRG to make higher education and public transportation more accessible and affordable, encourage locals to vote, and much more. Through their food drive, NYPIRG and BC students hope to reduce food insecurity and combat poverty in Brooklyn communities.

“I was interested [in working with NYPIRG] because I kind of have firsthand experience of dealing with those food insecurities, like in my past,” NYPIRG intern and BC sophomore Sahar Husain told The Vanguard.

The collected food items will be split between BC’s food pantry and the First Presbyterian Church, while the donated clothing will go to the New York City Department of Homeless Services.

“Recruitment was difficult because a lot of students are remote,” said Shelli Cohen, a NYPIRG Project Coordinator at Brooklyn College. “I think we turned that challenge into, you know, something that motivated students to get out there. It’s like, ‘Okay, you can meet people and interact with your classmates and basically have human interaction,’ which I think pulled a bunch of students out to campus.”

Approximately 200 food items and 160 articles of clothing were donated this year, after many BC students and NYPIRG staff went door-to-door near campus to Avenue J between Bedford and East 22 Street.

NYPIRG is also working on circulating a petition within their higher education campaign, calling for funding to campus food pantries. “It is now mandated on public universities in New York State to have campus food pantries. But there was no funding that was allocated to those food pantries, so we are asking Governor Hochul to include the Hunger-Free Campus Act in her executive budget,” explained Cohen.

The Hunger-Free Campus Act, sponsored by NY Senator Anna M. Kaplan, focuses on food insecurity that students who attend public and private higher education institutions face.

“It would allocate funding to these campus food pantries and kind of be like a grant process and people could request money basically to fund the food pantries,” Cohen continued.

By next year’s food drive, NYPIRG may expand what neighborhoods or locations they reach out to for donations.
By John Schilling
Managing Editor

Marvel's most recent film, "Eternals," is expanding the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) as we know it and in more ways than one.

The film, which was released on Nov. 5, focuses on 10 immortal super-powered aliens that have secretly lived on Earth for thousands of years, protecting humankind from invasive, monstrous aliens known as Deviants.

While the film has been met with mixed reviews, one of its highest praises has been the amount of diversity that the cast represents, including the introduction of Marvel's first Deaf superhero in Lauren Ridloff's Makkari, a character who has traditionally been portrayed in the comics as a white man who can hear.

Ridloff, on the other hand, is a woman of color and is Deaf in real life, allowing her to make the role her own.

Ridloff may be new to the MCU, but she is no stranger to the CUNY community, having graduated from Hunter College in 2005 with her master's in education and the goal of becoming a children's author.

"The Hunter community is proud of alumna Lauren Ridloff, and we are thrilled to see her make her big screen debut as the first Deaf superhero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe," Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab told The Vanguard.

Ridloff, who was known then as Lauren Teruel, went on to teach kindergarten and first grade at Public School 347, or The American Sign Language and English Lower School, for students who are Deaf and/or born into Deaf families, according to the New York Times.

She would find herself acting in Kenny Leon's 2018 Broadway revival of "Children of a Lesser God" as Sarah Norman, the female lead role that was offered to her after she tutored Leon in American Sign Language for a year and filled in at a table read. The role would put her on the map and earn her a 2018 Tony Award Nomination for Best Actress in a Play. Later that year, Ridloff would also make her debut as Connie in the ninth season of AMC's "The Walking Dead."

"We've been watching Lauren since her breakout role on Broadway in 'Children of a Lesser God' and have seen her shatter through barrier after barrier like the real life superhero she is," added Raab. "We know Lauren will be inspiring us for years to come."

While Ridloff is an alum of Hunter College, her accomplishments have garnered attention across CUNY. An additional praise of the film includes how the other characters communicate with Makkari using sign language, which stood out to Brooklyn College's American Sign Language Club (BCASL).

"We are so happy to see sign language in a big film like 'Eternals' [as] there are few movies out there that include sign language," said BCASL President Marlene Meza. "It's great seeing representation of the Deaf community. Many have the stigma that Deaf people are helpless or that they need assistance. In the case of Eternals, we see Marvel's first Deaf superhero, Makkari, who isn't helpless at all but rather an extremely powerful woman with the power of speed."

