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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

**VANGUARD**

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Wednesday, February 16th

# Curtain Rises

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# Cleared4 Glitch Removes Green Key, Fixed Within The Hour

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By John Schilling  
*Managing Editor*

A glitch in the Cleared4 vaccine pass and testing system removed the green key symbol from the BC Navigator app on Tuesday morning, Feb. 15. Students whose green key symbols had disappeared also received messages on Cleared4's site stating, "COVID-19 Test rules not met for GreenPass."

Shortly before 10:00 a.m., Senior Vice President of Finance & Administration, Alan Gilbert, released a statement via Brooklyn College Announcements revealing the Cleared4 system was having issues.

"Currently, Cleared4 is experiencing technical issues. Impacted individuals will see messages such as, 'COVID-19 Test rules not met for GreenPass,' 'No Access Pass Available' or not see a green key in BC Navigator," said Gilbert. "Brooklyn College has notified the University early this morning, and we are working to investigate and resolve the issue."

Soon after, students began receiving notifications that their campus access pass had been restored by Vice President of Student Affairs, Ronald Jackson, in which students were granted access passes through the Cleared4 system to show at

any campus entrance, along with their physical BC ID card, for campus entry.

By 10:30 a.m., the BC Navigator issue was resolved, and green key symbols began to reappear in the app. Within the interim, Gilbert had also stated that students could access campus with "a BC ID and a copy of their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card or New York State Excelsior pass."

Currently, the green key, visible in the upper right corner of a student's BC Digital ID, is one of two ways for fully vaccinated students or those with approved exemption to access the Brooklyn College

campus. The second option for campus entry is the Cleared4 access pass/personal link with a physical BC ID card.

Students who are fully vaccinated must upload their proof of vaccination to CUNYFirst to be granted campus access. Students who have approved religious or medical exemptions must be tested each week at a CUNY site with results ready in 24-48 hours in order to retain their Cleared4 personal link and BC Navigator green key. Students experiencing further technical difficulties are asked to contact Student Affairs.

## David Gordon, Renowned Choreographer And BC Alum, Dies At 85

By Radwan Farraj  
*Staff Writer*

David Gordon, an award-winning director and choreographer who lived a vibrant career in theater, passed away on Jan. 29 in his Manhattan home. Gordon was 85.

Born on July 14, 1936, Gordon was the son of two Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Samuel and Rose (Wunderlich) Gordon. The choreographer spent his childhood in the Lower East Side and Coney Island, graduating from Brooklyn College with a BFA in 1956. Originally an English major, Gordon switched to art and eventually secured the lead role of the Witch Boy in the college's production of "Dark of the Moon."

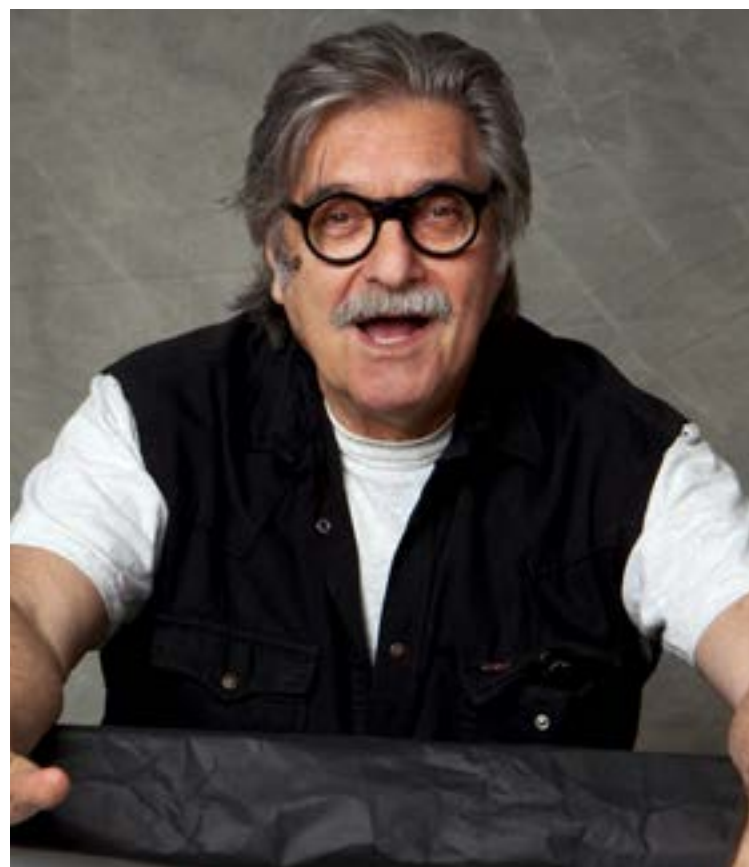
In 1957, Gordon joined the dance company of choreographer James Waring, an influential figure of New York's avant-garde during the 50s and 60s, where he met his future wife Valda Setterfield, an actress and dancer from England. Setterfield and

Gordon married in 1961 and were together until Gordon's passing. Gordon would perform solo or as a duet with Setterfield in performances he choreographed.

After facing extreme criticism in 1966 for his solo performance of "Walks and Digressions," Gordon stopped choreographing dances altogether for nearly five years. In 1971, Gordon would pick up where he left off, making performances and touring with a crew of fellow performers throughout the 1970s and 1980s as members of his Pick Up Performance Company.

Following the debut of Gordon's "Framework" and his involvement in "The Photographer" (1983), he was awarded his first New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Award. "Framework" was praised for its potential to link the past and future of dance, and its use of dialogue and dance to create a powerful performance.

