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**THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE**

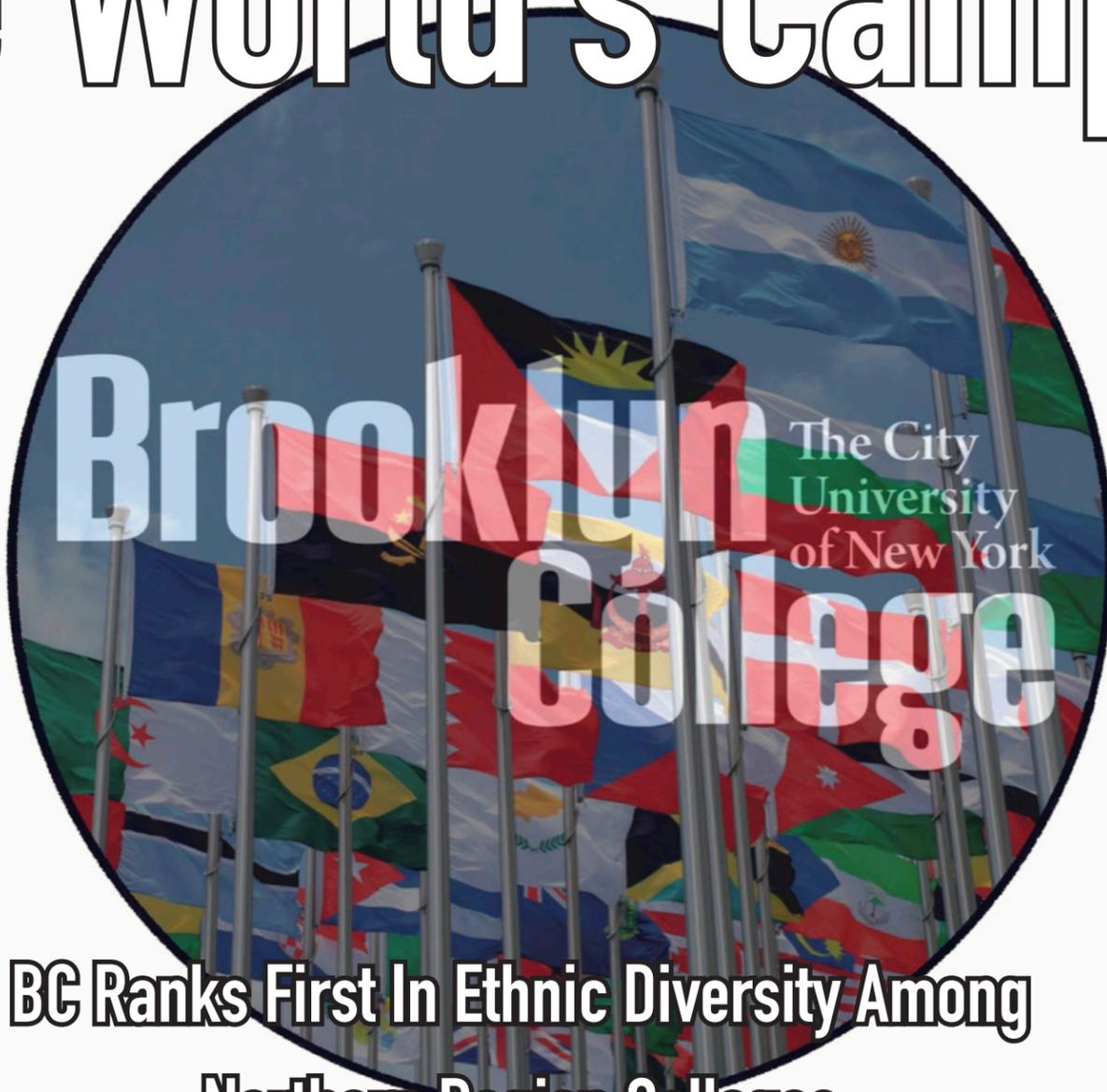
# **VANGUARD**

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Wednesday, September 21st

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# USS Nominates Steering Committee, Implements Election Review Changes

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By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Several University Student Senate members gathered for their first in-person plenary meeting on Sunday, Sept. 18, where they nominated student government leaders across CUNY for the body's Steering Committee. Some nominees are running without opposition, including the committee's current chairperson Salimatou Doumbouya, who is seeking re-election.

There are 10 positions that make up Steering, which leads and oversees USS operations. Four nominees are currently running uncontested, including Brooklyn College's Aharon Grama for Vice Chair for Senior College Affairs. Chair Doumbouya is the only ticket in the race for chairperson, who mentioned the importance of continuity in addressing student concerns effectively.

"I believe in the power of continuity, the work that's been started has to be continued," Doumbouya said during the meeting, who noted that she advocated for USS to have representation in the university's athletics division given that the body allocates \$100,000 of its funding to the department.

Three candidates are currently in the race for the second-in-command position of Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs: Senators Jamal Mark from Queens College, Aryeh Kalb from Lehman, and Frank Lachappelle from City Tech. Each promised to represent the university's student body and work diligently alongside the future chairperson.

"When I started to volunteer as a freshman, I started to understand the galvanization of students and I wanted to be part



(L to R) Senators Frank Lachappelle, Aryeh Kalb, and Jamal Mark are running for Vice Chair of Legislative Affairs./*Gabriela Flores*

of that experience," said Lachappelle, who is majoring in data science. "Literally wasn't until my third year I didn't become a member because I didn't believe a title made you a member. I believed your work did, and that's why I'm here."

Kalb, who led the group that proposed changes to the USS Elections Review Committee, joined campus governance as a politically active and aware student.

"I've been involved in a lot of campaigns, and I think it's really important to vote and be involved in every level of government - student government, city government, state government, everything," said Kalb, who is majoring in political science.

Mark's start in student government dates from his middle school years, where his experience led him to become Queens College's student association president.

"I only came to student government for one

thing: and that's to make a difference and to also be the voice of all the students, all the community, and be a better leader, and be a better person at the end of the day," Mark said.

Before delegates nominated their candidates, changes were made to USS's Elections Review Committee regulations that were established years ago. The new rules clarified how candidates can interact with student press and use their personal email addresses to avoid any accusations of unfairly advancing their campaign with CUNY resources. These changes are backdropped by last year's contentious disqualification of Grama, Brooklyn College's undergraduate student government president, who ran for chairperson.