As reported by The Independent, research by Preply found that internet searches for Ridloff have increased globally by 550 percent since earlier this month. Since "Eternals" was teased last year, there has also been a 250 percent increase in searches for "learn sign language for beginners."

While Ridloff may be Marvel's first Deaf superhero to appear on screen, she is not technically Marvel's first Deaf superhero, according to Cheatsheet.com. Because Makkari is not Deaf in the comics, Marvel's Hawkeye and Echo have often been acknowledged as Marvel's first Deaf characters, appearing as such since the 1980s and 1990s, respectively.

Unlike Makkari, however, Hawkeye, who has been portrayed by Jeremy Renner across multiple MCU films, has not yet been portrayed as Deaf and was only partially Deaf in the comics. As for Echo, the character was born fully Deaf but has yet to appear in the MCU. This will change later this month, however, when Alaqua Cox debuts as the character in "Hawkeye," the Disney+ series set to release on Nov. 24.

Fans also suspect that Hawkeye may lose his hearing during the series, as Renner has been spotted in the trailers wearing hearing aids, Cheatsheet.com reported. While this is not confirmed, it would only mean more Deaf and/or hard of hearing representation in the MCU that began with Ridloff in "Eternals."

At the film's world premiere, Ridloff reflected on the experience and how the film portrays being Deaf as something that could be a good, a departure from what is typical.

"Let's just say Makkari wouldn't be as fast as she is if it wasn't for her Deafness," Ridloff told the Los Angeles Times at the premiere. "I kept wanting to check in about how we would actually reveal my Deafness in the storyline, and we finally got to a point where I felt like we could actually show Makkari as having a Deaf benefit or a Deaf gain…to show the idea that being Deaf can actually be a good thing too, and we show that in the movie."
Conservatory Hosts Remote Electroacoustic Music Festival

By Michela Arlia
Arts Editor

The BC Music Conservatory hosted its Biannual International Electroacoustic Music Festival online on Nov. 5 under the direction of Professor George Brunner, the director of music technology.

The conservatory first advertised the event as a “cornucopia of cutting-edge works by masters and emerging composers,” as per their website.

Following a welcome address by Brunner, the festival kicked off with composer and jazz pianist Zhi Chen playing his electronic dubstep sound piece. While composing his work, Chen found inspiration from surfing and his personal experience of being wiped out in a wave.

Being a native of Rockaway Beach and having a passion for the sport, Chen was able to combine sampled sounds from the beach, interviews from big wave surfers, and even a snippet of dialogue from the movie “Finding Nemo” to create his original sound.

Chen, who described his piece as “like you’re falling into water and then it’s completely calm and silent,” blended his sounds, masking dialogue with up-tempo beats and creating a mix perfect for a nightclub setting.

Multiple pieces then followed, all pre-recorded either with just audio components or audio and visual components together.

In a piece titled “Eight Different Themes in My Life” by Parker Helen, twenty-four minutes of environmental sounds from one single room were compiled into three minutes of a layered multi-track.

The soothing sounds of birds chirping and airplanes passing brought peace and quiet to listeners. Helen’s piece embodied tones of the night shift, becoming much softer than the previous works until that point. It drew sounds that we often take for granted and environment sounds when simply sitting in a room, making it a great piece to stop and center yourself when listening.

Second-year student Emmanuel Ortiz offered a very unique outlook to the world with the composers, where hot topics included origins for each piece, diversity of the sounds, and sound levels, as most pieces came with warnings for audience members to lower the volume outputs on their computers due to the infusion of digital and sometimes screeching (yet purposeful) sounds.

The festival created a night of original works with pre-existing undertones to offer audiences relaxed and informed listening by students. Enjoyed by all, Brunner said there is hope for in-person concerts in the spring semester.

“I told [the department] we’re doing in person no matter what,” said Brunner. “And we can do it in a way that, you know, physically distanced and hopefully we can have a nice audience like this, or bigger.”
American Artist Premieres "Blue Lives" Exhibition

By Aliyah Jacobson
Staff Writer

American Artist premiered their latest work, "Blue Lives," for the Graduate Art Student Union on Tuesday, Nov. 2. The riveting and open-minded exhibit kept everyone engaged and intrigued as Artist described the origin of their work.