Gordon went on to receive



David Gordon was 85 years old./PewCenterArts.org

in 1991 his second Bessie and first Off-Broadway Theater (Obie) Award for "The Mysteries and What's So Funny?" (1991). Later, he earned another Obie Award for "The Family Business" (1994), in which he collaborated with his son and playwright Ain Gordon. Gordon received his fourth Bessie Award in 2001 for his

"FAMILY\$DEATH@ART.COMedy," and directed and choreographed his own adaptations of several classic works throughout the 2000s.

He is survived by his wife, whom he celebrated with his 61st wedding anniversary the night before he passed, his son, sister Lois Gordon, and two granddaughters.

# BC Gets Fake Gun Scare, Daily Mail Misreports Details

By Matthew Hirsch  
News Editor

Last Friday, Feb. 11, The Daily Mail, a British newspaper, falsely reported details of an “active shooter threat” on the Brooklyn College campus on Feb. 3. Later, Campus and Community Safety released a statement about the so-called “active shooter,” which turned out to be a baseless threat emailed to a BC professor on Feb. 2.

“On the morning of Feb. 2, 2022, Brooklyn College public safety was notified that a professor had received a poorly written e-mail in which someone threatened to bring a gun to campus for a shooting the next day,” read the statement, noting that public safety contacted police immediately after. The NYPD tracked the

message to a hacker overseas that same afternoon, finding “no credible threat” after an investigation.

Public safety had extra officers, including officers from other CUNY colleges, stationed at Brooklyn College’s campus entrances the next day to be cautious. The Daily Mail’s article, however, inflated the event to attack BC President Michelle Anderson for a school policy barring public safety officers from carrying firearms while patrolling campus.

“Brooklyn College’s woke president has banned campus police from carrying guns and during a recent active shooter threat the school was forced to call for help from other CUNY schools which still allow armed patrols,” reads the opening paragraph.



Hacker makes false shooting threat to BC./Edited by Gabriela Flores

Further in the article, The Daily Mail claims that BC’s Director of Campus and Community Safety Services, Donald Wenz, told the now-defunct student newspaper, The Excelsior, that, “he was trying to keep New York’s Finest out of sight” though he refused to comment for

the Daily Mail’s story.

The story also mentioned a shooting from Oct. 2021 on Glenwood Road and Nostrand Avenue, a few blocks away from campus, to emphasize the escalating rate of gun violence in NYC. While shooting rates have risen over the last few years,

there has been one shooting reported since 2014 in the 70th Precinct, which includes Brooklyn College, according to NYPD Compstat. The 70th Precinct spans the Ditmas Park, Flatbush, and Midwood sections of South Brooklyn.

## Ingersoll False Alarm Forces Students Out Into The Cold

By John Schilling  
Managing Editor

Reporting Assistance By  
Matthew Hirsch  
News Editor

Students poured out of Ingersoll Extension on Monday, Feb. 14 at 11:20 a.m., when it appeared that a fire alarm had gone off. After about 10 minutes, students were quickly let back into the building and returned to class.

Despite speculation about a scheduled fire drill or someone pulling the fire alarm, the Public Safety staff immediately confirmed to the Vanguard that the incident was “a false alarm.”

“A smoke detector was activated inside a mechanical room on the 6th floor of Ingersoll Hall,” Richard Pietras, Brooklyn College’s Media Relations Manager, told the Vanguard. “There was no apparent smoke or fire detected by Public Safety staff when they checked the area. Personnel will continue to monitor the area.”

This news came as a relief for students but with some frustration. Despite the “false alarm,” the activation of the smoke detector forced students outside of Ingersoll Extension, where they were met with a cold temperature of 22 degrees that felt more like



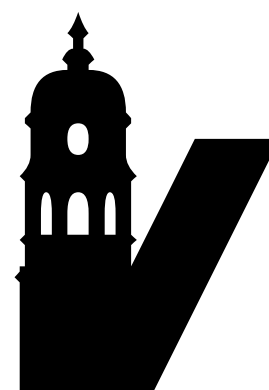
Students waiting to be let back inside Ingersoll Extension./Matt Hirsch

7 degrees due to strong winds, according to the Apple weather app.

“It was cold as hell outside,” said senior Amanda Curcio, who was in the middle of class in Ingersoll Extension’s Journalism Lab when

the smoke detector went off.

“It was unexpected,” added senior Tyrell Ingram, who also had class in Ingersoll Extension. “I wish class was canceled, though.”



# BC Alum Makes History As First Openly Transgender NYPD Detective

By John Schilling  
Managing Editor

Ori Harbor, a Brooklyn College alumnus, made history in December when he was promoted to detective after 15 years as a police officer with the NYPD. Harbor's promotion, however, is of particular significance, as he is the NYPD's first openly transgender detective.

Detective Harbor's historical promotion comes nearly a decade after he began his transition, but Harbor wasn't always destined to join the force. Growing up in Detroit, Harbor was the middle child with a younger sister and an older brother, who joined the Marines out of high school and inspired him immensely.

Unlike his brother, Harbor went in a different direction and came to New York to study acting at Brooklyn College, where he earned his MFA. Harbor's career trajectory, however, would soon change after his brother died.

Harbor began to rethink what he wanted to do through the lens of his brother and wanted to honor his legacy as a public servant. Harbor also thought through the lens of his identity.

"I was really looking at it from [the] lens of a Black person and a person of color, and how I can enter the NYPD and bring about that change," Harbor told ABC7 New York.

After five years working as a female officer, Harbor began to think more about his gender identity and began his transition in 2012, which had its personal ups and downs. Harbor's sister stopped talking to him, but most of



Detective Ori Harbor got his MFA in acting at Brooklyn College./ABC7 New York

his NYPD colleagues were supportive of his transition.