"What we did was to clarify USSERC's rules to make sure this doesn't happen again," Kalb told the Vanguard.

If a candidate is approached for interviews from student outlets, they are required

to ask the reporter to also request interviews from those running for the same position. Steering nominees are also allowed to use their personal school emails and other personal technology like their CUNY Zoom accounts for anything related to their campaign.

"If you want to make rules you have to be very clear about them, and balance with that. And that's what the changes over there [USSERC] reflect," Grama said, who also formed part of the group that proposed these amendments.

The changes also enable USSERC to revoke a nominee's candidacy if they are guilty of harassment, rather than send the report to the Ethics Committee that may prolong repercussions.

USS elections are set for Saturday, Oct. 22. There, candidates will need to win at least 29 votes to win the majority vote and become elected.

# BC Ranks First For Ethnic Diversity In North Region

By Gabriela Flores  
Editor-In-Chief

Reporting assistance  
By Radwan Farraj  
News Editor

Brooklyn College has ranked first for the most ethnically diverse campus in the north region by the U.S. News & World Report. This marks BC's fifth straight year earning the accolade that considers the total proportion of minority students, not including international students, that formed part of the college's fall 2021 undergraduate student body. The recognition comes as no surprise to students and faculty, but many opine that it is important for the administration to further support its ethnic diversity.

"We are very much grateful for the diversity, and we're grateful for the people we've encountered," said Ariscelys Turay, Women of Color's president. "We're not saying that we're not. We're saying there's still other stuff that has to be done."

CUNY's Baruch, Hunter, Queens, John Jay, and College of Staten Island also followed suit in ranking high for ethnic diversity. With students hailing from 142 countries and speaking over 94 languages, Brooklyn College's student population has become a hub for ethnic diversity. For some, campus diversity is expected for a public institution that stands in New York City.

"I can't imagine being anywhere else. I attend this



Students on campus of Brooklyn College./ [brooklyn.cuny.edu](https://brooklyn.cuny.edu)

school because a big part of that is a sense of lots of different types of people, lots of different experiences that make me feel stronger and more empowered to go about my day," said Christopher Arias, the president of Puerto Rican Alliance. "But it leads out to the larger community at large, beyond the campus."

Though several student leaders embrace the diversity of their peers, some are actively demanding Brooklyn College administrators to provide more funding for ethnic studies and student organizations. Last Monday, Sept. 12, PRA rallied against the ongoing tenured and

tenure track understaffing of the Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Department. Organizers demanded PRLS to be properly funded for students' education and representation.

"I think we're at a point where we can move past accolades," said Lexington Rivera, PRA's club connector. "Oh great, you're the most diverse campus - what the hell are you doing for the kids?"

For many of the ethnic and cultural organizations that are located in the West End Building, advocating for each other is an important component of who they are on and off campus.

"What we do, in general,

all of us being student leaders extends beyond that - it goes to school with us, it goes to work with us, and in the way we live our lives," said Rivera, noting that the student body's ethnic diversity has impacted her. "It's really important for people to have these spaces, and we'll like to continue to have these spaces."

Despite the college being recognized for being the most ethnically diverse in the north region for five consecutive years, its diversity has existed for decades and continues to be celebrated by different members of the campus community.

"I first came to Brooklyn

College in 1989 and since back then, diversity has been one of its more important pillars of its educational experience and richness," Jesús Pérez, the director of the Immigrant Student Success Office, wrote to the Vanguard. "The most important factor to keep in mind is how this diversity is celebrated and respected. At ISSO we provide all our resources and programming with respect and dignity to ALL. We value the contributions our students make to our Brooklyn College community and we know that this is an invaluable part of the Brooklyn College educational experience."

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

@THEBCVANGUARD ON SOCIAL MEDIA

# Wolfe Institute Names Author, Activist Barbara Smith As New Hess Scholar

By Radwan Farraj  
News Editor

Author and activist Barbara Smith was recently announced as the Wolfe Institute's Robert L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence for the academic year of 2022-23. The Scholar-in-Residence program features an annually rotating list of scholars from different disciplines and invites them to participate in public lectures, panels, and engage with BC faculty, staff, and students.

Smith was one of the founding members of the Combahee River Collective, a black feminist lesbian socialist organization formed in 1974 that aimed to shape black feminism into an agent of social change and reform through political involvement and the fostering of political consciousness.

"When I started looking at African American literature, and particularly black women writers, very few people in the nation were doing that, nor did they have any interest in doing it," Smith told the Vanguard.

With the purpose of

addressing particular issues that faced black women's studies, Smith wrote one essay in 1977 titled, "Toward a Black Feminist Criticism," where she attempted to "define the field of black women's literature, which had not really been done in any kind of cohesive way before." Although other scholars were interested in this field of study, Smith explains that it would only have been a handful across the nation, as "they were not necessarily trying to define what might that field be."

In 1977, the Combahee River Collective would publish its widely influential "Combahee River Collective Statement," which would have far-reaching consequences for the development of black feminism and for black women's studies.

"It's considered to be probably the clearest statement of what black feminism is as a political stance and perspective. And also, it had the seeds of what is now called intersectionality," said Smith when discussing the importance of outlining the Collective's goals. "We were

talking about how you have to look at race and gender, class and sexuality when you're forming a political program and political priorities; you can't just look at one vector."

The Collective's work has influenced present-day activist organizations like Black Lives Matter and the perspectives of its leaders who have been shaped by the Combahee River Collective's goals and influence in developing black feminism.

"We made the point that we were not solely women. We were not solely black, that we were both black and women, and that we could not be divided from each other," stated Smith.

With her new title as Hess Scholar-in-Residence, Smith expressed her enthusiasm to engage with BC faculty and staff, in particular students, and discuss the change in college curriculums since her time as a college student. Referencing her joy in engaging with students, Smith said, "I believe that's why people choose, should choose to be in classrooms because they want to be. They wanna be around,



2022-2023 Hess Scholar-in-Residence  
Barbara Smith./Brooklyn College

you know, people who are Institute through March. The young, alert, energetic, events cover a range of topics idealist, and curious." from discussions about

Smith will be attending elections to intersectionality events hosted by the Wolfe and reproductive justice.