Artist spoke on blue lives, pointing out the mantra behind police who see themselves as a movement and fraternity. Their slogan "Blue Lives Matter" is disrespectful to the Black Lives Matter movement, Artist explained.

The Black Lives Matter movement was formed partly due to the violence that has been inflicted on the Black community by the police and society. The movement has become their rallying cry for justice and the ability to have the same rights that everyone else holds.

During the event, Artist shared a quote by Tiana Reid and Anijah Cunningham who they felt reflected their thoughts and the raw emotions that Black people feel when speaking about "Blue Lives Matter," quoting, "Blue life effectively obscures the violent operations of police power by attempting to give it flesh."

Artist also spoke about the fraternity that is the police force, showing pictures of the hard chairs that police officers are forced to sit in during orientation to study. They noted how officers must watch films about policing, with coordinating supervisors drilling into the new recruits that they are "blue" and one with the law. Artist implied that the officers are stripped of their own dignity and individuality to become one with the force of their brotherhood, the police force.

Artist made a point to reflect on the protests in the wake of George Floyd’s murder and the violence that was inflicted on Black people and others marching for justice for Floyd. They spoke of how police locked up their main stations in fear of those marching taking down their workplaces.

A sobering thing to note during the summer of 2020 and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement was how the museums locked up their heirlooms and collectables. Artist pointed out how this had to be because they had something to hide.

In a conversation between them and Legacy Russell, an activist for the Whitney Museum, Russell noted that one only locks up their valuables in a public museum that is made for the people when they were stolen or taken as booty from slaves.

As the Whitney Museum locked up all their pieces during the summer of 2020, Artist reflected on this saying, "I wanted to question whether a museum even owns the work it says it does, or if it is in fact all stolen and looted property."

Artist will continue to show their exhibit to graduate students at Brooklyn College, and their recorded Zoom event will be online for others to see at their leisure on the Graduate Art Student Union page.
"Eternals" Is Just Another Marvel Movie

By Muhammed Muhsin

With two oscars under her belt, it is no surprise that director Chloe Zhao made the most aesthetically pleasing Marvel movie to date. There is a lot that allows "Eternals" to stand on its own. Between its breathtaking cinematography and exceptional action sequences, what was supposed to be a boring old popcorn flick became a beacon of hope for what could be done with superhero movies.

Before I jump into my problems, I want to dive into something I really appreciated: the story's political and historical elements. The idea of the "Eternals" is that they are these omnipotent figures who have become legends throughout history. The modern superhero is not far off from mythology, so it is really fitting that these characters blur the line between ancient epic and comic book movies.

The complaints of superheroes being politicized are insufferable to hear because they have always been political, and "Eternals" wouldn't have felt right if it wasn't. If you look from the first film, "Iron Man," to now, you will see how quickly the climax ends just to get to the zinger feels a little cheap, especially when you consider this movie is 157 minutes long. Decent pacing was not one of the editor's priorities, and it really does drag down what could have been one of Marvel's best movies. The amount of time dedicated to large action setpieces feels excessive, and that is coming from an avid defender of over the top action setpieces.

At the end of the day, I stand by my word: this is just another Marvel movie. You probably won't like this if you are not a fan of superhero movies, or if you have a hair-trigger response to anything with a remotely left-leaning message. I do still look forward to seeing more of the "Eternals" in the future.
The Stigmatization Of Plus-Size Bodies In The Fashion Industry

By Melissa Morales
Staff Writer

We live in a world full of beauty standards defined by societal perceptions and images constructed through social media. For women, the predominant, ideal picture of beauty is being supermodel thin and having a slim waist with Eurocentric facial features such as having blonde hair, blue eyes, and fair skin. While the beauty standards in our world today are shifting and have become more inclusive of appreciating diverse bodies and faces, the shift is still extremely gradual.

Having a bigger body than many girls, and fitting into the category of being “plus-size,” I personally know and understand this issue: The progress towards dismantling preconceived beauty standards still has a lot of work to be done, especially in the fashion industry.

Recently, there has been controversy about Torrid, the plus-size clothing brand, and TikTok creator That Other Hannah. Hannah is one of the biggest plus-size fashion influencers on TikTok and reviews different plus-size clothing brands with viewers. On Sept. 28, Hannah posted a TikTok video reviewing Torrid’s new collection. She discussed her letdown with Torrid’s choice of pricing, materials, and design of clothing. The brand has always established itself as a go-to for plus-size clothing. However, many people, including Hannah and her followers, do not like its products, especially those in the latest collection.