While Harbor is the first openly transgender NYPD detective, there are many other transgender colleagues of his on the force, but they are not "out" yet, according to Harbor. Still, he hosts seminars in an effort to educate others about transgender people and issues in accordance with the NYPD's policy

that supports transgender officers.

"It is definitely monumental...but for me, it's important to be visible," said Harbor.

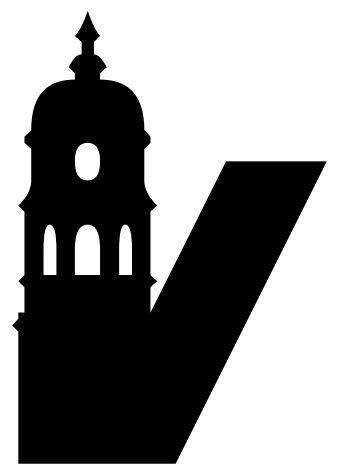
Now with the lived experience as a transgender man, Harbor's goal of bringing about change and working for the NYPD has meant more than ever, and it all started with the

inspiration of his brother.

"Ten to fifteen years from now, I hope transgender issues won't be a thing because we are living in a world that is equal and fair," Harbor told ABC7 New York. "Right now, in regard to transgender protection and rights and laws, we're not there yet."

The Vanguard attempted to reach out to Harbor and Brooklyn College's

LGBTQ Center for further comment but did not hear back.



# Return To Campus Full Of Ups and Downs

By Serin Sarsour  
Features Editor

After nearly two years of online learning, many Brooklyn College students have returned to campus this spring semester as COVID-19 cases become more steady and vaccine mandates remain. For many students, the comeback of in-person learning has its advantages and downfalls.

“I prefer online classes because if school is in-person, it’s harder to come and go from home,” said Tasin Habib, a BC junior who has returned to campus for the first time since March 2020. “I have to wait here for hours at a time in between classes, and it’s not like I can just go home because I live far away.”

On the other hand, other students found that online classes lack interaction between students and professors, and leave little room for participation. “I’ve only had like five classes since I’ve been back in person, and I’ve learned more in like two weeks than I have in the entire two years that we were online,” said BC senior Sophiya Binkin.

Although Binkin appreciates the benefits of going to school in person, she thinks the school can enhance the student experience and restore campus in terms of more events and better scenery. “I went to Stonybrook before this, and it was more lively,” she said.

Before on-campus spring classes returned, cases



BC students come back to the campus./Kaylin Guzman

worldwide skyrocketed from Omicron, the latest variant of COVID-19. CUNY expanded its protocols and vaccine mandate to include boosters for those eligible before the semester began, as New York’s COVID contractions rose with a record-breaking 90,132 positive cases on Jan. 8. Today, the count has since gone down, and New York now has about 3,500 recorded cases. Though Habib agrees with all of the safety precautions BC has taken thus far, she believes there is still room to improve.

“If the COVID cases are increasing a lot like they were in early January, I think classes should be moved online until the cases go down like they are now,” she said.

For some others, CUNY’s requirement for all non-exempted students stepping foot on campus to be fully vaccinated is an issue.

“I think the masks are a good idea because we’re all in very close proximity to each other, but I disagree with the vaccine mandate because it should be the person’s choice what they want to do with their body.

They shouldn’t have to be forced to take it in order to get an education,” said BC junior Fariza Akramova. “If you’re not vaccinated, there should be an online course option for you to take.”

BC sophomore Kavi Ahmed, however, believes the school’s protocols, including the vaccine mandate, are imperative to keeping the entire in-person population safe and protected against COVID-19. “We are still in a pandemic as much as we don’t want to be,” said Ahmed.

The pandemic has

undoubtedly altered the lives of all students across the globe, but Ahmed looks on the bright side in which he can finally pursue an education that isn’t through a screen. “I’m enjoying being in-person a lot,” Ahmed said. “Even if online was more comfortable, there is something to be said for physically going to your classes and being active. It’s nice to feel like I’m going somewhere and seeing a bunch of other people going somewhere, too.”

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# Locals Call For Bay Ridge's Catrinas Mexican Grill To Close

By Mary Zakharova  
Staff Writer

A 22-year-old man named Anthony D'Onofrio was stabbed to death in front of Catrinas Mexican Grill in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn on Jan. 29. D'Onofrio was attempting to break up a fight that started in front of the restaurant when he got stabbed by Kevin Cuatlacuatl, 19, in the chest, the NY Daily News reported.

Paramedics rushed D'Onofrio to NYU Langone Hospital in Brooklyn, where he was pronounced dead soon after. Another victim, also a 22-year-old man, suffered a wound to his head and was brought to

the same hospital in stable condition.

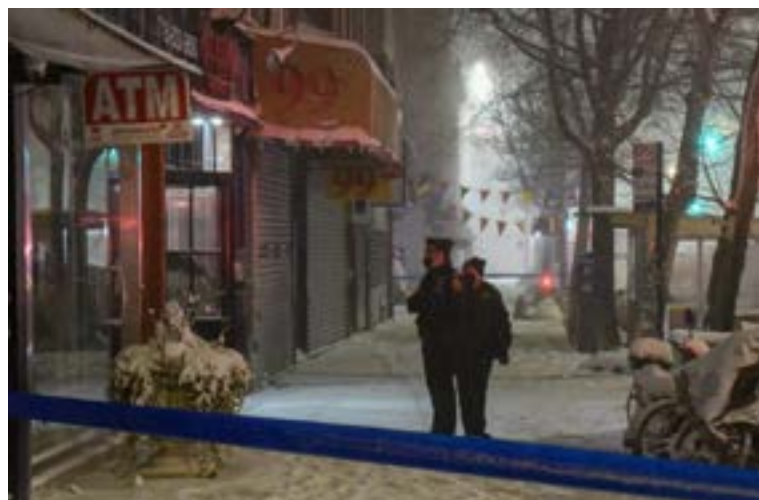
A petition was started in honor of D'Onofrio by one of his close friends, a City College of New York student named Andrew Salmieri, demanding that the restaurant be shut down. As of press time, more than 3,200 people have signed the petition. "It is clear that the owners of Catrinas have no intention of following the law, no regard for the neighborhood in which they operate, and even less regard for keeping their own customers safe," Salmieri's petition reads.