## BC Continues Campus Fun With Welcome Bash

By Serin Sarsour  
Features Editor

Brooklyn College students, staff, and faculty were welcomed into the fall semester with a Bulldog Welcome Bash hosted by the Undergraduate Student Government, Student Affairs, and the Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership Center this past Thursday, Sep. 15 during common hours. The event was initially set for Tuesday, Sept. 13, but due to weather conditions, it was postponed.

"It's something fun... I feel like it brings out a bit of something different around the campus, something to do and to connect with people," said BC student Maria Manoloudi.

The bash consisted of music, laser tag, games, such as the classic bean bag toss game, campus resources, giveaways and prizes, and snacks, including cotton candy made right in front of the guests.

"I just like how everyone's here and just having fun, it's really nice," said Khairia, a BC sophomore who was waiting in a line to build her own bear.

Kevin Ramirez was another BC student who attended the welcome bash at the West Quad.

"I think, similar to the job fair, it's a good way to interact with people, so it's a good thing Brooklyn College is doing this," he said.

Manoloudi expressed that the music was a good call as it "made everything a little bit more fun." On the other hand, Ramirez voiced that the laser tag game was one of his favorite aspects of the bash.



Building teddy bears on campus./Serin Sarsour

# MTA Phasing Out MetroCard Machines For OMNY By 2024

By Radwan Farraj  
News Editor

Reporting assistance  
By Michela Arlia  
Managing Editor

The MTA recently announced the end of MetroCard machines and MetroCards, which are to be replaced by the contactless fare payment system, One Metro New York, starting in 2023. OMNY has been available at subway stations and city buses since its initial rollout in May 2019, and the MTA seeks to fully replace MetroCards by 2024 with reloadable OMNY cards.

“I think that the OMNY system will definitely be more convenient since we no longer need physical MetroCards and entry will be done through an app or just via a phone. We don’t have to fish for our wallet when entering the station,” said Shannon Wong, a Brooklyn College student. “I can see it [OMNY] help reduce plastic waste too; but since this system is new and the first ever being used in NYC, there could be drawbacks if there is a system failure.”

OMNY allows commuters

to pay for fares through smart devices, credit/debit cards, and \$5 OMNY cards that are available for purchase and refills in some retail stores. Features, such as the ability to refill one’s OMNY card online, require making an OMNY account. After 12 paid trips using OMNY starting on Mondays, riders will automatically have free rides through Sundays.

Fare-reduction programs currently exist for the elderly, disabled, and students through MetroCards, and while there are plans in place to incorporate these same programs into OMNY, they are being enacted on a rolling basis as of press time. Commuters that take advantage of these fare-reduction programs can register their contact information with OMNY to be informed of when these programs are available through the service. Concerns over OMNY’s effectiveness in curbing fare evasion have risen among New Yorkers.

“Honestly, it’s going to cause more crimes and situations in the trains. People already hop the turnstiles, so if we remove the machines and rely on OMNY more people will



OMNY is available across train stations and buses. [towardsdatascience.com](https://towardsdatascience.com)

be hopping that turnstile,” Iliana Calderon, a senior at BC, wrote to the Vanguard via Instagram. “On top of that Pre-k-middle schoolers don’t own debit or credit cards, not even all high schoolers. What’s going to happen to them?”

With MetroCards first introduced in the 1990s, many question the new contactless system’s accessibility for older generations.

“I understand that the switch is mainly to phase out cash payment and transition to credit, but

this doesn’t actually make riding the train easier for all commuters,” opined David Kreyn, a senior at Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. “OMNY will require commuters to make a switch from a very long status quo and especially the older generation will find it difficult.”

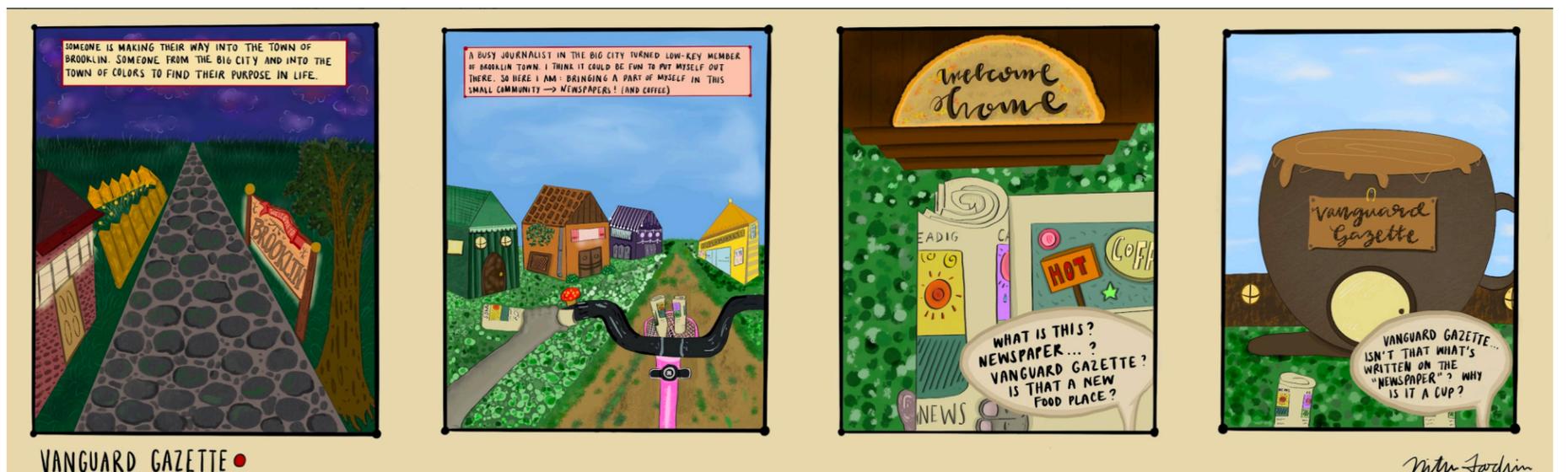
Others found that the removal of MetroCard machines in stations can present its challenges to some commuters, but overall, many who have contactless forms of payment find it beneficial

for riders on the go.

“OMNY is extremely beneficial to commuters because unlike a MetroCard everyone has a phone or a digital device and would bring it with them basically everywhere,” Tiffany Zhao, a senior at the College of Staten Island, told the Vanguard. “Honestly I think the switch is beneficial, but would’ve been more beneficial if they can allow the purchase of its physical version [cards] in train stations like where MetroCards can be purchased.”