Hannah continued to voice her opinion on the collection and the company addressed her claims. Torrid also disabled comments under all of its videos and posts across its social media platforms. An unknown individual also attempted to get Hannah fired from her job after her Torrid live stream aired, telling her workplace that she had done things such as “using social media to dox and harass individuals.” Hannah is currently taking a break from her socials. Is this a pure coincidence or could it have been Torrid’s doing?

Regardless of which, this backlash against Torrid sheds light on the truth of plus-size clothing: The latest fashion trends typically aren’t carried by plus-size retailers. Plus-size women, therefore, aren’t able to stay on top of fashion fads. Of course, taste in fashion is subjective, and many plus-size women may be completely fine with the variety of clothes available to them currently. But for others like myself, the more diverse and modern clothing pieces are, the better in general.

Latest fashion trends typically do not come in extended sizes and predominantly only cater to straight sizes. There can be several reasons for this, one being that having extended sizes means hiring more models, creating more patterns, and of course, more fabric, which leads to more expenses in total.

Another issue with the lack of plus-size inclusivity on latest fashion trends is the lack of true plus sizes. According to an article from Refinery29, “Brands that call themselves size-inclusive or utilize marketing tactics on TikTok that suggest they carry plus-sizes, when the truth is far from that.” Many fashion brands are actually not size-inclusive, only going up to XXL and not having sizes such as 3XL, 4XL, and up. This, in turn, brings up the issue of sustainability.

It should always be encouraged to shop ethically and eco-consciously when it comes to buying clothes. However, while sustainable plus-size brands do exist, there aren’t enough of them, and the few available are rarely advertised.

According to an article from BBC, a blogger named Sam Roswell talked about her own issues with sustainable brands. “I see new shops opening that are using ethical fabrics, organic cotton, and still there are no plus sizes. I feel like we’re forgotten,” Roswell said. This reflects upon two issues: size inclusion and affordability.

As a result, many plus-size women buy from fast fashion brands because of the lack of availability from sustainable brands. According to an article from Glossy, “Fast-fashion retailers often capitalize off egregious labor practices, and their affordable, diverse sizing can leave women who wear above-average sizes chained to the cycle.” Not to mention, many individuals from the plus-size community tend to have lower incomes, per an article from Nature.com, which makes fast fashion brands especially affordable.

Yet, this leads to another issue. Because the plus-size community is heavily rooted in activism, plus-size women and influencers especially, are criticized for buying and working with fast fashion brands, some of which include Boohoo, Pretty Little Thing, and H&M. They are expected to be ethically correct in their fashion choices because of their marginalization and advocacy for social change, but the real root of the problem lies in the fashion industry itself, which is something plus-size women cannot change all by themselves.

Evidently, there is a lot of work that has to be done in order to achieve inclusivity and sustainability in the fashion industry. For myself and others who are a part of the plus-size community, the best thing to do is to currently focus on the progress at hand and raise awareness towards the few plus-size sustainable brands that are available, such as Universal Standard. Big Bud Press, Sotela, and Girlfriend Collective. It is extremely important to highlight these issues to encourage solidarity for more changes to come.
EP Review: Heart Attack Man’s “Thoughtz & Prayerz”

By Iliana Calderon
Staff Writer

Heart Attack Man, an Ohio-based rock band, released their new EP titled “Thoughtz & Prayerz” on Nov. 5. While I’ve been familiar with the group, I’ve only listened to their most popular song, “Sugar Coated,” which was on their 2019 album “Fake Blood.”

Heart Attack Man brought back that same intensity they had with their previous records into their latest EP release, with all of their songs having strong beats, lots of drums, bass guitar, and even intense lyrics. I feel as though they were going for more musically, without having too many long songs and keeping their tunes very quick and easy to listen to. Some of my favorite tracks are “Leap Year,” “Pitch Black,” and “Thoughtz & Prayerz.”