Councilman Justin Brannan noted that the restaurant has a history of "illegal and reckless behavior,"

according to a Facebook post. Catrinas Mexican Grill was accused of selling drugs and alcohol to underage people. Brannan's office recently reached out to the NYPD and the State Liquor Authority with complaints about the restaurant. The SLA opened its own investigation regarding this incident.

The Brooklyn College Vanguard tried to speak with one of the restaurant's employees over the phone, but they claimed to not have any information about the incident.

One of the locals, who preferred to remain anonymous, told The Vanguard they believe the police need to investigate



Police at Catrinas Mexican Grill after Anthony D'Onofrio was fatally stabbed on Jan. 29./NY Post

the restaurant and fire Catrinas workers who were in any way connected to the illegal actions. "If everyone in the restaurant is involved in that, if the owners are, then yes, you might have to close it. But if there are people who were just

working and got caught up in it, you don't necessarily want to take away the way that they feed their families," the anonymous local said.

A mass for D'Onofrio was held at the St. Finbar Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, Feb. 3.

## 'Antigone' Set To Open BC Theater's Spring Season

By Michela Arlia  
Arts Editor

The curtain rises once again as BC's Theater Department opens the first show of the semester, "Antigone," on Mar. 4. With the play set to have in-person audiences at the New Workshop Theatre, the crew and production team are preparing to deliver live performances soon.

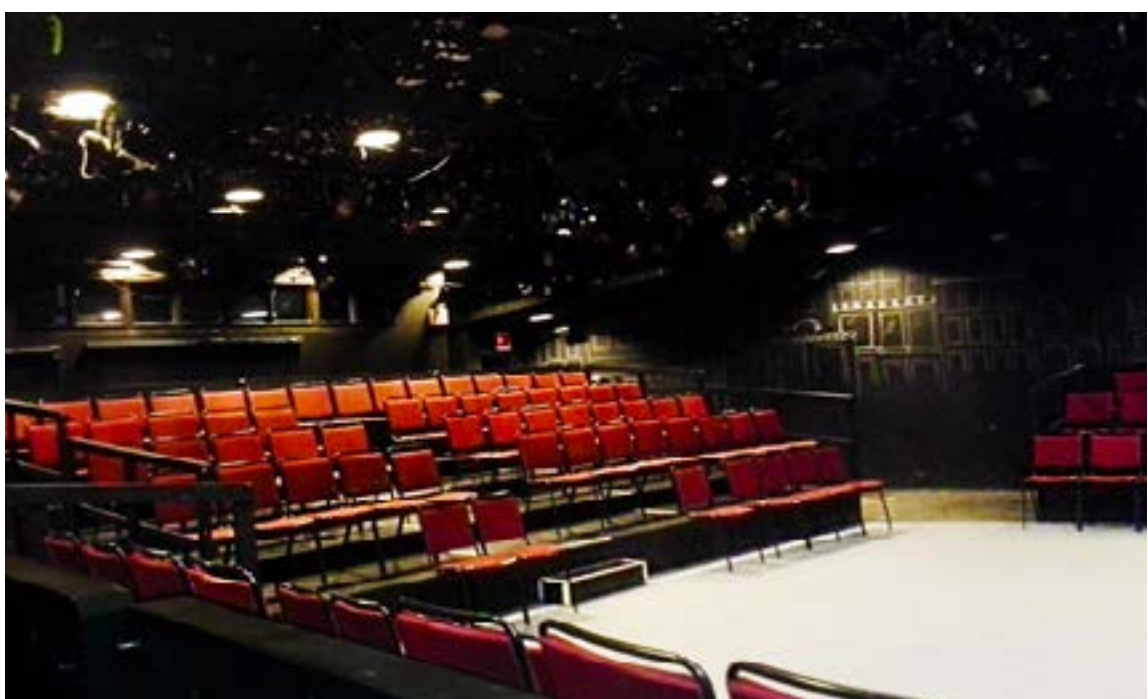
"Antigone" is a tragedy written by the Greek philosopher Sophocles and is the third installment of a trilogy. The play follows Antigone, the daughter of Oedipus, as her two brothers Eteocles and Polyneices kill each other in a civil war. When the new king of the land, Kreon, forbids a proper burial of the brothers, the young woman is propelled to defy the law and bring honor

to her brothers by burying them properly.

The driving force behind choosing this play for director Zachary Tomlinson laid in how the centuries-old work speaks to many aspects of what is happening today within the school community, on our streets, and nationwide.

"I felt we needed a play that speaks to the power of protest and the difference between what is legal and what is right," said Tomlinson, who graduated from the department's MFA program in directing in 2021. "I think 'Antigone' has, unfortunately, become even more relevant in light of the gross mishandling of the pandemic by government leaders and the catastrophic impact that power and bad judgment can have."

Despite the negatives and social issues targeted by the



"Antigone" will be performed at the New Workshop Theatre in Brooklyn College./Brooklyn College Presents

play that can relate to the present day, Tomlinson says there is a good message to be learned from "Antigone."

"This play is also about a family and people who love each other fiercely in spite of bitter disagreements," he

said.

For Julieanna Stolley, a first-year MFA student who plays the show's title role, taking on a fierce and passionate female character, who knows her right from her wrong, was something

that first drew her to auditioning for Antigone.

"Antigone is a woman I see very close to myself," explained Stolley. "I wanted to be able to play a woman with both feminine and

*Continued on page 7...*

# 'Antigone' Set To Open BC Theater's Spring Season (cont'd)

masculine rage. Explore what is believed to be inherently a male emotion even though we women are just as angry."

As Stolley was fully prepared for encapsulating Antigone's essence, on the other side of the coin was initial concern from the production's other main actor.

"Roles like Kreon scare me," said Antonyio Artis, who plays Kreon. "The most breakthroughs come from doing roles that scare you. So, I said, bring it on!"

This rendition of the play will be a translated version written by Anne Carlson and performed in the New Workshop Theatre, a black box space that is often considered more intimate than the traditional stage. A classic tragedy such as "Antigone" usually calls for a proscenium stage for performance, such as the Don Buchwald Theater on campus, but both actors and director agreed that a non-traditional space for their performance is most ideal.

"We are configuring the seating in a three-quarter round or thrust, which puts the action right in the middle of the audience," said Tomlinson, who noted that black box provides a blank slate, where the position of the audience will give some familiarity to the play's roots.

"It also mirrors the design of Ancient Greek theater, which placed the audience in a semi-circle around the stage."

Stolley finds the space beneficial to the art of



The "Antigone" cast during rehearsals. (From L to R) Owen Alleyne (BFA '22), Susan Myburgh (MFA '23), and Antonyio Artis (BFA '22)./Patrick Sabongui

theater and being able to connect with the audience in a positive way. "If we were to be in a proscenium I think it would be easier for the audience to separate itself from this story and just be spectators," said Stolley. "However in a black box production, the audience becomes a part of the cast and has to lose what we lose."

As the "Antigone" crew continues preparing an immersive experience for theater-goers, one challenge for the cast that has been ever-present is rehearsing with masks and other COVID protocols. Nonetheless, this has not

**"As the "Antigone" crew continues preparing an immersive experience for theater-goers, one challenge for the cast that has been ever-present is rehearsing with masks and other COVID protocols."**

stopped anyone in the rehearsal or production process. Ecstatic to be back on stage, Artis expressed how great it feels to not only perform live but to perform in front of an audience.

"Live [theater] is my passion and a huge part of why I perform," he said.

For Director Tomlinson, his top priority is making connections, which he thinks only makes the actors and the overall production better.

"Directing is about making connections," said Tomlinson. "Connections with my fellow artists, connections with the audience, connections between ideas, connections across time and space and imagination to the broad spectrum of human experience."

As for lasting impressions for audience members,

Stolley says she hopes audiences leave with conversation topics of family, emotions, and loyalty, while Artis and Tomlinson focus on one key theme: judgment.

"I would love for the audience to take away the importance of good judgment. Bad judgment can do us terrible harm," Artis said. "We must not be distracted by things that will diminish our empathy."

"Antigone" opens in the New Workshop Theater on Mar. 4 and runs through Mar. 8.

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# Rolling Rock Ramblings: Being Played By The Piano

By Ian Ezinga  
*Opinions Editor*

You may find yourself living in a shotgun shack, or in another part of the world, or behind the wheel of a large automobile, or in a beautiful house with a beautiful wife, and you may ask yourself, “how did I get here?” This sped up allegory for waking up to a reality governed by passivity and complacency ties together a couple of random situations by asking one question.

The question is as common to mankind as asking what time it is. However common it may be, for one reason or another, it often takes a break from dominating the collective consciousness belonging to whatever present you’re reading this in.

My understanding of history, sponsored in part by four years of undergraduate studies, has centralized this question in my grappling with nearly any subject. Pertinent among my concerns, thanks in part to a class I’m taking and my own struggles, is the increasing amount of time we sacrifice daily to our phones.

You may find yourself asking why I would even bother to write about this. It’s pretty obvious, isn’t it? We are all on our phones too much, just read a book and move on. Funnily enough, my hardly unique interest in our species’ worship of the phone took on a new disposition as I read an assigned book about the development

of American cultural understanding of the urban landscape during the 19th century.

I’m aware that this might not sound particularly riveting, but buried in a chapter examining how industrialism changed workers’ perception of the workplace, not to mention their entire lives, I found an especially resonating passage.

The newly arriving machines and factories were quickly understood by contemporary cultural critics as being complicit in the act of reducing workers’ humanity. Unlike craftsmen and tradespeople of previous millennia, the tools were no longer in complete control of humans. Instead, people were becoming subject to the demands of the machine, at least in the workplace.

Critics, such as Alexis de Tocqueville, warned that this sensation, when repeated over the course of a worker’s life, could dull their senses and critical thinking skills since these wouldn’t be needed for an activity that took up more than half of their waking hours.

This would inevitably result in a major threat to democracy. The danger would lie in the further stratification between an upper class, whose ample resources and free time would allow them to exert a hefty influence on the nation’s governance, and working people, who would be condemned to the dulling of their senses throughout a workday.

The resonance of this passage for me lies in how for most Americans



We need to think critically about the benefits of being on our phones compared to its hazards, writes Opinions Editor Ian Ezinga. *Mission Harbor Behavioral Health*

today, not only do we work jobs that don’t require much more than our bodies, but even when we are off the clock, we are equally susceptible to forces that, by design, inspire our minds to detach, unplug, and consider little outside the purview of our screens.

The same significance spoken to truth by cultural critics of the mid-19th century is one found in our own lifetime, but to a much stronger degree. Tech companies eke out a parasitic living in today’s world by kidnapping our attention and holding it ransom until we go through all possible content in our feeds, buy something, or fall asleep.

In the recently leaked documents from a former Facebook employee, it was revealed that the company was well

aware that the average American’s screen time had surged to over six hours a day during the pandemic. The documents reveal what would have been easy to guess: companies like Facebook don’t want to give up a minute of that time.

Both the industrialists from centuries past and the tech companies of today profit from our mindless engagement with their machines. A brief aside delivers an interesting note that humans have now found a way to exploit others by both maximizing their productivity and dissuading it altogether.

But whatever yield companies like Facebook enjoy for their efforts in capturing and mutilating our imaginations is a small sum compared to

the dividends paid to the political machine humming at the helm of the country. Whether regarding Congress or the president, Democrat or Republican, all sick-in-the-head parties involved are really happy to see how much time you spent nodding off on your dopamine IV drip.

Taking this all into account, I reckon that reading a book isn’t the worst suggestion to the screen time problem. But in order to even get that far, we need to begin to think a lot more critically about the benefits of being on our phones compared to some of its hazards. I suppose, then, my opinion is that the next time you clock out of a thirty-minute doom scroll, ask yourself, “how did I get here?”



# Opinion: How Reading Books Can Keep You In The Loop

By Priscilla Mensah  
Staff Writer

The importance of reading books cannot be understated. By reading books, you can reap many benefits, including learning how to write better, being transported to another world, if only temporarily, and even gaining relevant insight into current events. I put before you a concrete example of the last benefit, namely how one book predicted Jeff Zucker's unexpected resignation from CNN - or at the very least predicted Zucker's fall from grace - before it even made headlines.

Not too long ago, I read Katie Couric's memoir "Going There." Couric is a celebrated journalist whose more recent accomplishments include being a former co-host of "Today" and founding a self-titled media company. Details about these professional accomplishments and much more are spelled out in her memoir that was published last year.

As the title suggests, the memoir gives an intimate look into Couric's personal and professional life. For example, Couric shared being snubbed for a position at CNN by her professional associate at the time, Jeff Zucker, CNN's now-former president. In that vein, Couric also went on to describe certain details about Zucker's personal life, such as a weird living arrangement that he had with a colleague of his, Allison Gollust.



Katie Couric's memoir, "Going There."/Amazon

**"Couric also went on to describe certain details about Zucker's personal life, such as a weird living arrangement that he had with a colleague of his, Allison Gollust."**

With that being one of the more eye-catching and memorable moments in the book, imagine my reaction when both Gollust and Zucker were making headlines last week (though the focus was more on Zucker than Gollust) for the very reason that Couric suggestively wrote

about in her memoir. Specifically, in some iteration or another, newspapers across the country printed headlined stories that read something to the effect of "Jeff Zucker CNN's Top Guy, Out" or something more realistic - and not created by my imagination in an attempt to encapsulate all that I saw online about the matter - "CNN President Jeff Zucker resigns over consensual relationship with key lieutenant."

The latter headline is one of the more tame and less sensational ones that I read, which should come as no surprise, as it was published by CNN itself. The article, and those like it, delineate how Zucker would



CNN's former president, Jeff Zucker./CNN

be resigning over a "consensual" relationship he had with a colleague. The details about the nature of the relationship, such as when it began, unsurprisingly differ according to the source.

Upon reading the first headline, and the couple more to follow about Zucker, I kept thinking to myself, this sounds familiar. Not yet putting the pieces together as to exactly why it sounded familiar, and still browsing the myriad of articles on the subject, I continued to learn more details about the unfolding news. Finally, now well past skimming and actually in the thick of reading the contents of a specific article, I had an 'aha' moment and remembered why

this repetitive headline sounded familiar. At this point, I had learned that the "key lieutenant" in question was Allison Gollust.

Yes, you read that right, the Allison Gollust of Katie Couric's "Going There." In essence, Katie Couric's suggestion had been spot on and it all came full circle.

This is all to say that by reading a book I had the inside scoop and some early insight into a big story that was breaking in real-time. I felt empowered that reading had given me greater context and understanding into an important development reverberating throughout the world. This is one of the many powers of reading books.

# LA Rams Beat Bengals, Wins Super Bowl LVI

By Johan Abdu  
Staff Writer

The Los Angeles Rams won Super Bowl LVI against the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20, with ginormous support from their home crowd in California.

“I’m just so proud of this team. There’s so many guys on our team that deserved this,” said Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford. “Guys that have given their heart and soul to this team, guys that are either playing in this game or not...that game today was the story of our season.”

There was a lot of pressure on the Rams to qualify for the playoffs, as the team previously reached the Super Bowl with quarterback Jared Goff, who was sent to the Detroit Lions for Stafford in Oct. 2021.

Stafford played a lot of meaningless games for the Detroit Lions, but all six of LA’s games against their NFC West opponents were on primetime television

and had the feel of playoff games. Stafford adjusted well to his new team, with Coach Sean McVay calling him “a bad motherf—.”

Even before their new look, and a shiny new stadium, the Rams have been a consistent playoff team since 2017. They have what is considered to be the best defensive lineman in Aaron Donald and the league’s best cornerback in Jalen Ramsey, despite losing three key players on their defense in John Johnson III, Troy Hill, and Michael Brockers. With an upgraded quarterback, a top-five defense, and one of the smartest head coaches in the NFL, this team had the pieces to lift the Lombardi Trophy.

Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. scored the first touchdown of the night early into the first quarter, and from that point on, Los Angeles was in the driving seat. The Rams, however, were dealt a major blow to their offense when Beckham suffered a left



LA Rams Super Bowl MVP, Cooper Kupp, celebrates after the game./Ben Liebenberg for AP

knee injury and was eventually ruled out in the third quarter. The injury, coupled with the Rams struggling in the run game, placed wide receiver Cooper Kupp under more pressure.

The Bengals, making their first Super Bowl appearance since 1988, had bragging rights going into this encounter with an 8-6 record over the Rams in all competitions. The Bengals weren’t even likely to end up on the losing end after having the league’s worst record

two years earlier.

Halftime began in favor of the Rams, 13 - 10. The Pepsi Halftime Show was headlined by a quintet of hip-hop and R&B heavyweights: Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, Kendrick Lamar, and Eminem. With a surprise appearance by 50 Cent, they played some of their chart-topping hits, such as “Lose Yourself,” “No More Pain,” “Still D.R.E.,” and more to a roaring West Coast crowd with celebs like Jennifer Lopez, Justin Bieber, and LeBron James.

After the performance, the Rams couldn’t handle the Bengals going into the third quarter but quickly played them at their own high offensive game. And as he had done all season, Kupp made a massive timely catch, making the go-ahead touchdown from Stafford with just over a minute left in the fourth quarter as part of a MVP comeback effort. Kupp finished with eight

catches for 92 yards and two scores.

The game would finish 23-20 and proved to be a big example of this new Rams look with McVay being the youngest coach to win a Super Bowl at 36 years old. As for Stafford, winning the big one was all just hard work with Kupp behind him.

“I mean — that’s hard work, it’s hours together. I just thank Coach for putting it: ‘Hey, you and Kupp get this thing done,’ ” said Stafford. “He kept calling plays for him, kept finding ways to get him the ball, he made unbelievable plays, that’s what he does.”

With their victory, the Rams won their first Super Bowl since 1999 when they were still based in St. Louis, Missouri. As for the Bengals, the team remains without a Super Bowl victory in only three appearances for the franchise.



LA Rams win Super Bowl at home in front of West Coast audience./LA Rams

# Brooklyn Nets Trade James Harden To 76ers

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

On Thursday, Feb. 10, the Brooklyn Nets traded All-Star guard James Harden to the Philadelphia 76ers after playing just 80 games for the team. Along with Harden, the Nets are sending veteran forward Paul Millsap to Philadelphia. In return, Brooklyn received All-Star forward/guard Ben Simmons, guard Seth Curry, center Andre Drummond, and two unprotected first-round draft picks. The trade comes after months of speculation that Harden wanted out of Brooklyn.

Initially traded to Brooklyn last year to escape a rapidly deteriorating Houston Rockets team, Harden was likely allured by the prospect of reuniting with Kevin Durant and playing with Kyrie Irving. However, things never

got rolling for Brooklyn's big three. Due to injuries, along with Irving's refusal to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, Brooklyn's terrifying trifecta only played 16 games together. Like many Brooklyn fans, Harden may have been disillusioned by reality after buying into the Nets' idea of a superteam.

Now in Philadelphia, Harden reunites with former Rockets and current 76ers' General Manager, Daryl Morey.

Morey has been extremely outspoken about bringing Harden to Philadelphia, so much so that some teams suspect it could be tampering. Whether or not Harden was lured to the 76ers by unsavory means, he jumps from the eighth seed to the fifth seed with the move. Set up in a better playoff position, Harden also joins powerhouse center Joel Embiid, a duo who could certainly shake up the

Eastern Conference.

For the Nets, however, questions still remain. With Harden gone, the Nets must find a scoring option to rely on while Durant is hurt and Irving can only play road games. Along with the already existing struggles, the Brooklyn Nets bring on board a wildcard in Ben Simmons. Since last year's playoffs, Simmons has refused to play for the 76ers. Having missed more than half a season, how will Simmons fit into Brooklyn's game plan? On top of that, will Simmons cause the same distractions he caused in Philadelphia?

While many are concerned about Simmons and his mental state, Brooklyn point guard Patrick Mills spoke out in support of his new teammate. "I've got his back. I've always had his back," Mills said at a recent press conference. Simmons and Mills were both born



James Harden is headed to Philadelphia./Getty Images

in Australia and have spent time playing for the country in international competition.

With less than half a season left, and a looming All-Star break, the Nets will have to address multiple questions if they hope to compete for

a spot in the NBA Finals. Meanwhile, James Harden will also look to secure his first ever NBA Championship with a fearsome new partner in Joel Embiid.

## BC Sports (Feb 7th-13th)

### Women's Basketball Win Streak Ends

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

The seemingly unstoppable women's basketball team had their nine-game win streak snapped with a loss to Salisbury University this past week.

The Bulldogs stumbled out of the gate, scoring only four points in the first quarter. Brooklyn's slow start allowed the Seagulls from Salisbury to take advantage. By the second half, Salisbury led 33-17. Brooklyn fought back in the second, outscoring their opponent 33-22 in the half, but it wasn't enough to earn the lead. Brooklyn would lose 55-50, marking their third loss of the season.

Forward Chanel Jemmott scored half of Brooklyn's total, dropping 25 points and grabbing eight rebounds.

The Bulldogs were determined to recapture momentum after coming off a stinging loss. On Feb. 9, Brooklyn hosted the Hawks from Hunter College. Hunter kept things close in the first quarter, trailing Brooklyn 15-12. Not willing to suffer another close defeat, the Bulldogs turned on the jets in the second quarter, applying staunch defense and holding the Hawks to only three points. From there, the Bulldogs were able to pull ahead and withstand a close fourth quarter, winning the game 72-55. Guards Gianna Gotti and

Ericka James both scored 19 points, helping the Bulldogs secure their 10th conference win of the season.

Soon after, Feb. 11's game against CCNY was another dominant performance by the best team in the CUNYAC. Brooklyn outscored the Beavers 46-18 in the first half and never looked back. By the time the final buzzer sounded, the Bulldogs had trounced the Beavers 78-33.

The Bulldogs took advantage of City College's lack of ball security, scoring 37 points off of turnovers. Brooklyn was also able to find scoring in unlikely places, receiving 31 points off the bench. Leading the way for Brooklyn was junior



Junior guard Destiny Drummond./Damion Reid

guard Destiny Drummond, who scored 20 points in 21 minutes. Brooklyn's win against CCNY improved their record to 17-3 for the season and 11-0 in CUNYAC play.

Cruising into the playoffs,

Brooklyn has two more games until the postseason. Their next contest will be on Feb. 15 against York College. With a win against York, the Bulldogs would secure an undefeated record against conference opponents.

# BC Sports (Feb 7th-13th)

## Men's Basketball Wins One, Loses Two

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

After dropping two of their three games this past week, the men's basketball team finds themselves in rough shape heading into the playoffs.

The week started on a high note as the Bulldogs faced the Cougars from Medgar Evers on Feb. 7. The Cougars got off to a hot start, scoring 39 points in the first half as Brooklyn only put up 28. Though things looked bleak for Brooklyn, the second half saw a major turnaround.

Brooklyn scored an incredible 58 points in the second half, 30 more than they did in the first, and went on to win the game 87-80.

Senior guard Noah Shy lit up the stat sheet. Not only did Shy drop 30 points, he grabbed nine rebounds, threw seven assists, and even swiped three steals, an incredible performance by the senior which helped

Brooklyn secure their third win of the season. The glow of Brooklyn's win against Medgar Evers, however, didn't last long.

On Feb. 9, the Bulldogs hosted Hunter College and scored a season high 110 points, but ultimately lost the game. This time around, it was much the same. Both the Bulldogs and the Hawks scored early and often. Heading into the second half, the teams were neck and neck with Hunter 43, Brooklyn 41.

The second half saw an even heavier barrage of scoring, as Brooklyn added 59 points to their total. In the end Hunter was able to hold on, scoring 62 points in the second half and winning the game 105-100. Despite the loss, Brooklyn had some stand-out performances. Noah Shy had yet another impressive game, putting up 27 points and pulling down 16 rebounds. Along with Shy, sophomore forward Elisha Park scored over 20 points, dropping 25 and



Senior guard Noah Shy./BC Athletics

securing six rebounds.

Brooklyn's second loss of the week came shortly after against CCNY on Feb. 11. After scoring triple digits the game before, Brooklyn looked hopeful to turn things around and earn their fourth win of the season, but the Beavers had other plans. The game started slow for the Bulldogs, only scoring 20

points compared to CCNY's 33. Down big, the Bulldogs rallied somewhat in the second half, outscoring the Beavers 31-29, but it just wasn't enough. City College went on to win 62-51, handing Brooklyn their 20th loss of the season. Brooklyn couldn't replicate their previous games' output, and the lack of scoring allowed

CCNY to win with only 62 points. Noah Shy led the team in scoring for a third straight game with 14.

Brooklyn's final game of the season will take place on Feb. 15 against York College. Sitting at 2-11 in conference play, the Bulldogs will more than likely enter the playoffs as the lowest seed.

## Men's Volleyball Split Four Games

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

The men's volleyball team came into this week with one win and two losses. Looking to improve their record, the Bulldogs eventually split their four games this week.

On Feb. 8, Brooklyn hosted their intra-borough rival, the Bears from St. Joseph's College. The two Brooklyn teams split the opening sets with the Bulldogs securing a 25-20 victory in the first, and St. Joseph answering back with a 25-19 victory in the second.

With things looking close, the Bulldogs were able to cut out any momentum the Bears thought they had with a 25-14 victory in the third set. From there, the Bulldogs won an easy 25-12 set in the fourth to secure the win. Brooklyn led in every

conceivable category on their way to victory, leading in aces, kills, and assists, to name a few. Sophomore Admir Cekic led the team with 15 kills. Junior setter Brian Fok led the team with 39 assists.

Feb. 11 saw Brooklyn win their second straight contest with a victory against Sarah Lawrence College. The Bulldogs made quick work of the visiting Sarah Lawrence team, sweeping them in three straight sets (25-13, 25-18, 25-22). Brooklyn yet again led the game in most categories, most notably kills, where the Bulldogs led 39-13. Junior outside hitter Zhao Ming Li led the Bulldogs in kills with 11. Senior Jasper Diangco earned four aces and also nine kills, helping the Bulldogs earn their third win of the season.

Winning two straight



Junior outside hitter Zhao Ming Li./Damion Reid

games, the Bulldogs were confident heading into the St. Joseph's (Long Island) tri-match on Feb. 12. Brooklyn's first game of the day came against the hosting St. Joseph's Golden Eagles.

The Bulldogs were no match for the Eagles, losing three straight sets on their way to a sweep. Brooklyn tried everything it could but

wasn't able to keep up with St. Joseph's, losing each set by double digits.

Coming off a hard defeat, the Bulldogs had to suit up again and play the Rangers from Drew University. Though this game was closer than the previous one, Brooklyn still lost all three sets. Drew outclassed Brooklyn in every category,

including aces, scoring seven compared to Brooklyn's two. Junior outside hitter Darren Roach earned 12 kills, leading the way for the Bulldogs, while Brian Fok led the team with 21 assists.

Hoping to bounce back from their two losses, the Bulldogs will take on New Jersey City University on Feb. 20.