## Vanguard Gazette

by Nitu Farhin



# Bonds That Can't Be Broken: BC Anime Manga Club

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

Tucked in the nestle of the West End Building is a seemingly-niche club that has been around for decades. The Brooklyn College Anime Manga club welcomes avid animation lovers and non-fanatics alike, with the undying goal of creating a familial, open-minded environment that enables students to bond while bustling through their college years.

"You can watch and you can be what you want. We will accept you," said Genesis Soto, one of the club connectors. "We will not judge you for it. We will not put you in this box."

If "Naruto," "Attack on Titan," or regrettably "Dragon Ball Z" has landed on your radar, you likely dabbled into the world of anime, a style of Japanese animation. You may have even encountered manga, or Japanese graphic novels that animations attempt to emulate on screen. True to its name, BCAM lets students borrow some manga, watch anime series together, play video games, take power naps, or simply enjoy other people's company. They also host Maid Cafe, a developing

tradition where members dress as maids and butlers to serve students food.

"There were just people who came to see what was up and it was a huge success," said Amara Minott, the club's president, about last May's cafe event. "Sometimes they even asked to take pictures with us. Just a whole lot of fun, ecstatic type of environment where people just have fun playing games and all that."

With good fun at its core, BCAM aims to foster long-standing relationships among its 300 and counting members. So far, as they've returned to in-person last spring since the pandemic shutdown, BCAM leaders have worked to recreate the welcoming space they first discovered years ago as freshmen. As many are on track to graduate soon, they intend to carry out the inviting atmosphere their predecessors planted during their first year at Brooklyn College. Contrary to what many might perceive of anime culture and the subsequent cult-like following it develops, BCAM members are also looking to debunk any misconceptions about anime fanatics.

"You could be bad, sexy,

attractive, confident, and still watch anime," said Minott. "And that's the narrative I'm trying to persist on changing because I feel like, especially when I was in high school, I was bullied very harshly for being a nerd, for watching anime, and for being who I was — which was my authentic self." As a Brooklyn-native with Caribbean roots, Minott has already set herself apart from the stereotypical anime crowd and hopes to change the perspective on anime watchers.

The multidimensionality of the club and its members are echoed regularly. Beside their office in WEB 137 are organizations like the Intersvarsity Christian Fellowship, Dominican Student Movement, and a mix of others that celebrate ethnic roots, sexual orientation, gender, religious beliefs, and different identities. With their motto of welcoming all with open arms, BCAM has become much more than the go-to place to enjoy anime; it has become a community that's open to connecting with everyone no matter their interests or persona.

Though they embrace all kinds of differences, many BCAM members can all agree on what makes for a good anime — originality in plot and strong character development. For most anime lovers, watching an enthralling series would often enable them to see themselves in the strong-willed personas onscreen. With a lesson often embedded in the storyline, they find that much can be learned from the anime genre.

"Every single one that I watch, I love to heart. What anime does for me is show me lessons and it could be anything," said Christian Hoyek, the club's vice president. "It could be an adventure one, which



BCAM members during last May's Maid Cafe./@bcanime\_manga via Instagram

means like you go out there, you explore the world and not be afraid of any challenges that are ahead of you." Anime can range from romantic to fighting, with each carrying a message that can be applicable to one's self, Hoyek explained.

While they showcase their anime interests and continue growing their safe space on campus, one might be surprised to find that BCAM wasn't always as present in person. Like many organizations when COVID-19 struck, BCAM members were forced to close their office doors and function remotely.

"I thought, 'Man, the people I saw that semester [fall 2020], I'm never going to see them anymore. It's going to be sad, but I guess it's going to be new people and I'm going to have to be that guy to tell them everything's fine,'" said Hoyek. "Thankfully when we all got back, I saw everyone there — familiar faces, also new faces, but more familiar faces. And I was like, 'This is awesome.'"

As the move to online presented its challenges, the organization didn't give up. Members created Discord chats and a WhatsApp group to stay connected, despite many losing touch with the club or graduating in the thick of the pandemic. For

some members, including Minott, the return to campus last spring was a somber one filled with the hard reality that some of BCAM's family will no longer be hanging in WEB. Collectively, members were looking to come back in full swing and continue cultivating the bonds they formed before the pandemic. Most importantly, they hoped to continue making memories for the remainder of their run at BC.

Now, with their unrestricted access to campus, BCAM doesn't plan on going anywhere. Though some may go on to become therapists like Minott, or others a cardiologist like Hoyek, they intend to remain close beyond Brooklyn College's walls. With several weeks left in the fall semester, BCAM hopes to keep their momentum going and encourage others, even non-anime fanatics, to join their open communal space.

"I love to have this safety net that I can go back on when times are really rough and bad, and I'm not going to be judged," said Soto. "I'm very honored to be a part of a club that actually brings such safety and such trust at the forefront of our community that we're able to just give that almost immediately."



BC Anime Club logo./@bcanime\_manga via Instagram

# Depicting Community Through Jazz, BC Choir Collab On 'God's Only Black Man'

By Samia Afsar  
Arts Editor

Since the fall term has finally commenced, music fans recently united at Brooklyn College's Claire Tow Theater for an evening of jazz-cleansing. RoBurrage Productions and World Rhythm Academy, in collaboration with the Brooklyn College Symphonic Choir, performed a conservatory jazz ensemble titled "God's Only Black Man," on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

Although fairly low in attendance, waves of music gracefully echoed throughout the theater as the jazz ensemble and choir performed original compositions created by Ronnie Burrage, a percussionist, vocalist, composer, producer, and professor at Brooklyn College's Conservatory of Music. Drawing inspiration from his own family and human nature, Burrage's motivation for the event was to build a sense of community.

"I know that music is like a healing force," Burrage told the Vanguard. "I want people to be aware of the things that are going on and music nowadays doesn't talk to people about the importance of society and culture. So, my music is about just that - community."

To kick off the event, Burrage performed alongside the choir, Holographic Principle, and conservatory jazz ensemble, with vocals by Malcolm J. Merriweather, a Grammy-nominated conductor and baritone. Together they played a piece titled "Always," which was about giving thanks and praising



Album cover of "Dance of the Great Spirit" by Burrage and Holographic Principle./Spotify

God. Being a lively and enthusiastic piece, "Always" served as a crucial introduction to the event. However, it was the encouraging nods and exuberant smiles on stage by the artists that truly set the tone for the evening. From the first musical composition, it was clear that the night was about celebrating each other, spreading love, and building a community.

Despite each musical composition being beautifully empowering in its own way, there were two pieces that moved much of the audience to tears. The first, entitled "Alana's Dance," was

a song dedicated to Burrage's daughter. While on percussion and vocals, Burrage was joined by the string ensemble, which so exquisitely captured the innocence and playful tone of the piece.

The second composition, titled "God's Only Black Man," was initially a poem written by Burrage's grandfather, Allan David Mahr. The poem is in the archives of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and President John F. Kennedy, and has received honorary doctorates in Literature from the University of EuClaire, Wisconsin, and the University of Bombay.

"My grandfather's poem has been in my life my entire life and it serves as a mantra of just how proud we are to be who we are as people of color," said Burrage. "It speaks on how proud I am to be a black man."

"God's Only Black Man" was conducted with the entire orchestra in performance, and in sync with a short slideshow and film showcasing photographs and short clips that radiated self-love, pride, and community, ending the hour-and-a-half-long event on both an especially strong, moving note.

The poem and Burrage's musical composition was on the 2019 Grammy-considered recording entitled "Dance of the Great Spirit," by Burrage and Holographic Principle.



# Netflix's "Look Both Ways" Creatively Shows How Nothing Goes As Planned



The two Natalies featured in "Look Both Ways."/Netflix

By Alexandria Woolfe  
Staff Writer

During the week of her college graduation, Natalie (Lili Reinhart) discovers she may be pregnant at a college fraternity party. Suddenly, her life splits into two: a reality where she is pregnant with her friend's baby and her dreams are deferred, and then a separate reality where she isn't pregnant and goes onto her animation program in LA.

Netflix's "Look Both Ways," released on Aug. 17, interestingly shows the concept of being able to live out two different realities and realizing that all of your choices can still lead to happiness and

fulfillment. At this age, most students would give anything for the same reassurance Natalie looked for in the bathroom where she took her pregnancy test.

Plot aside, Lili Reinhart's performance is unexpectedly very well-rounded. I went into the film with low expectations, regretfully. To see her, after becoming familiar with her in *Riverdale* for so many years, in a more serious or mature role definitely built a desire to see her in more dramatic roles. Natalie helps build a more seasoned look for her filmography.

What makes this film most fascinating is how both lives are shown but there isn't a split screen

to show the differences between the two Natalies. However, there is a little confusion towards the end after Natalie gets invited to a renowned media festival, *South by Southwest*, in both realities. Because both characters take on similar haircuts, you won't get which reality you're sitting through unless Natalie's daughter is on screen.

Another part of the movie that I really enjoyed was that neither reality for Natalie depended on finding a boyfriend or a husband to take care of her. She was able to really focus on her accomplishments even in the reality where she had a daughter that she was taking care of on her own

primarily.

On that, the movie never made motherhood seem like a hardship for Natalie. Her storyline revolved around being a mother but not in a negative way. Her art became better because she included her daughter and the lessons she learned from her. Natalie's short film dedicated to and about motherhood even landed her an invitation to *South by Southwest*.

In the end, the movie returns back to the scene where Natalie is about to read her pregnancy test in the frat house bathroom. Both Natalies reenter the frat house to relive the moment that their lives changed forever, respectively. Watching this

scene, it makes you think we finally find out which life actually happens. But the director, Wanuri Kahiu, ends the film with both Natalies looking into the mirror and finally having convinced the young original Natalie that whatever outcome doesn't destroy her life the way it may seem.

The ending of the movie was crucial for both Natalie and for viewers because it soothes anxieties and lets you know that everything can and will be okay despite all the ups and downs that life can have. Not every plan you make comes to fruition.

# “Cobra Kai” Falls Flat And Below Expectations After Five Seasons

By Michela Arlia  
Managing Editor

Season five of the action packed Netflix original “Cobra Kai” was released Sept. 9 after almost a year of anticipation from fans. While the general consensus is another stellar performance in a stellar season, it realistically poses a question of how much is too much?

The show originated as a series on YouTube and was then picked up by the streaming moguls after season two in 2020. Despite the show’s success on its original platform, YouTube noted the switch came as a result of the platform wanting to distance itself from scripted originals to focus on content from creators.

The plot carries over from the classic 80s movie “The Karate Kid,” starring Ralph Macchio and William Zabka, who both have continued their roles as Daniel LaRusso and Johnny Lawrence in the new series. Season five also reintroduced a familiar face from the second installment of the original movie franchise, Yuji Okumoto, who originally played LaRusso’s enemy Chozen in the second “Karate Kid” movie but now is more friend than foe.

The story picks up right off the tails of season four, when a showdown between dojos results in Daniel

and Johnny losing a bet to Terry Silver, the protagonist in the series played by Thomas Ian Griffith. Daniel and Johnny were forced to close their dojos after Silver’s dojo, Cobra Kai, consistently beat them out for the title of best in the valley.

After five seasons and three movies, the action seems ever redundant and highly anticipated, and the acting seems to dangerously toe the line with that of amateur or dare I say it, corny skills.

What becomes confusing is seeing most of these same actors in other projects of theirs, and their execution in these other roles are great. But somehow, coming together for this particular show seems to not work. Putting the acting aside, the choice in background music is off putting. I know they mean well by using instrumental pieces as background to further enhance the anticipation of a scene, but it all seems misplaced. Very comparable to music in soaps at times, it makes you want to giggle more than believe the intensity being portrayed.

There is something about beating the dead horse while it’s already down that doesn’t strike well, and it seems as though the show only exists for the fans. The storyline drags out and just when you think the rivalry has ended, and the heroes come out on top, another one begins.

I ask myself two questions while



Promotional Poster for Cobra Kai./Netflix

watching and those are often “just how many times can you really have a karate throw down in a 23-minute episode” and most likely following this is the question of “why am I still watching this?”

I knew of the franchise movies well before this sort of reboot. When news first dropped that the television version would be made, I was more than interested to see the re-creation

of a classic. But that excitement fell quickly. I’ve come to learn that in the entertainment world, if it’s not broken, don’t fix it.

The lack of creativity within the entertainment industry radiates in projects such as this, where the main focus is to build off of things that already exist. Instead, channeling energy into totally new ideas could allow for an innovative

breakthrough in movies and television.

Now I will say, when done right, these reboots and continuations are exquisite, such as “Topgun: Maverick” which became a summer blockbuster and I would argue was better than the original. It seems as though “Cobra Kai” initially got the ball rolling in this same fashion, but as the seasons passed, they missed the mark.

# Opinion: This Hispanic Heritage Month, Uncover Buried Truths

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

At times, we can confuse the reasons for celebrating holidays. Easter, for instance, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a preacher to some and God's divine son to others. Here in the States, we've made a bunny who defies mammalian anatomy by laying chocolate eggs to become one of the day's highlights. Or when some of us mistake Cinco de Mayo, a day celebrating the Battle of Puebla when a Mexican army fought against French invaders, for Mexico's Independence Day.

If you've seen your nearest Party City decked with green, white, and red during the late days of April, you might have been guilty of this fallacy. But don't fret. The truth is, there is a complex history that's hidden about Mexico and that of other Latinx and Spanish-speaking countries. And for someone like me, whose roots could hypothetically be explained by that same buried history, finding answers about my heritage can be difficult.

As we know, having ancestors who were colonized and oppressed can lead us to unanswered questions of whose DNA runs through our veins. Sure, we can make assumptions based on the loosely explained lessons we've read about the Spanish conquistadors or the Aztec, Inca, or Mayan peoples. But who can definitively know that my genetic makeup, and that of another Latinx or Hispanic person, can be so one-dimensional?

My parents, who



Pyramid of the Sun./*HISTORY.com*

immigrated here from Puebla decades ago, have made it a habit for me to constantly visit my second home in Tulcingo de Valle, Puebla, a town that some locals call "little New York." Though we don't usually make our way to the Mexican city streets, we made an exception during the summer of 2015. We took a road trip exploring Oaxaca's clear waters and beaches, traveled miles to Alcapulco, and circled back north to Mexico City. There, we got a taste of how different it is to be a Mexican city dweller versus a New York one, and we also got to see the pyramids of Teotihuacan.

I was turning 14 at the time, with my skin toasting underneath the beaming sun as I roamed the land. Taking in the history written along the museum walls that stood right outside Teotihuacan, I felt my mind unlock a boarded-up vault. Whether it was the new knowledge that unraveled

before me or the fact that I was running on pure traveler's adrenaline, I can't confidently say why I couldn't shake off a lasting feeling that I was meant to be there. But for that moment, as I heard the winds whistling from ear to ear and keenly observed the tool replicas that my predecessors used centuries ago, I felt I was getting somehow closer to discovering more of myself. And if you're anything like me, who only knows the origins of her immediate family, this stepping stone into the unknown is thrilling.

I lurked every corner of the area and felt chills as I peered into the vast darkness inside each pyramid opening. As I stood on the Pyramid of Sun, I envisioned what it was like to live as my ancestors did – both the pretty and ugly, like human sacrifices. I took in the thick air and salvaged the moment. For a split second, I ironically thought I was

finally home – until I got lost in an internal discourse later that day. Because for as much as I pride myself in having Mexican roots and two parents who immigrated here undocumented, I didn't know the language of those who came before – those who roamed the land and carried their traditions untouched by the colonial world. Instead, I knew at the time and continued to use the tongue of the Spanish colonizer. 14-year-old me didn't know what to think of myself.

I still wrestle today with these questions of how the tongues of my ancestors, their names, and history got lost in the thick of colonial erasure. (And trust me, my thoughts can get way more over dramatic than that.) I occasionally sit in the uncomfortable truth of not knowing who was purposely forgotten for my last name of "Flores" to take centerstage. As lovely as it is to have a

last name that translates to "flowers," it saddens me to know I won't know who I've unintentionally forgotten.

Growing older, with much sharper research skills, I notice the importance of acknowledging the cultural complexities of Hispanics and Latinx people. As a global community, we extend not only from Mexico but to Brazil, Haiti, and countless other nations that were impacted but not defined by colonization. Our growing population is worth paying attention to and embracing the unknown histories we all collectively ignored one way or another. If there's anything I've learned from my visit to the pyramids is that knowledge of the once-forgotten is necessary and incredibly powerful. Consider taking this month ahead, that intends to commemorate Hispanic and Latinx heritage, as your gateway into unsettling truths.

# Action Lags In “She-Hulk” Series, Mid-Season Review

By Kaylin Guzman  
Photo Editor

An almost seven feet tall, green, lean machine has landed on Disney+. Gaining her power from a “blood transfer” given by her cousin Bruce Banner, alias The Hulk, Jennifer Walters brings us a perspective on what being a woman superhero means in “She-Hulk: Attorney at Law.” However, the newest episode feels more like filler delaying much-needed action for the heroine.

We see Jennifer Walters (Tatiana Maslany) go through interactions every woman has encountered in their everyday life. This allows the viewer to see her as human even if she can grow almost a whole foot in height. In episode five, Walters’ has mixed feelings about being She-Hulk. She faces a legal battle with one of her adversaries, Titania (Jameela Jamil). Walters’ media-given name, She-Hulk, was trademarked by Titania to sell a shady cosmetic line to her followers. However, this legal battle was boring and dull. Although all their interactions should not always be violent, two superpowered women should be able to get ugly and express their frustration



with some punches. I hope that in the last half of the series, we get to see another exhibition of the ladies’ powers, maybe in a team up against the main villain of the show.

This episode was an underwhelming follow-up to the last. Although there is a promising teaser at the end of the episode, it is a major shift from the action included in episode four, where She-Hulk crushes demons from another dimension and has some very awkward dates. Online dating is hard even for enhanced individuals in the

Marvel’s newest hero arrives in their own Disney+ Series./ *Disney+*

Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). This B-Storyline allowed for the funniest moments in the episode. From creepy first dates to the successful one night stand, She-Hulk allows herself to get loose and have fun.

The fourth episode has been my favorite of the series so far. We can see what She-Hulk is capable of and how she plays with others. Alongside Wong the Sorcerer Supreme, they fight against demons summoned from an alternate dimension by an inexperienced Magician. Some demons

are crushed and sent back to their homeland. I liked the design of the demons. Especially how quickly they evolved. The quick evolution of the demonic creatures created a sense of urgency for the heroes in the scene. It was also the most visually interesting scene so far. From cute baby demons to vacuums made from sling ring magic.

Overall, the show feels basic. Marvel Studios has been focusing on the number of productions instead of the quality. I should be excited about the future of She-Hulk, but instead I was

fixated on demonic beings that were only included to get Walters what she needed to complete the episode’s plot. Disregarding the visual effects and how funky they can be at times, the show has yet to reveal the main villain or antagonist. We have been given hints that someone who reads the comics may understand and connect. However, to someone just enjoying the MCU films and shows, these easter eggs will go over their heads.

## BC Sports Recap (Sept. 12 – Sept. 17)

### Men And Women’s Cross Country Return To The Trail

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

The Brooklyn College cross country teams opened their season Friday, Sept. 16 at the New Paltz Invitational in Milton, NY. The New Paltz Invitational marked Brooklyn’s first meet since Halloween 2021.

The women participated

in a 6K race featuring 62 finishers. The Bulldogs’ top two competitors finished 46th and 49th respectively. Junior Fatima Aftab finished first for Brooklyn with a time of 40:34. Brooklyn’s second finisher, Lori Tsang, finished in 41:33. As of now, the Bulldogs only boast three runners, and therefore were unable to field a full team.

Brooklyn’s men’s team competed later that day in an 8K race. The Bulldogs’ three runners finished 50th, 56th, and 58th out of 77 runners. Freshman Kevin McCarthy crossed the line first for the Bulldogs with a time of 41:34. Junior Naheen Khan crossed the line second for Brooklyn, while Wali Mohammed rounded

out the field. Just like the women’s team, Brooklyn did not have a minimum of five runners and could not qualify for team scoring.

The cross country team will lace up their spikes next on Sept. 25 at Mount St. Mary College invitational.



BC cross country competes in first meet./ *Brooklyn College Athletics*

# BC Sports Recap (Sept. 12 – Sept. 17)

## Women's Soccer Remains Winless

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

The women's soccer team suffered two shutout losses this past week, bringing their season record to 0-5.

Brooklyn's first loss came on Sept. 14 while hosting New Jersey City University. The Bulldogs were outmatched from the opening whistle. NJCU scored twice in the first seven minutes, and did not let up. By halftime Brooklyn had allowed five goals, and

had yet to score one of their own. In the second period, NJCU tacked on two more goals, extending their lead to seven. Brooklyn played hard, but could not manage a single goal against the visitors. By the end, Brooklyn had allowed 27 shots and only fired two of their own.

The Bulldogs' second loss of the week came in a much closer contest against Mitchell College on Sept. 17. Brooklyn allowed one goal around the nine minute mark, but played staunch

defense afterwards. By the second period, Brooklyn trailed by only a goal. Their strong play carried them right up to the 72nd minute, but unfortunately Mitchell scored two goals at the 72nd and 74th minute. Brooklyn could not recover. With all said and done, Brooklyn lost their fifth game in a row 3-0.

The Bulldogs still have time to turn their season around. Their next match is Wednesday, Sept. 21 against the Pratt Institute.



BC women's soccer falls to Mitchell College./Brooklyn College Athletics

## Men's Soccer Still Scoreless, Searches For First Season Win

By Owen Russell  
*Sports Editor*

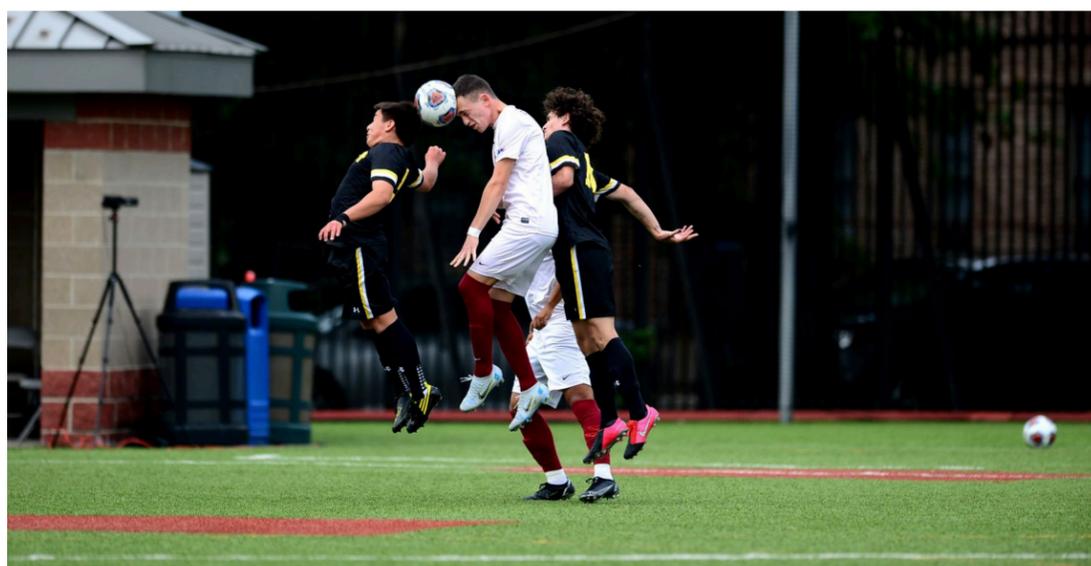
The men's soccer team has yet to secure their first win of the season. In three games this past week, the team was outscored 9-0.

On Sept. 12, the Bulldogs hosted Farmingdale State College. Brooklyn played a strong first period defensively. The Bulldogs held the Rams scoreless until the 32nd minute. Heading into halftime, the Bulldogs trailed by just one and had a comeback in their sights. Despite their best intentions, Brooklyn allowed three goals in the second period. The team failed to score on either of the team's two shots.

Brooklyn earned four yellow cards in the 4-0 loss.

Sept. 14 must have felt like deja vu for the Bulldogs because for the second time in two days the team lost 4-0. This time, Brooklyn faced SUNY Purchase and allowed two goals in the first half, and two goals in the second. The Bulldogs were able to fire five shots on target, but could not capitalize on any of them. SUNY Purchase shot 19 shots on target. Brooklyn earned three yellow cards this time around.

Brooklyn came into Sept. 17 desperate for a win. The Bulldogs hosted Old Westbury, another team searching for their first victory. The two teams were



BC men's soccer defeated 1-0 against Old Westbury./Brooklyn College Athletics

evenly matched. Neither of them could score a goal in the first period. Brooklyn had five first half saves. In the second period, Old Westbury scored in the 60th minute. Brooklyn couldn't

score in the remaining time and dropped a tightly contested game. Brooklyn earned four more yellow cards this week, bringing their total to 11 over the past three games.

Brooklyn still has time before CUNYAC play begins. Their next match is away against St. Elizabeth College on Sept. 21.

## Women's Tennis Starts Fall With Loses

By Gabriela Flores  
*Editor-In-Chief*

The Bulldogs haven't stacked wins on the tennis court after the team fell to Purchase College and Sarah Lawrence this past week. In their season opener, the women's tennis team looked to earn their win against Sarah Lawrence, who won last Friday's match 6-3. Brooklyn started strong with a 2-1 lead in doubles, but that changed once singles came into play. Leading

the singles competition for the Bulldogs was Sophia Keadze, who scored a cumulative 20 points in three rounds – but her opponent, Nikita Kamath from Sarah Lawrence, took the final win.

The next day, on Sept. 17, the Bulldogs took on Purchase College at home after their initial match date was postponed because of weather. Brooklyn didn't shine on Saturday, as players fell to Purchase 0-9. The Bulldogs were left scoreless

against the Panthers, who dominated the court in singles and doubles. The highest scoring play for Brooklyn came from Monica Prado Capon and Veronika Tsiko, who earned a final seven total points in doubles. Their efforts, however, weren't enough to secure Brooklyn's first win of the season.

The Bulldogs will open their CUNYAC play against reigning champion Baruch College on Thursday, Sept. 22.



Women's tennis defeated by Purchase College and Sarah Lawrence./Brooklyn College Athletics

# BC Sports Recap (Sept. 12 - Sept. 17)

## Women's Volleyball Earns Win And Loss At Trimatch

By Michela Arlia  
Managing Editor

At a trimatch hosted by St. Joseph's Long Island on Sept. 17, BC's women's volleyball team managed a non-conference split. After being defeated 3-0 by host St. Joseph's Golden Eagles, the team made a quick comeback to defeat Pratt Institute Cannoneers 2-3 in their second game of the day.

BC was quickly denied any chance of a lead in the opening set, with St. Joseph's scoring 10-5. With hopes of gaining momentum for a lead, the Bulldogs responded in the third set with a 15-13

lead, but were swept once again 23-20 with a pair of kills and a service ace by the Golden Eagles. This lead allowed Pratt to close out the match as victors.

Shaking off match one, the Bulldogs rallied six straight scores for a 23-20 lead followed by three straight scores to win the opening set. Quickly falling behind in the next three sets, BC made yet another comeback in the fourth. Initially trailing 10-8 in the final set, the Bulldogs performed with four straight scores followed by a kill by outside hitter Aleah Rafat. They then wrapped up with three more straight scores and yet another kill by Rafat.

The team scored a well deserved win against Pratt following their unfortunate loss to them last Thursday, Sept. 15.

Leading in scoring for the team throughout the day was sophomore Tessa Winkleman, an outside hitter for the team who served up 22 kills between both matches, 17 against Pratt and five against St. Joseph's.

With this split comes the Bulldogs' move up the rank to 4-4.

The team's next match is set for Tuesday, Sept. 20 in a non-conference tilt against Rutgers-Newark.



BC defeated by St. Joe's at LI Trimatch./Brooklyn College Athletics

## Is There Hope For The Jets?

By Owen Russell  
Sports Editor

Jets fans and football viewers alike were stunned on Sunday, Sept. 18 when the ghost of Joe Flacco threw for 307 yards, four touchdowns, and an exceptional passer rating of 110.7, against the Cleveland Browns. At 37-years-old, backup quarterback Joe Flacco had not won a game since joining the Jets in 2020. To make the situation even more improbable, the Jets trailed by 13 points with 1:55 seconds left in the game. Despite a 99% chance to lose with 1:55 left, the New York Jets did something utterly uncharacteristic – they won.

"I love the way this feels," head coach Robert Saleh told reporters after the game. "You've gotta find a way to stack them up. There's a lot of stuff we need to clean up. But I'm proud of these guys because we didn't quit." Saleh has every right to feel good about Sunday's outcome. Since Saleh took over the team in 2021, he's posted a dismal record of five wins and 14 losses. And for that reason Jets fans may be wary to celebrate a regular season

win, especially since they got trounced opening weekend. But a shift appears to be on the horizon for Gang Green.

Robert Saleh laid down the gauntlet while speaking to reporters on Sept. 12 when he claimed that he and his staff were "taking receipts" on any and all negative comments thrown their way. The New York Jets have served as the NFL's punching bag for a while now. Despite one Super Bowl win back in 1969, the Jets have been historically bad earning the sixth worst winning percentage since entering the league, and the third worst record since 2010. Though Saleh and his team are surely aware of the bad energy swirling over their heads, they refuse to listen to any noise.

"We wanted to make a statement," Jets rookie wide receiver Garrett Wilson told reporters after the win. Wilson certainly led by example. The first year receiver from Ohio State pulled in eight receptions for 102 yards and two touchdowns. Wilson's second touchdown came with 22 seconds left and secured New York's miraculous comeback. The rookie displayed great



Zach Wilson (L) and Joe Flacco (R) quarterbacks for the NY Jets./NFL.com

poise for just his second game in the pros.

It is the combination of players like Wilson, and the attitude of Saleh, which will reinvigorate the struggling franchise. One key piece of evidence that Jets may be on the upswing came from an unlikely source, the Special Teams unit. The Jets ranked 31st in punting, and 32nd in kicking in week one's loss to Baltimore. New York's kicking units came into Sunday with something to prove.

Punter Braden Mann stepped in ways most punters could never. Sure, his punts

were solid (net average of 44.0 yards), but his dazzling trick plays put people on notice. Mann converted an ever exciting fake-punt pass to keep a drive alive, which ended with a Garret Wilson touchdown. But most impressive was his onside kick. Trailing 24-30 with no timeouts left, Mann executed a perfect onside kick perhaps only achievable in Madden. "It was the onside kick." Robert Saleh told the press. "Once that happened, there was no doubt we were scoring..."

It may be foolish to look at one win and declare that

change is in the air. Jets fans have been burned before. Whether it be the failed promises of Rex Ryan, or the firing of Bill Belichick, the New York Jets have had not a whiff of luck. But that's exactly why Sunday's win means something. Just last season the Jets blew a 14 point lead against Tom Brady and the Buccaneers. What a difference an offseason can make. The Jets will hope to build on this momentum as the season continues. They host last year's Super Bowl runners-up, the Cincinnati Bengals, on Sunday, Sept. 25.