What was interesting about their song “Cool 2 Me” was that it sounded like it was directed at the way people look at sexual assault allegations. With some of the lyrics being, “But something doesn’t add up because he’s always been cool to me,” “I’m not saying you’re lying,” and “He never hit me, he never hit me.” I don’t want to assume that this is the meaning behind this song, but it does highlight how some people tiptoe over these types of allegations and say things very similar to the lyrics.

Overall, I think that this EP is definitely very catchy and fresh from a band who is slowly gaining popularity. I’d recommend it for those who are fans of Hot Mulligan, Origami Angel, Free Throw, and Like Pacific.

Heart Attack Man is currently on tour with Neck Deep, Boston Manor, Zero 9:36, and Oxymorons. Tickets are available on AXS.com and they will be in New York City on Dec. 10 at Terminal 5.
Red Bulls Make Playoffs

By Billy Wood

The New York Red Bulls were able to make it to their 12th Major League Soccer (MLS) Cup playoffs. After a rollercoaster of seven months and 34 games later, they were able to achieve the playoff spot on Sunday afternoon.

They played their final game of the season away against Nashville SC at the Nissan Stadium. The Red Bulls got on the scoresheet in 38 seconds with a goal from Fábio Roberto Gomes Netto. Nashville were able to equalize with a goal from Hany Mukhtar in the 37th minute.

Both teams would continue attacking as the Red Bulls would have five shots on target out of 14. Nashville would have four shots on target out of 11. In the end, both teams would settle with a 1-1 draw and a vital point that would see the Red Bulls get the last playoff spot. They would finish seventh place in the Eastern Conference just one point ahead of DC United and Columbus.

“I am very happy, and I am very proud of the way we go with this season and right now, we stay in the playoffs,” said Red Bulls Head Coach Gerhard Struber.

Many believed that the Red Bulls wouldn't be able to make it to the playoffs because they started the season with a 1-8-2 record. After suffering an away 2-1 loss to Columbus in September, they were able to go on an eight game undefeated run. In their last three games, they were able to land five points out of a possible nine to get into the playoffs.

On Twitter, the Red Bulls Captain Sean Davis said, “They said it couldn’t be done and we stuck together and went on an unbelievable run.”

The Red Bulls will now face the Philadelphia Union in the first round of the MLS Cup playoffs. A date and time have not been announced as of press time. They have played each other three times with two draws and one win for Philly.

“It is up to us to make it more memorable and again, do well in the playoffs and see how far we can take this because it is a special group,” Davis said. “I think we can really go for the MLS Cup.”
Women’s Volleyball Earns CUNYAC Title

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

This past week has been historic for the women's volleyball team, as the Bulldogs secured their first CUNYAC title in nearly four decades on Friday, Nov. 5. Here's how they got there.

On Nov. 3, the Bulldogs opened the conference tournament against the Bloodhounds from John Jay. The hounds put up little fight as Brooklyn rolled over them in three straight sets. Winning the first two sets by more than double digits each, the Bulldogs produced an impressive offensive output, including 11 aces overall. Freshman Aleah Rafat was the team's kill leader with 9 aces.

Having surpassed John Jay, the Bulldogs met third-ranked Hunter College in the finals. Perhaps the Bulldogs' toughest test of the season, however, was when the Hawks took Brooklyn to their limit. Back and forth the two teams traded sets. Brooklyn eked out the first, Hunter stole the second, and Brooklyn eked out another slim victory in the third only to get defeated in the fourth 25-10.

The contest came down to the final fifth set. Rallying back from their tough loss in the previous set, Brooklyn was able to secure the championship, winning the final set 15-9. Co-Captain Ashley Fung led the Bulldogs in kills, scoring 17. Both Fung and freshman Aleah Rafat were named to the All-Tournament team while senior Ezri Shor won Tournament MVP.

Having bested the rest of the CUNYAC teams, Brooklyn advanced to the NCAA Division Three Volleyball tournament. Their first-round matchup will be Friday, Nov. 12 against NYU.

Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving Meets Postponed

By Owen Russell
Sports Editor

The swim and dive teams were supposed to have their first three meets of the season this past week, but unfortunately they were all postponed.

In the preseason polls, the men's team was ranked last among four teams, while the women's team was ranked third out of six.

The teams will hopefully launch their seasons Monday, Nov. 15 against York College in Jamaica, Queens.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!
@THEBCVANGUARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA